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A Fresh-Air Feeling

When I think of spring cleaning, I think of opening the windows to let in fresh air. This year, no matter how cold March is, I'm throwing the windows open early. I wonder: have we, as a country, ever longed so much for spring?

No doubt, our current health crisis has us eager to clean, organize and restore order to our homes and by extension, our lives. I hope this issue of *Style at Home* encourages you to do that and go even further. Not only do we have helpful spring cleaning tips (page 22), but I believe that the homes we showcase will inspire you to make improvements that change how you live at home. You'll find genius ideas that transform wasted space – under the eaves and stairs, over doorways – into valuable storage space. You'll also find something I love just as much, maybe even more: homes that not only work well but are uniquely beautiful and reflective of the individuals who live there.

In "Small Wonder," (page 72) a designer creatively eeks out storage and living space in her family's tiny condo while also making room for their treasured objects. "Room to Flow" (page 58) showcases a top-to-bottom redo of a century home into a modern masterpiece that suits a young family of five. And I love how the owners in "Don't Move, Improve!" (page 34) recommit to their small city home by adding custom built-ins and rejigging primary rooms – a solution that keeps their active family organized in the tight space and creates a new sense of airy flow.

At *Style at Home* we are obsessed with how good design improves the way we live. Whether it's big-picture revisioning or something small like deciding where to put slushy boots, a well-designed home is as unique as the people who live there. Variety makes our world a beautiful thing.

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styleathome

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58 ROOM TO FLOW

Nine years after moving in, a total redesign and reorganization of space gives a family of five a brand new century-old home.

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Designer Greer Nelson reinvigorated her family's small open-plan condo with smart storage and artful style.

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Natural textures and colours in a relaxed, laid-back style set a scene that's as serene as a walk in the woods.

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A revamp turns a cramped, disorganized main floor into a flowing space with storage and style.

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A sense of calm and cohesion brings order and beauty to a busy family home.

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A home steps from Ontario's Lake Huron brims with high-impact design, inspirational touches and lively splashes of blue.

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ON THE COVER

A welcome evolution: today's modern home has evolved into a warm, open and colourful space.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Lauren Miller

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RECYCLING!

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style news

PAINT PALETTE OF THE MONTH



GULL WING GRAY 2134-50,
Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.



SQUASH BLOSSOM P290-5,
Behr, behr.ca.



Beauti-Tone **HERE COMES THE SUN** B39-6-0034-0, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.



Beauti-Tone **FRENCH PEAR** C40-3-0415-4, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.

PANTONE 2021 INSPIRATION

This year, instead of one colour of the year, Pantone picked two: Ultimate Gray 17-5104 and Illuminating 13-0647. Grey reminds us of resilient natural elements, like stone; yellow evokes courage, hope, a bright horizon. Just what we need! Pair this duo with white, black and all wood tones.



PANTONE 2021

1 Patricia Urquiola Mangas **RUG**, \$1,411, Chaplins Furniture. 2 Mullan Cobal Cage **PENDANT**, \$445, Lime Lace. 3 **WALL ART**, 30" x 24", \$149, Veronneau. 4 Ceramic **VASE**, \$13, HomeSense. 5 Boniface ceramic **VASE**, \$40, EQ3. 6 Myla painted and lacquered MDF **DRESSER**, \$229, Structube. 7 Velvet **STORAGE BIN**, \$79, Crate and Barrel. 8 **SOFA DAYBED**, \$1,669, article.com. 9 Cotton jersey feather-filled **CUSHION**, \$88, CB2. 10 Ormhassel **THROW**, \$20, IKEA. 11 Organic cotton **LUNCH BAG**, \$33, Simons. 12 Edito **CHAIR**, from \$3,170, Roche Bobois.





21st CENTURY VINYL

LOVE THE OLD-SCHOOL SOUND OF ANALOG VINYL? OR IS DIGITALLY CLEAN WIRELESS MUSIC MORE YOUR SPEED? COMO AUDIO'S BLUETOOTH TURNTABLE GIVES YOU BOTH. HOOK IT UP TO SPEAKERS VIA ITS INTEGRATED PHONO PRE-AMP AND YOU'VE GOT THAT AUTHENTIC VINYL QUALITY; OR CONNECT THROUGH A PLAYER VIA WIRELESS TO SPEAKERS OR HEADPHONES. SOUND GOOD? WE THINK SO. \$399, comoaudio.com.



WALL FLOWERS

Canadian wallpaper designer Kate Golding can be relied on for fresh takes on fab patterns, often with a retro feel but always with a twist. Her interpretation of unexpected motifs helps us see ordinary items (from lily pads to ladybugs) in extraordinary ways. Says Kate about her new collection: "This is my love letter to the most magical day spent in nature. A long walk in the woods, a canoe paddle on the lake and a blissful afternoon spent laying in the grass day-dreaming." We love Dandelion (left) for the way it turns a humble weed into a pretty pattern, and who doesn't smile when they see daisies?

\$145 per pre-pasted 26" x 9' strip, wynil.com.



MOP BOT

IF CLEANING THE FLOORS IS THE BANE OF YOUR EXISTENCE, THERE'S A BOT FOR THAT. THE BRAAVA JET M6 ROBOT MOP CAN NAVIGATE AROUND OBJECTS AND UNDER FURNITURE TO CLEAN UP MESSSES ON HARDWOOD, TILE AND STONE. TELL IT WHERE AND WHEN TO CLEAN VIA THE IROBOT HOME APP, GOOGLE HOME OR ALEXA. IT EVEN RECHARGES ITSELF WHEN LOW ON BATTERY, SO YOU CAN RECHARGE BY BINGING ON NETFLIX.

\$599, shop.irobot.ca.



BATHING BEAUTY

Take the guesswork out of your next bathroom reno by choosing elements from a single coordinated collection. American Standard's newly expanded Studio S collection makes planning your remodel a one-stop shopping experience. Coordinating fixtures, fittings and furniture across categories feature the same clean, modern aesthetic. Little luxuries like slow-close drawers on the vanity and spa-like elements like the sink-into free-standing tub ensure you get the splashy retreat you seek.

From \$63 to \$3,126, americanstandard.ca.

GOOD WORK

Furniture that works hard and a furniture maker that does good work are the twin stories behind Formr, a San Francisco-based company that employs previously incarcerated people to make stylish, multi-use furniture for a modern lifestyle. Formr believes giving people a second chance and a fresh start is a win-win, for them and society. Even better, the company works with contractors to turn construction waste into furniture, diverting perfectly good building materials from landfills. Their overLAP laptop desk has a smart slot for your phone; turn it on its end and it's a side table for after work hours. \$341, theformr.com.





LIVING RIGHT

Stepping lightly on the earth is a good mantra to adopt as we step into spring. That's a key idea in *Minimal: For Simple and Sustainable Living* by Laurie Barrette and Stéphanie Mandréa (House of Anansi, \$30; April 2021). The long-time friends (they met in high school) and now young moms wanted to share their tips for living a "simpler way of life, at a slower pace, more in harmony with nature." From homemade beauty products to cooking with natural foods and moving toward a zero-waste lifestyle, their book explores how to live an eco-friendly life in a home that's both beautiful and easy on the planet. Since it's spring cleaning time, we especially love the chapter with recipes for eco-friendly cleaning products scented with ingredients like citrus peels and essential oils.



NATURAL CHOICE

Canadian company Creative Matters and Campaign for Wool (an organization that raises awareness about the benefits of wool as a natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre, and whose patron is Prince Charles) have launched a stunning collection of rugs designed by Canadian designer Sarah Richardson. Fleece from Canadian-grown sheep is milled at the oldest mill in Canada (Briggs and Little in York Mills, N.B.), then shipped to India to be hand-knotted into rugs using environmentally friendly production methods and under strict ethical fair-trade conditions (which also protect against abusive child labour). Aside from their beauty, wool

rugs can last for generations and offer attributes that include acting as an insulator (awesome in rooms over garages or unfinished basements) and the ability to improve indoor air quality. According to a research study conducted in New Zealand in 2015, wool rugs absorb and neutralize common pollutants – including formaldehyde, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides – more quickly and completely than synthetic carpet fibres, and, importantly, do not re-emit those pollutants. Bonus: when a wool rug finally does reach the end of its lifespan, it can be returned to the soil to release nutrients as it decomposes. From \$6,000, creativemattersinc.com.



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Kristina Meltzer, Los Angeles





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Glazed Rose Petal Shortbread

Stop and smell the roses by serving a tea-time dessert that's a treat for the eyes and the palate. **RECIPE** THE TEST KITCHEN

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD | **STYLING** DAVID GRENIER, GEARY HOUSE





Tea-Time Tips

- / While waiting for the water to boil, warm a teapot by filling it with hot tap water; drain before adding tea to the pot.
- / Place 2 teaspoons of loose tea leaves or 1 tea bag in teapot for every 2 cups of tea. Steep for 4 minutes.
- / Be sure to use saucers: not only is it a convenient spot for used stirring spoons, it elevates tea time to something special.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES ONE 9-INCH SHORTBREAD

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup rice flour
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup cold unsalted butter, cubed

Rosewater Glaze

- 1 cup icing sugar
- ¾ tsp rosewater
- Pink food colouring
- 3 tbsps dried rose petals

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mist 9-inch fluted round tart pan with removable bottom with cooking spray; line bottom with parchment paper.

In food processor, combine both flours, sugar and salt. Pulse until combined. Add butter; pulse until dough is crumbly and starts to clump together, about 1 minute. Transfer to prepared pan. Press flat to even thickness; refrigerate for 15 minutes.

Using paring knife, score the dough into 14 wedges. Using fork, prick each wedge twice. Bake until firm and light golden brown, 55 to 60 minutes. Cut through score lines. Let cool completely in pan on rack. When cool, remove shortbread from pan; let rest on rack.

Rosewater Glaze In bowl, whisk together icing sugar, rosewater and 1½ tbsps water until smooth, adding an additional ¼ tsp water as needed to reach desired consistency. Dip toothpick into food colouring then into glaze; stir until combined. Repeat, if needed, to tint glaze pale pink.

Using spoon, drizzle glaze over individual shortbread pieces, spreading to edges with knife; sprinkle rose petals over glaze. Let stand until set, about 1 hour.

tip

For three shades of pink, divide the tinted glaze into three small bowls. Add ½ drop food colouring to the first bowl and 2 drops to the second bowl, stirring each to combine. The third bowl will remain as is and be the lightest pink. Use each shade to glaze about one third of the shortbread slices.



▼ Ambrosia **KETTLE**, \$46, VdV, vdevmaison.com.



► Floral Vines **TEA TOWEL**, \$18, Rifle Paper Co., Anthropologie, anthropologie.ca.



► Stelton's Stockholm **CAKE KNIFE**, \$75, Bergo Design, bergodesigns.ca.



▼ littala's Kastehelmi **CAKE PLATE**, \$98, Bergo Design, bergodesigns.ca.



▲ Henriette **TEASPOONS**, \$32, set of 4, Anthropologie, anthropologie.ca.

◀ Blu glass **VASE**, \$39, Structube, structube.ca.



▼ Maison Cobalt Blue **DESSERT PLATES**, \$50, set of 4, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.



shopping



◀ Caspian Glaze **MUG**, \$10, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

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TABLE for Two

Romance is on the menu thanks to rose-coloured glasses, pretty linen, handcrafted tableware and, to be sure you set a spark, candlelight.

STYLING JULIE LAPOINTE | PHOTOGRAPHY TANGO



Everything's Coming Up Roses

REMINISCENT OF ROSE-TINTED DEPRESSION GLASS, THESE STEMMED GLASSES AND VINTAGE-STYLE CHAMPAGNE FLUTES EVOKE A SWEET, OLD-FASHIONED MOOD.

GLASS BELL JAR on metal base, \$30; cocktail **GLASS** (left), \$13; H&M Home. Esme **FLUTE GLASSWARE** (centre) \$18, set of 4, West Elm. **CHAMPAGNE FLUTE**, \$11; cotton **PLACEMAT**, \$12; VdeV.

Setting a table with beautiful flowers, linen and china elevates an everyday dinner into a sweet celebration.

