

How to REFRESH Your ROOMS for SPRING

FIND YOUR PALETTE

Vibrant Classic Defiant Jubilant



COLOUR LIFE JOYFUL













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After what feels like the longest winter, the world is returning to colour. I don't mind snow...in December. But by April and May, I'm all about the trees unfurling their chartreuse-like new leaves and the rainbow of blooms popping up in gardens. Are you with me?

It's no coincidence that spring and our annual colour issue coincide. I love them both. Every year, I can't wait to see what designers will teach me about how to use colour in my own home. I am always surprised at how unique the homes we feature are - so reflective of the collaborations between the designers and their clients. Each personality colours, you might say, the spaces that emerge.

It's impossible to pick a favourite home in this issue. The happy hues in "It's Got Personality" and "Live, Love, Loft" pull me in. But just when I'm ready to order vibrant new area rugs and call in the house painter, I turn the page and am seduced by the serene lush neutrals in "Material World." Isn't that the beauty of design, not to mention of decorating magazines? We get to swoon over homes that perhaps we'd never imitate, but we can appreciate their beauty and steal an idea or two. And then there's that story that we dog-ear at first sight – the one that captures the mood we're after, and that will inspire our next splurge or even a whole-home redo. Something transformational! Who doesn't love falling in love?

It's been a long winter, but I know what mood I plan to bring home: happy. And I wish this for you, too. Happy spring decorating!

y @styleathome **⊚** instagram.com/styleathome

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ON THE COVER

Art and colour make life beautiful in this former factory loft by interior designer Cori Halpern.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Virginia Macdonald

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Printed at Transcontinental RBW Graphics, a division of Transcontinental Printing 2005 G.P., 2049 20th St. E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 5R2. All reproduction requests must be made to COPIBEC (paper reproductions at 800-717-2022) ISSN: 1915-8998

DISTRIBUTION

Distributed by Comag

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1-800-387-7244, STYLEATHOME.COM

STYLE AT HOME, Sub. Dept., P.O. Box 814, Markham Station, Markham, ON L3P 7Z6. Send address changes to the post office box address above, including the mailing label from your latest issue. Allow eight weeks for changes.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Canadian subscriptions: 1 year = \$34.95 (plus taxes) U.S. subscriptions: 1 year = \$90.00 (payable in advance) International subscriptions: 1 year = \$180.00 (payable in advance) Digital editions are available on Molto, Zinio, PressReader and Ebsco. We occasionally use our subscriber list for marketing purposes, or share it with carefully selected companies whose products may be of interest to you. If you do not want your name to appear on this list, please notify us in writing. Canadian Postmaster: Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Style at Home, 123 Front Street West #909, Toronto, ON, M5J 2M2. Publications Mail Agreement 41557548, PAP Registration 08282, Postage paid at Gateway in Mississauga, ON.

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Style at Home is published 9 times a year (except for occasional combined. expanded or premium issues) by TVA Publications Inc., 123 Front Street West #909. Toronto, ON M5J 2M2: 416-733-7600; groupetva.ca.

Funded by the Government of Canada

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style news





CUSTOM

Design lovers will eat this up: the Bespoke 4-Door Flex refrigerator lets you customize components - its cooling chambers come in two different sizes – to fit your needs and space. You can also choose between eight fab colours, or glass or steel exteriors. Inside, the FlexZone lets you switch between freezer and fridge modes, while the FlexCrisper can be customized for meat, vegetables or fruits. All this temperature setting can be done on the fridge itself or through an app. So "smart," and so cool! Coming in 2021, samsung.ca.





WALLPAPER WALLFLOWER

ARE YOU AFRAID OF COMMITMENT WHEN IT COMES TO WALLPAPER? IS IT THE COLOUR? THE PATTERN? THE WORK REQUIRED TO REMOVE IT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT? GOOD NEWS, COMMITMENT-PHOBES! YOU CAN FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH AT TEM-PAPER'S ONLINE GALLERY OF PEEL AND STICK PATTERNS. WE BET FEATHER FLOCK, AMALFI OR DITSY FLORAL WILL HAVE YOU SAYING "I DO" TO COLOUR AND PATTERN. Amalfi, \$125 per double roll, tempaper.com.



Sweet Stuff

Kitchen Aid has picked its own colour of the year for 2021: Honey. The rich golden-orange hue, meant to symbolize warmth and togetherness, brings a soulful dash of colour to the brand's iconic stand mixer. The powerful K400 blender also comes in the happy hue.

K400 blender, \$300; Artistan Series 5 Quart Tilt Head Stand Mixer, \$630; kitchenaid.ca.



GLASS ACT





Glass artist Sylvia Lee of Jeff Goodman Studio in Toronto has created a pensive and visually arresting collection of objects and furnishings as part of DesignTO 2021. The work is composed of Chroma glass, which is constructed by firing and fusing individual glass rods into a single surface. The artist created nine handmade Chroma glass circles, which are framed in brass and wall mounted. "I imagined taking a telescope and looking at multiple views of the same landscape and piecing them together," says Sylvia. "It reminds me of the way we piece together memories from our past. What was once a clear picture, over time becomes worn and fragmented and turns into something different." Also available are a series of three custom Chroma glass side tables with telescope-inspired legs. The installation can be viewed online, and the work is available for purchase.

jeffgoodmanstudio.com



A Colourful Escape

READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE AND MAKE A SPLASH WITH COLOUR AND TEXTURE? DEKTON'S NEW CRAFTIZEN COLLECTION (LAUNCHING THIS MAY) OFFERS LARGE-FORMAT STUCCO PANELS IN FIVE EARTHY COLOURS REMINISCENT OF A FRESCO IN A VENETIAN PALAZZO. THE SOFT TONE-ON-TONE COLOURS EVOKE BRUSHSTROKES IN PLASTER. PERFECT FOR A MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE ESCAPE AT HOME.

Dekton Craftizen in Umber, from \$116 to \$146 per sq.ft. installed, cosentino.com.



SLEEP ZONE

Does a mattress that uses denser foam to support your hips and mid section sound dreamy? Polysleep's made-in-Canada Zephyr mattress does just that and its antimicrobial foam gel topper helps cool you down when the temperature rises, and keeps you warmer when the mercury falls. \$2,145, polysleep.ca.



If the names aren't enough - Rosé All Day, FOMO, Taco Truck, and for those (still) seeking inner peace, Savasana then the paint colours themselves might entice you to try up-and-comer Digby Paints. The paint manufacturer based in Hamilton, Ont., sells their low-VOC paints and supplies solely online and delivers everything you need to colour your home right to your door. Order three-by-10-inch colour cards first, and use the online paint visualizer to find your hue. Maybe you're in the mood for Murder Mystery? Or a fresh coat of Party in Ibiza is more your style? We know you're curious now! \$59 per gallon, digbypaints.com.



GRILL TALK

ROASTING A HOT DOG ON AN OPEN FIRE IS ONE THING. BARBECUING ON A "SMART GRILL" IS VERY NEXT LEVEL. WEBER'S GENESIS AND SPIRIT MODELS ARE NOW WIFI ENABLED, OFFERING REAL-TIME FOOD MONITORING AND NOTIFICATIONS THAT MAKE LIFTING THE LID TO CHECK ON FOOD A THING OF THE PAST (CAVEMAN COOKOUTS ARE SO YESTERDAY!).

Genesis Smart GAS GRILL, from \$1,369, weber.com.

Take a Powder

Perfect for a powder room, the Murano Collection's exquisite glass vessel sinks are inspired by the colours and patterns of the Italian coastline. The Amalfi Abalone series features delicate seashell colours swirling through the organically shaped glass sinks. Each is hand-formed and one of a kind. Colour us impressed.

From \$942, nativetrailshome.com.



DREAM WEAVER

We love it when good things happen to good people, and it's even better when good people make good things happen like Nikki Starrett of Pomp & Sass. The Canadian entrepreneur and textile designer launched her luxury woven towel company last year. Although the pandemic was not part of the business plan, Nikki plowed on, proving it's possible to create a luxury product under fair and equitable conditions. She chose a family-owned business in Turkey to make her hammam-style woven towels because they pay fair wages, set ethical work hours and the site is safe and clean. The towels are produced without harmful chemicals, and are shipped in enviro-friendly packaging by workers in Canada earning above minimum wage. If that doesn't bring a smile to your face, the touch of these towels will. From \$25, pompandsass.ca.

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Country Garden

FRESH FLOWERS, FRUIT AND A DELICATE BOTANICAL LINEN BRING UNASSUMING COUNTRY-STYLE CHARM TO THE TABLE. BUILD A SOFT PALETTE WITH GREY TONES AND WARM NEUTRALS FOR OLD-WORLD BEAUTY.

Opposite and above Stoneware SOUP BOWL, \$14 each (cream and powder blue colours); large powder blue stoneware PLATE, \$14; NAPKINS, \$7 each (brown, white, blue), cream stoneware COFFEE MUG, \$10, Pottery Barn. White ceramic six-egg EGG STAND, \$6; polyester TABLECLOTH, 60" x 90", \$40; Linen Chest. Large ochre stoneware PLATE, \$20, small ochre stoneware PLATE \$10, powder blue stoneware SALAD BOWL, \$15, powder blue stoneware PLATE, (with fruits), \$20, Hudson's Bay. Amber glass TUMBLER, \$10 for 3, HomeSense. Ceramic flower VASE, \$6, Michaels. Textured stainless-steel CUTLERY, \$35 for service of 4, Walmart.

Citrus Spritz

DON'T OVERLOOK THE COLOURFUL IMPACT OF FRUIT WITH ITS FOLIAGE STILL INTACT AS TABLETOP DECOR. ADD A SEAGRASS RUNNER FOR TEXTURAL INTEREST.

Right, top Seagrass TABLE RUNNER, \$84; blue flower pattern STONEWARE, \$14 (soup bowl, medium plate), and \$17 (large plate); flower cut glass CUP, \$17; cream-colour fringed cotton PLACEMAT, \$21; Pottery Barn. Marble and wood CUTTING BOARD, \$17; white SAUCE BOAT and SAUCER, \$8; HomeSense. White linen-effect polyester TABLECLOTH, 60" x 90", \$20; satin-finish steel CUTLERY, \$40, service for 4; Canadian Tire. Right, bottom Imitation wood TRIVET, \$5, Michaels.





Luscious Lemon Pudding Cake

A little like cake, a little like pudding. A little sweet, a little tart. This old-fashioned treat is for those who believe that when life gives you lemons, make dessert!

TEXT TEST KITCHEN | PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 6 SERVINGS

- cup granulated sugar
- cup all-purpose flour
- tsp salt
- eggs, separated
- tsp lemon zest
- cup lemon juice
- tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 11/4 cups homogenized milk
- tsp icing sugar
- cup berries (optional)

For individual pudding cakes, mist 6 ramekins with cooking spray. Follow recipe, filling ramekins 1½ inches deep; reduce bake time to about 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mist 8-inch baking dish with cooking spray; place in roasting pan.

In bowl, whisk together sugar, flour and salt. In large bowl, whisk together egg yolks, lemon zest, lemon juice and butter; whisk in sugar mixture, alternating with milk, making 2 additions of sugar mixture and 1 of milk. Using electric mixer, beat egg whites in clean bowl until soft peaks form. Whisk 1/3 into lemon mixture. Fold in remaining whites until no streaks remain. Scrape into prepared dish. Pour enough hot water into roasting pan to come halfway up sides of dish. Bake until top is golden and puffed on top, 35 to 40 minutes.

Remove from water; let cool on rack for 15 minutes. Dust with icing sugar and serve with berries (if using).











Available exclusively at Home Hardware and Building Centre locations. Actual paint colour may not be as shown.







1 Coquelicot FLOOR LAMP, Luminaire Authentik, luminaireauthentik.com.

2 Oui large pedestal PLANTER AND BASE, Indigo, indigo.ca

\$80

3 Ava Tan PILLOW, CB2, cb2.com.

4 Estela Grey and White **PILLOW**, \$66 each, CB2, cb2.com.

\$1,860

5 Richie ARMCHAIR, \$930 each, Home Société, homesociete.ca.

нібн \$3,507 6 PAINT, Floral White OC-29, Benjamin Moore. Chinoiserie framed canvas PANELS, Celadon Art. Black RATTAN CHAIR, Bacon Basket Limited. Osaka COFFEE TABLE, Structube. Lohn CANDLE AND BOOKS,

\$249

6 Weft jute POUF, CB2, cb2.ca.

7 Oui medium pedestal **PLANTER** AND BASE, Indigo, indigo.ca.

\$339

8 Kota jute **RUG**, 6' x 9', Structube, structube.com.

9 Large Theory PLANTER, CB2,

\$986 LOW

Indigo. Kryddpeppar **PLANT STAND,** Fejka **ARTIFICAL FERNS,** IKEA. Ceramic **POTS** (on stand) HomeSense.

\$60

6 Rattan STOOL, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

\$8

7 White PLANTER. HomeSense, homesense.ca.

8 Lohals **RUG**, 5'3" x 7'7",

9 Large white PLANTER, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

1 Cone FLOOR LAMP, EQ3, eq3.com.

2 Textured white PLANTER, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

3 Oui Pieced Corduroy PILLOW COVER, Indigo, indigo.ca

\$80

4 Oui embroidered Painted Shapes PILLOW COVER, \$40 each, Indigo, indigo.ca.

5 Koarp ARMCHAIR, \$169 each, IKEA, ikea.ca

Au naturel

Natural materials, such as rattan, aren't just for outdoor furniture. Inside, they give an exotic feel and instantly create the indooroutdoor look that characterizes transitional spaces like sunrooms. We love how adding them to a living or dining room lends the look of a tropical island getaway.





Wall Art

Spring into the season by creating a garden of delight inside. This stunning botanical mural inspired by Chinese screens was fashioned by suspending wallpaper panels from a wood rail.

Havenview Mural by York Wallcoverings, 9' x 9', \$288, Anthropologie,

EVER GREENS

If your history with houseplants is checkered, go faux for a shot of green that never gets old.



This California-based designer is known for her trademark look of modern luxury. Contributing Editor Karl Lohnes spoke with Barbara about how nature inspires her, and how to freshen our rooms for spring.



KL: How can we bring inspiration from the outdoors into our interiors?

BB: No matter where you live you can find inspiration from nature, even if it's from a photo. When looking for decorating inspiration, I study the subtle colour combinations I see in nature as inspiration for a room's colour scheme. I find these subtle differences in tone and texture create calm. The colour green has an infinite range of hue (colour) and value (light to dark). I am particularly drawn to the cool blue-green of agave and find endless possibilities right there. For a northern climate, think deeper spruce-green paired with a pale blue. Sticking with a simple palette helps pull a room together.

BARBARA BARRY



Sagebrook Sage HC-114, Benjamin Moore

PAINT: Revere Pewter HC-172. Benjamin Moore





1 Barbara and Oliver, photography by Victoria Pearson. 2 McGuire Rattan samples in Almond, Mica and Oyster. 3 Bowen chair, Barbara Barry for McGuire, mcguirefurniture.com. 4 Interior design, Barbara Barry. 5 Midsummer collection. Barbara Barry Home for Kravet, Kravet.com. 6 Radius collection tiles. Barbara Barry for Ann Sacks Tile & Stone, annsacks.com.



KL: What are three simple ways to freshen up a room for spring?

BB: First, I'd recommend an energy shift. My go-to refresh is to take away as many items as possible – stripping back the room – and then rebuild it. Things never go back in quite the same way, and it changes the energy and makes a room feel refreshed.

Second, think of the room as a painting you walk into, with its own focal point and colour notes. In the same way that a splash of white or colour defines a painting, so can accessories, such as pillows. A simple shift in colour can change the feeling of a room, so I change mine in spring and fall; crisp white linens for spring and a deep mustard in fall. Adding that crisp white linen pillow can make a world of difference and balance the white of a linen lampshade or window blind.

Third, nothing is more effective than repainting a room's walls in a new colour. The cost output to the great impact is nominal. Or cover the walls in a washable linen-textured paper that will add a subtle texture to the walls. They come in so many lovely colours.

KL: What is your current favourite neutral paint colour? Your favourite non-neutral?

BB: Benjamin Moore is my choice of paint and my current favourite neutral is Revere Pewter HC-172. My non-neutral favourite is Sagebrook Sage, but this is as far "off-neutral" as I go! My choices come from a deeply held

philosophy that a neutral background allows the beauty of individual expression to come alive. It doesn't compete with all the stuff of our lives – our artwork, fabrics, even ourselves with our changing moods. I am interested in calm spaces, calm moods, and creating a sense of harmony that comes from related shapes, analogous colours and subtle patterns, because the summation of these, when thoughtfully curated, is calm. So, I begin with a "quiet" colour for a neutral backdrop. Revere Pewter is a beautiful, quiet neutral that takes on its surroundings, meaning it reflects, in a neutral way, its context. It won't skew lavender or pinkish. It remains neutral. Sagebrook Sage reflects my love of the colour green and my deep belief that green emits a healing vibration. Again, this particular green seems to hold any colour you pair with it, from tonal neutrals to bright and playful colour.

KL: Any tips for choosing long-lasting home investments like kitchen cupboards, flooring, bath fixtures or tiles?

BB: I love tile because it feels permanent, solid and secure. I love that it is washable, durable and always looks fresh. How lovely to tile the walls of a foyer, mudroom or breakfast room. Tile is not just for the kitchen and bath!

KL: Your newest fabric collection for Kravet is called Midsummer. Tell me about the inspiration behind it.

BB: Midsummer was inspired by that special time in summer when the light is brightest and out the longest. Who wouldn't want that yearround? My favourite pattern is called Fairie, which is a watercolour print on cotton. It makes me feel happy just looking at it. When dreary winter rolls around, it's nice to be reminded that those long sun-filled days are on their way.



PILK your

Are you ready for a change? We created three palettes around two key dining-room pieces - a table and cabinet - to show how colour transforms a setting. Which one will you welcome home?



SOFT & SOPHISTICATED

Pink in the dining room? Why not? This pastel palette sets a soft, happy mood. First, pick your favourite pink tone – from powder pink to deeper coral. We used a striking mural to establish the scheme, but paint would work too. Plush chairs and a rug are the other main elements. Then we layered in blue and yellow accents for interest. Wispy white pampas grass finishes the dreamy, feminine space.



CHARISMA SW 6605 • Sherwin-Willams



CARAMEL SAUCE 6092-42 • SICO



HOW BLUE AM I? 752 • Benjamin Moore







\$190, Veronneau. Pink marble **SPHERE,** 4" d., \$45, CB2. Svelti polypropylene and metal CHAIR, \$99, Article. Pepparkorn blue glass VASE, 11" h., \$20, IKEA. Ivy Bronx Sandoz polypropylene **RUG,** 6' x 9', \$306, Wayfair. Triple Effect ceramic VASE, \$35, Bouclair.



NATURE'S NEUTRALS

Rattan, jute, linen – natural materials are more popular than ever. Their neutral colours are soothing and create a cocoon-like comfort. Green plants are a natural here, and whites (from bright to cream to light grey) make the soft warm tones pop. In our scene, the oversize pendants light the way. Their open weave and soft colour ensure they don't clutter the room, but it give a breezy tropical feel.



