

CANADA'S

# styleat home

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**HOT**  
NOW?  
*Trends  
You'll  
Fall For*

*At  
HOME  
with  
ART*



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Jaclyn Johnson & Winnie  
Los Angeles, CA

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## *An Artful Life*

September is the only month that, in my view, rivals January for the sense of new beginnings it brings. No doubt, that's partly due to childhood memories of new school years. But the early fall weather also signals change. I think it makes September a natural time to feather our nests and freshen our rooms for a cozy fall and winter.

On my agenda this season is investing in art that I love. Where did I get this bright idea? From this issue, of course! I dare you to look at Jennifer Garnett's Toronto home ("Calm, Cool and Collected," page 58) and not be inspired to join me in this "fall resolution." Almost every room holds an eclectic mix of modern and vintage works that are displayed beautifully.

I love how she and designer Philip Mitchell ("Making History," page 80) are both able to turn disparate artworks into cohesive collections. Philip did an extraordinary job of this at a lovely home in the village of Chester, Nova Scotia. Art is everywhere! Canvases climb the stairway and provoke conversation in the dining room; sculptures claim pride of place throughout. Even the furniture has a sculptural effect.

I'm so inspired by these and all the stunning spaces in this issue. But I'm also practical. I really love (and need) innovative solutions that make working from home...work! Check out "Shift Work Style" (page 38) for a fab solution to working from your living room.

Yes, summer's just about over. But with this issue in hand, I bet you'll feel as ready to redecorate as I do. Enjoy!

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# styleathome

SEPTEMBER 2021



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A designer's home merges sophistication with warm, personality-driven details.

**COVER PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Patrick Biller

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# style news

## PAINT PALETTE *of the month*



Behr **PARTY HAT** P560-3,  
Home Depot, [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca).



Beuti-Tone **SUNSET SERENADE**  
A31-1-1236-3, Home Hardware,  
[homehardware.ca](http://homehardware.ca).



Beuti-Tone **SAVANNA**  
A8-3-0121-3, Home Hardware,  
[homehardware.ca](http://homehardware.ca).



Behr **INTELLECTUAL** PPU18-19,  
Home Depot, [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca).

## WE'RE INSPIRED BY...

moody, mysterious purple, from deep, dark violet to lighter shades like lilac and lavender. Base a room on this powerful hue and show your colour confidence. Combine lighter shades for a soothing monotone feel. Or go for royal gem-like purples that pair well with grey and the warmth of wood. Bold and beautiful!





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4



5



6



7



8

# LILAC

1 Artifact O3 **WALL ART** by Robin Ahlgren, \$98, Buk & Nola. 2 Cotton **TOWEL**, \$25, H&M Home. 3 Garden Glory **WATER HOSE**, \$179, Simons. 4 Aries **CUSHION**, 20" X 20", \$49, Urban Barn. 5 **BEANBAG CHAIR**, \$100, Bouclair. 6 Amethyst plastic **WATERING CAN**, \$69, Simons. 7 Lalique Pivoines **VASE**, \$1,629, Amara. 8 Rely **CHAIR** by Hee Willing, \$1,140, Kelli. 9 Kartell's Componibili **STORAGE UNIT**, \$205, Amara. 10 Bombom **SOFA**, from \$8,650, Roche Bobois. 11 Kate Spade New York **KETTLE**, \$100, Hudson's Bay.



9



10



11



## MODERN CHILL

LEATHER'S IN THE NEWS FOR FALL HOME DECOR, AND THE COACHELLA CAMEL DAYBED IS A GREAT WAY TO BRING THE LOOK HOME. THE SLEEK, MODERN SILHOUETTE, SLIM ALUMINUM LEGS AND FEATHER PILLOWS REMIND US OF AN OLD-FASHIONED FAINTING COUCH UPDATED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. WE'RE SWOONING FOR IT!

Coachella Camel **DAYBED**, \$2,145, eq3.com.



## Just Picture It

It's never been easier to bring beauty to your rooms. Now you can shop for original artwork from your own sofa. The Saatchi Art online gallery includes paintings, photography and sculpture by hundreds of artists, including Canadians. Work with a Saatchi Art curator (free of charge) who will tailor choices to your style preferences, space, budget and colour, or browse through their enormous collection by setting your own preferences in filters.

*At the Lake* by Angelica Montero, US\$2,510, saatchiart.com.



This September, university students will hopefully head to dorms for a true (instead of online) uni experience. These tips will help them leave the nest in style.

**1** Dorm room beds are notoriously basic. Help students get comfy with a cushy mattress topper.

**2** Keep them organized with a study lamp, organizers, white board, and – if the residence permits – a quality desk chair. Don't forget closet organizers and over-the-door hooks.

**TIP:** Try IKEA for great budget-friendly organizers. Go in early August to beat the crowds.

**3** Beds tend to be lounges for relaxing and even studying – cozy them up with poufy cushions and super-stylish linens. **TIP:** Check out Bed Bath and Beyond's website for their Back-to-University program, which gives students 20 per cent off.