Oak **ARMCHAIR**, \$139, Structube. Black elm, metal and rattan **SIDE CHAIR**, \$164 each; glass **CANDLE HOLDER**, \$5; VdeV. Metal and maple **PENDANT LIGHTS**, \$245 each, Tungsten. Linen and cotton 62" x 98" **TABLECLOTH**, \$169, Zara Home. Velvet **CUSHION**, \$60, Linen Chest. Porcelain **VASE**, \$45; scented **CANDLE** in a glass jar, \$18; mercury glass **CANDLE HOLDER**, \$11; West Elm. Glass **BELL JAR** on metal base, \$30, H&M Home. **WALL PAINT**, Aplomb AF-625, Benjamin Moore. **CAKE** and **COOKIES**, Caramel Factory.

A Golden Touch

GOLD-TONE ACCESSORIES DRESS UP THE TABLE AND BRING A LUSTRE THAT'S WARM AND RICH.

Stoneware **PLATE**, \$24; stoneware **DESSERT PLATE**, \$20; **CANDLESTICK**, from \$22; **GLASS**, \$11; **SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS**, \$42; VdeV. Handmade porcelain **BOWL**, \$40, Dompierre. Diem Champagne **FLATWARE**, \$60 for 5 pieces; Helena Wine **NAPKIN**, \$9; Charlotte **CAKE STAND**, \$30; Crate and Barrel.



Handmade Charm

MIXING IN TABLEWARE THAT'S MADE WITH CARE BY LOCAL ARTISANS BRINGS IRREPLACEABLE CHARM TO A ROMANTIC SETTING. THE PLAIN COTTON PLACEMAT HAS A HOMESPUN LOOK THAT SUITS THE ORGANIC HANDWORKED SHAPES OF THE PLATES, WHILE THE LUSTRE OF GOLD AND SPARKLE OF GLASS ADD A LIGHT, FEMININE CONTRAST.

Handmade porcelain **DINNER PLATE**, \$38; handmade porcelain **CUP**, \$30; Dompierre. Stoneware **BREAD PLATE**, \$11; cotton **PLACEMAT**, \$12; VdeV. Gold-tone **SLOTTED SERVING SPOON**, \$20, Crate and Barrel. Rose Quartz **COASTER**, \$68 for 4; radiant cut **GLASSWARE**, \$48, set of 4; West Elm.

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Join the community





MOD POD

Craving a room of your own? How about a 106-square-foot pod? Designer and LIV Pods co-founder Lisa Kooistra worked with her husband, builder Ryan Kooistra, to create these multi-use winterized structures whose small footprint ensures they can be constructed without a permit in your own backyard (check building regulations in your municipality). “Clients get to customize certain elements to make it their own,” says Lisa. “The exterior comes in more than 20 different colours to fit any environment, and there are many flooring options, too.” The creative couple will also help customize the interior – whatever the client needs to make the pod uniquely their own. “These structures are exciting in so many ways,” says Lisa, “but we also wanted to make sure we were creating something that was both functional and had a minimal environmental impact and footprint. The materials used are all carefully selected and made to last, so these structures can stay with you or move with you.” The pods range from \$28,000 plus tax, depending on custom finishes and delivery costs.

1

What inspired you to create LIV Pods?

We were inspired by our family tradition of renting a small cabin every year. The idea was to live simply and take time to appreciate the environment and elements around us. With a background in design and renovations, my husband and I wanted to take this concept and grow something that could enhance people’s lives. The pods can be an office, gym, studio or cabin! The possibilities are endless. They’re an easy option for a secondary space without having to do a major home renovation.

2

How are your LIV Pods a response to our times?

The concept behind the LIV Pods didn’t start with the idea of creating offices, but soon turned into this with the amount of people now working from home. That said, the pods can be adapted for any use. We love how these spaces can be an office and potentially evolve into another space that works for the owners down the road.

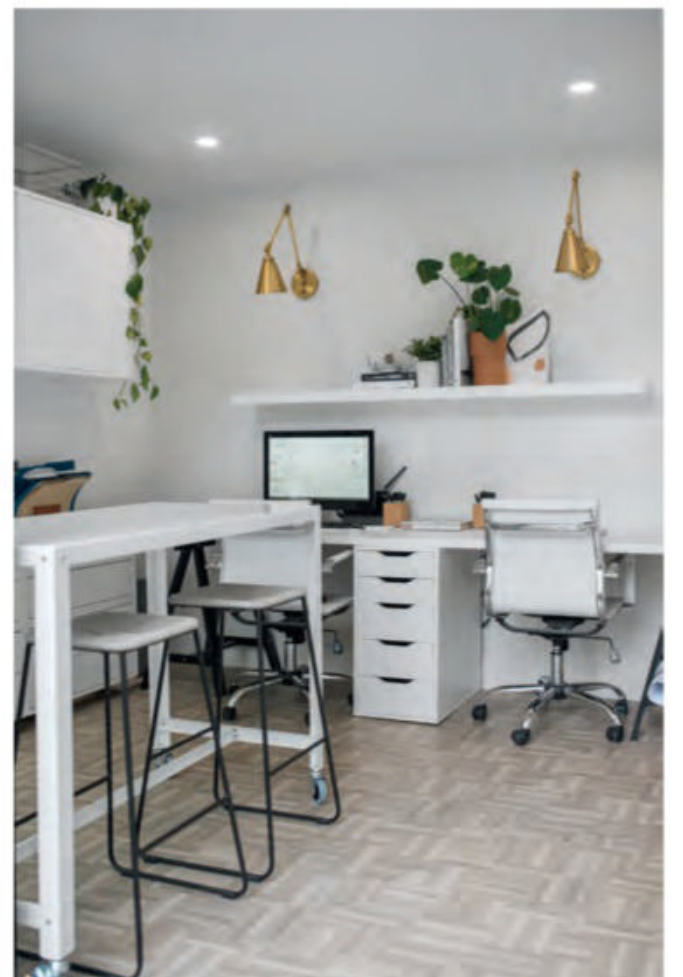
3

Can you see them developing into larger structures?

We definitely see these pods growing into larger structures for different lifestyles. The idea of creating extended getaways for people stems back to our initial inspiration. There would be extra work and [building] guidelines that would go into planning larger structures, but we would help make that process as easy as possible.



“We wanted to make sure we were creating something that was both functional and had a minimal environmental impact and footprint.”



high OR low?



Make an entrance, and make it unforgettable.
We made two! One big budget; one on a budget.
Can you tell which is which?

PRODUCER PETER PAQUETTE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARK BURSTYN



HIGH \$4,723



\$1,233

1 Aerin Lakmos **TABLE LAMP**, ROBINSON Lighting + Bath, robinsonco.ca.

\$199

2 Conner **MIRROR** (large), EQ3, eq3.ca.

\$329

3 Custom Grey Glass **CONSOLE**, EQ3, eq3.ca.

\$1,990

4 Oiled Solid Oak Hans Werner Wishbone **CHAIRS**, \$995 each, DWR.com.

\$150

5 Cobra natural **BASKET**, CB2, cb2.com.

\$220

6 Land **BASKET**, Black Rooster Maison, blackroostermaison.com.

\$304

7 Colour-transition hand-knotted wool **RUNNER** in black, ECARPETGALLERY, ecarpetgallery.com.

\$298

8 Valiant **STOOL**, Steven Sabados Studio, renwil.com.

PAINT, White Down 970 (back wall), Natural Linen 966 (front walls), Woodcliff Lake 980 (moulding), Benjamin Moore. Pink Storage **BOX, VASE**, CB2. Mid-Colour **ART PRINTS**, Celadon Art. Lennon **CHAIR**, Jonathan Adler **CANDLE**, Black Rooster Maison. **BOOKS**, Indigo. Arren Williams Topeka **RUG** (8' X 10'), Hudson's Bay.

LOW \$1,313



\$398

1 Abaco Inverted **TABLE LAMP**, ROBINSON Lighting + Bath, robinsonco.ca.

\$99

2 Rotsund Round **MIRROR**, IKEA, ikea.ca.

\$160

3 Long Meadow **CONSOLE**, Wayfair, wayfair.ca.

\$278

4 Beech Wishbone **CHAIRS**, \$139 each, Must Société, mustsociete.com.

\$104

5 Hyacinth hand-woven **BASKET**, Wayfair, wayfair.com.

\$35

6 White-handle **BASKET**, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

\$40

7 Morum flat-woven **RUNNER**, IKEA, ikea.ca.

\$199

8 Round custom **OTTOMAN**, EQ3, eq3.ca.

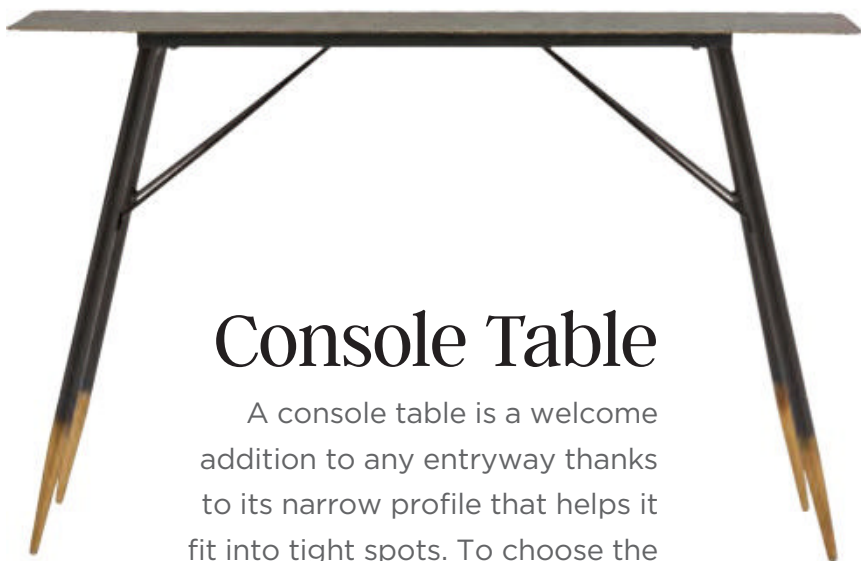


MIRROR, MIRROR

This perfectly imperfect framed mirror circles in on the trend to round shapes, but in its own organic way. We love the rosy ombre tinted glass and gold-tone frame (both finishes are so now) that combine to make this mirror warm and chic.

Sombra **MIRROR** with gold colour frame, \$299, CB2, cb2.ca.

An entryway mirror is a must-have, both for last-minute checks before heading out and for setting a style statement.



Console Table

A console table is a welcome addition to any entryway thanks to its narrow profile that helps it fit into tight spots. To choose the best for your space, assess your storage needs. Drawers and shelves are handy if there's no other spot nearby to stash keys and other small items. If you intend to slide baskets or bins underneath for mittens and slippers, keep the look neat and tidy by ensuring the console has a sufficient depth so that the bins don't protrude beyond the table.

Cluny iron **CONSOLE TABLE** with gold details, \$159, Structube, structube.ca.



Oscuro metal and wood **CONSOLE TABLE**, \$299, article.com.



Flash metal **CONSOLE TABLE**, \$340, Must Soci ete, mustsociete.com.

The Versatile Pouf

In an entry, it's a perch for donning shoes; in the living room, it's seating. Tuck it under a table and poof, it disappears!

∨ **HIGH**



\$1,985

Maison Lacroix velvet pouf, roche-bobois.com.



\$392

Metal and cowhide ottoman, 15" x 15", amara.com.



\$279

Prado, 18" x 18", crateandbarrel.ca.

\$79

Keira velvet, 15D" x 15D", structube.com.



∧ **LOW**

COLOURFUL CHARACTER

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



Designer Meghan Carter elevated a new-build with custom storage solutions and a mashup of cheerful colours that matches this family's high-octane personality.

While Samara and Jacob Enchin loved the Bedford Park location of their new Toronto home (it's close to great schools for the couple's three young daughters), the interior, well, not so much. "In fact, Samara absolutely hated the builder-finished interior," says Meghan. "It was very stark with white walls and dark wood accents, which Samara, who is a graphic designer, found depressing." To dial up some happiness and channel the Enchin's cheerful energy, Meghan injected pops of colours, from subtle to saturated, that enliven the young family's home.



THE HERO MOMENT

With the exception of the art, which is by Jacob's grandmother, the dining room highlights the effectiveness of restraint when using colour. "I really wanted the custom-made table and the sculptural light to be the heroes," says Meghan. "Using colour in other elements would have distracted from them. I also left the owners with the opportunity to easily add in a bit more colour with a rug if they choose to down the road."