TALCUM WHITE 6214-11 • Sico



SOCIABLE SW 6359 • Sherwin-Williams



ORANGE FLAMBE MQ1-28 • Behr





rattan MIRROR, 36" x 18", \$299, CB2. Zealand VASE, \$33, Structube. Artificial PALM TREE, \$249, Veronneau. Seville jute and chenille RUG, 60" x 96", \$200, EQ3. Nilsove rattan and metal **ARMCHAIR,** \$139, IKEA.



ELEGANT & CHIC

Black, used judiciously, loses its harshness and becomes inviting and enveloping. Painting a wall black gives depth and personality to a room. To create a dramatic effect without being overly theatrical, contrast black with white and a generous amount of gold, which brings a dazzling illumination to this striking palette.



MIRAGE WHITE 2116-70 • Benjamin Moore



CELEBRATION MQ4-13A • Behr











Reegler **PENDANT,** 54½" x 33",











"Working with colour and pattern is a balancing act," says designer Cara Hansen of Triple Dot Design Studio in Vancouver. "It's picking one showstopper colour and arranging the rest of the room to bring it out and complement it." Cara's client, an artist, fell in love with this Kitty McCall wallpaper, and the 11-foot kitchen island, which is visible from the adjacent living room, was the ideal place for it. Pretty mint paint further highlights the island against the rest of the cabinetry, which is finished in soft grey.

GOLD BARSTOOLS, SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS, CB2. Summer Garden by Kitty McCall WALLPAPER, Milton & King. COUNTERTOP, Caesarstone. LIGHTING FIXTURES, Schoolhouse. Marble ${f ROLLING}$ PIN, CAKE STAND, Rentfluff. FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, Stong's Market. Turquoise KETTLE (on stove), Home-Sense. PAINT COLOUR, Light Pistachio 2034-60 (island); Wickham Gray HC-171 (main cabinetry); Benjamin Moore.



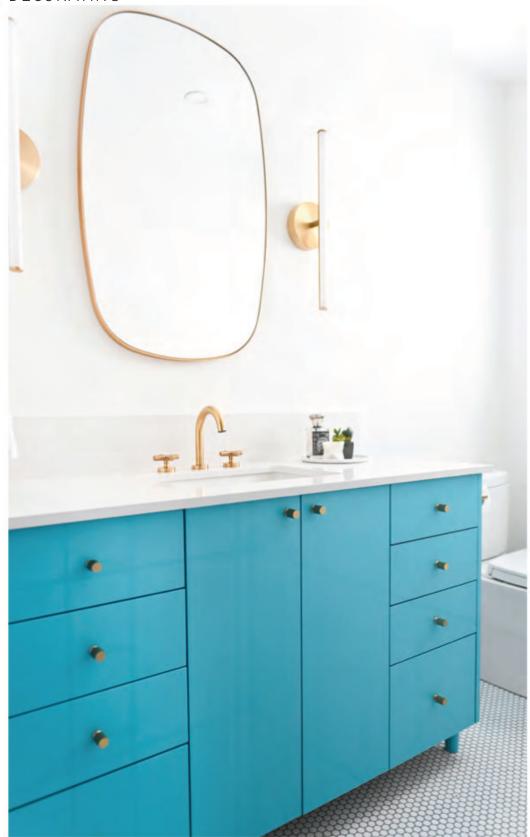
DESIGN, Triple Dot Design. **CONTRACTOR,** Level One Construction. Brushed gold $\textbf{CABINETRY PULLS,} \ \textbf{Richelieu Hardware.} \ \textbf{Champagne Bronze FAUCETS,} \ \textbf{Delta}.$ BACKSPLASH TILES, Centura. SMALL MILK JUG, WHITE CANISTERS, Rentfluff. CUTTING **BOARDS,** Chapters Indigo. **GLASS,** Dougherty Glass Works.





Gold hardware and fixtures also play a feature role, not just in the kitchen, but throughout the home - gold even makes an appearance in the powder-coated gold staircase in the front hall. "Gold is definitely having a moment," says Cara, "but to differentiate it from the tacky gold fixtures of the '90s, we went with a brushed finish, which is softer and brings the look up to date." With a brushed gold finish, stick to one or two brands to minimize slight variations in tone between manufacturers.





By the Sea

Where it's not alive with colour, most of the home is painted pure white so that its walls work almost like an art gallery for the vibrant "moments" throughout. In the main family bathroom (left), a jolt of Caribbean blue among the gleaming white tile brightens up the morning routine without sacrificing the room's serene, uncluttered feeling.

Infinity Round MIRROR, CB2. **LIGHT SCONCES,** West Elm. PAINT, Cool Aqua 2056-40 (cabinetry); White Heron OC-57 (wall); Benjamin Moore.

Line Drawing

Unlike the kitchen, where the wallpaper mural demands attention, there's room for a subtler touch in the main bath (below), where greytinted grout brings out the pattern of subway tiles and the herringbone-patterned shower inset. The shower and basin fixtures are simple and modern in design; the brushed gold finish is the only statement necessary.

Brushed gold FAUCETS, SHOWER FIXTURES, Riobel. COMMODE, Toto USA. CABINE-TRY HARDWARE, CB2. PENNY TILE FLOORING, SUBWAY WALL TILES, Centura. HERRING-BONE INSET TILES, Ann Sacks.





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Nature's Way

The ensuite (above) to the primary bedroom - the parents' private enclave - was a chance to really have some fun with art and colour. Wallpaper as vibrant as this '60s-inspired moth pattern needs little embellishment. But just as elsewhere, Cara says, the trick with such a standout element is balance and cohesiveness: painting the cabinet the same vermilion plucked from the pattern helps ground the design, while the white countertop is strictly a background player; stick-shaped lighting sconces and mirror are kept simple.

Infinity Round MIRROR, CB2. LIGHTING SCONCES, West Elm. Midnight Flyers by Katerhees WALL-PAPER, Spoonflower. Brushed gold FAUCETS, Riobel. COUNTERTOP, Caesarstone. Undermount BASIN, American Standard.

The Beat Goes On

The mod wallpaper is a perfect complement to the ensuite's pared-down 1960s architecture, which was another element the homeowners wanted to bring out in the renovation. Unfussy details, such as plain tapered cabinet legs, penny tile flooring, plank-style baseboards and cylindrical cabinet pulls, not only suit the time period, but are elegant in their simplicity.

CABINETRY HARDWARE, CB2. PENNY TILE FLOORING, Centura. PAINT, Tangerine Dream 2012-30 (cabinetry), Benjamin Moore.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK







fter 23 years in a historic home with a neutral palette, interior designer Cori Halpern and husband Bryan Tenenhouse decided it was time for a radical change. "We fell for a modern loft inside a former toy factory," says Cori. "It had industrial 15-foot ceilings, exposed duct work, a wide-open floor plan and enormous windows." In short, it was everything their former home wasn't – a true blank slate. "I couldn't wait to start," says Cori. "My goal was to create a light-filled, exuberant and joyous space."

Finding the perfect area carpet was her launching point. "When I saw the rug, I gasped - and so did Bryan!" It wasn't their usual style, but its intricate mix of blues, lilacs, purples and pinks reminded them of an impressionist painting. From there, Cori fashioned an ebullient palette of blue-greens, then layered in shades of pink, lavender and watery blues for a look that's equally jubilant and relaxed. She also customdesigned a host of new furnishings, recruiting their volume to showcase their hues, and then adorned the walls with art. "Most of the pieces

were the culmination of years of travel and had been collected without any attention to colour," says Cori. "When Elevator Digital and I created the gallery wall, it was as if each artwork had been waiting for this loft its whole life."

It's been almost three years since life in a traditional home gave way to this modern space in a former factory, and Cori reflects that she could not have anticipated how her design choices would impact their lives in today's challenging times. "It's been a year since the pandemic began, and even though we're here all the time, every single day in this place brings us joy."

Artwork and a joyful palette help to turn an echoing, empty condo in a former factory into an extraordinary, much-loved home.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

Layered Not Loud

"To create the feeling of an airy, light-filled exuberant space, start with white walls, then add in layers of colour, combining warm and cool tones in a variety of textures," says Cori. The rug inspired the room's hues. Its whispers of blue appear in the armchairs and are hinted at in the soft grey sectional. The pinks, lilacs, subtle greens and yellows are repeated in the sofa's bank of pillows. The rug's peacock blue

inspired the dining chairs. At night, a starburst chandelier casts a warm evening glow.

SOFA, ARMCHAIRS, Gresham House through Cori Halpern Interiors. **CUSHIONS, DRAPERY, Drapes &** More through Cori Halpern Interiors. **CUSHION FABRICS.** Memo Showroom. PENDANT LIGHT, Circa Lighting. FABRICS, Robert Allen Fabric; Memo Showroom. RUG, Weavers Art. COF-FEE TABLE, glass SIDE TABLE, Elte. TRAY, Elte MKt. THROW, Y & Co.





Cori & Company

Cori and Bryan share the loft with adorable Bennett and Piper. Cori is seated on a linen bench upholstered in a strie blend of silver metallic and blue-greens. Oversize white shelving is punctuated with objects that reinforce the aqua-inspired palette.

Table for Teal

The cool grey tones of a marble tulip table are paired with luxurious velvet seating. "Contrasting light marble with deep teal, and smooth stone with such a plush textile brings the best out of both," says Cori. The gallery wall was born of years of world travel, and an appreciation of

Canadian art. The grey and white cabinet is in keeping with the table's veining and the sofa's upholstery, and provides storage.

TABLE, Black Rooster. CHAIRS, Eternity Modern. GALLERY WALL INSTALLATION, Elevator Digital. GALLERY WALL FRAMING, Elevator Digital; On the Wall Framing; PI Fine Art. Custom BUFFET CABINET. Cabinet Furniture Inc. with Cori Halpern Interiors. BENCH UPHOLSTERY, Regency Upholstery. **VASE** (on table), CB2. **BOWL** (on table), H&M Home. TRAY, GLASSWARE, CB2, TEAL/ GOLD VASES, West Elm. ART "Coffee Cup" PHOTOGRAPH, Kevin Viner; FRAMING, INSTALLATION, Elevator Digital. GLASS VASES, LOVE KNOT, WHITE VESSELS. West Elm. Turquoise/red glass SCULPTURE, Alexi Hunter.







"Nobody would accuse me of being a minimalist. To me, more layers are just so much more exciting."









Blue Skies

Soft blue armchairs with breezy brass frames shimmy up to a see-through glass drinks table. The towering 15-foot windows bathe the room in daylight. "When choosing colours, always keep in mind how they'll look in both natural light and lamp light," says Cori. Fresh pinks, lilacs, blues and greens echo the hues in the rug's pattern, which was the inspiration for this room. The floor-to-ceiling storage shows off treasures, including a bouquet of calligraphy brushes from travels to Shanghai; a Slinky toy from their son, which alludes to the loft's history as the Irwin Toy Factory; a redstreaked artisanal vase; and an aquamarine glass love knot.

Better Together

Cori designed a pale grey sectional that serves as backdrop to cascades of colour. "Every pillow is like a work of art," says the designer. "Each is covered in a different fabric, but when you put them all together, the colours dance in a way that brings such joy." The art over the sofa is a beloved memento from China that happens to exude loft-friendly teal tones. "What's amazing is that we didn't buy it to match our decor. We just loved it, and it just happens it blends in perfectly," says Cori.



Curves & Corners

In contrast to the linear sectional and modern cut of the armchairs, the coffee table is smooth, rounded and organic looking. "Its warmth and heft bring balance," notes Cori. "Also, since getting to the terrace means walking though this space, it's nice to know there are no sharp corners to bump into."



Glossy Is Gorgeous

Cori designed the shiny lacquered night tables in vibrant turquoise. Their brass-ring hardware was chosen for contrast and warmth.



Tone on Tone

At the end of the main hall, four stairs lead up to the primary bedroom, which has no door. Not only is the space visible from elsewhere in the loft, it has 12-foot ceilings. "That meant that nothing in the room could be itty-bitty, including the colour," says Cori. The room's sea of rich teals and tropical turquoises includes a large painting by an artist from Quebec and a sculpted velvet headboard of regal proportions. For counterpoint, the pillows, made from some of Cori's favourite textiles, feature warm pink and purple tones.

Custom **BEDSIDE TABLES**, Cori Halpern Interiors with Cabinet Furniture Inc. **HEADBOARD**, Cori Halpern Interiors with Regency Upholstery. **HEAD-BOARD FABRIC,** Lee Jofa. Custom **CUSHIONS,** Drapes & More through Cori Halpern Interiors. **ART** over bed, Vivian Bergevin, Santini Gallery. **BED-DING, LAMPS, West Elm. THROW, Y & Co.**





"People worry that if they choose a colour, they'll get sick of it. But these turquoise night tables show how fresh a room can look

Luster & Sheen

The bedside lamp bases have an opalescent glaze that creates a subtle rainbow effect. So even though the lamps are white like the walls, they don't recede. Cori likes using pretty ceramic bowls to catch jewellery and bring colour to the room at the same time.

with colourful furniture."

Walls of Gold

"You just can't go wrong with metallic gold wallpaper," says Cori. And the same could be said of brass sconces. Here in the ensuite, those are paired with a bubbly print shower curtain in bouncy hues and a ceramic bath stool in robin's egg blue.

WALLPAPER, Tempaper. Hudson Valley SCONCES, Royal Lighting. Custom VANITY, Cori Halpern Interiors with Toronto Custom Concepts and Touchwood Cabinetry. FAUCET, Brizo. CERAMIC STOOL, Wayfair. RUG, Y & Co. SHOWER CURTAIN, Cori Halpern Interiors; SEWING, Drapes & More; John Derian FABRIC, Primavera Interiors through Cori Halpern Interiors.

Terrace Touches

On the 14-by-18-foot terrace, an oversize leaf-shape lounger-and-ottoman set is nestled among pink plantings in teal flowerpots and a multi-tone turquoise outdoor throw rug. These touches of colour keep the indoor palette continuous with the outdoors.

LOUNGE, OTTOMAN, Jardin de Ville. **PILLOWS,** Drapes & More through Cori Halpern Interiors; **FABRIC,** Kravet.





"The concrete look of the countertops adds interest, but it's neutral. This leaves lots of room for using colours on the walls in really expressive ways."

Galley Gallery

Cori and Bryan's art collection adorns the wall, linking this galley kitchen's cooking zone with the greater living space. The vibrant hues in the art are accented by dishware in the loft's signature teal tones. "It's a kitchen that's mini, but mighty," says Cori. "Dramatic matte concrete-look countertops pay homage to the days when this was a factory. The sexy gold faucet was added for contrast." The penny-round tile backsplash is white like the walls, but its texture is cheery and fun.

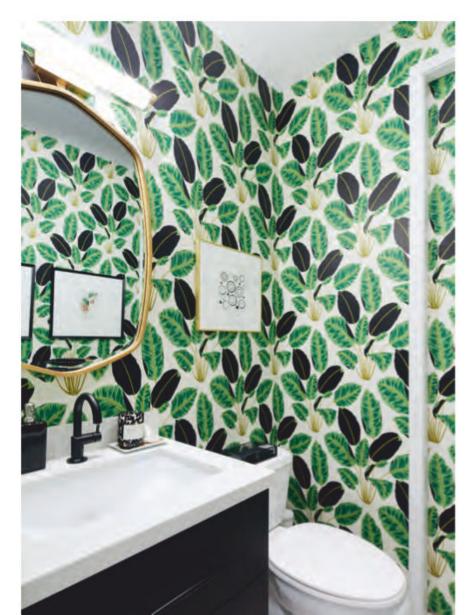
COUNTERTOPS, Caesarstone. FAUCET, Delta. CABINET HARDWARE, Berenson.

Powder Keg

The loft's powder room is an explosion of colour and pattern. "My son chose the wallpaper. The greens and blacks are a departure from the rest of the home's palette. But not everything has to be the same," says Cori. The vanity features matte leather-look laminate, black hardware and a black faucet.

WALL COVERING, Tempaper. MIRROR, Uttermost. FAUCET, Brizo. ART (by mirror), Janet Taylor, Toronto.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK





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Paint EFFECTS

Want to wake up your room? Everyone knows a coat of paint is the easiest way to perk up an interior. Add pattern – from simple colour blocks to intricate stencils – for a pick-me-up that packs a creative and personalized punch.





COLOUR BLOCK

This technique (also called colour blocking) involves painting shapes of various sizes in order to highlight an architectural feature like a fireplace, or to define an area or particular piece of furniture like a bed. For a simple approach, paint a large square behind an armchair that you want to bring attention to. For the advanced class, try painting several blocks of different colours to structure the space.

How-To Tip
Start by making a to-scale sketch of your design on paper; adjust, as necessary. Next, transfer your design by using masking tape to outline the sections to be painted. A quality roller and a small brush will be your best friends, and the tape will ensure you execute a crisp-lined design.

FADE EFFECT

Easier to achieve than it looks, the gradient paint effect, also called ombre, is a unique way to dress up a wall and imbue a room with a soft and romantic mood. Fade from top to bottom or even left to right for a more modern look. This technique can also be used to add character to wood furniture, such as a dresser or a side chair.

How-To Typ
There are many ways to get this effect. One method is to roll on a basecoat and let it dry; mark three equal sections with a light pencil line; roll on a darker shade in the middle section then, while wet, use a brush to blend the edge into the lighter section; repeat with the darkest colour at the top. Test your method on a plywood panel first.





TWO TONE

With or without wainscotting, painting a wall in two tones can be striking. Choose a colour and use a bright tone on the upper half of the wall and a neutralized tone at the bottom; or try a light tone on top and dark on the bottom. The wall can be divided equally or not, depending on the desired effect.

How-To Tip When using more than

one colour in a room, Martin Tustin-Fuchs suggests choosing shades that evoke the mood you want to create. For example, in a space devoted to pleasure and relaxation, you might opt for a bright colour as an accent, but balance it by using a more soothing main shade.

COLOUR ZONES

Use colour to define zones like sleeping and playing areas in a child's room. A more micro application of this technique is painting the back of a bookshelf or a display case in a vibrant colour that makes the items on display pop. "It adds a playful touch," says Martin Tustin-Fuchs, senior director of marketing at Sico. "Pick a colour that is already in the room, whether on the cushions, artwork, rugs or other decor element, to create a cohesive whole."

How-To Typ
When painting the back of a bookshelf, save time and get a better result by removing the back panel first (if you can). Lay it flat on the floor and paint it with a roller; let dry and then reinstall. Easy peasy!







GEOMETRIC PATTERNS

Strong geometric patterns can energize a room. Picture classic chevrons on the sides of a kitchen island, graphic stripes in the bathroom or irregular diagonal lines in a playroom.

How-To Tip
"To avoid smudging, especially when making lines or squares, first apply a thin base coat on the masking tape, then let it dry," advises Sharon Grech, colour and design expert at Benjamin Moore. "This technique seals the area and ensures that the colour band will be neat." Sharon recommends FrogTape masking tape for flawless results.

