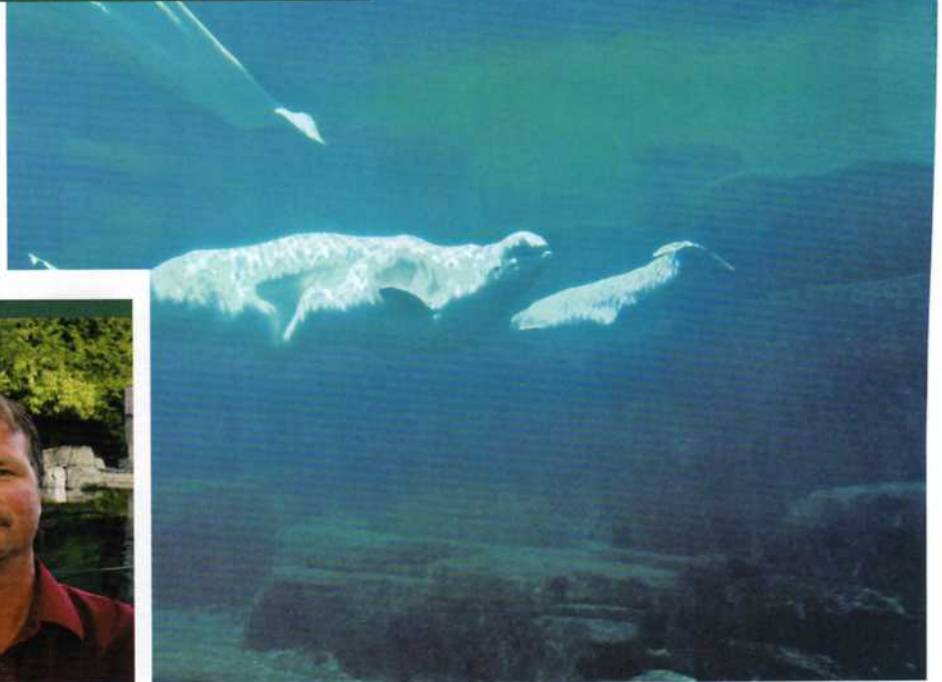


HABITAT HOME



**C**arving concrete to look like real rock is a tricky thing. If you get the angles or the surface planes wrong, it ends up looking more like the Flintstones Fun-park than a piece of nature. That's something Peter Heiss knows all about. As a young Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design graduate, he was asked to carve concrete for an exhibit at the Vancouver Aquarium along with several of his fellow graduates. Upon the completion of the various exhibits, Peter's classmates were unceremoniously thanked and sent home. Peter, however, was asked to stay on and head up some of the Aquarium's most high-profile work.

Over the next seven years, Heiss designed and built the killer whale pool, the beluga whale pool, the otter exhibit and the Northwest tank. The work was ideally tailored to the combination of his artistic talent and his love of nature.

Then in 1996, he was joined by a young upstart artist with a long family history in the business – Mark MacIsaac. Heiss took MacIsaac on as his protégé, who quickly rose through

the ranks. The design duo quietly and consistently built some of the most spectacular landscape features in the Lower Mainland. Their design portfolio includes the International Arrivals Terminal at YVR, The Grotto Spa at Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort, and Chad Kroeger's MTV Cribs-featured pool and hot tub.

In 2002, Heiss left his former employer and MacIsaac stepped in as Artistic Director. It wasn't until 2006 when the two would work together again, when they joined forces to form Raincity Rock & Waterscapes. And they have come full circle. Currently they are back at the Aquarium designing the new Bat Cave Exhibit. The cave will be host to the new Jamaican fruit bats and is due to open Halloween 2007.

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