TABLE, custom designed by Meghan Carter Design, Mary Ratcliffe Studio. **CHAIRS**, Wayfair. **SIDEBOARD**, Casalife. **CHANDELIER**, Rich Brilliant Willing. **BOWL, CANDLESTICKS**, Elte.

PLAYFUL PALETTE

"I wanted the living room to have a sense of sophistication and subtle playfulness," says designer Meghan Carter. She layered in a tonal palette, starting with the pink chairs she chose to complement the owners' artwork. Pale mauve side tables and a purple cushion and ottoman further the effect. Spoiler alert: the purple is an intimation of the kitchen's delicious grape hues.

DESIGN, Meghan Carter Design. Main-floor **WALL PAINT**, Evening Shadow 7662, Sherwin-Williams. Custom cube **SIDE TABLES, CUSHIONS**, Meghan Carter Design. **CHAIRS**, round **SIDE TABLE, FLOOR LAMP**, West Elm. **COFFEE TABLE**, white **VASE**, CB2. Custom **RUG**, Allan Rug. **OTTOMAN, CONSOLE**, Casalife. Black and white **ART**, Elte.

WELCOME CHANGES

The front hall had a large closet that let Meghan keep the area uncluttered and spacious. The lavender floating shelf gives just the right amount of added storage, and is a soft colour that complements the new graphically strong hexagonal-tile floor. "I wanted to mix in a paler purple for colour continuity, and also to help direct the gaze to all of the different elements in the hallway," she says. "If everything were bold and bright here, it would be hard to process."

WALL PAINT, Indigo Batik 7602, Sherwin-Williams. Custom **SHELF**, Meghan Carter Design. **PENDANT**, Design Within Reach. **MIRROR**, West Elm. **FLOOR TILES**, Ciot.





BIG BOLD BANQUETTE

Meghan countered the kitchen's original white scheme with this show-stopper tableau. "The bright grape of the banquette's faux-leather is a colourful hit that draws the gaze to this corner of the room, away from the white cabinetry," says Meghan, who tempered the purple oomph with monochromatic wallpaper. "The owners wanted something they could live with for the long haul. As much as they love colour, going with more neutral wallpaper felt comfortable here. It's actually quite a soothing pattern to look at when you're working at the island. I have it on my bedroom ceiling!" Bonus: drawers under the bench offer added storage.

Custom **BANQUETTE**, Meghan Carter Design. Nuvolette Cole & Sons **WALLPAPER**, banquette **FABRIC**, Kravet. **CHAIRS**, Wayfair.

TRANSITION SPACE

Meghan kept the original glossy white kitchen but replaced the hardware with a mix of silver and black pulls as punctuation. She chose a large-scale pendant to fill the negative space above the island and, again, relied on a careful amount of colour for continuity. "The art is from the owners' collection," she says. "We selected this mix and hung it as a gallery wall between the kitchen and dining room - you are drawn to get up close and see the smaller pieces, which effectively carry the colour story through this transition area."

PENDANT, Union Lighting & Furnishing. **PULLS**, Upper Canada Hardware.

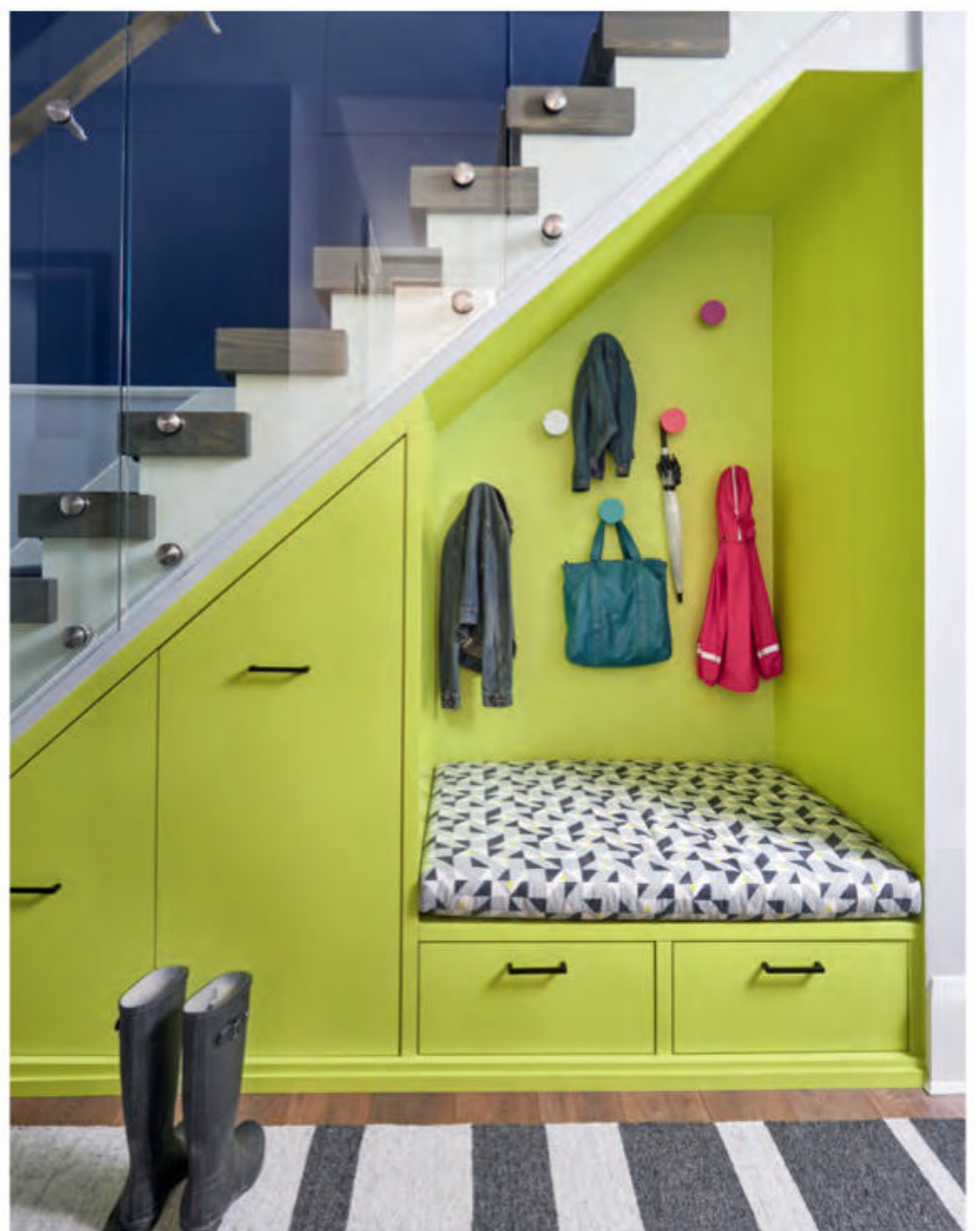




MAKING A MUDROOM

Meghan maximized storage in the new mudroom near the garage and back door. “We’ve got pull-outs for shoes and boots, hooks for the girls to hang their coats and bags, and a cozy bench for sitting and putting on shoes,” says Meghan. A nearby closet has shelving for sports equipment, hats, gloves and other small items, plus hanging space for coats. The best part? The added functionality is supremely stylish. “The Enchins were open to colour, but the mudroom was the one space where they really said, Let’s go for it! And the chartreuse green really goes for it! It’s cheerful and definitely creates a wow moment when you come down the stairs.”

CABINETRY PAINT, Grape Green 2027-40, Benjamin Moore.



IT’S GOT PERSONALITY!

To further amp up the space, Meghan added colourful hooks and geometric pattern fabric on the built-in’s cushion. “I really like to mix colours up in design and not stick with the same one everywhere,” says Meghan. “I chose black pulls for continuity with the kitchen.”

HOOKS, Crate & Kids. **PULLS**, Ginger’s. Kirkby Design **BENCH FABRIC**, Kravet. **RUNNER**, CB2.

Entertaining expert and design royalty India Hicks dishes on how to bring the romance of the tropics home, and how to inject life, laughter and love into every party. **TEXT** KARL LOHNES



India Hicks is the daughter of famed interior designer David Hicks and Lady Pamela Hicks, and second cousin to Prince Charles. She lives with her partner and their five children on Harbour Island in the Bahamas.

KL: Can a tropical look work even in a wintry northern climate?

IH: I think tropical summer style is very possible during cold wintry months. If we imagine the British West Indies and all the romance of dark stained floorboards, overhead fans, mosquito netting, white loose covers for chairs, lush palm fronds in vases, you can quickly be transported to the look of a tropical summer.

KL: What are the three main elements that we can add to our homes to capture your signature island style?

IH: I would say that when designing with an island style theme in mind, you want to keep the colour palette fairly muted. In the islands, there is such a kaleidoscope of colour outside,

India Hicks



that it's refreshing to have a simple palette inside. We are big believers in bringing the outside in, so huge oversized vases filled with a mix of dramatic dark greenery gives an immediate stamp of the tropics. We also love to incorporate shutters into any design project, home renovation or restoration. They let the breeze through and also shade you from the sun of the day. They bring the romance of the history of Caribbean style.

KL: What is your favourite traditional colour to use when designing? And what's your most unconventional colour to use?

IH: My most favourite traditional colour to use when designing is a dove grey, which sounds incredibly dull for the tropics, but actually it's a colour that's been used throughout the tropics for centuries. But at home in the Bahamas, every so often we go bonkers and paint something in a very unconventional colour – our staircase is painted in a bright hibiscus pink. We've also been asked by visiting decorators or wandering guests what the name of that colour is, but nobody remembers because the local hardware store mixed one pink with another and just invented this mad tone.

KL: Quite often, a person's entertaining style reflects their style of interior design. Would you agree?

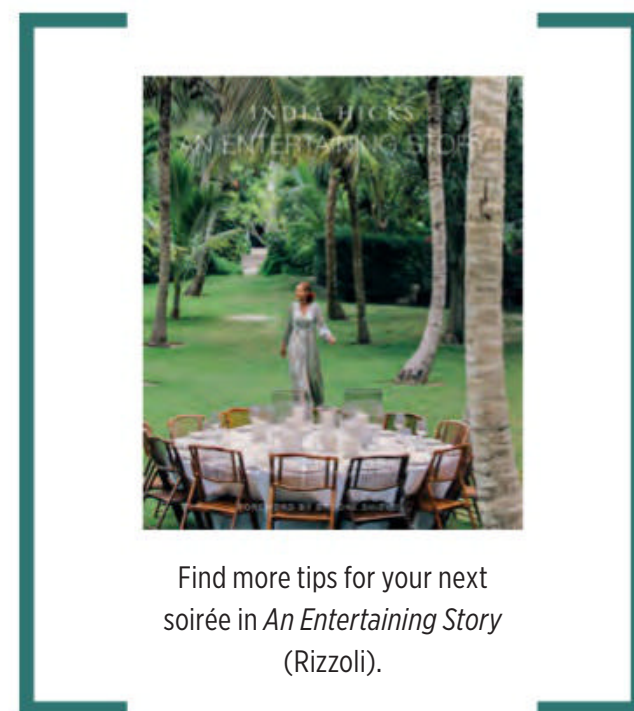
IH: It's true that people's entertaining style is a reflection of their home design, and that feels right. I often make use of what is on hand, both for our interiors and our entertaining style. Living on a small island, we don't have the luxury of being able to nip out to a large department



store, so we are always up-cycling from what we find immediately in front of us.

KL: What is the most important take-away from your new book, *An Entertaining Story*?

IH: The book is all about celebrating the art of togetherness and my slightly madcap spin on entertaining. It begins with the most important meal of the day, cocktail hour, and ends with breakfast. In between, there are family suppers and big dinners, birthday cakes and Christmas crackers, great British breakfasts, quick teas and long lunches, mustard pots as vases, and bedcovers as table cloths. And I never let anyone forget that the main ingredients for any gathering are always laughter and love.



Find more tips for your next soirée in *An Entertaining Story* (Rizzoli).

PHOTOGRAPHY, BRITTAN GOETZ AND INDIA HICKS

PAINT:
Tempered Grey,
Valspar,

PAINT:
Coral Reef,
Valspar.



Monstera **LEAF**, \$19, CB2.
Doherty runner **RUG**, 30" x
84" in Natural, \$139, Urban
Barn. For Living large
wicker chest **CABINET**,
Dark, \$260, Canadian Tire.