STENCILLED PATTERNS

Stencil techniques can be used in various ways throughout the home. Imagine imitating ceramic tiles in the bathroom, adding charming animal motifs in the nursery, or creating a soothing large leaf mural in the living room.

How-To Typ Practice stencilling with paint

on a plywood panel before you start on the wall. It's key to use the same amount of paint, and not too much of it, or it will seep under the stencil and create a blotchy effect. You might want to try a spray gun for an even application. Note that stencilling can make cleaning the walls more difficult.



Designer Jonathan Legate kicks the colour quotient up a notch in this East Coast abode.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT| PHOTOGRAPHY JANET KIMBER | STYLING BRETT MEECH



he transformation of this Halifax home isn't dramatic because it went from tired hues to turquoise - in fact, just the opposite. "When I first walked in, it was a riot of primary colours more suited to a daycare," says Jonathan. "It was colour used for the sake of it, not for design or drama. I wanted to remedy that." He did so with what he calls his "omni colour" approach: lashings of one vibrant hue, with nary a white base board in sight.

SHELF LIFE

Designer Jonathan Legate (pictured here in his YSL kicks) cultivated a curated look for the living room's built-in shelves. "This collection of objects grew from a couple of white pieces the client owned," he says. "This is where the idea of texture and pattern is so important. If these items had been multicoloured, you wouldn't know where to look. By creating an all-white collection, I added interest but not noise." Old books and paintings add texture and personal history. The "art" over the fireplace is actually a TV showcasing a digital copy of original art.

DESIGN, Jonathan Legate Interior Consulation. Hedegaard **ART** FRAME TV, Samsung. BUST, Johannes Hedegaard.



SHINE ON

The breakfast room is a high-spirited cocoon of colour and texture. "I finished the ceiling and beams in the breakfast area with the same blue as the rest of the kitchen. All other areas of the ceilings between blue beams are finished in a white vinyl wall covering that has a glossy, lacquered effect," says the designer. "You have to be careful with

glossy finishes. Fabrics and other materials in the room are not glossy, because there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. Dull finishes ground the shiny." The blue backdrops a lively mix of furnishings, from a floral valance and quirky chandelier (look closely - those pendants are teapots) to a concrete table and green wicker chairs.

PAINT COLOUR, Slick Blue 6949 (discontinued colour, but can be custom mixed), Sherwin-Williams. Ceiling VINYL, Phillip Jeffries. Valance **FABRIC**, Pierre Frey. Teapot **PEN-DANT LIGHT,** Original BTC. **TABLE,** CB2. **CHAIRS,** Kent Building Supplies. Montauk black slate FLOORING, Olympia Tile.



BLUE NOTES

The home's splashy blue takes on a fresh dimension in the kitchen's cabinetry and custom-colour range. It's a snazzy foil to the neutral countertops. "I chose white quartz for these and continued it up the walls, gently curving it toward the range hood, which is covered in the same material. The white provides a rest for the eyes," says Jonathan. He continued the balancing act underfoot. "I wanted the flooring to be special but quiet, grounding but not staunch. I used black slate in a herringbone pattern with a precise border along the edges to frame the pattern. These floors will work with pretty much any future colour or design choices, but they aren't boring."

DOOR PRIZE

Forget stainless steel. Stunning framed inlaid glass doors front the integrated fridge and pantry in this kitchen (opposite and below right). "The wooden frames are fitted with individual pieces of cut glass, each square of which I put in place. The custom glass is made in huge sheets with giant swirls of blue, green and white in varying intensities. I didn't want the swirls to be too overpowering, so I pixilated the pattern by breaking it down into smaller squares. It took some time but was worth the effort."

CABINETRY, Genuine Kitchens. POT FILLER FAUCET, Grohe Canada. DOOR PULLS, Top Knobs. Custom-colour RANGE, Dacor. Manor House by Franke SINK, Villeroy and Boch. Quartz RANGE HOOD, BACKSPLASH, COUNTERTOPS, Nova Tile and Marble. TOASTER, Dolce & Gabbana for Smeg.





"A LOT OF ONE BOLD COLOUR WON'T SEEM LIKE TOO MUCH ONCE ALL OF THE ELEMENTS ARE IN PLACE."





"I WANTED THE BATHROOM TO **BE A WHIMSICAL ESCAPE THAT** WAS ROMANTIC, INDULGENT AND LUXURIOUS."

TILE FILE

The bathroom's mix of tiles has a graphic presence and a trickthe-eye secret. "The floor tiles are actually large format, digitally printed tiles made to look like inlaid marble. I'm usually really fussy about using the real thing but these were so beautiful and convincing that I was converted. They're also the least expensive element in the room." The shower's glass tiles act as a sleek complement.

STEAM SHOWER, Mr. Steam. Marble SHOWER TILES, Nova Tile and Marble. FLOOR TILES, Elegant Flooring. PENDANT LIGHTS. Michael Aram. FAUCETS, Riobel. TUB, Mirolin.

GARDEN OF DELIGHT

The sculptural tub sits below nine eglomise mirrors. "The room was built upon the idea of using these mirrors that romantically depict branches of cherry blossoms, butterflies and birds. I installed them on top of another mirror inset into the panelled wall for an added layer of luxury." Beside them, mirrored panels conceal in-wall storage. The bronze pendant lights were crafted by a jewellery designer. "The leaves look like butterflies that have emerged from their cocoons," says Jonathan.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK





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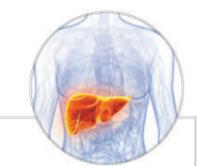
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SWEEPING CHANGE

There's no season like spring to bring on a wave of optimism. Nature begins to bloom in full colour again. We need that change this year. Bring that feel-good feeling inside with an attitudinal shift in the possibilities you see for your rooms. Stuck in neutrals? Why not shift into a more colourful gear? Look outside for inspiration.

And don't stop there, decorate your outdoor spaces, too. Change is going to do you good.



n the surface, this Toronto condo reads like a luxe hotel. with clean-cut, transitional good looks and a neutral palette that has broad appeal. But dig deeper, and designer Alicia Marchioni's unique and intentional approach - driven by a finely tuned mix of materials comes into focus.

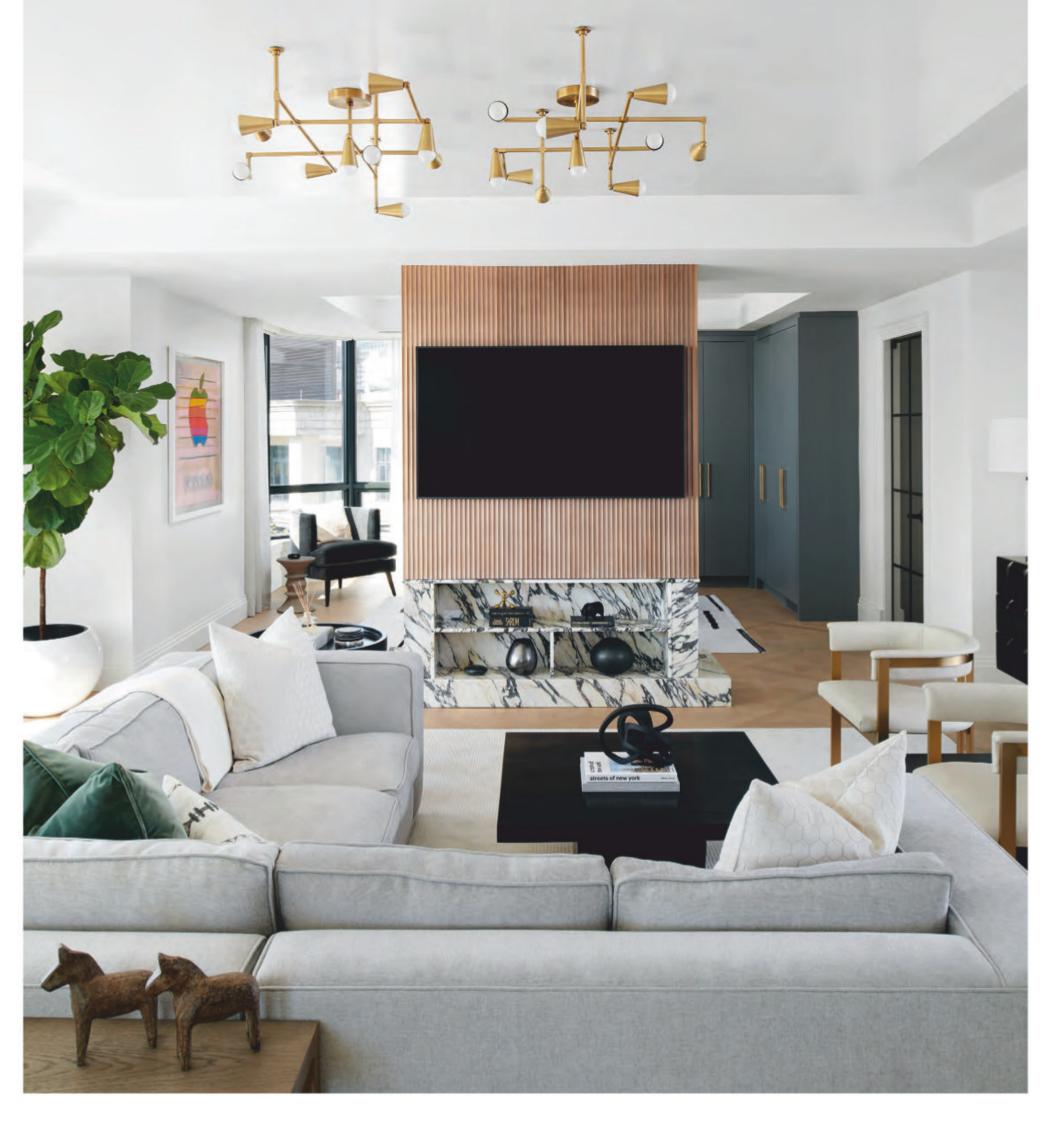
"My client loved an apartment in Paris he'd seen in an article," says Alicia, who overhauled the 2,500-square-foot condo. "In European style, they use a lot of materials because they have that old-world layer of the building's structure. They also use a lot of marble – really textured marble with lots of veining. When we found this marble with the maroon in it, we jumped on it because it was so different." But overall, the owner

wanted a modern look, so Alicia stuck to quieter tones for other materials: "White flat-panel uppers, the ribbed wood to give some warmth, and the rolled-steel range hood – different textures to offset the marble and make it shine as a centrepiece."

For a cohesive look, Alicia repeated those finishes throughout. The ribbed wood and marble in the kitchen reappear in the family room; black from the range hood is reiterated in the coffee table and built-ins.

Compelling art is the final layer in the sophisticated palette of materials. "My client has a great collection," Alicia says. "Things like that brightly coloured Andy Warhol apple are so much fun to work with." And they're also what imbues the home with charisma - what sets these polished interiors apart from, say, your average boutique hotel.





The family room is the condo's Grand Central Station, with all other spaces including the study (in the background) and primary bedroom suite (through black-framed glass door on right) — radiating off from here. The wall between the family room and study was opened up, and Alicia added the centre column "to separate the space and make room for a TV that can be viewed from the $\,$ kitchen when cooking," she says. No gas access in the building meant a fireplace wasn't doable, but Alicia designed the column to have a similar look, with a ribbed white oak chimney breast and a Breccia Medicea marble base outfitted with storage shelves. "The white walls and light white oak help keep the space

light and airy," Alicia says. "We brought in the black metal and the patterned marble to make sure it wasn't too stark and boring. These two elements definitely create that transitional style." She removed heavy crown mouldings from the existing recessed ceilings to lighten and modernize the look. A high-gloss paint on the ceiling reflects light and makes the ceilings appear taller.

Ribbed **MILLWORK,** Crisstar Cabinets. **MARBLE,** Crystal Tile & Marble. Marble shelving FABRICATION, Marble Treasures. CHANDELIERS, Lightmaker Studio. SECTIONAL, Silva Custom Upholstery. COFFEE TABLE, RH. RUG, brass-frame CHAIRS, Elte. Apple **SCREENPRINT** by Andy Warhol.

EDITOR "BLENDING WOOD, MARBLE AND METAL IS ALWAYS A FAVOURITE WAY OF MINE TO ACHIEVE A HIGH-END LOOK. THE THREE TOGETHER ARE CLASSIC AND WILL ALWAYS BE IN STYLE."

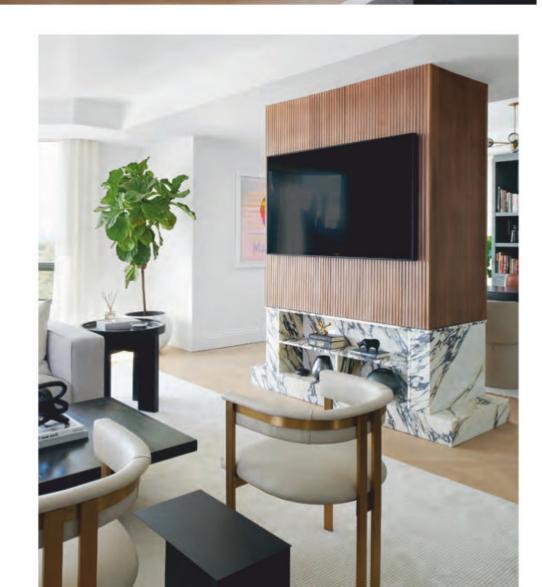


LEFT A pair of cozy swivel chairs in the family room afford stunning views of the downtown skyline from the southwest-facing window. Alicia had the once dark Versailles-style hardwood flooring refinished in a Scandi-modern blonde "to make all the other elements pop." The semi-sheer drapes in a wool-linen blend gently filter the light. (Roller blinds can be lowered to darken the room for premium movie viewing.)

CHAIRS, OTTOMAN, brass READING LAMPS, oak CON- $\textbf{SOLE} \ (\text{foreground}), \ \text{RH}.$ BASKET, Pottery Barn. SIDE TABLE, Black Rooster. DRAPERY, My Shade. PLANT, POT, Quince Flowers.

BELOW Although new, the black-stained mahogany console reads like a midcentury piece. The large family room offers space for seating plus artful vignettes, like this simple but eye-catching arrangement. The lighter finish on the wood flooring dovetails well with the new ribbed white oak cabinetry in the kitchen and family room.

CABINET, Black Rooster. LAMP, RH.





"THE RIBBED WOOD IS A NICE WAY TO BRING TEXTURE INTO A SPACE. IT ADDS INTEREST AND DEPTH, AND IT PAIRS NICELY WITH THAT REALLY PATTERNED MARBLE."

RIGHT Before overhauling the condo's finishes, Alicia swapped the locations of the kitchen and dining room (through the passageway at back left), so that the kitchen would be more connected to the family room. The showstopping Breccia Medicea marble island and rolled steel vent hood play the lead roles in the otherwise understated room. The ribbed white oak cabinets are gutsy enough to balance the marble, but not so dramatic that they clash. "The ribbed wood feels very '70s. It's coming back around in a more modern way," she says. "We mixed it with modern flat-panel uppers. Everything else is really crisp and clean." The black metal archway adds architectural definition.

CABINETRY, RANGE HOOD, Crisstar Cabinets. WALL OVENS, Miele. MARBLE, Crystal Tile & Marble. Island FABRICATION. Marble Treasures. Blanco SINK, FAUCET, Taps. Fridge cabinet HANDLES, RH. Island **STOOLS,** Black Rooster.

OPPOSITE To imbue a light, transitional look in the kitchen, upper cabinets were painted crisp white, and the backsplash and perimeter countertops are a low-key durable Sky White quartzite. The floating eating counter in the sunny south-facing corner of the kitchen leaves much of the spectacular downtown view - not to mention the light flow - intact.

> COOKTOP, Miele. CABINETRY PULLS, Richelieu, Flush-mount LIGHTS, Amazon.













RIGHT The dining room's shallow marble ledge acts as a serving platform in lieu of a sideboard in the tight space, but it also introduces handsome architectural detailing that links with the kitchen and family room. A limited-edition print by Joan Miró adds a playful dollop of colour.



LEFT Often, it's the little things that make a home feel truly personal. In the dining room, that's the luxe bar wall with a stunning marbleadorned serving counter, a walk-in wine cellar, and glass-front bottle shelves. When the cellar door is closed, the whole thing resembles a continuous built-in cabinet. "It's a unique conversation piece when entertaining, not too many people have this in a condo," Alicia says. She transformed the otherwise unusable octagonal-shaped space that's now the cellar into a

feature. "We blocked it out to create a normalshaped dining room and provide space for a small wine closet," she says. "The condo is in a very angular 1980s building, so there are lots of odd nooks and corners."

Wine cellar **CONSTRUCTION**, Crisstar Cabinets and Nobility Homes. WINE RACK, Wayfair. MARBLE, Crystal Tile & Marble. TABLE, Black Rooster. CHAIRS, RH. CHANDELIER, SCONCES, Lightmaker Studio.







LEFT Invitingly clad in a cozy velvet, the lounge chair and ottoman in the primary bedroom provide the owner with a comfortable spot to read when his daughters visit from university. Wall-to-wall carpeting and full drapes in a slightly darker hue than in other rooms work with the grey headboard.

RIGHT Dynamic mosaic tile in the ensuite shower echoes the geo-patterned marble flooring in the entryway, while "creamy and warm" Calacatta Cremo marble and white oak on the vanity imbue a spa-like serenity.

Shower mosaic wall **TILE**, Tycos Tile. Shower **GLASS**, Nobility Homes. Shower **FIXTURES**, sink **FAUCET**, Ginger's. **VANITY,** Crisstar Cabinets. **SCONCE** (over mirror) by Kelly Wearstler through Elte.

BELOW Alicia's vision for the owner's bedroom was "crisp and clean with a hotel vibe." She injected architectural flair with new panelling on the walls and crown detailing in the recessed ceiling, then fitted a tailored upholstered headboard neatly into the centre wall panel. A bench always helps integrate a bed and makes it look more complete.

CHAIR, OTTOMAN, LAMP, Elte. DRESSER, Crate and Barrel. BED, Silva Custom Upholstery. BEDSIDE TABLES, RH. BENCH, CARPETING, Elte. White BEDDING, grey ${\bf QUILT,}~{\bf Au}$ Lit Fine Linens. Silver ${\bf THROW~PILLOWS,}~{\bf purple~THROW}$ PILLOWS, Elte Mkt.









LEFT With its intriguing interplay of Calacatta Cremo marble (behind the mirror) and painterly wallpaper that recalls geological striations, the powder room fits the adage, "Good things come in small packages." LED backlighting on the mirror softly lights the room. "This is a space where you don't need bright lights - it can be moody and dim," Alicia says. She introduced a matte black faucet for drama.

MARBLE, Olympia. Marble slab FABRICATING, Marble Treasures. WALLPAPER, JF Fabrics. VAN-ITY, Crisstar Cabinets. PULLS, Richelieu. FAUCET, TAPS, MIRROR, Ginger's.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ABOVE Alicia turned lemons into lemonade in the ensuite bathroom, where the inability to move key plumbing forced her to get creative. "The bathtub drain couldn't be relocated due to the concrete floor, so we created a marble step so that we could put the tub where we wanted," says the designer. "Now, it looks like a feature, but it's built to conceal a lot of piping!" A reveal at the base of the riser makes the hefty stone slab look likes it's floating. The installation feels both luxe and purposeful.

