

# BRITISH COLUMBIAN LUMBER IN ACTION



FURTADO  
CONTRACTING

By: Paul Harrison



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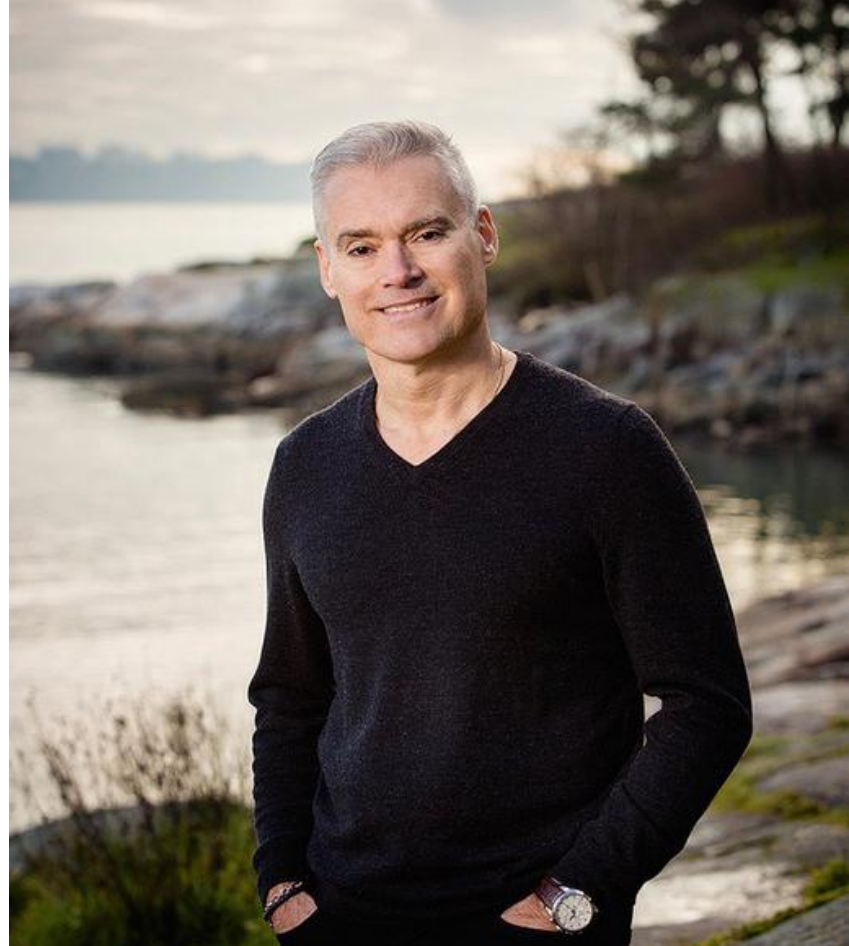
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# An Interview with Tony Furtado

## British Columbian Lumber in Action: Furtado Contracting

Like many kids with fathers in the trades, Tony Furtado got into carpentry as a child. He would accompany his father on jobs from a young age, and by his teenage years, he was working alongside his dad. But after studying design at college in hopes to enter the carpentry trade in earnest, he found that work was slowing down in the construction industry. In such difficult times, Tony walked back from the tertiary industry of carpentry to the secondary industry of milling hewn lumber.



## History

Tony soon began working at a lumber mill on Mitchell Island in Richmond, British Columbia, and eventually, joined the union there. At the mill, he found himself processing the very lumber he would use as a carpenter: 2x4s, 2x6s, pieces for finishing. But this wood was rarely bound for the domestic market; instead, it usually found its way to Japan or Europe.

For the next 27 years, Tony moved up the ranks, until he was poised to move into a management position. And then, without warning, the mill went under. Market forces pushed Tony into a career change once again.

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## Beginnings

It was a natural fit for Tony to return to the profession of his youth. In 2004, he founded Top Renos and in 2009 he changed the name to Furtado Contracting, and began renovating homes and building custom homes in and around Vancouver. Looking back on the course of his life today, Tony jokes “I should have founded my company years earlier!”



## Planning Ahead

When it comes to how to stay on budget in these unstable economic times, Tony believes that the most important thing a person can do is to plan ahead and work closely with the designer or architect. The more time spent in pre-planning a project, the easier it is to avoid future budgetary surprises.

Furtado Contracting has frequently worked in conjunction with Designs by KS, who did the design for the “Olives in the City” house, and receive their own coverage later in this issue.



## Georgie Nomination

Tony’s work speaks for itself as, over the past two decades, he, and eventually his son, Niky, have made a name for their family business in the Lower Mainland, garnering many awards for their spectacular work.

In 2022, Furtado Contracting was a finalist in two categories in the prestigious Georgie Awards: Custom Home valued between \$2,000,001 – \$3,000,0000 and Best Master Suite – Over \$125,000. The remarkable custom home, “Olives in the City,” was designed by Tony’s designer and fellow Georgie finalist, Katerina Vastardis, of Designs by KS.

The home demonstrates the Furtado’s brilliance in outdoor as well as indoor spaces, as the back deck takes on a life of its own, bringing the ambiance and comfort of a modern living room into the open air.

The cabinetry throughout the house is something to behold, most notably in the kitchen, washrooms, and office. The office uses exterior and interior windows to offset the dark finish of the cabinetry on the back wall.







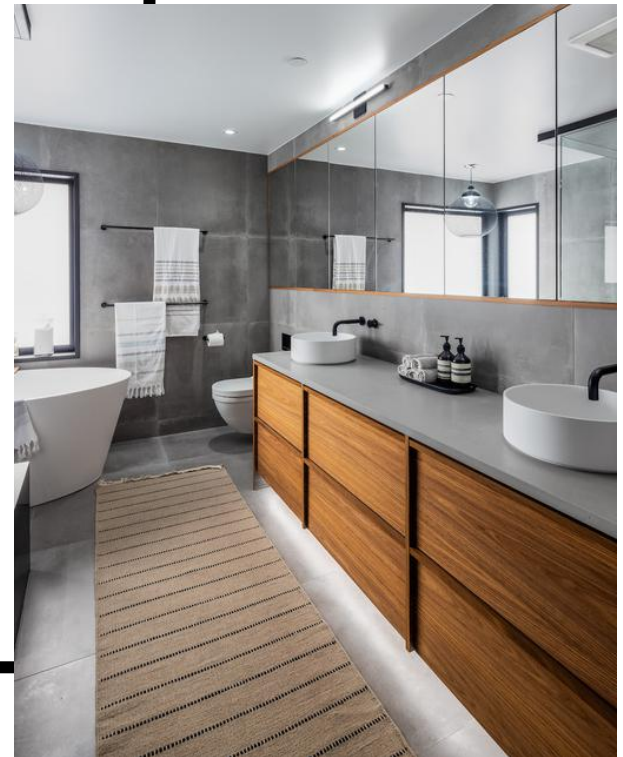
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## Advice & The Future

Moreover, Tony recommends that homeowners check in often on their project, to ensure that things are progressing as they should or if any changes may be required. It is far harder, and more costly, to change things after construction has advanced than it is if things are caught early on.

Furtado Contracting has, more recently, been working in North Vancouver, where they are keeping busy with kitchen renovations and deck construction. One job of which Tony is particularly proud is a Whistler-style deck, built with massive timber framing and a outdoor kitchen to boot.

For more information on Furtado Contracting, visit <https://furtadocontracting.ca/>



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