DON'T MOVE, *improve!*

A total revamp turns a cramped, disorganized main floor into a flowing family space with tons of storage and style.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE
PHOTOGRAPHY DREW HADLEY

DESIGN, Eugenia Triandos, Hibou Design & Co. **CONTRACTOR**, Constructions Archetype. **CABINET MAKER**, Atelier Boistek. **White Oak FLOORING**, Club Maison. **BANQUETTE, CABINETRY**, Hibou Design & Co. **TABLE & PENDANT**, RH. Hudson Valley **SCONCES**, Montreal Lighting. **CHAIRS**, Wayfair. **BASKETS**, Must Société. **WALL ART**, Minted. **STOOL**, IKEA. **VASES** (on shelves), Black Knot **BOOK ENDS**, Bird **STATUE**, Hibou Home.



OPEN STORY

Opening up the main floor and adding custom storage solutions lets the small home function like a much larger space. By opting for a banquette that hugs the wall in the dining area instead of having a dining table centred in the space, designer Eugenia Triandos gained two feet of floor space. “This allowed us to include both a table and an island in a tight space, and still have room for the boys to dash to the back door,” says the designer. Using the full length of the wall for the banquette allowed her to include lots of storage drawers for toys, craft materials and seasonal kitchen goods. Bonus: the banquette’s faux-leather commercial-grade upholstery is so durable that even pen marks wipe off.



To stay or not to stay? That was the question facing this family. Their challenge: they were growing, but their 1920s Montreal row house wasn't. Was a move to the suburbs necessary or could a reno turn their house into a dream home?

“Young families often come to this fork in the road,” says designer Eugenia Triandos of Hibou Design & Co. “In this case, they truly wanted to stay.” But with two young boys, the tight layout was rife with storage issues, and the outdated closed-off kitchen (and its constantly used backyard door) was frustrating.

“Our goal became to change their lives for the better but not change the square footage,” says Eugenia, who set about opening up the main floor and adding plenty of custom storage. She elevated the chronically chaotic front entrance into a gloriously organized space, and turned the kitchen into both a haven for family togetherness and a gateway to outdoor play. Then she turned her attention to aesthetics. Bistro-style tufting glammed up the banquette and graphic wallpaper jazzed up the seating nooks. “These are eye-catchers, the crowning glory on a space designed, first and foremost, to make life for my clients easier, prettier, and a lot more carefree.”





BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE

One secret to the space-saving success of Eugenia's design is her custom seating solutions, including the banquette, and entryway and kitchen nooks. Tucked into one end of wall-to-wall storage by the front door, a nook (left) offers a sweet spot for pulling on shoes. Drawers stow mitts and gloves. Inside the floor-to-ceiling closets are short racks for the kids and tall ones for parents. Easy-care vinyl wallpaper in a subtle geometric pattern, and a display shelf and seat that match the wood floors make it pretty. In the kitchen, close to the busy door leading to the yard, a kids' nook (opposite) is seamlessly integrated into the cabinetry. More easy-wipe wallpaper and two drawers for sports gear make it hard-working and easy on the eyes.

FLOW & FUNCTION

"Towering floor-to-ceiling cabinets along one kitchen wall disguise the fridge and impart architectural-style continuity," says Eugenia. By maximizing storage on this wall, she was able to forego upper cabinets on the range wall, which keeps the space from looking boxy. At the end of the banquette, built-in shelves are integrated with the banquette storage; while at the opposite end, cabinetry seamlessly encases a radiator. "Slots allow the warm air to escape," says the designer. "The less space you have between built-ins, the better, because it presents a sense of flow."

WALLPAPER (in nook), Metro Wallcoverings. Two **CUSHIONS** (kitchen nook), **DISH TOWEL**, Hibou Home. **FAUCET**, Brito. **SINK**, Blanco.

"For a truly successful renovation, nothing beats custom storage. It adapts as your family grows."

BRIGHT IDEAS

Removing the original dining room walls allowed natural light to pour into the space. "Sunlight now streams from both the front and back of the home," says Eugenia. "The family wanted to be able to see their kids from any space, so the new layout was designed around allowing that." But they also didn't want to see the kitchen from the entryway. The solution: a partial wall blocks the view of the cooking zone from the entryway side, but from the kitchen side, the same wall becomes a feature with a fab range hood as a focal point.

CABINETS, MILLWORK, custom white oak **SEAT**, Hibou Design. **WALLPAPER**, Metro Wallcoverings. **PILLOW** (in nook), Hibou Home. **CABINETS HARDWARE**, Emtex. **ART** (on shelf), clients' own.



TONES & TEXTURE

“The palette is bright yet soothing and makes use of quiet naturals,” says Eugenia. “Instead of white, we used a light taupe for the kitchen cabinetry. It’s less predictable and more like furniture, something that is true of the custom range hood, as well.” The island’s warm green is paired with tones in the glazed ceramic tile backsplash. These same hues appear in the wall art at the end of the dining table. Natural elements, including white oak flooring, wood window frames, woven chair seats, basketry and the boys’ stepstool impart a homey, relaxed feeling. For impact, dark tones were introduced via the table, Wishbone dining chairs, cabinetry hardware and decorative items, such as bookends and baskets.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR
WORKBOOK



A sense of calm and cohesion was Kate Davidson's design vision for this 4,900-square-foot home in Oakville, Ontario.

MODERN FAMILY

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN MILLER



Designer Kate Davidson knows that sleek, contemporary architecture can be compatible with family living (would you have guessed a couple with two young children and a dog live here?). To achieve a comfy yet functional home, she relied on ample smart storage, complementary colours and warm textural materials.

1

Mellow Yellow

“I designed the living area’s feature wall, which boasts a metal-faced fireplace that draws the eye up and adds interest to the high-volume space. The owners’ furniture and accessories in mustard act as a dramatic contrast that warms up the area and plays off the earthiness of the metal, stone and wood. It works well here because modern dwellings and furniture can sometimes come across as cold and unwelcoming, yet this family home, while stylistically clean-lined, is undeniably warm and inviting.”



DESIGN, Kate Davidson, Kate + Co Design. **ARCHITECT**, Richard Mann. **FLOORING**, All Shine Hardwood Flooring. Living room **FURNITURE**, Bo Concept. **FIREPLACE FACADE**, Tremonte Group. All **LIGHTING**, Kate + Co Design. Samsung Picture Frame TV (disguised as a Gustav Klimt painting), Samsung. **CONCRETE TILE WALL**, Ciot.



“THE OVERSIZED ISLAND IS VERY FUNCTIONAL AND OFFERS A LOT OF STORAGE, AS WELL AS HOUSING THE SINK AND DISHWASHER.”

A pantry wall and extra-high cabinets provide ample storage that keeps the open-plan home uncluttered.



WALL PAINT, Horizon OC-53,
TRIM PAINT, Oxford White CC-30,
Benjamin Moore. Island **STOOLS**, Bo
Concept. Quartz Calacatta Vogue
kitchen **COUNTERTOPS**, **BACK-**
SPLASH, Quartex. Kitchen **FAUCET**,
Gessi. Pot filler **FAUCET**, Rubinet.
APPLIANCES, Miele.

2

Good Visibility

“An open floor plan can be challenging as it makes the kitchen visible to adjoining rooms. The space has to be functional but also possess aesthetic qualities in keeping with the rest of the home. My vision was a modern, family kitchen with an organic vibe. I created a sleek, linear look with flat-panel cabinet doors, integrated appliances and a concealed hood fan. The cabinet colour is an earthy mushroom-grey that’s warm and boasts a trending matte finish. Over this minimal base, I layered in more visual interest with floating walnut shelves and mid-century-style seating.”



“THE ENGINEERED CLEAR WHITE OAK FOR THE FLOORS AND STAIRS WAS FINISHED ON-SITE. IT ADDS CHARACTER AND WARMTH AND SETS THE TONE FOR THE ENTIRE HOME.”



DINING TABLE, Cigale by Roche Bobois. Powder Room **FAUCET**, Gessi. Custom **FLOOR LAMP** (living room), custom **PLANTER**, bathroom **MIRROR**, Kate + Co Design.



The dining console was positioned higher up on the wall to accommodate floor accents, like the potted plant.



3

Colour & Curves

“When designing open-concept spaces, it’s important to use a cohesive colour palette throughout. The colours should complement one another and create continuity between principal areas. The grey dining chairs echo the grey of the sectional and the same flooring eliminates any visual break and blurs boundaries between the two areas. The dining chairs are Mid-Century-Modern inspired with a cool, iconic shape that’s still comfortable and durable. Their curved silhouettes also break up all the linear lines.”



4

Neat Stuff

“This mudroom serves a family of four, so I started by giving each one of them their own open cubby with hooks for hanging up day-to-day items. I selected quartz as the bench top because it’s highly scratch-resistant and waterproof. The closed side cabinets provide extra shoe storage and seasonal storage, as well as concealed phone-charging stations.”



5

Home Works

“This is actually a homework nook designed specifically for the children. It’s tucked in next to the kitchen area and features a large quartz counter with room for two workstations. For the parents, it also doubles as a hub to store paperwork and pay bills. The cabinets framing the window offer closed storage for homework and house the family’s charging stations for their devices.”

A home steps from Ontario's Lake Huron brims with high-impact design and inspirational touches, including lively splashes of blue.

Great Lake HOUSE

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY PATRICK BILLER





Context is everything, especially in design. “This bungalow is a walk away from beautiful Lake Huron so it had to have hints of blue and a coastal vibe,” says designer Tiffany Piotrowski of Tiffany Leigh Design. In other words, the home needed a sea change of colour, pattern and shapes to take its 1,500 square feet from builder-blah to contemporary-cool. In her own words, here’s how Tiffany did it.

PATTERN PLAY

“A couple with two little girls lives here so I wanted the home to feel young and fresh. This small entrance needed to convey that, and make an impactful statement that would set the tone for the rest of the home. I chose wallpaper that felt bold, graphic and fun. Using it in a small area like a foyer maximizes impact but minimizes cost.”

SQUARE SPACE

“The black squares on the blue wallpaper are the star here. The bench’s upholstery, a tonal windowpane check, acts as a subtle and playful nod to the wallpaper’s squares. The trick to repeating similar shapes is to modify scale – where the wallpaper squares are large and spaced apart, the windowpane check is quite small and tight.”



GO BIG

“The dining area is small, so I wanted it to have a big design presence. Instead of a wall covering, I hung four oversized abstract prints to add pattern and interest. A large shapely light fixture draws the eye, and adds drama and grand scale to what is otherwise a small space.”

DESIGN, Tiffany Piotrowski, Tiffany Leigh Design Inc. **PENDANT LIGHT**, Elte. **WALLPAPER**, Kelly Wearstler for Lee Jofa. **MIRROR**, Wayfair. **SIDE TABLE**, LD Shoppe. **CUSHION**, Tonic Living. **ARTWORK**, Chelsea Fly. **RUG**, Dash and Albert. **TILES**, Creekside Tile.

ON REPEAT

“Repetition is key with colour and materials. The kitchen floor, bar stools and floating shelves are all a similar tone. I made sure to repeat the metallic elements elsewhere in the space: the light fixtures pick up on the brass strip on the vent hood. And the backsplash is the same slab of marble used on the fireplace.”

Island **PENDANT LIGHT**, Hudson Valley Lighting. **STOOLS**, CB2. Dining **CHAIRS**, **CHANDELIER**, Elte. **ARTWORK**, Celadon. **VASE**, McGee and Co. **BACKSPLASH**, Ciot. **CUSTOM CABINETRY**, Bruce County Custom Cabinets. Cabinet **HARDWARE**, Myoh. **COUNTERTOPS**, Caesarstone. **SCONCES**, Rejuvenation Lighting. Custom **VENT HOOD**, Cam-Fab Custom Metal. **FAUCET**, Rubinet. Island **BOWL**, West Elm. **OVEN**, KitchenAid.





GRAPHIC DETAIL

“The fireplace’s marble veining is very organic and natural, whereas the chairs’ blue and white upholstery is graphic and punchy. They work well together yet are so completely different, they don’t compete. The clients already owned the chairs but we wanted to reupholster them and thought it could be a great graphic moment, and we were right! The chairs are my favourite element in the space.”