Husk Vinyl WALLPAPER, Phillip Jeffries. BATHTUB, TAPS, FAUCETS, Ginger's. MARBLE FLOORING, Ciot. WALLPAPER, Phillip Jeffries. SCONCES, Elte. TOWEL WARMING RACK, Taps.



ou'd be forgiven for never guessing that this zesty explosion of prints and hues isn't home to an artist or designer. Instead, this highly personal use of colour is in a 3,000-square-foot model home. "I actually began my career decorating model suites," says designer Sabrina Albanese, who now

specializes in private residential design. "Colour and pattern have always been my signature and I was excited to bring them to this pretty new-build community in Queensville, Ontario." The homes are aimed at buyers with design savvy, so Sabrina pulled out all the aesthetic stops. "I wanted

to create cheerful spaces that felt joyful." The results are a lesson in how to bring a blank space to life – another of Sabrina's specialties. She sums up her approach in the most wonderful and defiant way: "Forget rules! Seek patterns and colours that give you goosebumps."





PRIMARY COLOURS

OPPOSITE Bold choices of deep blue and perky yellow are creatively deployed in the once all-neutral kitchen. "I love how the blue pairs with the creamy cabinetry. I used it to make the range hood pop and accentuate the fabulous banquette," says Sabrina. Upholstery fabric in a sunny palm motif is a complementary foil to the blue. "Yellow and blue make sense beside each other - they're just so bright and jubilant together." Mixed, not matched, cushions and pumps of dusty pink further the happy effect.

KITCHEN CABINETRY, FIXTURES, Aspen Ridge Homes. **HOOD, BANQUETTE PAINT COLOUR, Champion Cobalt** 2061-20, Benjamin Moore. Custom PENDANT LIGHT, TABLE, Sabrina Albanese Design. La Palma BAN-QUETTE CUSHION FABRIC, Christopher Farr Cloth. CUSHIONS, Tonic Living. CHAIR, Article.

READY MIX

RIGHT The kitchen's lounge area is a treasure trove of layered patterns, starting with the whimsical vase-printed wallpaper. "I placed artwork of pop-art shapes over it for fun and to introduce even more interest and colour," says Sabrina. Their side-byside effect is echoed in the symmetry of the poufs, which nicely reference the living area's mustard accents.

Ardmore WALLPAPER, Cole and Son. PENDANT LIGHT. Currey and Company. SOFA, RUG, FLOOR LAMP, SIDE TABLE, CB2. COFFEE TABLE, Structube. Yellow POUFS, Sabrina Albanese Design. Wicker SIDE CHAIRS, IKEA.



"Wallpaper takes the guesswork out of colour and pattern. It's created by designers who know about these things, so you can trust it to work anywhere."



"All the rooms feel different yet work well together because they share the same levels of intense pattern and colour."



WORK IT

OPPOSITE In the home office, Sabrina balances fantastic colour (hello, cerise rug!) with serious style. "The black vinyl wall treatment brings a bit of sophistication to the space and subtly reinforces that this is a room for concentration and focus," she says. The Havana chairs, purchased at an antique market, give the new shelf and table a vintage feel.

DRAPERY FABRIC, Freeform, Schumacher. Black vinyl WALL **COVERING, Phillip Jeffries. SHELF,** Pier One Imports. FLOOR LAMP, RH. THREE-TIERED SIDE TABLE, Structube. RUG, IKEA.

PATTERN PLAY

LEFT The ensuite is papered in one of Sabrina's favourite modern chinoiserie patterns. Its ornate exhuberance brings the space to life. "I chose smaller scale mirrors and hung them close to the vanity to give the wallpaper maximum exposure," says Sabrina. "The sconces are more like bulbous sculptures than light fixtures, which is fun."

Shanghai Peacock Cerise WALL-PAPER, Schumacher. MIRRORS, Umbra. **VANITY,** Aspen Ridge Homes. WALL SCONCES, Supreme Lighting.



BLUE NOTES

LEFT Sabrina created a focal wall in the master bedroom with moulding that has a quilted look. Its pastel blue shade inspired the rest of the room's decor, including the custom-made nightstand. "I painted it a bright, unexpected turquoise to play off the wall and the other darker blue hues," she says. The curves of the navy headboard are repeated in the grey chairs, and the pendant light's silvery finish introduces an edgy contrast to the brass accents.

MOULDING, Babbington's. MOULDING PAINT COLOUR, Stardew SW-9138, Sherwin-Williams. Semi Flush PENDANT, Aerin Lauder. **NIGHTSTAND** PAINT COLOUR, Teresa's Green 226, Farrow & Ball. TASSEL CUSHION, RUG, CB2. Swivel CHAIRS, Elte Mkt.

SITTING PRETTY

RIGHT "If an ensuite bathroom cannot accommodate a makeup vanity, I like to include one in the bedroom. Try to keep it small, spacesaving and clutter-free, but also style it so it looks delightful and glamorous," says Sabrina. The fringe on this slipper chair fits the glam bill and little touches like fresh flowers feel special in a bedroom.

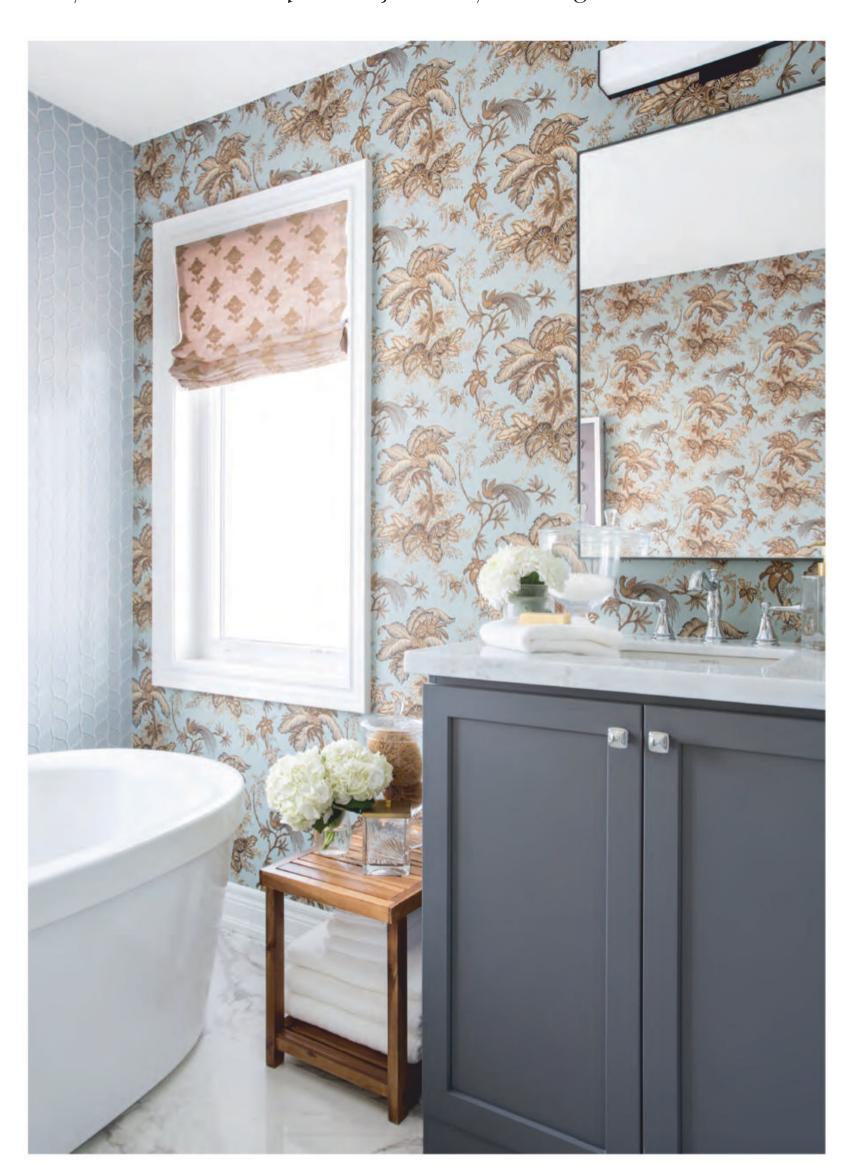
MIRROR, Vanity TABLE, IKEA. LAMP, Elte Mkt. CHAIR, Pier One Imports.

"Start with a colour you love and then explore using every aspect of it, from light to dark, deep to pastel."





"Dig a little deeper than swatches for colour inspiration. Be inspired by what speaks to you, whether it's a piece of jewellery, clothing or even a flower."



GO GREEN

OPPOSITE This bedroom's mix of vibrant prints and colour began, once again, with the drapes. "I loved their embroidered linen fabric and thought I could design the space around it," says the designer. The rich green blanket is an unexpected choice against a backdrop of red wallpaper but it works perfectly. Says Sabrina: "It highlights the beauty of the drapery's pattern so it feels right." Layers of paler shades of green and leafy motifs continue the theme.

Antalya Medallion drapery FABRIC, Drizzle in Red WALL-PAPER, Schumacher. Custommade **BED**, Sabrina Albanese Design. Headboard Creeping Fern **FABRIC**, Schumacher. DESK, IKEA. LAMP, Elte Mkt. CHAIR, Structube. Green BLANKET, West Elm.

LEFT "This bathroom is the most muted room in the house," says Sabrina. "My goal was to create a sense of serenity and soften up the glass-tiled wall and the strong grey of the vanity. Hints of soft nutmegs and blush help, and the Roman blind is just so pretty." The blind's fabric features smallscale embroidery that pairs beautifully with the lively wallcovering pattern.

Coconut Grove WALLPAPER, Fretwork Flower blind FABRIC. Schumacher. MIRROR, RH. Teak BATH STOOL, Gingers.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TEXT KATIE HAYDEN

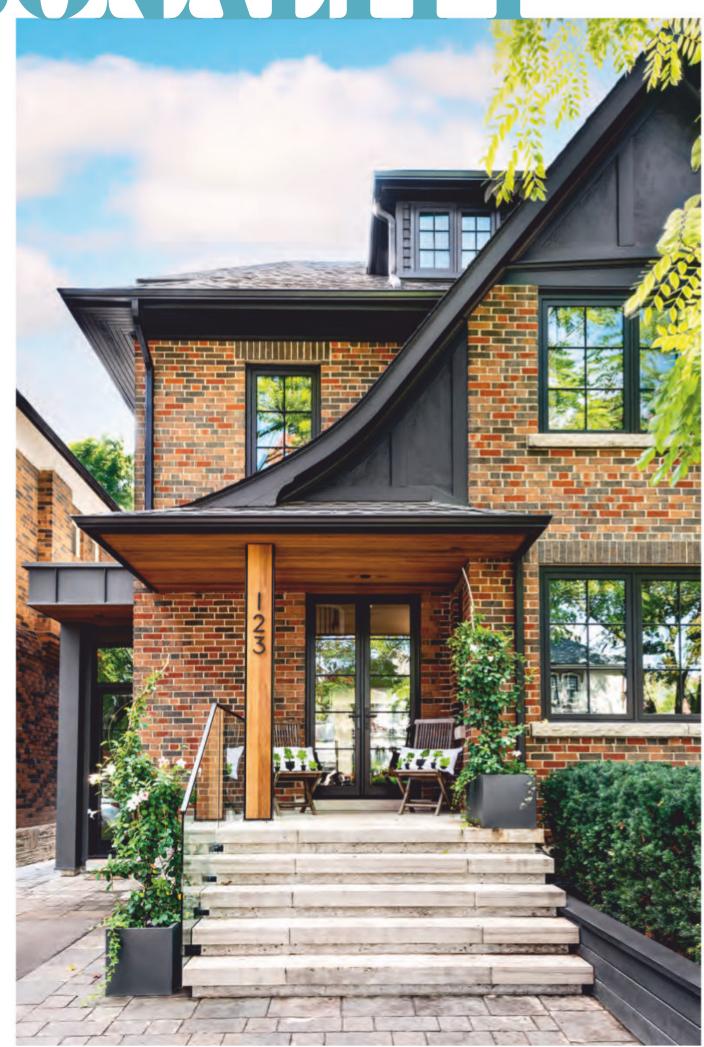
It's Got PHOTOGRAPHY GILLIAN JACKSON PERSONALIE

An artist's love of vintage and colour harmonizes with the newly modernized canvas of her family's home.

hen interior designer Sheree Stuart joined the design team overhauling the circa 1928 Toronto home of Nancy Macdonald and Don Findlay, architect Bill Dewson had already gutted the dark, chopped-up interiors and was planning an airy, openconcept space with classically modern good looks. So when Nancy extolled the virtues of battered finishes and thrifted furniture, Sheree was thrown for a loop. "Nancy said, 'I love charming items with a story and nothing shiny. I love tarnished, battered and old details," Sheree recalls. In retrospect, it makes perfect sense patinated surfaces deeply resonated with the artist in Nancy, who runs an art school from the now renovated home.

The overhaul of Nancy Macdonald and Don Findlay's 1928 detached brick all but gutted the original 2,200-square-foot structure, modernizing and opening up the living spaces and adding 1,000 square feet, but leaving the bones of the pretty Tudor-style facade intact. "The house fits beautifully in the neighborhood, and they didn't really want to change that," Sheree says. A wide, welcoming new porch has space for lounging, and updated windows and double front doors boost light inside.

ARCHITECTURE, Bill Dewson, Dewson Architects. INTERIOR DESIGN. Sheree Stuart Design. Trim PAINT COLOUR, Black Onyx 2133-10, Benjamin Moore. Square PLANTERS, CB2. HOUSE NUMBERS, Neutra. WINDOWS and DOORS, Kolbe.







LEFT Located just inside the back door at the end of the new side addition, this smart little counter area doubles as a wet bar and gardening sink. The steps lead up to the family room, which has huge windows overlooking the backyard. The painting near the stairs is by Nancy's daughter, Sammy.

CABINETRY DESIGN, Sheree Stuart Design. Quartz COUNTERTOP in Noble Grey, Caesarstone. SINK, Blanco. FAUCET, Rubinet. Cabinet PAINT COLOUR, Kendall Charcoal HC-166, Benjamin Moore. **HARD-**WARE, Classic Brass. Subway TILE, Creekside Tile.



ABOVE The living, dining, kitchen and family rooms are all open to one another, enhancing sight lines and the flow of natural light. "Defining zones can be a challenge in open-concept spaces," Sheree says. "We dropped the ceiling over the kitchen-dining area and added a cove ceiling with wood detail and

built-in lighting to delineate this area." (The cove mirrors both the footprint and finish of the dining table.) Designed to look like old salvaged farm storage containers, the custom-made kitchen pendants inject a unique metal finish into the kitchen and contrast the warmer tone of the rustic oak cabinetry.

CUSTOM KITCHEN, PENDANT LIGHTS, custom hot-rolledsteel $\ensuremath{\mathbf{RANGE\ HOOD}}$ and appliance garage $\ensuremath{\mathbf{DOORS}}$, Sheree Stuart Design. DINING TABLE, RH. DINING CHAIRS, BAR-STOOLS, Wayfair. Porcelain COUNTERTOPS, Laminam, Stone-Tile.



"A home should reflect its owners. This home has its own personality - it's casual, fun and surprising. Elements contradict each other, yet they work." - Sheree Stuart

Ultimately, the design team turned the interplay of modern design and rusticity into a lynchpin for the relaxed, welcoming home Nancy and Don wanted for their blended family of seven, a changing cast as their young-adult children come and go from university. "Nancy and Don aren't lovers of pure modern, but loved the contemporary architecture Bill proposed," Sheree says. They especially liked the idea of a blank modern canvas against which to layer everything else. But Sheree was cognizant that too much vintage can negatively impact a modern space; part of her role was to get the balance right.

The old-meets-new dichotomy starts with the home's exterior. The quaint Tudor facade in front gives little indication of the broad, angular lines of the rear addition, where wall-to-wall glazing maximizes connectivity between indoors and out, and creates a sense of expansiveness rare in 1920s architecture. Inside, the designer carefully avoided cluttering the modern space. Says Sheree: "It's that balance and negative space that allows the vintage pieces to shine."

Likewise, Sheree balanced the palette, which shifts from area to area. Splashier colours reign in the four bedrooms and basement studio, but Sheree took a quieter approach on the main floor. "I knew Nancy loved colour. Her art is brightly coloured, and we wanted to incorporate that," she says. In addition, they chose a vibrant teal wallpaper to highlight the 40-foot-long wall in the side addition. "It's visible throughout the main floor – more colour would have been just too much." Instead, Sheree layered in understated earth tones and evocative textures.

ABOVE A challenge with openconcept homes is accommodating elements like plumbing, ductwork, and posts and beams. This innovative solution in the dining room, where plumbing runs up one wall, encases pipes in a full-height storage cabinet. A second cabinet was built to match and (along with the sideboard, which was custom-built to tuck in between) amply houses china, servingware and other dishes.

Custom BUILT-INS. Sheree Stuart Design. Sideboard PAINT COLOUR, White Dove OC-17. Benjamin Moore. Cabinet HARDWARE, Baccman Berglund. ARTWORK, Nancy Macdonald, MIRROR, CB2, Large BOWL (on table), Elte Mkt.

One element here that's neutral but far from low-key is the new sculptural staircase. "This was a home for an artist, and we wanted the stairs to be a focal point," says architect Bill Dewson. "And when you move a staircase, as we did, you have the opportunity to do something spectacular." The design team is truly delighted in the beauty of the staircase, and the entire home. And Sheree's initial surprise at synthesizing the rustic with the modern is a distant memory. "A home should reflect its owners," says the designer. "This home has its own personality – it's casual, fun and surprising. Elements contradict each other, yet somehow they all work."

RIGHT The new side addition created space for modern living essentials, like a mudroom and this moody powder room. "Powder rooms should make a statement, but tie to the overall design concept. We loved the wallpaper with scribbled Shakespearean quotations in chalk!" says Sheree. A quartz countertop, concrete sink, vintage mirror and Edison-bulb light pendants enhance the dark atmosphere.

WALLPAPER by Andrew Martin, Kravet Canada. SINK, Native Trails. **COUNTERTOP** in Concrete colour, Caesarstone. **PENDANTS**, Barn Light. **FAUCET** by Jason Wu, Brizo.







ABOVE Wide floor-toceiling windows fill the south wall of the spacious family room, flooding it with light. Nancy and Don located the TV in the living room (at the front of the main floor) so that this family room at the back would be a hub for group hangouts. Sheree designed the hot-rolled steel fireplace facade; for continuity, she used the same steel for the vent hood and the appliance garage doors in the kitchen. The side and coffee tables are favourite vintage finds.

Fireplace **FABRICATION**, Sheree Stuart Design. INSERT, Valor. RUG, Weavers Art. CUSHIONS, BASKET, TRAY, VASE, Elte Mkt. Loupi ceiling **LIGHTS**, Dark Tools.

