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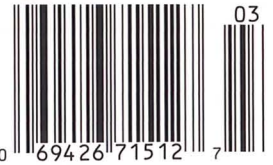
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THE VIEWFINDER How does a designer compete with a killer view? In this penthouse in Vancouver's trendy Yaletown district, designer Patricia Gray wanted to provide focus to the room without taking away from the dramatic viewscape that penthouse owners pay dearly for. Her answer was to keep the design minimalist while providing a focal point in the kitchen: the beautiful solid piece of stone desert granite used for the backsplash. Redl Kitchens constructed the teak island and cabinetry (out of sight is a clever use of space on the island—square slots lined up vertically for a dozen or so wine bottles); Gray ties the kitchen to the rest of the room by placing teak panels in the ceiling. The faucet and range hood act like jewellery to the main pieces, clean and sculptural. The rest is all white—the chairs, which she modified and reupholstered in white leatherette (perfect for a family with two young kids), the table and the “blizzard white” CaesarStone countertop. It's monochromatic, but hardly boring; that great Moooi Dandelion chandelier is downright playful. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER BROOKS. STYLING BY PATRICIA LARSEN