Fireplace Calacatta **MARBLE**, Ciot. **FIREPLACE INSERT**, Napoleon. Custom **SOFA**, Parklane Sofa. **FLOOR LAMP**, Wayfair. **WALL PAINT**, White Dove OC-17, Benjamin Moore. Custom **DRAPERY**, Sarit Arnesty Custom Drapery. **DRAPERY FABRIC**, Tonic Living. Blue and white **CHAIR UPHOLSTERY**, Virginia Kraft Textiles. **TV**, Samsung. **TV DIGITAL ARTWORK**, Juniper Print Shop.





CURVES AHEAD

"I like to break up linear and straight elements with more organic or rounded shapes. Here, the columnar fireplace called for something a little softer, so I opted for a round coffee table. A trick to achieving the right balance is to look around your room and count the large elements – for every five straight-lined pieces, add one or two curvy shapes."

RUG, Elte. Cement **COFFEE TABLE**, CB2. Black **TRAY**, TLD Curated. Black **SIDE TABLE**, Urban Barn. **TABLE LAMP**, Crate and Barrel.

WARM FRONT

"Whenever I'm working with a cooler palette (in this case, blue), I make sure to add in warm tones for balance. The living room's creamier walls and pop of cognac leather keep the space from feeling cold and sterile. Some greenery adds in a layer of natural colour that doesn't feel overpowering, while hits of black ground everything."



MIX MASTER

“The mudroom had a walled-in closet with bifold doors and felt quite closed off. I ripped out the traditional closet in favour of millwork, which opened the space up and allowed me to add some textural interest with woven baskets, vertical shiplap and patterned pillows. There’s still ample storage, but the space feels so much larger.”

BALANCING ACT

“The durable drop-in tub was added for the girls and we gave it an elevated finish with a facing of [lightly veined] slab marble for a great high/low balance. Simple and easy-to-scrub subway tiles in the shower and darker grout keep cleaning low maintenance. Just like in the principal rooms, I layered soft blue tones throughout.”

Slab **TUB TILE**, Ciot. **FLOOR AND WALL TILES**, Saltillo. Custom **VANITY**, Bruce County Custom Cabinets. **MIRROR**, Renwil. **SCONCES**, Elte. **FAUCET**, Rubinet. **ARTWORK**, Hannah Winters. **TOWELS**, Rainsford Company. Vintage milking **STOOL**, TLD Curated.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



TILE FILE

“Because this is both the family bathroom and guest washroom, we wanted the finishes to feel elevated and pretty - but also durable for everyday use. Large, hexagonal floor tiles feel youthful and fun, yet take on a bit of elegance thanks to their refined Carrara marble and a border of lightly veined white marble. Bathrooms don’t have to be limited to just one floor tile.”

Custom **CABINETS**, Bruce County Custom Cabinets. **HARDWARE**, RH. Floor **TILES**, Creekside Tile. **WALL TILE**, Céragrès. **COUNTERTOP**, Caesarstone. Soap **CANNISTER**, TLD Curated.



SMART THINKING

“The laundry room had an existing laundry sink, but it was at the same counter height as the washer/dryer, which made it difficult to use. Dropping the sink down to a standard counter height increased functionality and created a space to hang a drying bar above.”

STYLE AT HOME'S

Guide to Spring Cleaning

Welcome to our deep dive on deep cleaning. Here's what to do, how to do it, and what NOT to do to make your house shine this spring.



Cleaning Q & A

Is it good to wash the floors with dish soap?

Depends on the floor

Tile: A few drops of dish soap diluted in water can work on tile floors, but if it's too concentrated, it can leave marks and residue. Sweep the floor with a soft bristle broom first so that grit doesn't scratch the surface. For natural stone floors, reseal periodically with special sealers to keep them in great shape.

Wood: Never steam or soak a hardwood floor. Water will penetrate exposed wood and cause it to warp and swell. If you want to give a well-finished floor a thorough wash, use cold water and a barely damp mop; ensure you leave no water standing on the floor. If the finish is worn, dry it with an old towel. For regular cleaning, squirt the floor with a wood floor cleaner and wipe off with microfibre mop.

Laminate/floating: A barely damp cloth or microfibre mop is usually safe, but always follow manufacturer's directions

Is it okay to not wash the dishwasher or laundry machines?

It's not too bad, unless...

If you aren't currently washing these appliances, you aren't alone. You can help keep them clean with proper usage: don't put too much soap in the washer; don't overload appliances; and inspect them twice a year. If there are odors, run the dishwasher or washer with a cup of eco-friendly bleach. Wipe out the stainless-steel drums of laundry machines. Front-loading washing machines are a different beast. You must dry the door gasket (all sections) after every use to prevent mildew. If you do get mildew, clean with a mildew cleaner and soft rag.



Is it okay to replace all our cleaning products with vinegar?

No

Vinegar is acidic and should never be used on wood, stone (granite, slate, marble) or electronic devices, but it works wonders on glass. Mix one part distilled vinegar to 10 parts warm water in a spray bottle. Wipe windows with a soft, lint-free microfibre cloth, then spray on the solution and wipe with a cloth. Don't get the vinegar solution on the frame, as it could damage it. Window manufacturers also warn against ammonia or alcohol-based products that can permanently scratch the glass surface.

Should you use paper towels to do all the housework?

No

Soft cotton rags and microfibre cloths that can be washed and reused are a much better environmentally friendly choice. Reusable paper towels, such as Kliin, are a good option.

Can you clean ceramic glass cooking surfaces with dish soap or degreaser?

Yes, but...

When glass ceramic cooktops hit the market, we were told repeatedly to only clean with specialized products. In fact, dish soap or a mild degreaser works just fine, as long as you religiously avoid abrasives that can damage the surface. If you have really dirty surfaces, for best results, apply a product designed for ceramic glass surfaces with a microfibre cloth.

Is it okay to "forget" to wash the walls when spring cleaning?

Sometimes

Washing the walls and ceilings might have been on the must-do list of our mothers' and grandmothers' big yearly clean. But back in Granny's day, wood fires were more common and ventilation systems were rudimentary, so it was really smart to get the residue off the walls. These days it's less of a necessity, with the exception of the kitchen walls, cabinetry and ceiling, which should be cleaned annually. As well, always wash surfaces prior to painting.



Clean House, Clean Mind

Anyone who followed Marie Kondo's rise to fame knows the power of tidying to clear the house and your mind of clutter. But can a clean house actually improve your health? According to a survey by Vileda (yes, the mop company!), 81 per cent of Canadians say that the cleanliness of their home is an indicator of their personal well-being; and a whopping 88 per cent say they feel more in control of their life when their home is clean.

But is that satisfied feeling you get after a day of cleaning due to the actual clean house? In Kelly Lambert's book *Lifting Depression*, the neuroscientist suggests that making a physical effort toward achieving a tangible task (like the act of house cleaning) activates regions of the brain that help us build resilience against negative thinking. She suggests that the physical activity of doing repetitive tasks with your hands gives you a sense of well-being. All the more reason to cue up your tidying playlist and go get those dust bunnies. It's good for you!



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MARCH 2021



EVERYDAY BEAUTY

An organized home makes life more orderly, but that doesn't mean you have to edit out the "stuff" you love.

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Room to FLOW



Nine years after moving in, a total redesign and reorganization of space gives a family of five a brand new century-old home.

STORAGE

Uppers for double the storage



“I wanted the kitchen to feel integrated, clean and bright. It’s not a kitchen that screams, Look at me! It’s a kitchen that is gorgeous by the mere fact that it’s so simple,” says designer Megan Crosbie. “And with three kids, we needed everything to be indestructible, so we went with a Corian countertop and seamless cabinets.”

Every renovation comes with distinct challenges, but the redesign of this Edwardian century home in Toronto came with a particularly unique ask. Homeowners Lisa da Rocha and Claudio David wanted designer Megan Crosbie to lighten the dark, woodsy “Western ranch” look left behind by the previous owner, but not entirely. They wanted to simplify the interior, but preserve the exposed brick and Douglas fir beams.

“It already had some industrial flair – we wanted to maintain that and just add some contrast,” says Lisa, explaining that she, Claudio and their two daughters, 10 and 12, and son, 6, had already lived in the home for nine years, but weren’t making optimum use of it. Says Lisa: “It needed to be more functional, and more reflective of our tastes.” →

BELOW The kitchen was relocated to the back of the house, where it shares space with the cozy family room. The pristine design is a striking contrast to the home's exposed brick and rugged fir posts and beams, while offering all the desired amenities, including double wall ovens and a gas stove. Flat-front cabinet doors with touch-latch hardware keep the profile sleek.

ALL CABINETRY AND BUILT-INS DESIGN, Megan Crosbie Design. **CONTRACTOR,** Cornerbrook Construction. **CABINETRY CONSTRUCTION,** Fox Custom Woodworks. **COUNTERTOPS** and **BACKSPLASH** in Arctic Ice, Corian. Black **BAR-STOOLS,** Stylegarage. **PENDANT LIGHT** by Lambert et Fils, Klaus by Nienkamper. **OVENS,** Gaggenau. Delta **FAUCET,** Taps.

RIGHT With its amply cushioned sectional and built-ins displaying books and collectibles, the snug, relaxed family room adjoining the kitchen is the antithesis of the sleeker, more artful living spaces on the main floor. For consistency, the built-ins have the same clean-lined design and finish as the kitchen cabinets on the opposite wall. Two massive new windows overlook the backyard. "It feels like Muskoka out there," Lisa says.

SECTIONAL, Silva Custom. **COFFEE TABLE, EQ3. BUILT-INS CONSTRUCTION,** Fox Custom Woodworks. **ART-WORK** by Peter Andrew, Art Interiors.



STORAGE

Display space and closed storage



With sights set on a clean, contemporary design, Megan shifted spaces, reimagined storage and thoroughly updated finishes. "Our goal was to turn it into a beautiful, bright and airy contemporary home for a busy family," Megan says. "It needed to feel cohesive and kid-friendly, and be able to comfortably host extended family functions." (When those are back on!)

Lisa asked for white walls, which are a great foundation for a modern look. "People often think white isn't going to be the most kid-friendly, but it's really just the walls," Megan says. Structural changes included opening up the main floor for flow, shifting the kitchen into the huge family room at the back, creating three inviting kids' suites on the second floor and transforming the unused third floor into a serene retreat for Lisa and Claudio, an executive leadership coach and entrepreneur respectively. Keeping most of the new finishes and larger pieces understated and neutral lets the industrial elements "shine through" as features. "With the white gallery wall feel, we were able to add fun pops of colour in the artwork," Megan says. →

BELOW To bring the staircase, which had been opened up to the family room by the previous owner, in line with the redesign, Megan opted to swap in new treads to match the new floors. For contrast, she had the railing painted a matte black.

RIGHT, TOP & BOTTOM With its moody colour scheme, crisp geometric shapes and

bold accessories, the living room feels like a carefully curated sculpture gallery. To embrace the unusual angled bay window in one corner, Megan had the solid oak coffee table custom made, then arranged a “conversation circle” around it. Upholstered in a soft, dark grey bouclé, the chaise in the window looks dramatic, which draws the

eye to this unique architectural feature, but, ultimately, it’s a roomy, cozy perch that’s low enough to not chop up the sightline out the window.

CUSTOM COFFEE TABLE, Marshall Young Cabinetry. **CLUB CHAIRS, STOOL,** Stylegarage. **MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS CHAISE, BLOOM RUG,** Elte.





STORAGE

Full-height pantry cupboards

ABOVE By turning it on its side, Megan reimagined the vintage Pepsi-Cola sign as ad hoc artwork. A plan to install a space-hogging walk-in pantry was jettisoned in favour of building in these full-height cupboards along the dining room wall (two units house dry goods; one stores cleaning supplies). Floors throughout the house were replaced with engineered wide-plank smoked European Oak in a brushed and oiled finish.

European Oak **FLOORING**, Moncer Specialty Flooring.

RIGHT The walnut dining room table and sideboard echo the warm tone of the beams. Megan has a background in fine art and integrates art into her projects. "It's a part of the design process I really enjoy," she says. "Artwork plays a key part to warming up the space. If you're going to go with the all-white walls, you're forcing yourself into this gallery feel, so you have to place the art strategically to have that right impact. Lisa and

Claudio hadn't invested heavily in art, so I was able to help select many of the pieces." She found the large photographic piece by Jamie MacRae at Art Interiors.

TABLE, CHAIRS, SIDEBOARD, Design Within Reach. **LIGHT FIXTURE**, Casa Di Luce. **QlockTwo CLOCK**, DDC NYC. Black **VASES**, white **BOWL**, Elte.