LEFT Inspired by Nancy's love of old, imperfect finishes, Sheree ran an eyecatching wallpaper that looks like timeworn paint peeling off rusting metal down the length of the new addition (background). A metal console exactly fits into a cove of the family room. "It's important to catalogue the pieces you want in your new space before you start construction so you're able to fit them seamlessly," Sheree says. A short flight of stairs runs from here to the new addition and back door.

CONSOLE, RH. Mural **WALLPAPER**, Murals Wallpaper. Tech Lighting SCONCES, Dark Tools. LANTERNS, CWI Lighting. **RIGHT** One of two bedrooms in the wide new rear addition of the house, this "kid's" bedroom is as cheerful as a field of sunflowers on a sunny day - complete with a weathered farmhouse chair, pastoral painting and bed that looks like it was hammered together from old barnboard.

HEADBOARD, RH. RUG, IKEA. **DRAPES**, Sheree Stuart Design. **DRAPE** FABRIC by Sanderson, Theo Décor. **PENDANT** LIGHT, Barn Light Electric Company. THROW, HomeSense. **FLOWERS** (throughout), Terrain.

BELOW A double vanity packed with storage gives Nancy and Don lots of elbow room in their ensuite. Sheree took her design cue from the spirited floor tile, deviating from the monochromatic scheme only in the artwork by Nancy's daughter, Sammy.

VANITY, Sheree Stuart Design. **COUNTERTOP** in Simply White, Quartex. FLOOR, WALL TILE, Creekside Tile. **FAUCETS**, Brizo. PULLS, RH. LIGHTS, Barn Light Electric Company.





"Nancy appreciates that reusing things actually benefits the world." - Sheree Stuart

BELOW Drapes in a painterly fabric by British artist Jessica Zoob pull together the blue, green and yellow shades in Nancy and Don's bedroom, which is located in the rear addition and looks out across the second-floor balcony to the backyard. In another tip of the hat to Parisian chic, Sheree had the battered but ornate salvaged doors installed on a built-in; they conceal the TV and inject a surprising raw beauty into the serene space. Nancy painted the lush canvas over the bed, and Sheree designed the custom-made dressing table.

MILLWORK DESIGN, Sheree Stuart Design. GREEN DOORS, Antique Door Store. PENDANT **LIGHT** by Tech Lighting, Dark Tools. **DRAPERY** $\textbf{FABRIC} \ \text{by Jessica Zoob for Romo Black, Bilbrough \&} \\$ Co. **RUG,** Weavers Art. **BED, THROW,** RH. Yellow PILLOWS, Elte Mkt.

RIGHT In the second-floor guest bathroom, Sheree juxtaposed a weathered vintage dresser that Nancy repainted in her favourite faded teal hue with a stately carved wood mirror. "Be careful to balance old with new. Too many vintage items can clutter a space and kill the look," Sheree says. "It's that balance and negative space that allows vintage pieces to shine."

COUNTERTOP in London Grey, Caesarstone.





RIGHT Wallpaper depicting empty frames is a fitting accent in the bathroom connected to the basement art studio. Young artists and wet paintbrushes are no match for the heavy-duty stainless-steel sink. Turquoise industrial sconces add a hit of Nancy's theme colour.

WALLPAPER, Wayfair Canada. SINK, Nella. SCONCES, Barn Light Electric Company.



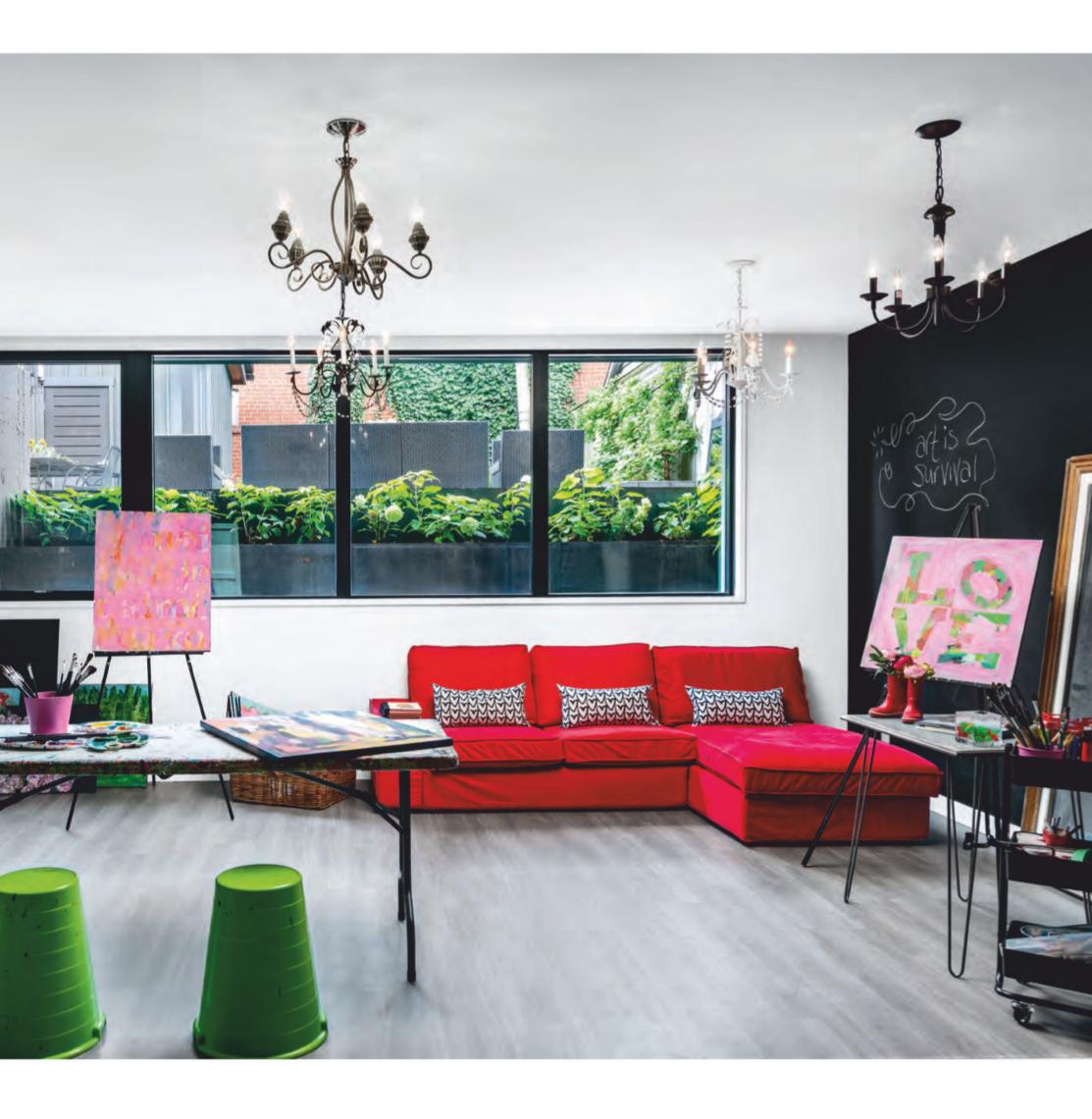


LEFT The flowing open staircase was designed to be a major focal point in the understated new architecture and bring light through the space. (The third floor houses a guest room and full bath.) Sheree doubled down on the staircase's drama by installing uplighting at intervals all the way up. "We put them on a timer it's like candlelight for your home," she says. The graphic runner is an IKEA rug that Sheree had cut into strips and bound. All the art is by Nancy.



ABOVE A deep well in the backyard allowed for a huge window that fills Nancy's basement art studio – where she paints and teaches children to paint – with natural light and leafy views. Bold furniture colours encourage imaginative output, as does the mantra "Art is survival" jotted on the chalkboard. "Nancy is a big believer in reusing and multi-purposing old items," Sheree says. "Four of the chandeliers came from her old home, and we added two more."

RED SECTIONAL, IKEA. CHALKBOARD PAINT, Benjamin Moore.



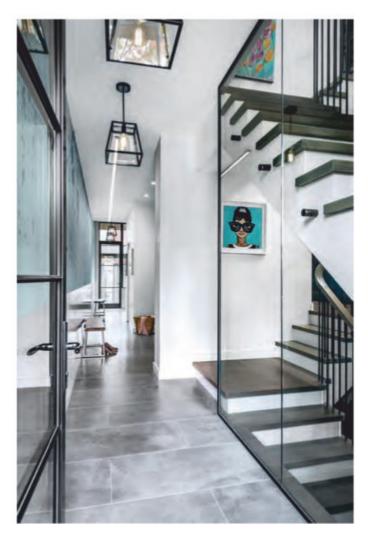
"Nancy emphasized that there be no muddy colours. Only pure colours. And if you look at her art, the house complements those colours." - Sheree Stuart

"The yard was totally redone to align with the architectural design." - Sheree Stuart

BELOW A night-and-day departure from the conservative 1920s front facade, the new back addition features dark metal siding, Western red cedar panelling (repeated from the front porch), metalframed windows and doors, and a light-as-air glass railing on the upper deck. Like the side addition, the rear addition enhances the house in myriad ways. It extends the living spaces deeper into the backyard and out to the side. The

sturdy new structure allowed for the back wall to be all but filled with windows. And it afforded space to add secondfloor balconies and retaining walls for the basement light. There's also loads of space for lounging and dining. The backyard was revamped to work with the architectural direction of the home. Suitably tidy, low-key landscaping softens the sharp angles.

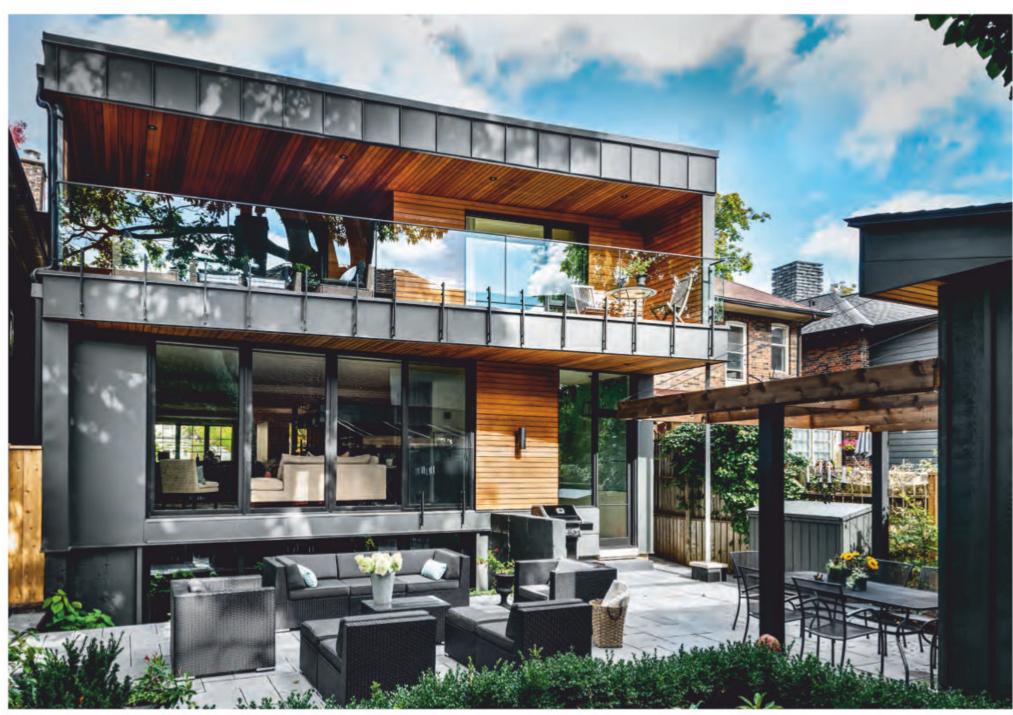
SOFAS, CHAIRS, Wayfair. DINING TABLE, Sheridan Nurseries.



LEFT The über functional new five-foot-wide side addition provides a designated entry for Nancy's art students and makes room for a mudroom (beyond stairs on right) and powder room. The addition took over part of what was originally the home's driveway, running the full length of the house (40 feet) to the new back door. Black-framed glass creates separation between the hall and the stairway, while keeping the main floor - half a storey up - open and bright. "This hall is visible from all areas of the main floor," says Sheree.

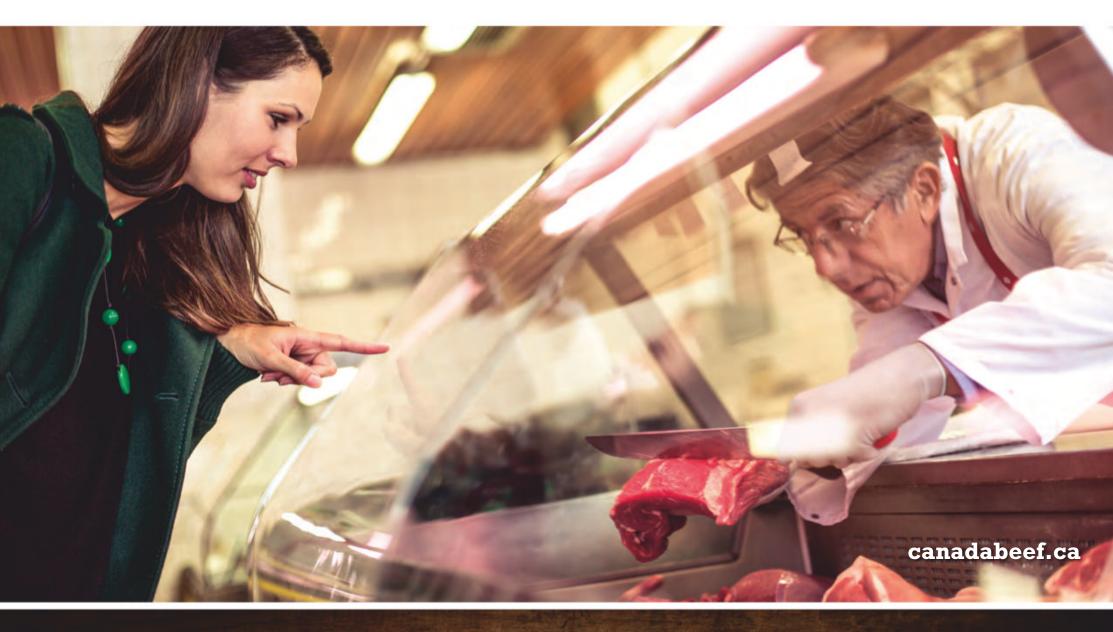
ARTWORK by Michelle Vella. BENCH, Tree Green Team. PEN-DANTS, CWI Lighting. Porcelain FLOORING, Creekside Tile.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



ASKFORTHE Canadian beef Canadian beef that makes the grade for you.





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When you bite into a juicy steak or roast, you want to enjoy the highest quality beef. Canadian beef grades help ensure that your beef has been meticulously chosen to deliver a delicious experience every time. Here's how to choose from Canada's best – and some of the world's finest – beef to inspire your inner chef and tantalize your taste buds.



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CANADA AAA GRADE

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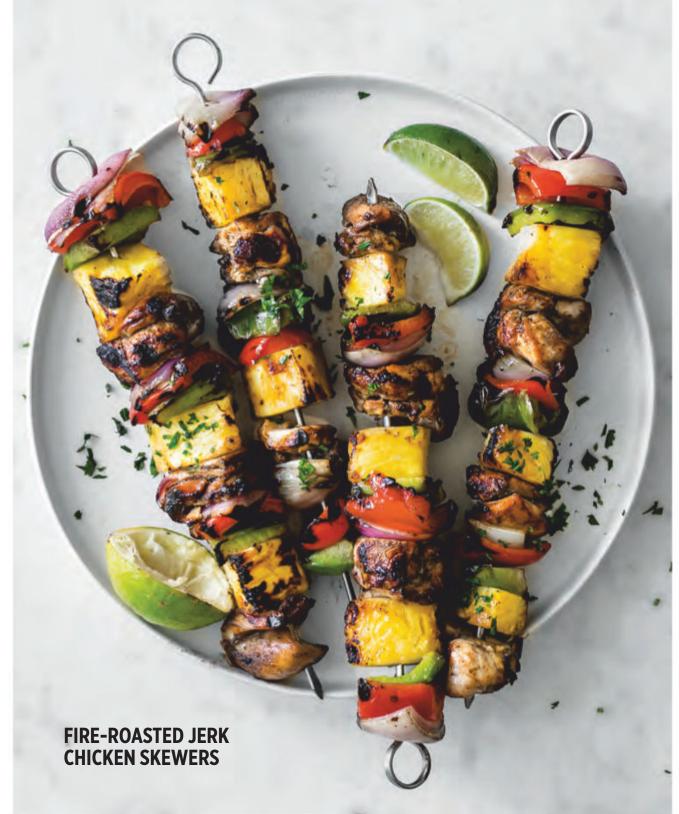
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GRILLED STEAK AND CORN SALAD WITH RANCH DRESSING **AND FETA**

SFRVFS 4

- 34 lb (340 g) skirt steak or hanger steak
- ½ tsp salt
- tsp pepper
- cobs sweet corn, shucked
- cups lettuce, such as romaine or butter, torn into bite-size pieces
- ½ cup ranch dressing
- ½ red onion, thinly sliced into rings
- avocado, cubed
- cup crumbled feta cheese
- cup chopped dill
- tbsp chopped chives

Preheat the grill to medium-high. Dry the steak with paper towel and season with salt and pepper. Grill the corn for 10 to 12 minutes,

rotating every 3 to 4 minutes, until lightly charred all around. After the first rotation, place the steak on the grill. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes per side, until medium-rare.

Rest the steak on a plate for 8 to 10 minutes to allow the juices to redistribute, before slicing into thin strips.

Once cool enough to handle, hold a cob of corn firmly with the flat end on your cutting board. Using a sharp knife, cut close to the cob from top to bottom to remove the kernels. Rotate and repeat until all kernels are removed from both cobs. Transfer kernels to a bowl and set aside for assembly.

Assembly In a large bowl, toss the lettuce with half the dressing until coated. Transfer to a serving plate. Sprinkle the corn and onions onto the lettuce, and arrange the steak and avocado neatly on top. Finish with a sprinkling of feta, dill and chives.

FIRE-ROASTED JERK CHICKEN **SKEWERS**

SERVES 4

Jerk Marinade

- scallions, chopped
- small yellow onion, chopped
- Scotch bonnet pepper, stem removed
- cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 2 tbsp dark rum
- 1 tbsp chopped ginger
- cloves garlic, chopped
- tbsp packed brown sugar
- tbsp thyme leaves 1
- 2 tsp allspice
- tsp ground cloves
- tsp cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp nutmeg

Skewers

- lb (450 g) skinless, boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch strips
- large red onion, cut into 1-inch squares
- large red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch squares
- large green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch squares 12 to 16 (1-inch) cubes pineapple

Jerk Marinade Place the marinade ingredients in a food processor or blender and pulse for 20 seconds or until smooth.

