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RETAIL THERAPY

Space invasion

A destination for contemporary furniture revamps itself to mark 30 years in retail

A go-to destination for Vancouver's luxury homeowners, LivingSpace, has recently unveiled a new look of its own. In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the modern furniture and design boutique underwent a \$2-million expansion and renovation, bringing its full floor space to 30,000 square feet. It's an expansion that mirrors the city's explosive growth. "Vancouver has grown to be a modern, sophisticated, world-class city where we no longer have to explain modern architecture and design to new clients," owner Ross Bonetti says.

Since 2010, LivingSpace has been housed in an industrial building that dates to 1931. The building was adapted by Omer Arbel, of the Bocci design studio, who added some unique features such as a glass-enclosed spiral staircase that juts out from the side of the building. For this latest addition, owner Bonetti took a gallery-like approach to the redesign that was inspired by the Milan showrooms of his European brands, a who's who of modern design. "We are very proud, as LivingSpace is one of the largest multiline design stores in the world," Bonetti says.

The expansion of LivingSpace to the fifth floor of the building has allowed for the addition of a rooftop garden, complete with expansive views of Kitsilano. It's the perfect backdrop for the outdoor collections by Italian designer Paola Lenti. "Because the aesthetic of the rooftop patio is raw and industrial, much like the rest of the building, Paola Lenti's bright, bold and colourful outdoor furniture stands out," Bonetti says.

LivingSpace, 1706 W. 1st Ave., Vancouver, 604-683-1116, living-space.com

— CAITLIN AGNEW

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MDF Italia S Table with Top Marble, from \$7,715.



Paola Lenti Orbity Chair, from \$21,000.



Minotti Alexander Coutout, from \$32,600.