A key consideration of the seven-month reno was adding enough storage to make maintaining the sleek minimalist interiors a breeze. Megan tucked in low-key storage pieces and built-in units throughout. “Integrating a ton of storage is a key component to modern design,” she says, so every bedroom has a walk-in closet, and the crawlspaces on the third floor are filled with hidden built-ins.

Lisa is delighted with the results and is looking forward to welcoming extended family and friends to the revamped modern Edwardian. “We were able to lay out the spaces in a much better way, and now we’re using so much more of the space as a family. We’ve always had these big gatherings, with 20 or 30 people, and looking into the future, we can’t wait to be able to do that again!”



STORAGE

Wide closed console



STORAGE

Built-in drawers
under the eaves

STORAGE

Hidden cubby for
luggage

Appointed with a simple claret velvet daybed, a dormer window in the new third-floor primary bedroom becomes an artful moment epitomizing the merging of the home's old and new architectural elements. Megan tucked secret dresser drawers (left) and suitcase storage (right) into the low walls under the eaves, and installed a walk-in closet (through the door, far right) to maximize storage and minimize space-hogging furniture.

DAYBED, EQ3. **RUG**, Elte. **DRESSER**, Design Within Reach. **WINDOW**, Marvin.

OPPOSITE & BELOW Packing in loads of hidden storage allowed Megan to keep the look of the primary bedroom (formerly a little-used guest room) streamlined. “I wanted it to feel serene and peaceful,” she says. The warm tones of the velvet chaise and wood beams (which complement the pops of green foliage through the windows) ensure the airy space is also super cozy. The staircase was shifted from the centre of the room to the corner so the space wouldn’t feel chopped in half. In warmer months, a huge rooftop deck essentially doubles the floor-space of the serene primary suite.

BED, BEDSIDE TABLE, WHITE LAMP, Design Within Reach. Grey **BEDDING,** RH. Terracotta-colour **PILLOWS,** Elte and Elte Mkt. **PLANT, POT,** Dynasty. **LIGHT FIXTURE** by Bocce, Kiosk.

RIGHT, BOTTOM The awkward roofline forced Megan to get creative when designing the primary ensuite. While she packed in loads of storage space courtesy of a double vanity and extra-long medicine cabinet, the room’s white palette and floating vanity instill a sleek, modern aesthetic. “You can never have too much storage,” Megan says. “We made sure there is space for everything, so it can be tucked away out of view.” A luxe Blue Savoy marble floor is an elegant note.

VANITY CONSTRUCTION, Fox Custom Woodworks. Arctic Ice **COUNTERTOP,** Corian. **FLOORING,** Saltillo Tile.



STORAGE

Triple medicine cabinet

STORAGE

Roomy vanity

BELOW & OPPOSITE Previously, the owners' three children – two daughters, 10 and 12, and son, 6 – shared a bedroom. Megan craftily divided the former primary into two kids' rooms, stealing some floor space from the “massive” landing to give each child their own room. In the 10-year-old girl's bedroom, the rich tones of the exposed beams and brick are offset by a creamy white palette threaded

with low-key accents in brass and the palest pink accents for a quietly boho mood. To balance the traditional headboard and bedside tables, which the owners already owned, Megan chose a storage cabinet with breezy rattan door- fronts. The roomy pop-out “treehouse windows” installed in all of the children's bedrooms created inviting reading nooks and draw the eye out to the treed

surroundings. “People call us the tree house. There are pines all around us, and every window you look out has greenery,” Lisa says.

BED, CHANDELIER, BEDSIDE TABLE, Pottery Barn Kids. **RUG, EQ3. STORAGE PIECE,** IKEA. **SHEETS, COVERLET,** West Elm. **DESK, ACCENT CHAIR,** Structube. **CHAIR,** IKEA. **ARTWORK,** Minted. **STORAGE BASKET,** HomeSense. **WALL LAMPS, CB2. ACCENT CUSHIONS,** Tonic Living.



STORAGE

Doored cabinet



BELOW Megan pulled the romantic petal pink and raw brass tones from the adjoining bedroom into the 10-year-old girl's ensuite. The round mirror contrasts the right angles and clean lines that define the interior design. "Pairing the mirror and sconces felt like a no brainer to me!" she says. The flooring is a unique soft pink-blue-grey terrazzo.

VANITY CONSTRUCTION, Fox Custom Woodworks. **COUNTERTOP,** Caesarstone. **MIRROR, ACCESSORIES,** CB2. **SCONCE,** Tech Lighting. Aquadesign **TAPS AND FAUCET,** Taps Bath. **TILES,** Ciot.





STORAGE

Drawer and shelf

ABOVE To imbue a more grown-up air in the 12-year-old daughter's bedroom, Megan brought in deeper pink, grey and blue tones pulled from a mod floral cushion on the bed. Trim wall-mounted bedside tables in walnut offer function without eating up floorspace. The quirky industrial-style bedside lamps were a "total steal" at HomeSense, and a back-painted glass

whiteboard over the desk is a chic designer twist on the usual corkboard or chalkboard. The spacious kids' bedrooms were all outfitted with homework desks.

BED, Pottery Barn Kids. **BEDSIDE TABLES**, EQ3. **RUG**, Elte. **ARTWORK**, Minted. **GREY DUVET COVER**, West Elm. **ACCENT PILLOWS**, Tonic Living. **DESK**, Crate and Barrel. **DESK CHAIR, ARMCHAIR**, Structube.





ABOVE The largest of the kids' bathrooms, the 12-year-old girl's ensuite, was roomy enough to accommodate a stand-alone bathtub, glassed-walled shower and generous vanity. While black is employed throughout the house as a balance for the expanses of white, this is the one room where the designer went "full-on" black and white only, "and I think it really stands out," she says.

The dynamic terrazzo flooring merges the two contrasting hues. "When you take a design risk, there's room for high reward," says Megan. "I wanted to create a space that felt grown-up, without feeling stuffy or old. And the tile is so much fun, so we let that be the shining star here." Translucent roller blinds offer privacy without cutting daylight.

BATHTUB, BLACK SHOWER-HEAD, TAPS and FAUCET by Jason Wu for Brizo, Taps. **FLOORING**, Ciot. **BLACK TOWEL BAR**, Home Depot. **VANITY**, Fox Custom Woodworks. **SCONCES**, Circa Lighting. **MIRROR, BLACK DISH, PUMP**, CB2.



STORAGE
Niche for lotions and potions

To ensure that the couple's six-year-old son's playful bedroom has staying power, Megan furnished it with a simple, neutral queen-sized bed and handsome modular oak shelving unit with desk that will grow with him, then layered in budget-savvy elements, like superhero bedding and cartoon art, to amp up the fun. "Everything is neutral, adaptable and durable," says the designer. She chose shelving that echoes the look of the staircase. Art from Etsy (over headboard) was printed at Staples, and the cloud sconces are from IKEA. Megan had metal

locker-style cabinets mounted on the wall so it's easy to clean under them. "We weren't too precious with the furniture," she says. "The pieces in the kids' rooms are from big-box stores. We didn't blow the budget because they're going to get wear and tear."

BED, CB2. **YELLOW THROW**, Elte. **BEDDING**, Pottery Barn Kids. **ART** (over bed), Etsy. **BEDSIDE TABLE, SHELVING, DESK**, EQ3. **BASKET**, HomeSense. **BLUE VELVET CHAIR**, Struc-tube. Locker-style **CABINETS**, IKEA. **WALL PAINT**, Simply White OC-117, Benjamin Moore. **ARTWORK** (over lockers), Minted.



STORAGE

Integrated desk and shelving



STORAGE

Shallow wall-mounted lockers



LEFT The six-year-old boy's ensuite is kitted with "kid-friendly, durable materials," that don't look too kiddie, says Megan.

VANITY CONSTRUCTION, Fox Custom Woodworks. **RIBEL FAUCET,** Taps Bath. **ARTWORK,** Minted. **ACCESSORIES,** CB2. **FLOORING,** Ciot.

ABOVE A new mudroom was added to take pressure off the front door, which opens to the living room. The high-functioning space, floored in rough-and-tumble slate, is packed with huge storage cubbies for the kids' outerwear and gear, plus a coat closet for mom and dad. Felt baskets up top corral off-season accessories and supplies.

CABINETRY, Fox Custom Woodworks. **BENCH,** Design Within Reach. **FLOORING,** Saltillo Tile.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

SMALL *wonder*

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY
STYLING GREER + JAMIE OF OLIVER
SIMON DESIGN



High ceilings, fab concrete floors and a killer location in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant neighbourhood aside, this 900-square-foot condo was pretty basic when Greer Nelson and her husband Jonathan Orr purchased it 14 years ago. "The doors were hollow, the hardware was dated and the kitchen was lacklustre," says the designer. "I knew I could make it work long-term for us as a family (their son Oliver is now 13) by maximizing storage and adding personality." →

ABOVE & OPPOSITE

Greer factored in a custom kitchen look on a budget by painting the cabinets white and updating them with matte black hardware. New white appliances further the integrated, built-in effect. A vintage dresser

offers closed storage – smart beside a front door.

DESIGN, Greer Nelson, Oliver Simon Design. Vintage **RUG,** Rug and Weave. **ART** (over dresser), Pat Service. **CABINET PAINT,** Chantilly Lace OC-65, Benjamin Moore. **ISLAND PAINT,** Knoxville Grey HC-160, Benjamin Moore. Cabinet **KNOBBS, PULLS,** Bradford

Hardware. Custom Rustic Oak **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** Union Wood Co. Backsplash **TILE,** Ann Sacks. **COUNTERTOP,** Color Quartz. Trinsic **FAUCET,** Delta. **APPLIANCES,** KitchenAid. Maharaja **PLATE** (above sink), Bacci's. Dining **TABLE,** West Elm. Hoffman **DINING CHAIRS,** Design Within Reach. Wall-mounted **BOOKCASE,** CB2.

Designer Greer Nelson reinvigorated her family's small open-plan condo with smart storage and artful style.



Greer injected big personality into a small condo by including artful displays of her family's treasured objects.

BELOW “Every piece of furniture for a small space should be considered,” says Greer. “Make sure the bigger pieces, like the sofa, are a neutral colour. It’s always easier to switch out toss pillows for a change than switch out a sofa. I like to change the pillows a few times a year.” Unlined linen drapes offer privacy and let light in.





Artwork and shelves displaying objects attract the eye upwards and make the TV just one element in the vignette.

Her transformation toolbox included fool-the-eye space savers, superb styling and knowing where to save and splurge. “A fresh coat of white wall paint works wonders, especially with the same white on the trim,” she says. Little luxuries like heated bathroom floors and linen drapes elevate everyday life, and Greer’s styling adds layers of interest that personalize the space and make it welcoming. “I like to add things that have meaning – family photos, travel mementos – as well as a mix of vintage and new,” she says. “The key? Don’t overdo it; stop while you’re ahead.”

Greer’s expert editing has created an inviting space that reflects her family’s personality – this is a home where oil paintings and bicycles are hung on the wall. “I wanted it to feel casual and effortless, and I think it does.”

ABOVE Greer interprets the high/low formula literally. “I like to use high-placed furnishings, like these floating shelves, on the perimeter of the room, then opt for low-profile furniture in the centre,” she says. “Too many items with height, like tall-backed chairs, will block the sightline and make a small space feel

cramped.” She used the vertical wall space above the TV to create an eye-catching vignette that integrates the black monitor into the decor.

SECTIONAL, Vangogh Designs. **COFFEE TABLE**, Wayfair. **ACCENT CHAIR, FLOOR LAMP**, Nineteen Ten. **CONSOLE**, West Elm. **MARRAMARKET RUG**, Vintage ART, Etsy. **FLOOR PLANT**, Bloom Room Botanical Gallery.

Greer replaced a standard bifold closet door with a curtain that provides easy access, as well as a punch of colour and texture.





BELOW Dark floor tiles in the ensuite bathroom are both stylish and practical.

Anitqua white gloss **SHOWER TILE**, World Mosaic. Black hexagonal **FLOOR TILE**, Daltile. Delta Trinsic **FIXTURES**, Splashes. Custom oak **VANITY**, Kennedy Construction.