Pat the chicken dry with paper towel and place in a medium mixing bowl. Pour the jerk marinade overtop and massage into the chicken. Place in the fridge to marinate for at least 4 hours, massaging once or twice.

Assembly Preheat the grill to medium. Carefully pierce a couple of onion squares on a skewer, followed by a piece each of red pepper, green pepper and pineapple. Next, pierce one end of a strip of chicken, twirl around the skewer once and pierce the other end (this keeps the chicken tight to the skewer while cooking). Repeat this process to make four evenly filled skewers. Grill the skewers for 10 to 12 minutes, rotating every 3 to 4 minutes, until the vegetables are lightly charred and the chicken is cooked through. Serve immediately. TIP: If you're using wooden skewers, soak

them in cold water for at least 20 to 30 minutes to prevent them from burning on the grill.

ROASTED BEET, FENNEL AND CITRUS SALAD WITH BLUE CHEESE AND WALNUTS

SFRVFS 4

Roasted Beets

- 3 medium beets, peeled and cut into ½-inch wedges
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Salt and pepper

Orange Vinaigrette

- 3 tbsp orange juice
- 2 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard

Pinch salt

2 tbsp olive oil

Pepper

Salad

- 1 fennel bulb, quartered and thinly sliced lengthwise
- 2 clementines, peeled and sliced crosswise
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese

Fennel fronds, for serving

Roast the Beets Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the beets into a medium bowl and toss with olive oil, salt and pepper. Arrange in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet and roast for 25 to 30 minutes, turning once or twice, until fork-tender. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Orange Vinaigrette Meanwhile, add orange juice, vinegar, Dijon and salt to a salad bowl and whisk until combined. While continuously whisking, slowly drizzle olive oil into the bowl until the dressing is bright orange and emulsified. Season with pepper to taste.

Salad Add the fennel to the salad bowl and gently toss with the dressing until the fennel is evenly coated. Place in the fridge until the beets have cooled.

When ready to serve, add the beets and clementine slices to the fennel and toss the salad to redistribute the dressing. Top with walnuts and blue cheese and tear fennel fronds overtop for garnish.



SIMPLE STRAWBERRY SKILLET CAKE

MAKES ONE 10-INCH CAKE

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup + 1 tbsp butter, room temperature
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and halved lengthwise, plus additional for serving (optional)

Icing sugar, for serving

Place a 10-inch cast-iron skillet in the oven and preheat to 350°F.

Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl, and set aside. In a separate bowl, whisk ½ cup of the butter until it is soft and fluffy, then mix in the yogurt and eggs. Stir in the maple syrup and vanilla. Add the dry ingredients all at once and mix until just combined.

Remove the skillet from the oven and add 1 tablespoon of butter. Using oven mitts to hold the skillet, swirl the butter around to coat the entire pan. Pour in the batter and use the back of a spoon to spread it into an even layer. Top with the strawberries.

Using oven mitts, place the skillet back into the oven and bake for 35 minutes, until the cake is lightly browned and a knife or toothpick inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Let cool, sprinkle with icing sugar and serve with strawberries (if using).



Find more recipes from Philip Lago and Mystique Mattai in *Eat With Us*, Appetite by Random House, \$35.



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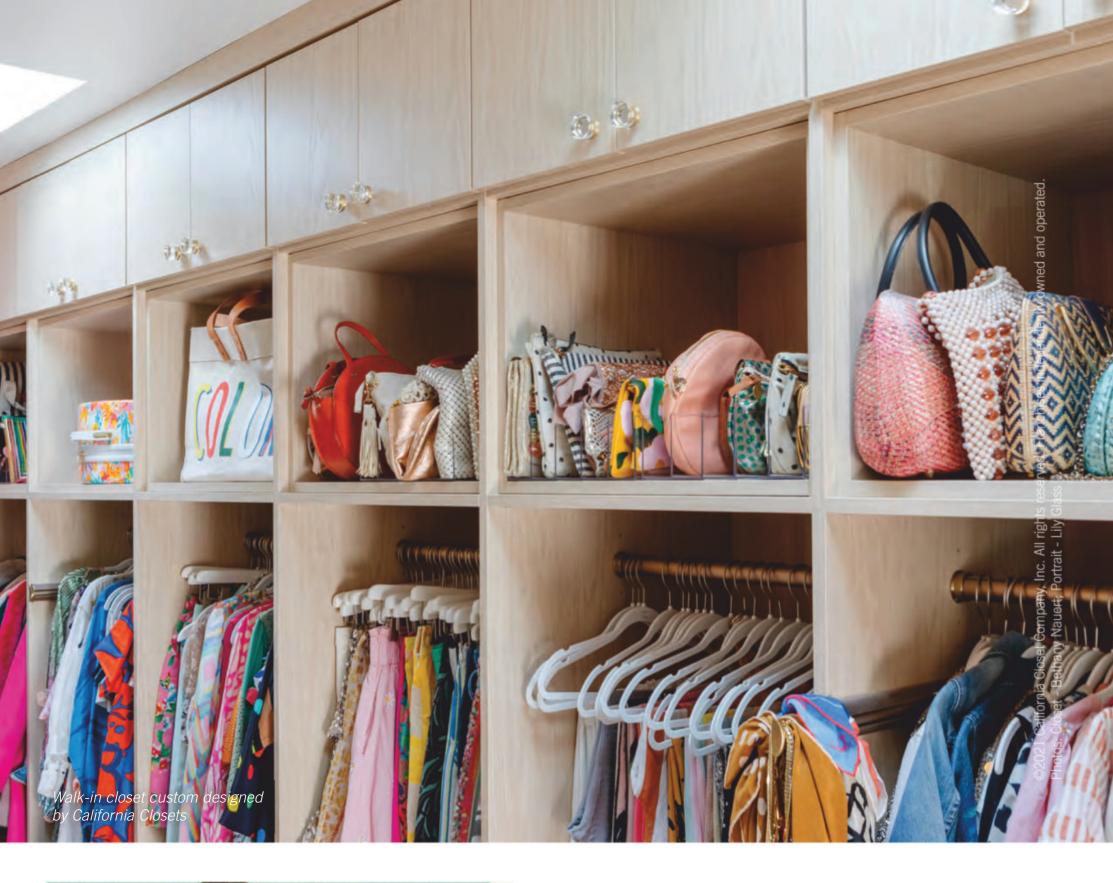
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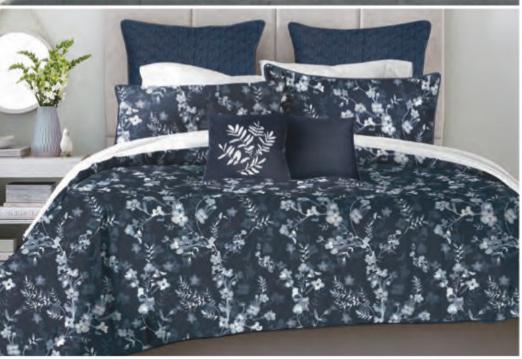


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PRINTING

Printed at Transcontinental RBW Graphics, a division of Transcontinental Printing 2005 G.P., 2049 20th St. E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 5R2. All reproduction requests must be made to COPIBEC (paper reproductions at 800-717-2022) ISSN: 1915-8998

DISTRIBUTION

Distributed by Comag

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1-800-387-7244. STYLEATHOME.COM

STYLE AT HOME, Sub. Dept., P.O. Box 814, Markham Station, Markham, ON L3P 7Z6. Send address changes to the post office box address above, including the mailing label from your latest issue. Allow eight weeks for changes.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Canadian subscriptions: 1 year = \$34.95 (plus taxes)
U.S. subscriptions: 1 year = \$90.00 (payable in advance)
International subscriptions: 1 year = \$180.00 (payable in advance)
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Style at Home is published 9 times a year (except for occasional combined, expanded or premium issues) by TVA Publications Inc., 123 Front Street West #909, Toronto, ON M5J 2M2; 416-733-7600; groupetva.ca.

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Here Comes the Sun

Summertime and the living is easy – or should be. What that means, though, is as individualistic as we are, and that's obvious to see in the gorgeous outdoor spaces in this special issue of *Style at Home Outdoor Living*.

I can't decide which garden I love best. I am always impressed when a truly small city backyard ("In the Zone," page 18) is transformed into an oasis that ticks off everything on my wish list: pool, lounge, dining space, outdoor kitchen, lush containers and low-maintenance plantings. What a gem!

And although a large garden is beyond my abilities, the stylish stainless-steel troughs turned into raised beds in "Backyard Beauty" (page 14) are perfect for me. I love the entire charming yard with everything a young family needs to enjoy their idyllic ocean-side location in British Columbia.

This issue really has something for everyone. And if you need more inspiration on how to transform your green space, find it in our look at 2021's biggest outdoor living trends. There's absolutely nothing holding you back – whether your space is big or small, a second-floor balcony or a few hundred acres, planning your best summer ever starts right here and in your own backyard. Enjoy!





OUTDOOR

Living life outside has never been more popular and stylish. Our guide to the biggest trends will help you retreat back to nature.

LIVING TRENDS

The trend toward staycations continues, reinforced by our current circumstances, and we're taking it to the next level by turning our yards into resortinspired edens. From outdoor ping pong tables to fully kitted kitchens, the amenities we love when we travel to exotic locales are coming home to our own backyards. No need for a big-budget redo to get the look - hang a hammock, wheel out a bar cart and get some R&R.

SUMMER HOUSE, Jardin de Ville.

A desire for a sense of comfort and serenity has manifested in greater attention to creating privacy in our outdoor spaces. Dense shrubbery, decorative screens and solid fences that are architectural features - all are ways to get a sense of enclosure without sacrificing aesthetics. When planning design elements to enhance privacy, keep in mind what you love about the outdoors - nature. So be sure to think integration, not separation, when designing your features.









Whether it's open-air, plant-covered, or even has a solid roof, the trend to covered outdoor structures is testament to how form follows function. We need spaces in which to work and entertain outside, and a sense of shelter helps give human scale to outdoor spaces, so it makes sense that pergolas and pavilions are on the rise. Blinds for privacy, awnings for shelter, screens to keep bugs at bay, roofs with motorized slats that regulate sun, shade and rain exposure – the options are plenty. An extension of this trend is constructing a fully enclosed multi-purpose pre-fab or custom cabana that helps to expand the living space of our crowded houses. Imagine a studio, office, gym or secret hideaway. We say: gimme shelter!

Yardistry 10' x 12' wood **PERGOLA**; Hampton Bay Arbor Point 5-Piece Sectional **DINING SET**; Hampton Bay 56" Outdoor Cone Chimney FIREPLACE; Home Depot.



4 OUTDOOR KITCHENS

The sky's the limit when it comes to outdoor kitchens. This hot trend continues to raise the bar on barbequing. Manufacturers have complied by offering all manner of products to tempt foodies to come outside and cook: built-in charcoal grills, pizza ovens, warming drawers, fridges, ice machines, sinks - all under a roof for allweather use. Stainless-steel cabinetry components with soft-closing doors and drawers aren't cheap, but will help you build the kitchen of your dreams. Decide if you need a permanent or portable kitchen. Big budget doesn't make sense if you only barbecue a couple of times a month. Whatever bells and whistles you buy, and whatever size suits you - don't forget to integrate it into your yard. Stone facades, flooring that matches other patio or terrace spaces, and lighting that's functional but not intrusive will make it a hot feature.

KAMADA JOE BARBECUE, Coval.



We've come a long way from plastic stackable lawn chairs. These days, bringing indoor comfort and style outside is just what we do. Modular sectional sofas are still in vogue, but so are open bamboo-look and aluminum standalone pieces. Fashionable fabrics, outdoor rugs and a wide range of materials and finishes for furnishings will help you extend the look of your indoor decor outside for a seamless designer look.



STRING CHAIR, Jardin de ville. **EGG** CHAIR, Rona.

We're looking within when designing outside into our homes, that is. The trend to designing outdoor spaces as we would our home's interiors means thinking in "rooms" or zones when it comes to planning our outdoor space. List the activities you want to take outside – like lounging, cooking, dining, sports and games, gardening, even working – and create zones to maximize your space. To make us comfy in our outdoor rooms, we're bringing indoor amentities out, such as sophisticated all-weather furniture, firepits and fireplaces – propane, natural gas or wood - patio heaters, sound systems and outdoor 4K TVs. When planning, don't forget storage – outdoor cushions won't last long if left uncovered during a week-long deluge.

RIA ARMCHAIRS, MOSAIKO TABLE, Fast.



Growing faster than Jack's bean stock is our craze for growing what we eat. Vegetable and herb gardens – whether in raised beds, attractive trough-size containers or pretty pots on the terrace – are popping up everywhere. It's a wonderful all-in-the-family activity that increases environmental awareness – plus, once you've tasted your own lettuce and tomatoes, nothing else compares.

MOCHA SWIRL SWEET PEPPER, Veggie of the Year, Home Depot.



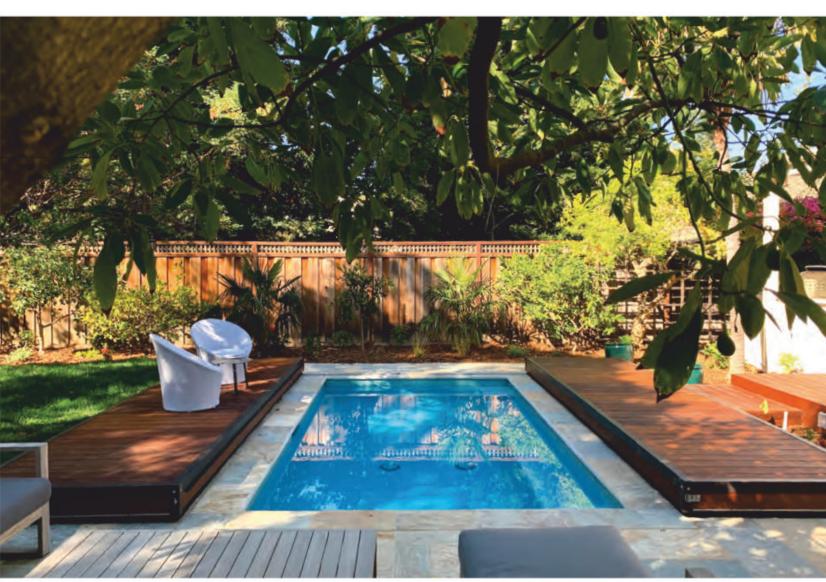
8 BALCONY GARDENS

Nothing can stop us from digging into the gardening craze, even at 40 storeys! Apartment balcony gardening is a huge trend – make the most of these tiny spaces by thinking vertically with garden walls (lots of big box stores offer DIY versions). And consider a tight colour scheme for plants and outdoor furnishings in small spaces.

PATIO WOOD PLANTER, Pinnery, etsy.ca.

Sales of above- and in-ground pools have exploded. How to make a splash is up to you and your budget. Linear contemporary salt-water pools with infinity edges are a classic contemporary choice, but even above-ground pools have become more sophisticated, with real wood cladding or attractive resin surrounds to better integrate it into the garden. For those not interested in taking the plunge on a full-size pool, a spa-size hot tub is a wonderful way to indulge.

POOL DECK COVER, Azenco.





The trend to native plantings continues, as awareness grows that choosing native plants often means greater success for the plant and less maintenance for the gardener. At one end of the extreme, rewilding the garden means choosing only plants that would have grown in your yard before it was your yard (woodland, savannah, meadow); but any introduction of native plants will expand your idea of what a garden can be.



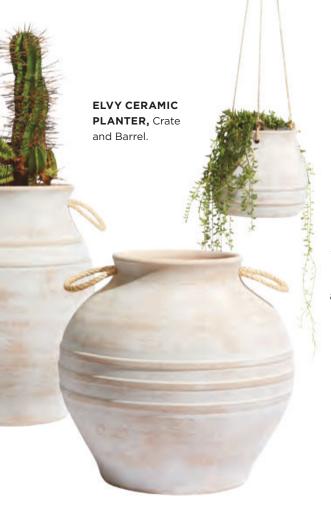
We are finally embracing a more meaningful understanding of sustainability by celebrating Mother Nature and helping her do her thing. Growing plants that feed birds and pollinators, capturing rain water, mulching, composting and choosing plants that suit our micro-climate and soil types is de rigueur for dedicated green thumbs now. This is a trend that benefits everyone (including the creatures that live in our backyards) by ensuring we do no harm when it comes to creating beautiful, healthy gardens.



12 CONNECTING INDOORS & OUT

This key trend is behind many design choices we're making both inside and out. Wall-towall windows and doors, three-season enclosed terraces, furnishings that look at home indoors and out – it's all about blurring the boundaries between our interior and exterior spaces. This trend is about forging a connection and can be as simple as planting an ornamental tree in view from your favourite room to draw your attention outside.

DESIGN, Kate + Co. **FURNITURE,** ARD Outdoor Toronto. **FIREPLACE** Stone, Earth Coverings.



There are two takes on trends in colour in the garden. A return to soothing white plantings is definitely on the rise. The look is serene (that's the zeitgeist, if you haven't noticed!), and it marries brilliantly with the popularity of dark grey and black exterior colours and hardscaping (fences, stone). At the opposite end of the spectrum, exuberant, tropical colours are a hit, which leads us to conclude that when it comes to colour, anything goes where everything grows!

> Hampton Bay Cayman Woven Egg Patio CHAIR, Home Depot.



14 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Trends in outdoor lighting are toward less is more: less intensity, hidden light sources, downlighting instead of uplighting all reflect a move toward subtler, more sophisticated lighting schemes that don't overwhelm.





WOOD LANTERN, Veronneau.









Stopping by to say hi – at a distance and outside – is important for our health and has led to greater attention on the design of our front yards. Porch furniture that can be moved to safe distances and front gardens with sitting areas are ways to warmly and safely welcome friends to the front yard.



ime to destination: two minutes! That's how long it takes designer Sandy Soares Caetano to travel to her Yucatán-inspired getaway – a 175-square-foot deck just outside her second-floor apartment. "I wanted a loungey feeling that would remind me of warm places I loved to visit," says Sandy. To that end, she replaced what had been warped treated-lumber decking with cedar, and lined the perimeter railings with plants and a privacy screen. Clever use of inexpensive materials – like updating a bar cart and shelving with spray paint – kept the project on budget, and storage benches from a hardware store subbed in for pricey seating. "Not only did they cost less, I can hide gardening tools in there," says Sandy. To broaden the range of colour and pattern choices for cushions, she relied on indoor fabrics treated with weather-protectant spray.

Travel for leisure may not be an option, but a destination deck brings on that vacation vibe.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN MILLER



LEFT "There's always sangria," laughs designer Sandy Soares Caetano. "Not only does it contribute to a vacation vibe, I love how the fruit brings gorgeous colours to the decor!" Sandy fashioned a leafy privacy wall by weaving vines of faux-plant life through a link fence.