ABOVE & OPPOSITE One of Greer's design signatures is mixing old with new. In the primary bedroom, vintage items, such as the wonderfully faded rug and a child's Japanese theatre costume hung as art, imbue character into the condo. The canopy bed has an architectural presence, but it's also hard working: "Use every opportunity to maximize storage in a

small space," says Greer. "Our bed has drawers on each side, and our nightstands are actually dressers." The sconces are a testament to Greer's practice of using a bit of black in every room for contrast and interest; they also show her thoughtful effort to create continuity with the living room's black furnishings.

Callum Storage **CANOPY BED**, RH Teen. Pink linen **BEDDING**, Somn Home. Pom pom **BLANKET**, The Vintage Rug Shop. Vintage Chinese wedding blanket **PILLOW**, Cloth and Main. Vintage **RUG**, vintage Japanese theatre **COSTUME** (above bed), Etsy. Audrey **NIGHTSTANDS**, West Elm. Cypress **WALL SCONCES**, Rejuvenation Lighting. Landscape **PAINTING**, Adina Edwards.





LEFT The main bathroom has dark-coloured tiles for continuity with the ensuite, but here they're applied in a chic herringbone pattern – a luxurious upgrade from the existing tiles that Greer enhanced even further with radiant heating. “Always opt for a heated floor wherever possible,” she says. “You’ll never regret it.”

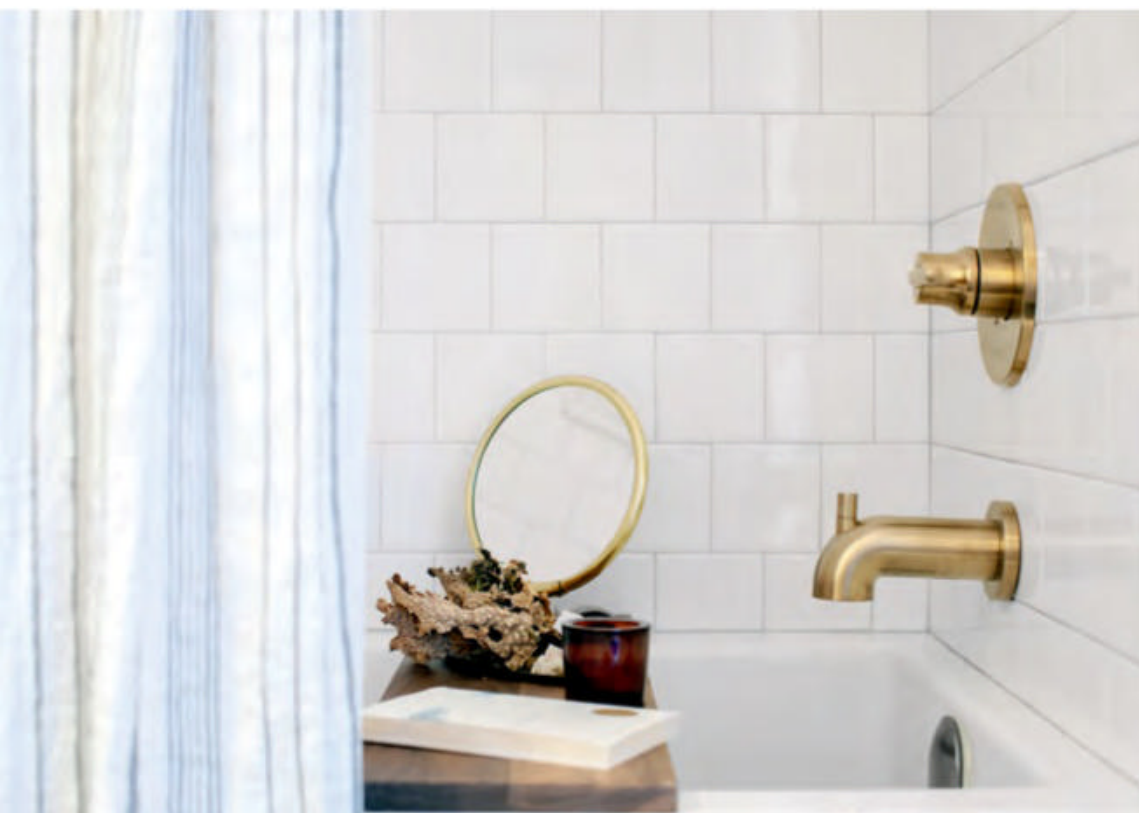
BELOW Ever the styling expert, Greer hung floating shelves above the tiled wall. “Every bathroom should have a small area for pretty things,” says the designer. A wood shelf (bottom left) in the bath is a rustic contrast to elegant brushed brass fixtures.

SHOWER TILES, Dal Tiles. Bistro Series
FLOOR TILES, C & S Tiles. Custom oak
VANITY, Kennedy Construction. Custom rustic oak
FLOATING SHELVES, Union Wood Co. **TUB, SINK**, Delta Trinsic
FIXTURES, Splashes. **SHOWER CURTAIN**, RH.

OPPOSITE Oliver’s admittedly tiny bedroom takes on an airy feel thanks to the ingenious addition of a loft bed. “It allows room to live beneath it, and the desk and work area is something every kid loves and needs,” says Greer. The lively colour was inspired by the stunning artwork on the wall, which was painted by artist Pat Service, who also happens to be Oliver’s grandmother.

WALL PAINT, Templeton Gray HC-161, Benjamin Moore. Loft **BUNK BED**, Bunk Beds Canada.

“Every bathroom should have a small area for pretty things.”







“Update all your lighting, including all those hallway flush mounts.”

LEFT, TOP & BOTTOM “Our condo had open cubbies above all the closets that were a nightmare to decorate and just ended up being lost space, so I splurged by adding custom cabinet doors,” says Greer. “Best money spent for sure. Now we can store toys, suitcases and all sorts of things out of sight. It’s like added square footage.” She advises paying close attention to details, even small items like matching the door hinges and updating all the hardware, including door knobs.

Ceiling **LIGHT**, CB2.

ABOVE High ceilings in the mud-room allowed room for more custom millwork that boasts open and closed storage options and a place to hang Jonathan’s bike.

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BACK *to* NATURE

Natural textures and colours in a relaxed, laid-back style set a scene that's as serene as a walk in the woods.

TEXT MARTHA UNIACKE BREEN
PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTIN THOMASON





OPPOSITE A console table and twin mirrors in the hallway that links the entryway with the main living area provide a spot for a quiet vignette featuring a Roman bust, handwoven basket and chunky crystals. Bonus: the basket doubles as a stashing spot for an extra blanket.

DESIGN, CONSOLE, GEODE, WOODEN BEADS, MIRRORS, CANDLESTICKS, BASKET, THROW BLANKET, RUG, BUST, West of Main. **FLORAL ARRANGEMENT,** Michaels. **WALL PAINT,** Steam AF-15, Benjamin Moore. **BUILDER,** eQ Homes.

LEFT The dining area is quite large, but instead of over-furnishing it, designer Sascha Lafleur opted instead to use a few oversized pieces that work together to create a balanced composition. The wide sideboard acts to ground the atmospheric painting, while the ebonized chairs pick up the grain of the reclaimed-wood tabletop. The light fixture, with its tiny stars and soft linen shades, adds to the relaxed mood.

CHANDELIER, CHAIRS, BOWL, TABLE RUNNER, RUG, SIDEBORD, VASE, PLANTER, PRINT ON CANVAS (artist unknown), West of Main. **TABLE, RH. FLORAL ARRANGEMENT,** (inside bowl) Moss from Michaels.

*A*t first blush, this newly built home near Ottawa seems to have it all: high ceilings, classic architecture and open, graciously proportioned rooms awash in sunlight. But its open plan presented some challenges for the homeowners. With everything visible from everywhere else, how do you define different areas, while also creating a visually unified, cozy – not cavernous – home? And with a family that includes three active young kids, how do you keep things neat and organized? →

“I TRULY BELIEVE THAT WITH THE RIGHT SHADE, SOME BRIGHT COLOURS CAN ACT AS NEUTRALS, SO THAT THEY STAND THE TEST OF TIME.”





For answers, the family turned to Sascha Lafleur of West Of Main Design. The re-do she, her team and the builder (EO Homes) orchestrated draws inspiration from a low-key palette of natural colours and textures – not surprising for a designer who believes the best designer on Earth is nature herself. Sascha says that organic materials like wood, stone and natural fibres will always harmonize with each other, and also make us feel calmer – just as being in nature does.

The designer used organized furniture groupings to create distinct “rooms” in the open main floor, while subtle links in texture and tone give a sense of overall cohesion without being too strict about making things match perfectly. Rather than just a single species or colour of wood, for example, there’s a range of them, just as in a forest – from pale oak on the kitchen island and range hood, through the rich medium tones of the reclaimed-wood dining table, to the crisp, near-black grain of ebonized dining chairs. →



OPPOSITE The sumptuous forest-green cabinetry makes the kitchen feel like a rich jewel, with added sparkle from brass chandeliers, the legs of the barstools, and tiny, perfect gold sconces flanking the range hood. “When it’s lit up at night, this kitchen feels incredibly romantic,” says Sascha. Double-height cabinets offer double the storage.

PENDANT LIGHTS, STOOLS, FRUIT TRAY, JUG VASE, FLOOR RUNNER, SCONCES, WOODEN TRAY, West of Main. **TILE,** Euro Tile & Stone. **ETERNAL CALACATTA GOLD COUNTERTOPS,** Silestone. **CABINETS PAINT,** Essex Green HC-188, Benjamin Moore.

RIGHT The oversized island countertop has room to serve guests or feed kids, while extra storage underneath, as well as a wide bank of storage drawers on the side wall, helps keep everything in its place.

ABOVE Inset glass cabinets add a boutique feeling within the expanse of green cabinetry, and act as a stage to display a collection of artisanal serving ware. Touches of light wood in the range hood, island and the cabinet interiors lighten the overall look.



LEFT Subtle textural contrasts between pieces – such as the finely wrought metal frame of an armchair and a nubby woven planter – keep things pleasingly informal. “With the colourful kitchen right next to it, we decided to emphasize texture rather than colour in the living room,” says Sascha.

PRINT, THROW PILLOW, ARMCHAIR, RUG, PLANTER, West Of Main.

BELOW “Floating” the sofa in the centre of the room helps organize the space into separate but conjoined living and dining areas. The chunky console behind it acts as a room divider, as well as an extra table for the dining area. Or simply pull up a chair and it serves as an ideal spot to catch up on paperwork.

SOFA, CONSOLE, PILLOWS, GLASS VASE, BLANKET, West of Main.

OPPOSITE The fireplace wall is a study in asymmetrical balance: one side provides shelving for display and books, while the other offers extra seating when needed. The white “brick” is actually a facing material that comes in sheets like tile, providing an easy way to add character.



Look closer and you’ll see that there’s also plenty of cleverly designed storage – so key in an open plan – tucked all through the space. Some pieces conceal, like a dining-room sideboard for table linens and overflow serving pieces; while others display, like open shelves and glass-front cupboards that act as a natural stage for collections or favourite pieces picked up on travels.

More and more, especially these days, Sascha says, “home is everything to people today. We try to create designs that are beautiful, but have a lived-in look. Everything doesn’t have to match – there’s a sense of balance, where if one piece is a bit out of order, it all still looks good.”

A modern living room featuring a white brick fireplace with a black metal surround. In front of the fireplace is a round, light-colored wooden coffee table with a lower shelf holding a white blanket. To the left is a black metal chair with a white cushion and a striped pillow. To the right is a grey sofa. A large, circular, dark wood light fixture hangs from the ceiling. The room is decorated with various items on shelves, including books, vases, and a bust. A framed abstract painting is on the wall to the left.

“IN A BIG OPEN AREA LIKE THIS,
LARGE-SCALE PIECES LIKE A GIANT
LIGHT FIXTURE HELP TO DEFINE
AND GROUND THE SPACE.”





OPPOSITE & BELOW
 Checkerboard pattern floors are a centuries-old classic, but Sascha opted for grey and white instead of the more traditional black and white to keep the palette soft and light. The combo of the painted wainscoting and checkerboard floor creates graphic interest, but doesn't overwhelm the space. The combo of the painted wainscoting and checkerboard floor creates graphic interest, but doesn't overwhelm the space. The hallway that leads from this space sets the stage for the muted natural palette that flows throughout the home, from the entryway to the garden view beyond the rear windows.

STOOL, PLANTER, RUG, FRAMED PRINT, West of Main.

LEFT The mudroom – a multipurpose space that acts as kitchen pantry, kids' coat-room and side entry from the garage – features a hook and bins for each child. Having a designated spot for everything, says Sascha, is the secret to keeping an open-plan space tidy.

WASHABLE PAPER BINS (on top shelf), Uashmama. **PILLOWS, LIGHTING FIXTURE,** West of Main. **PANTRY SHELF CONTAINERS,** Storage Solutions.



“ADDING THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL OF THE WAINSCOTTING TO THE FRONT HALLWAY CREATES A GREAT FOUNDATION TO LAYER ON OTHER FEATURES, SUCH AS CHECKERBOARD FLOORING.”



RIGHT In the basement guest room, it's all about coziness, with a simple metal frame bed dressed in layers upon layers of linens and other natural fabrics, and the rich, muted colours of a patterned rug to warm up the broadloom floor covering. Side tables feature glass vitrines that display favourite objects.

METAL FRAME BED, BED LINENS, BEDSIDE TABLES, LAMPS, RUG, West of Main.



LEFT A spare bathroom proves great style isn't just about expensive finishes. Laying simple elongated subway tiles in a herringbone pattern adds a bit of zing, and the laminate countertop is dressed up with a marble pattern and a raised sink. The black vanity, floor and fixtures provide contrast.

TILE, PORCELAIN FLOORING, Euro Tile & Stone. **LAMINATE COUNTERTOPS,** Formica.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

OPPOSITE "We wanted something a little more subtle in the little girl's room, so that we don't have to make major changes as she gets older," says Sascha. The giraffe and lion wallpaper is easy to update because it's only on one wall.

WALLPAPER, CHANDELIER, PLANTER, AREA RUG, West of Main. **MACRAMÉ WALL HANGING, KNOT PILLOW,** Etsy. **RATTAN DAYBED,** Article. **BED LINENS, SHEEPSKIN THROW,** IKEA. **PILLOWS,** H&M Home.



“NONE OF THE CHILDREN’S ROOMS ARE TOO THEMED. WE WANTED TO CREATE SPACES THEY COULD GROW INTO AS THEY GOT OLDER.”

Hot for Food

RECIPES AND PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN TOYOTA



**ALL-GREEN FRESH ROLLS
WITH GREEN CURRY DIPPING SAUCE**
(PAGE 94)

Lauren Toyota is hot for food. This vegan cooks and eats with gusto. These recipes from her new cookbook, *Hot for Food All Day*, will have you loving vegan fare morning, noon and night.

RAGU BOLOGNESE

MAKES 4 TO 6 SERVINGS

- 1 white onion, peeled and coarsely chopped
 - 2 carrots, coarsely chopped
 - 1 celery stalk, coarsely chopped
 - 1 lb cremini/baby bella mushrooms
 - 2 zucchini, peeled and coarsely chopped
 - 2 tbsp olive oil
 - 1 tbsp minced garlic (2 or 3 large cloves)
 - 1 tsp sea salt
 - 1/3 cup tomato paste
 - 1 tbsp vegan beef-flavoured bouillon base or mushroom bouillon base (or 2 cubes)
 - 1/2 cup unsweetened soy or cashew milk
 - 2 tsp balsamic vinegar
 - 1 pkg (16 oz/454 g) pappardelle
 - 1 tbsp vegan butter
 - 1 cup shredded vegan Parmesan, divided
- Ground black pepper, to taste
Finely chopped fresh parsley, for garnish (optional)

In a large food processor, add the onion, carrot and celery. Pulse until finely minced and set aside in a bowl. You should have 2 to 2 1/4 cups of this mixture.

Add the mushrooms and zucchini to the processor bowl. Pulse until finely minced and nearly a puree, then set aside in another bowl. You should have 4 to 4 1/2 cups of this mixture.

In a large cast-iron pan or Dutch oven over medium heat, add the olive oil and the onion, carrot and celery mixture. Sauté for about 5 minutes, until shrunk to about half. Add the garlic and sea salt and cook for another minute. Add the mushroom and zucchini mixture and cook for 15 to 18 minutes, stirring occasionally, until it looks more brown than green or grey and most of the water has been cooked out, and you really can't distinguish the vegetables.

Add the tomato paste and bouillon base and cook for 3 to 5 more minutes, until it starts to



RAGU BOLOGNESE

caramelize. If you wanted to add in a splash of red wine, here's where you would do it and just cook a little longer.

Add the soy or cashew milk and balsamic vinegar and deglaze the pan, scraping up any brown bits at the bottom. Turn the heat down to low and simmer for another 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the pasta to al dente. Reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking water and add it along with the vegan butter and 1/2 cup of the shredded vegan Parmesan to the sauce mixture. Stir to combine until the cheese is

mostly melted, about 2 minutes, and then use tongs to add the cooked pasta right into the pot of sauce. Use the tongs to coat the pasta properly, 1 to 2 minutes, until heated through and all the Parmesan is melted.

Serve the bolognese topped with the remaining vegan Parmesan, black pepper and parsley.

HOT TIP

You can substitute 1 tablespoon of vegan Worcestershire for the vegan beef-flavoured or mushroom bouillon base.

ALL-GREEN FRESH ROLLS WITH GREEN CURRY DIPPING SAUCE

MAKES 10 ROLLS

Green Curry Dipping Sauce

(MAKES ABOUT ¾ CUP)

- ½ cup canned coconut cream
- ¼ cup tightly packed fresh cilantro
- 2 tbsp green curry paste
- 2 large garlic cloves
- 2 tbsp lime juice (about 1 lime)
- 1 tbsp seasoned rice vinegar
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- Pinch chili flakes (optional)

Fresh Rolls

- 10 dried rice paper sheets
- 5 large green leaf lettuce leaves (ribs removed), torn in half
- 2 avocados, sliced
- ½ English cucumber, ribboned with a peeler
- 1½ cups sugar snap peas
- 1½ cups packed microgreens or sprouts
- 1½ cups fresh mint leaves
- 1½ cups fresh basil leaves
- 1½ cups fresh cilantro leaves

Green Curry Dipping Sauce In a high-powered blender, add the coconut cream, cilantro, green curry paste, garlic, lime juice, vinegar, sugar, sea salt and chili flakes. Blend until very smooth. Transfer to a small saucepan and bring to a low simmer, cooking about 2 to 4 minutes, until slightly thicker and reduced.

Fresh Rolls Once all your vegetables are prepped, fill a wide shallow dish that's slightly larger than the rice paper sheets with tepid water so you can soak a whole sheet. Soak one rice paper sheet at a time, for 10 to 20 seconds. You still want to feel the crosshatch pattern on the surface of the rice sheets. Don't oversoak or it will be too soft and hard to roll.

Assemble the rolls one at a time. Lay the wet rice paper sheets on a work surface. Add a piece of the lettuce and divide the avocado, cucumber, snap peas, microgreens or sprouts and fresh herbs among the sheets in whatever order you like. Roll one side of the rice paper over the filling, tucking it in as you start rolling again and also folding the sides in. Continue rolling until completely sealed. Place on a plate or cut in half if you prefer.

Serve with the green curry dipping sauce. Leftover dipping sauce will get thick from refrigeration. Add a teaspoon of water at a time to thin it out until it's a smooth, dippable consistency.

TOKYO STREET FRIES

MAKES 2 LARGE OR 4 SMALL SERVINGS

- 1 pkg (about 20 oz/567 g) frozen shoestring fries
- ⅓ cup vegan mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp sriracha
- ¼ cup Tokyo Mix Popcorn Seasoning (see recipe, opposite)
- ¼ cup finely chopped green onion (white and light green parts)
- 1 tsp black sesame seeds

Preheat the oven to 425°F.

Lay out the frozen fries on a baking sheet in an even layer and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or according to package directions, until golden brown and crispy.

In a small bowl, combine the vegan mayonnaise and sriracha. When the fries are baked, immediately transfer to a large bowl and toss with the popcorn seasoning.

Transfer the fries to a serving platter, drizzle with the sriracha mayo, and sprinkle the green onion and sesame seeds on top.

TOKYO STREET FRIES





PASSION FRUIT SLICE

TOKYO MIX POPCORN SEASONING

MAKES ABOUT 1/2 CUP

- 1 pkg (35 oz/10 g) or 2 large sheets roasted salted seaweed snacks
- 2 tbsp dried minced onion
- 2 tbsp mixed black and white sesame seeds
- 1½ tbsp nutritional yeast
- 1 tsp sea salt

Additional Snack Mix Options (per batch of popcorn)

- 3 cups rice sembei snacks
- 2 cups sesame sticks
- 1 cup natural wasabi peas

Using a clean coffee or spice grinder, working in batches, grind the roasted seaweed snacks into small pieces by adding torn pieces to the grinder. The seaweed snacks have additional oil, so they will stick to the sides of the grinder. You might need to stop and start the grinder to push the pieces toward the blade and continue pulsing. Pour each batch into a bowl. Then, continuing to work in batches, add the small pieces of seaweed back into the grinder with the dried minced onion,

sesame seeds, nutritional yeast and sea salt, and pulse to a fine powder (this step may require two batches).

Sprinkle half the spice mix over the popcorn and reserve the rest for a future batch. If adding snack mix options, add them after you season the popcorn.

PASSION FRUIT SLICE

MAKES 12 SLICES, 9½-INCH PIE

No-Bake Graham Crust

- 9 sheets (18 squares) vegan graham crackers
- ½ tsp sea salt
- ⅓ cup melted vegan butter

Passion Fruit Curd

- ½ cup water
- 1 tbsp agar flakes or 1 teaspoon agar powder
- 1¼ cups canned coconut cream (some liquid is fine)
- 1 cup passion fruit, including seeds (7 or 8 passion fruits)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar

Topping

- Store-bought coconut whipped topping
- Mint leaves, for garnish

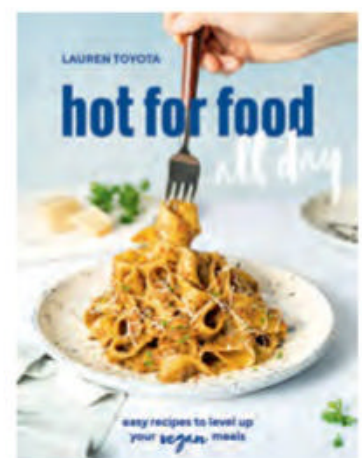
No-Bake Graham Crust In a food processor, pulse the graham crackers and sea salt into a fine crumb. Add the melted butter and pulse until it comes together and looks like wet sand. Press evenly into a 9½-inch fluted pie pan. You will have enough to go at least three-quarters of the way up the sides of the pan. Refrigerate the crust while you make the rest of the recipe.

Passion Fruit Curd In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, whisk together the water and agar. Simmer for 5 to 6 minutes, until dissolved. You shouldn't see any flecks of agar in the liquid if using flakes, and the liquid will have reduced and thickened slightly.

At the same time, in a large saucepan over medium heat, whisk together the coconut cream, passion fruit and sugar constantly for 2 to 3 minutes, until it just starts to bubble and is warmed through. Add the dissolved agar to this and whisk until well combined, about another 2 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a heat-safe glass bowl. Whisk it constantly to cool it down and prevent it from setting too much. It cannot be added to your chilled crust until it's tepid in temperature. Constantly stirring will help cool it more quickly and prevent the agar from setting.

Once the mixture has cooled to about room temperature, and with no steam present, pour it into the crust and refrigerate for at least 3 hours, until chilled and set.

To serve, top with a pile of the coconut whipped topping and garnish with the mint leaves. This is best eaten on the day it's made. I would consume it within 2 days max, otherwise the crust gets a little soggy.



Find more easy and delicious recipes in *Hot for Food All Day* by Lauren Toyota (Penguin Random House Canada, \$30).

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5



4



7



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8



9



10



1. Jute, \$40, Bouclair, bouclair.ca. 2. Allium striped, \$43, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. 3. Set of three cotton baskets, \$30, boutiquekozy.ca. 4. Umbria, \$11, Structube, structube.ca. 5. Basket, \$40, H&M Home, hm.com. 6. Cane, \$174, VdeV, vdevmaison.com. 7. Finlayson PVC and cotton, \$35, finnstyle.com. 8. Savannah seagrass, \$210, Ethan Allen, ethanallen.ca. 9. Lustigkurre bamboo with lid, set of 2, \$18, IKEA, ikea.ca. 10. Global Explorer seagrass with lid, \$33, Amara, amara.com.



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