OPPOSITE Hugging the deck railings is a series of window boxes. "I won't lie. The plants are 100 per cent chosen to blend with the colours of the pillows," says Sandy. The colourful, cushy collection of pillows in rose and blush tones are extra plump. "Since the deck railings double as seat-backs, the pillows needed to be soft." The Tulum-inspired palette includes straw, blush, sand and stone tones. "And every room needs

some stripes, even if that room is outdoors," says Sandy. The tableware and glassware is from inside. "It's real glass and pottery, not melamine. So, it's like dining in an outdoor restaurant terrace."

RIGHT The bar cart used to be white. Sandy primed and painted it black with weatherproof paint. Her tip? "Use matte paint for outdoors so it won't reflect the sun."





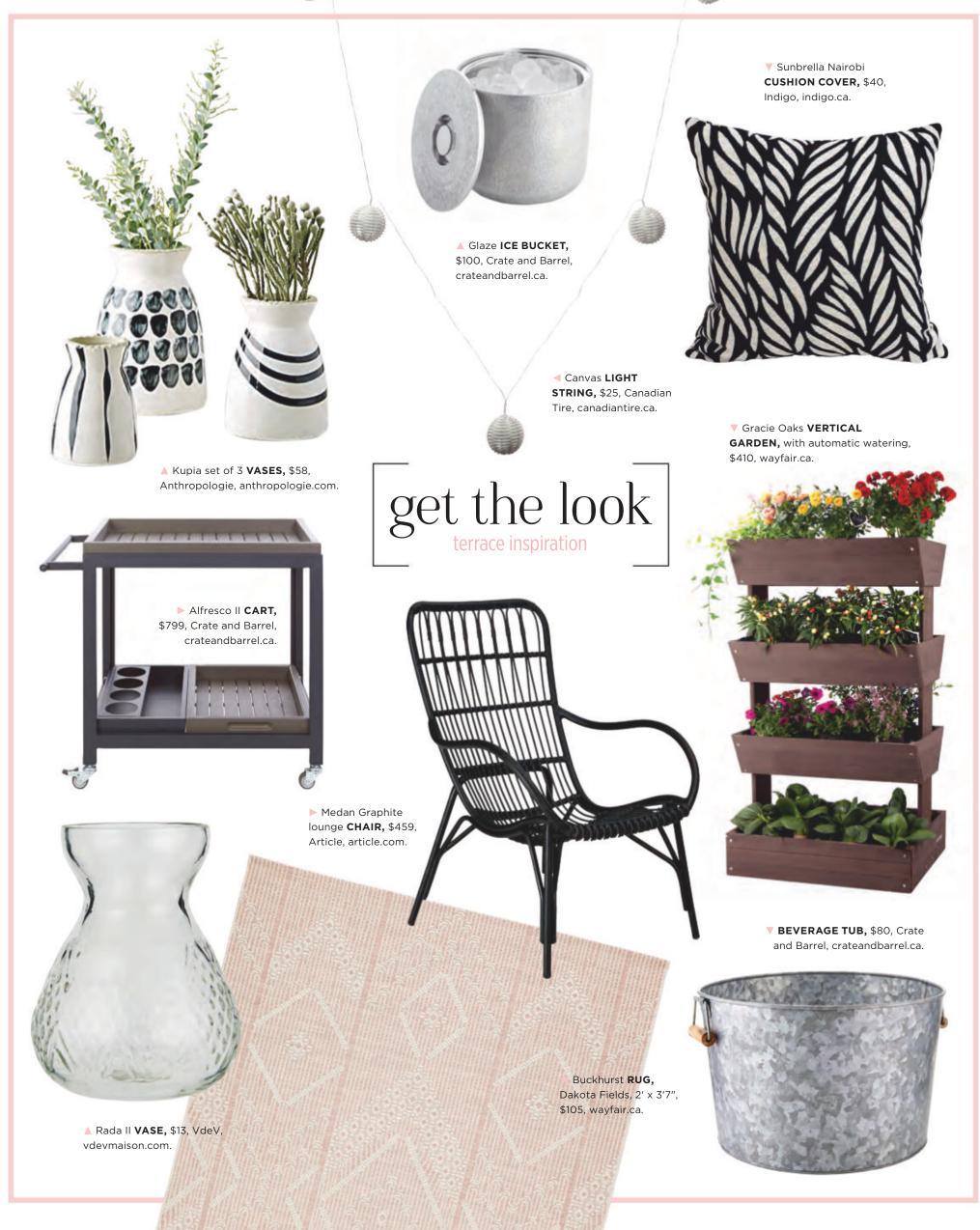
BELOW A pointed arch fashioned from metalwork that used to hang on the wall indoors was repurposed for outdoors. Sandy spray-painted it gunmetal black, then mounted it above an inexpensive shelving unit. Draped in greenery, it provides Spanish flair. Terracotta pots of heat-loving herbs and tiny tropical citrus trees are at the ready for cooking. When dusk falls, a bamboo lantern suggests a faraway, tropical glow.

DESIGN. Sandy Soares Caetano, Casa Caetano Design. UMBRELLA, Home Depot Canada. TABLE, Casualife Outdoor Living. Glass GLOBES, batteryoperated **TEALIGHTS**. Hofland. RUG, ICE BUCKET, CB2. CHAIRS, Article. CUSHIONS, Moscow Mule CUPS, Wayfair. PILLOWS, Tonic Living; Saudade Toronto; Indigo. THROW, Anna Westerlund PITCHER (on bar cart), Saudade Toronto. Schott Wiesel GLASSWARE. Crate and Barrel. PLANTINGS, Sheridan Nursery; Jong Young Floral Market. CARAFE, bamboo LANTERN, Indigo. DISH-WARE, Spal Portugal. BAR CART, METAL BASIN, Home-Sense. Bar cart **PAINT COLOUR,** farmhouse black matte, Rust-Oleum Universal Spray Paint & Primer. Wooden SHELVING UNIT. IKEA.

Luckily, on most summer days, the deck is a sun-soaked getaway, and at night, layers of outdoor lighting evoke a dreamy, balmy, faraway feeling. Candelight at the table, pillar-caps on the corners of the deck, and bamboo lanterns all add ambiance, as do some surprises, like "rocks" that light up at night. "I wanted being out here to feel like being on vacation, whether it was daylight or evening, whether I was out here to work or relax," says Sandy. "It truly feels that way. When I step outside, I may be in central Toronto, but I feel like I'm worlds away."

ABOVE Dangling from a vast shade-giving, rain-dispersing umbrella is a galaxy of sparkling glass orbs. At night, their faux candles punctuate the tent-like seating area with points of light. The table, which looks like wood, is actually easy-care metal in beige. Sandy fashioned the seating from storage-benches fitted with semi-custom cushions in warm dark grey, a colour repeated in the cord-backed armchairs. For the pillows, Sandy drew on a Tulum vacation palette that features warm clay pinks, bold stripes and stone-toned neutrals.

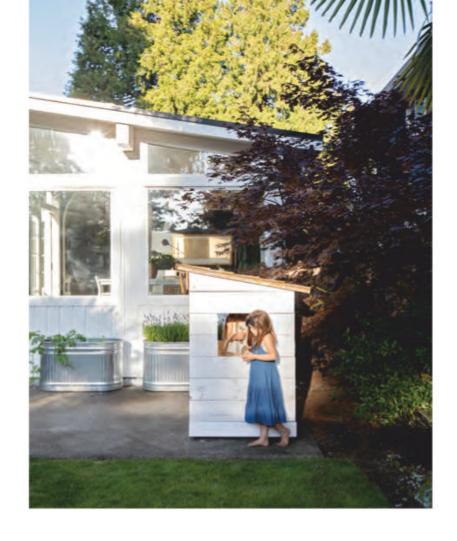






each Grove is a special little area," says Caitlin Black of Aloe Designs, a landscape design company in Vancouver. The neighbourhood of mostly ranch bungalows in Tswassen, B.C., is true to its name. "In fact, a public beach path runs along the property line of this house," says Caitlin. That's dreamy to be sure, but it sure isn't private. "When Nicole and Geoff, the homeowners, contacted us, the yard had very little privacy, and while it already had a deck, it was seriously dilapidated." Caitlin, a landscape designer, and her team set out to create an expansive low-profile deck complete with terraced steps, and thoughtfully zoned for lounging, dining and kid-friendly crafting. Also key was to seamlessly connect indoors and out, dramatically increasing the living space of the house, especially during the temperate months from April to October. Clean-lined furniture in soft neutrals echoes the inside decor and keeps the space soothing all year long. Says Caitlin: "The look is a bit California, and a bit Nordic."

BELOW A modern wood table provides ample room for dining, laptops and crafting. The stylish metal chairs are weather-resistant. The umbrella's pale hue pops against nearby mature trees, including regal conifers and a tropical-looking Windmill Palm.



ABOVE Daughter Royal lets imagination lead the way outside a playhouse built from scrap materials by her creative dad. Corrugated metal feed troughs that Aloe Designs up-styled into raised veggie gardens yield tomatoes, greens, even radishes and beets.





Also on Nicole and Geoff's wish list were dedicated spaces for vegetable and flower gardening that would give the couple and their young daughters, Gray and Royal, an opportunity to dig in and get growing. Caitlin and her team responded with areas on and beyond the deck, including containers for veggie gardening, beds for perennials and medicinal plants, and planters for a few Mediterranean plant varieties. "Now we use the deck year-round," says Nicole. "And in the summer months, we leave the doors wide open all day long. Changing the outdoor space has given our family so much freedom."

ABOVE Daughter Gray relaxes on the deck's easy-care sofa, which hosts pillows from inside the house. Nearby, a stack of poufs is ready should her sister care to join her. "The kids love to use the deck to tackle outdoor art projects," says Nicole. "They can go wild with painting, gluing and nature projects."

RIGHT "It's a beachy place, and very relaxed," says Caitlin. "In the warm months, you'll often find the back door open and everyone in their bare feet." Here, Nicole walks past the trio of outdoor tables she designed and husband Geoff built. The tables are ideal for holding drinks, books and displays, including vases and the olive plant shown here.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT & RIGHT A backdrop of small, moveable plantings keeps the deck looking fresh. Twin miniature Cyprus trees and an agave in containers (left), and an olive plant (right) lend texture to the seating area. The flouncy lace pillow plays to the laid-back boho mood.

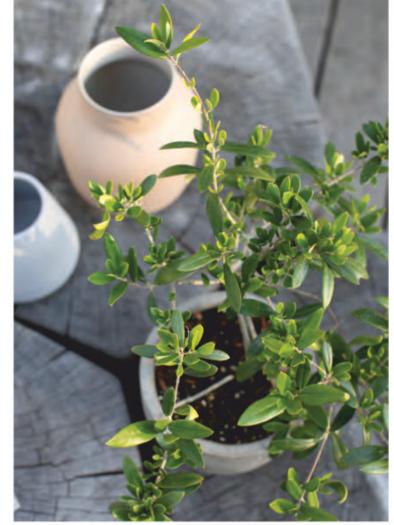
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Daughters Royal and Gray check in on kale that's growing in one of the raised garden beds. To the left is a fig tree. "We knew it would appeal to Nicole, who loves to cook. And its leaves clean up easily, which is important since this area has a perimeter of crushed gravel," says Caitlin. The handsome new fence provides privacy.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT In keeping with the curvy canvas butterfly chairs near the French doors, this duo of eggshaped planters imparts organic curves to the linear space. The planters have the look of concrete, but weigh less due to their partly fiberglass construction.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, Aloe Designs. HOUSE EXTERIOR PAINT, Snowbound, Sherwin-Williams, Fibercrete PLANTERS, Art's Nursery. POOFS, IKEA. TABLE, UMBRELLA, West Elm. DINING CHAIRS, CB2. SOFA, RH. Canvas **BUTTERFLY CHAIRS**, Amazon. **VASES** (on coffee table), EQ3. FEED TROUGHS, Westway Feed and Seed. Fig, olive, agave and mini cypress PLANTINGS, Art's Nursery.



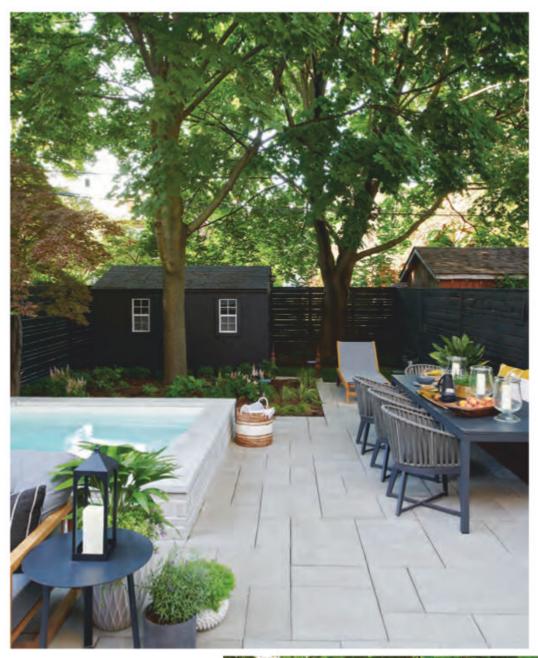












little oasis from the city. That, says designer Erin Feasby, and "simple, low-maintenance and somewhere they could have fun," was what her long-time clients wanted from their 25-by-57-foot backyard in Toronto. The designer had revamped the interior of their home in stages over the previous years. Now it was time to take it outside.

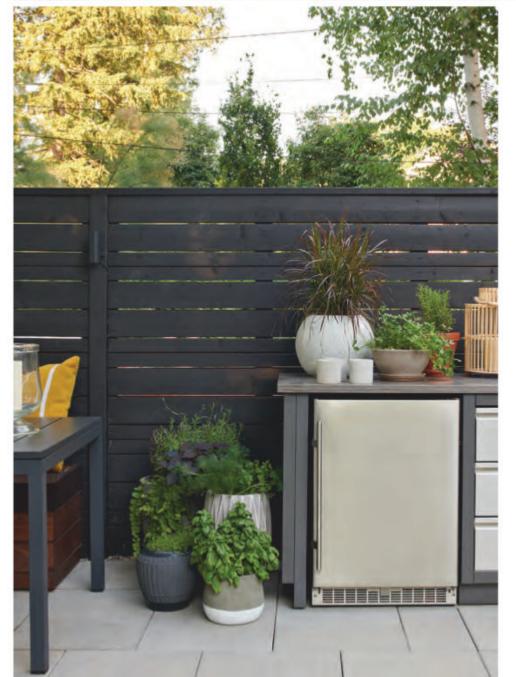
She started by calling in landscape designer Samantha Kleinknecht and they, along with the homeowner, divided the yard into zones for cooking, dining, lounging and – mandatory for the family's two young boys – fun. The pool, located to protect tree roots and follow by-laws, was a must-have. Although small, the "swim spa," as Erin calls it, delivers big time on fun. The rest of the layout flows from it.

Next, Erin applied her trademark polish to the outdoor "rooms," working with a palette of "griege" and wood against the new warm-toned black fencing that makes the modern furnishings pop. Landscaping is lush but low-maintenance, chosen following Samantha's mantra of picking "the right plant for the right spot." Lighting, pillows, outdoor kitchen cabinetry and a fire feature bring stylish indoor comfort to the backyard, where the sounds of two kids splashing through summer fills the days, and the nights are lantern-lit and serene.

Shade-loving perennials thrive under the mature trees. At the very back is a tiny patch of artificial turf for a shot of ever-green in the deep shade. Sam picked manufactured pavers that are dry-laid so if one gets damaged it can be popped out and replaced. Pushing the table to the side against a built-in storage bench maximizes space in the narrow yard. Pots of herbs (the owner loves to cook) are handy to the outdoor kitchen.







"Try to pick plants that have different blooming times. You don't want everything in the spring, and then there's nothing left for the whole year." - Samantha Kleinknecht

Building an outdoor palette is key for a designer look. Erin warns that materials can take on cool tones in bright sunlight. "I like them to go slightly warmer," she says. She opted for warm-toned grey and black, teak furniture, and pops of yellow in the cushions and some planters, which Samantha and the owner filled with ferns and grasses, and herbs by the kitchen. Night lighting is a necessity. "We uplit those big beautiful trees, so there's light coming from underneath to shine on the canopy," says Samantha. Otherwise, she says, the back of the yard would feel like a black hole at night. "It gives dimension and height to the garden, too." Path lights, sconces on the fence and lanterns complete the scene.

DESIGN, Erin Feasby, Feasby & Bleeks. LANDSCAPE DESIGN, Samantha Kleinknecht, SK Design. LANDSCAPE **CONTRACTING, Patrick** Hazen Design Landscaping. **OUTDOOR CARPENTRY,** JT Custom Carpentry. STONE. TURF. Creative Landscape Depot. LOUNGE FURNITURE, BBQ, Inside-Out Patio Furniture. Fence PAINT COLOUR, Onyx 2133-10, Benjamin Moore. LIGHT-ING, Linzel. GLASS HURRICANES, Peaks & Rafters. WOOD TRAY, WOOD **BOWL, LARGE BASKET,** (next to hot tub), Home Smith. **CUSHIONS**, (yellow diamond on sofa and pale stripe). Tonic Living. PITCHER, Wills & Prior.









hen Lucie Pepin and Pierre Turenne hired a horticulturist to add small flower beds around their home in 2006, they never imagined they'd one day have - among thousands of other plants – more than 250 varieties of peonies. The now sprawling English-style garden at their 90-acre property near Acton Vale, Que., is testament to the couple's passion for gardening. "We gradually added rhododendrons, magnolias, hellebores, primroses and perennial hibiscus in order to always have flowers to admire, from spring until the end of autumn," says Lucie. Sinuous paths of stepping stones and lawn lead through the garden, but the swimming pond, added in 2009, is perhaps the star. A small grassy beach area offers access for swimmers; elsewhere, the pond is bordered by clumps of water-loving plants, including many native species, while vibrant pink blooms of water lilies float peacefully on the surface. The water is an animating element that reflects the changing sky, like an artist's canvas that's always in flux – much like the garden itself.

OPPOSITE Day lilies, white daisies, ferns and iris bloom at the base of a 'Sunburst' honey locust. Echinacea and peonies take over further along the path.

ABOVE, LEFT Mont Bruno boxwood thrives beside a *Paniculata* hydrangea 'Quick Fire.'

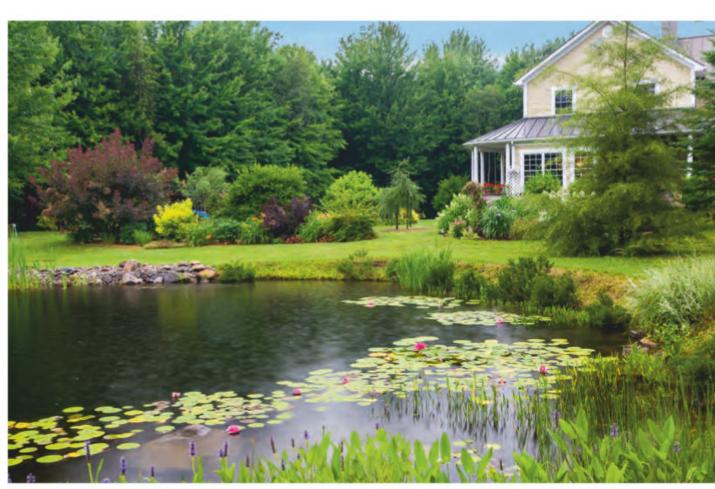
ABOVE, RIGHT Pots of geraniums bring an

oh-so-English garden touch to the porch.

BELOW, LEFT Clematis viticella climbs an arbour; below it, stepping stones beckon visitors to another area of the vast gardens.

BELOW, RIGHT The stunning swimming pond adds the essential pastoral aspect so key in English gardens.









hile many of us are looking for answers when it comes to outdoor decorating, designer Sabrina Albanese is looking to questions. She says, "Ask how the space will be used. Is it for gardening? Lounging? Entertaining? Let the answers determine what you have room for, then choose furnishings you will actually enjoy." That's exactly what she did for the Toronto family who owns this retreat in Innisfil, Ont. Now their terrace and two balconies are stylish spots for lakeside dining, reading and soaking up the sun.

Orange Zest

Designer Sabrina Albanese is a proponent of using colour in outdoor decor. "Be inspired by a colour you love!" she says. "The terrace's bright orange umbrella is fabulous and fun." The table and chairs don't match, but are from the same collection so have a cohesive vibe. "They're very Palm Beach-chic and I like how they contrast the home's contemporary architecture." The adjacent area showcases ample seating options, another of Sabrina's musts. "An extra-long sofa is great for a family and you can never have enough small stools! They're easy to move and offer flexibility for use as seats or side tables." Striped Sunbrella fabric is a nautical backdrop to tropical leafy cushions.

DESIGN, Sabrina Albanese Design. Flamenco **UMBRELLA,** The Santa Barbara Umbrella Company. Faux wicker and rattan Celerie Kemble Collection ${f OUTDOOR}$ FURNITURE, Lane Venture. Rope SIDE TABLE, Palacek. Palm Leaf CUSHIONS, Peter Dunham Textiles.



"Outdoor furniture should be just as special and as interesting as indoor furniture."

Floor Show

A rug demarcates the seating area on the top balcony, and more. "It provides warmth and texture, so there's more of a relaxed feeling, as this space is private and used mostly for family gatherings," says Sabrina. The fresh blue palette works seamlessly with the colour of the lake on a sunny day and was inspired by the getaway's chinoiserie-style guest room. Sabrina says, "It's always nice to bring decor from inside, out."

Made in the Shade

Sabrina believes shady spots are mandatory. She fashioned one with whimsy on the upper balcony. "The scalloped-canopy loveseat does the trick," she says. "It's not only pretty, but also easily removable and washable." The small-scale bistro table note the sparky tangerine base - is complemented by cute statement seats with billowed bottoms that mimic skirted chairs.

BISTRO TABLE, Fast Italia. GARDEN STOOL, Serena and Lily. Custom TOSS **CUSHION FABRIC, Schumacher. Miles** Redd **RUG**, Patterson Flynn Martin.







INNER SANCTUM

A Japanese-inspired courtyard garden in Boundary Bay, B.C., is a refuge for peace and contemplation. TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON







THIS PAGE Glass doors open from the living room to a wood deck; a large stone that acts as a step leads to the centre of the garden. To the right of the doors is a mugo pine. Seasonal colour is evident in pink Azalea Japonica. Hosta undulata is nestled near the water and the angular leaves of Blechnum spicata or deer ferns arc over the deck and rocks. While the Japanese maple draws

attention skyward, a waterfall gently flows down the rocks to the pond. All of the large rocks used here were gathered from a nearby farm when the garden was first created. They cradle a trio of densely mounded Skimmea Japonica. The attractive exterior walls - finished in industrial paint to withstand the coastal weather - provide a neutral backdrop.





is shaded by a delicate canopy of deep-lobed leaves thanks to a pair of Japanese maples. "They're many feet taller than they were nearly three decades ago," says homeowner Carell Bayne, who sometimes engages an arborist to keep the maturing garden to scale. In between arborist visits, Carell carefully prunes the trees for architectural interest. A

magenta Acer palmatum 'Shin-Deshojo' brings a painterly brightness to the garden's interior. "It has such a graceful fall to its branches," says Carell. "And it's the perfect size for this garden." The house has a flat roof with a copper downspout that, over time, has turned to a lovely verdigris; its green-grey cast complements the magenta leaves of the maple.

rom the outside, it's obvious that the shape of this house is unusual. "The roof line mimics a wave," says homeowner Carell Bayne. What's more remarkable — compared to typical Canadian homes — is that in the middle of the home is a 20-by-20-foot Japanese-style garden. This horticultural gem is entirely framed by the home's walls, and can only be accessed from the home's glass garden doors or enjoyed through its windows. "The views are always changing," says Carell. "There isn't a lot of colour, but there are layers and layers of green with occasional pinks, purples and golden yellows that rise and fall with the seasons." Although not technically a Japanese garden, it does share some aspects of that style. There's a fish pond and small waterfall, and the plants — mostly mature, having been planted almost 30 years ago — are regularly and rigorously pruned with an emphasis on scale and visual harmony, all characteristic of Japanese gardens. As well, the philosophy behind the courtyard garden is similar. "This is a contemplative, peaceful space," says Carell. "It's not a place to hang out or entertain. It's a place to observe, often from indoors."

ARCHITECT (HOUSE), Tony Robins, A.A. Robins Architect.









LEFT, TOP A rain chain directs the West Coast's abundant precipitation into a stone basin called a *Tsukubai* at its base (not shown); a vibrant clump of Blechnum spicata (deer ferns) softens the scene.

LEFT, BOTTOM "The waterfall brings me such peace," says Carell. At its head grows a rhododendron, purple when in bloom, with fanning, glossy leaves that provide structure. Mahonia bealei, Blechnum spicata and Azalea Japonica macrantha are nestled beside the rocks.

ABOVE The garden floor is gravel. "Weeds pop up, but overall, it's not labour-intensive, except when the maples drop their leaves," says Carell. Heavy rains drain easily since the soil is sandy, but if a colony of velvety moss arrives, it's cherished, as it would be in a Japanese garden. Among the plantings that bend over the water are two azaleas and a shade-loving Hosta undulata that features cream-and-green leaves. Skimmea Japonica is returning after having been heavily pruned.

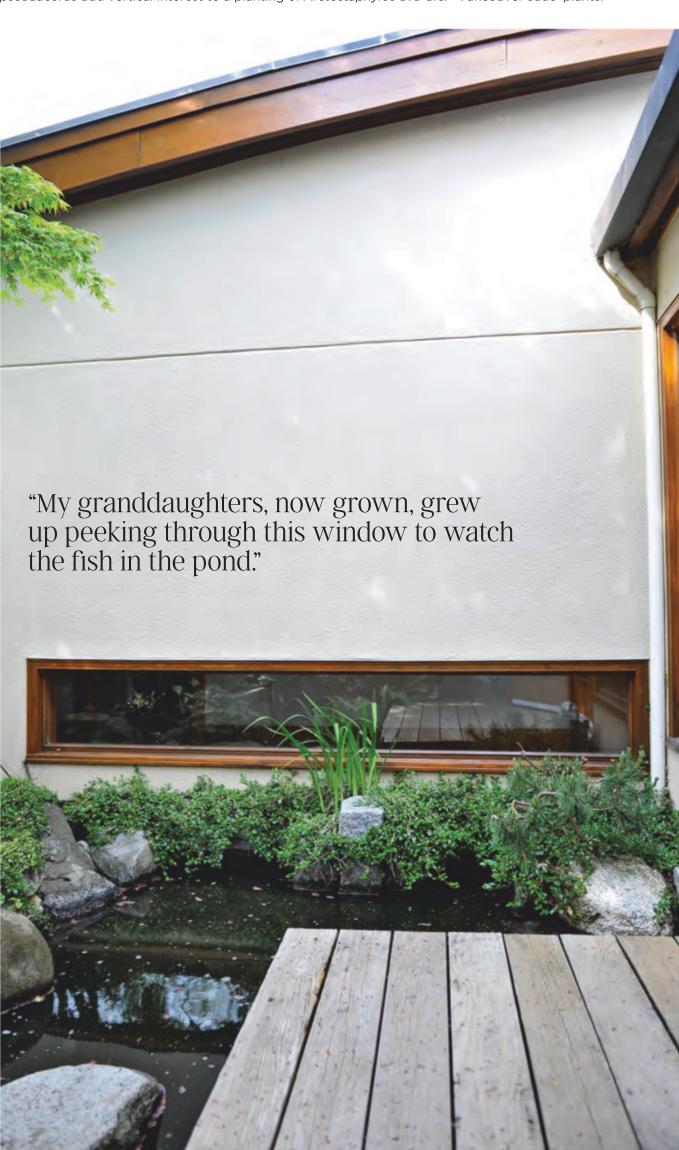


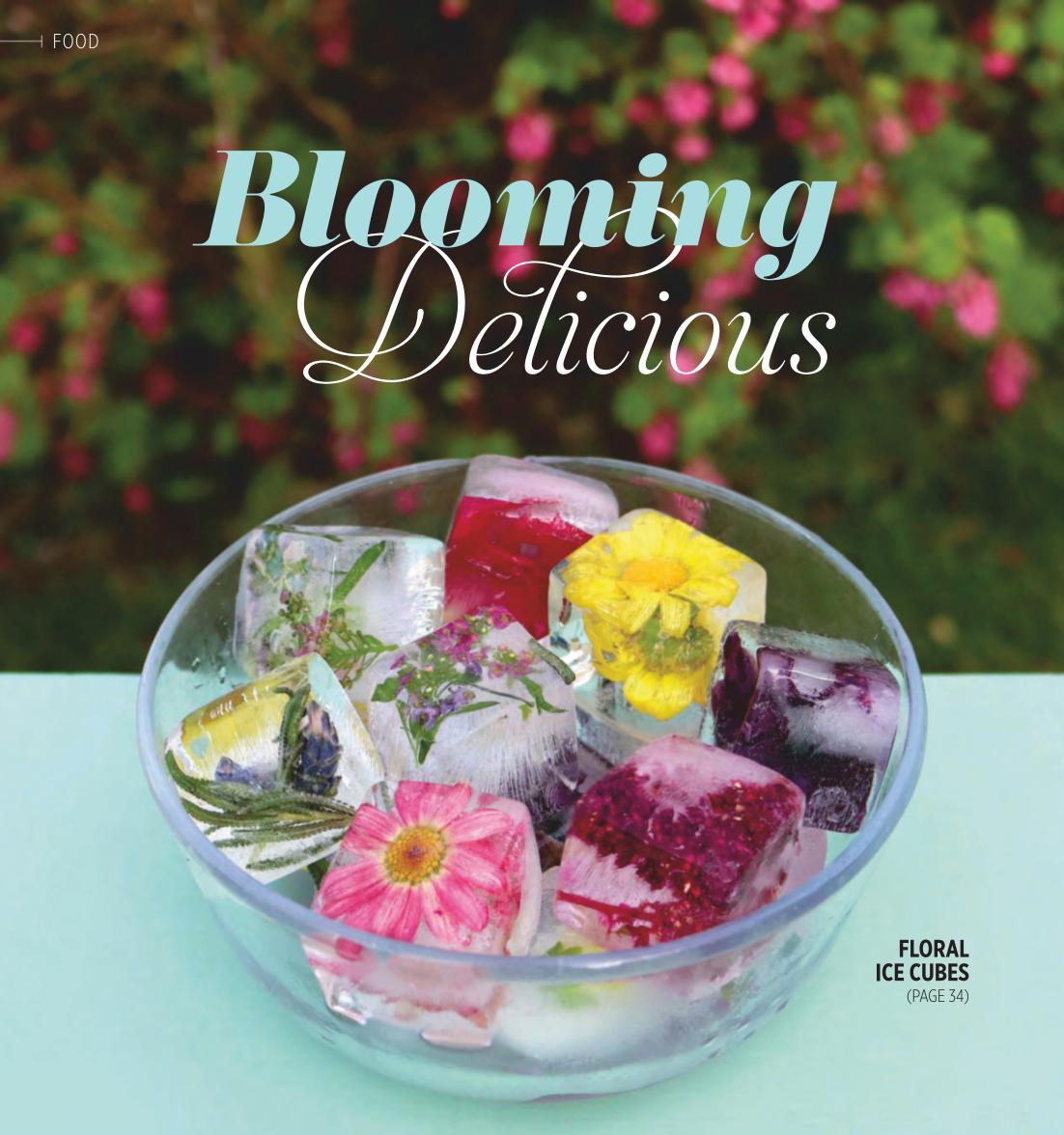
LEFT, TOP Bushy and multi-stemmed, this heavily pruned pine imparts an always-refreshing evergreen scent to the garden.

LEFT, BOTTOM The toro-style lantern symbolizes love, brightness and protection from evil.

BELOW A long narrow window offers a view of the pond from indoors. Spires of semi-aquatic *Iris* pseudacorus add vertical interest to a planting of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* `Vancouver Jade' plants.







Bring the beauty of edible flowers to your table with recipes from über blogger Tanya Anderson's new book, A Woman's Garden.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY TANYA ANDERSON

Brunch in the Garden

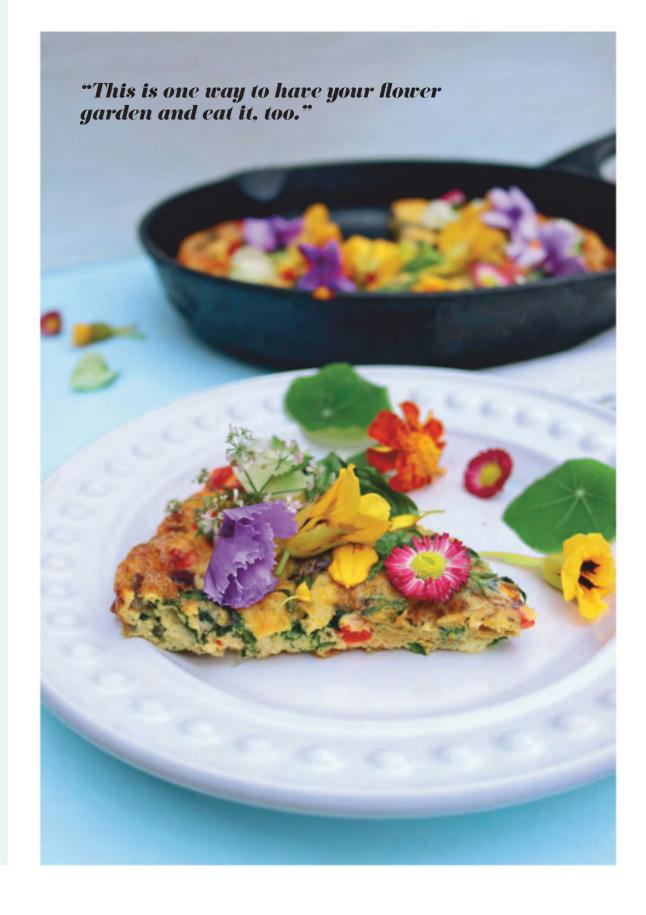
In her blog, lovelygreens.com, Tanya Anderson says she's a practical gardener who loves to grow plants to use in homemade beauty products, artisan crafts for the home and recipes. She might be practical, but the results are undeniably...lovely. These recipes from Tanya's new book are a perfect way to celebrate the warm weather with a brunch in the garden, with ingredients from the garden.



"What makes this frittata recipe unique is nasturtiums. Use both the leaves and the flowers to season the dish with a light peppery flavor. The amount in the recipe replaces the usual black pepper, but you can add more if you want it to be spicier.

Though this dish looks pretty fancy, it's easy to replicate. The yellow of the egg and red and green of the vegetables set the stage. With this backdrop, the texture and colour of the edible flowers can't help but look fabulous."

- Tanya Anderson



EDIBLE FLOWER FRITTATA

- golden-yolk eggs
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 3/4 tsp sea salt
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup red onion, chopped
- cup sweet red pepper, chopped
- cups spinach leaves
- cup nasturtium leaves
- cup edible flowers of your choice
- cup shredded cheese

Edible flowers, including nasturtiums, to decorate

Preheat the oven to 350°F, or 320°F for a convection oven.

Crack the eggs into a bowl and add the cream and salt. Whisk gently until mixed and then stop – over-beating can make your frittata too fluffy once it starts baking. Place the bowl in the refrigerator.

Heat the olive oil in a cast-iron pan on the stove. If you don't have cast-iron, use another oven-safe pan with a little extra oil. The extra oil should coat all sides of the pan and the bottom to keep the frittata from sticking. Keep the temperature at medium and add the chopped onions and pepper, and all but a few of the spinach and nasturtium leaves. Cook until soft but not browned.

Remove egg mixture from fridge and gently fold edible flowers into the mixture. Tanya used viola and dianthus, but suggests you use whichever edible flowers you have in bloom.

Pour the egg mixture over the vegetables in the pan while still cooking on medium. Sprinkle the cheese over the top and gently stir everything together. Leave to cook for a few minutes or until the edge of the frittata begins to set.

Sprinkle any remaining spinach or nasturtium leaves on the top, then place the pan in the oven. Bake for 15 minutes or until the edges are slightly brown. Convection ovens may only need about 10 minutes.

Remove frittata from oven, let cool for a few minutes, then decorate with flowers just before serving. Frittatas can be served warm but are just as delicious at room temperature or chilled.

Tce Ts Nice

Make a splash with Tanya's easy-to-follow tips for these stunning Floral Ice Cubes.



"Simple, beautiful and practical, edible flower ice cubes tick all the boxes. This is an easy recipe, but there are a couple of tricks to ensure the ice is crystal clear and the flowers are positioned where you want them. Also, make sure that the edible flowers you use are

at their best and that their flavour is compatible with your drink. Cucumbery borage blossoms and mild violas are ideal for lemonade or gin and tonic, but you might not feel the same about peppery nasturtiums, wild garlic, or mustard flowers."

- Tanya Anderson



FLORAL ICE CUBES

MATERIALS

- Distilled water. (Distilled water is best because it will create the most transparent ice cubes, but you can also use filtered tap or spring water.)
- Edible flowers of your choice.
- Ice cube tray (silicone is best).

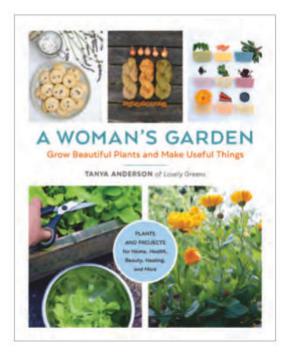
Fill the ice cube cavities 1/4 of the way with water. Freeze.

Take the tray out of the freezer and place the flowers where you'd like. You can moisten the flowers to help them stick to the ice. Freeze again.

Fill the cavities to the top with water and freeze for at least 12 hours or overnight.

Store your ice cubes in the freezer for up to a year.

Some edible flowers will tint your drink as the ice cube melts. Amaranth will colour it pink and hibiscus flowers will infuse it with a deep red.



Find more ideas on how to grow and use the gifts of your garden in A Woman's Garden by Tanya Anderson (Cool Springs Press, Quatro group, \$33).

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