**4** Lights, action! Don't forget to pack an accent light to help students shift from stressed-out study mode to relax time.

**5** Art, posters, pictures – students will feel more at home surrounded by inspiring images.

Nojig **ORGANIZERS** (above), from \$0.25, ikea.ca. Wild Sage **BEDDING** (right), from \$45, bedbathandbeyond.ca.



## KITCHEN GARDEN

YOU CAN'T GET FRESHER THAN THIS MINI HYDROPONIC GARDEN, DESIGNED TO SIT ON YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER AND PROVIDE FRESH HERBS AND SMALL VEGETABLES EVEN IN THE FALL AND WINTER. NINE MINI PLANTING BEDS AND A GROW LIGHT WILL HAVE YOU SNIPPING OFF SPRIGS ALL WINTER. IT'S ALSO GREAT FOR STARTING SPRING SEEDLINGS INDOORS.

The Jardin, \$125, [thevegehome.com](http://thevegehome.com).



# THE ART OF SOUND

THE SYMFONISK COMBO PICTURE FRAME AND WI-FI SPEAKER TURNS HIGH-PERFORMANCE SOUND INTO A WORK OF ART. THE WALL-MOUNTED SPEAKER COMES IN BLACK OR WHITE WITH INTERCHANGEABLE FRONTS FOR A RANGE OF ARTISTIC OPTIONS. HANG IT AS PART OF A GALLERY WALL OR LET IT ATTRACT THE EYE, AND EAR, ALL ON ITS OWN.

Symfonisk picture frame, \$249, [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca).



## Hold the Fort!

The 11-piece Play Couch from Barumba Play is great for building a fort, slide, pirate cave, and anything else a kid can dream up. The modular pieces stack, lean or fit together, and feature removable, washable microsuede covers and waterproof inner liners to protect against spills. The soft foam construction makes them comfy enough to stretch a fitted sheet over and use for sleepovers.

Play Couch, \$649, [barumba.ca](http://barumba.ca).





# ART WITH HEART



Obakki's collection of artisanal homewares and lifestyle products are much more than a beautiful artistic statement. The company sources ethically and sustainably made products from artisans from across the globe, providing livelihoods and support for local communities.

We're struck by the woven art from the Mexican community of Querétaro. "Our artisan partners from Querétaro, Caralarga, are an incredibly talented co-op of female weavers who use traditional techniques to create stunning modern creations using raw cotton and fibre from the sansevieria plant," says Obakki founder Treana Peake. "What we love most about this group is that they began with a mission to provide employment opportunities for women in their area of Mexico." Obakki's ever-changing collection includes textiles, pottery, homewares, jewellery, apparel and even skincare.

Volcan **WALL HANGING** (left), \$5,995; Tiered Palm **PENDANT SHADE** (above), \$300; obakki.com.



So Swamped



Sienna



Accrington Road

## PAINT PICK-ME-UP

The arrival of cooler weather makes fall ideal for tackling outdoor paint projects. With over 360 shades in British-based Graham & Brown's new-to-Canada exterior paint collection, you're sure to find the right one to make your own colour statement. Light up your entrance with a striking pumpkin-hued front door or paint your shutters leaf green – both would be stellar against changing leaves and will brighten things up right through winter. The paints are also water based, low VOC, weather resistant and quick drying.

From \$12 (tester) to \$60 (one litre), grahambrown.com.





# *Sweet as Pie*

It's always time for pie, but who doesn't crave classic apple in autumn? Here's what you need to bake up the pick of the crop. **STYLING** JULIE LAPOINTE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRUNO PETROZZA





## Red & Delicious

CRISPS, CRUMBLES, TARTS OR TURNOVERS - WHATEVER APPLE TREAT YOU CARE TO MAKE, HAVE THESE TOOLS ON HAND. FOR A STYLISH TOUCH, OPT FOR RED ACCENTS, RETRO (AND STURDY) METALS, AND A FUN FLORAL PATTERN ROLLING PIN.

**Opposite** Wood **ROLLING PIN**, \$28; ceramic **MEASURING CUP SET**, \$30; brass **MEASURING SPOONS**, \$26; VdeV. Metal and wood **NUTCRACKER**, \$2, Boutique DDD. Stainless-steel-and-silicone **WHISK**, \$18; stainless-steel **PEELING KINFE**, \$25; paring **KNIFE**, \$12; **COOKIE CUTTER**, \$3; non-stick metal **TART PAN**, \$10; Ares.

## Green Living

GET HEALTHY AND WHIP UP A BATCH OF GRANOLA WITH GREEN APPLES AND NUTMEG. WE LOVE THESE NATURE-INSPIRED IMPLEMENTS MADE IN HUMBLE, BEAUTIFUL, EARTHY MATERIALS.

Acacia wood **PLANK**, \$45; gold-colour stainless-steel and wood handle **MICROPLANE**, \$15; Casa Luca. Wicker fruit **BASKET**, \$26; linen **TEA TOWEL**, \$16; Zone. **BOWL** with spout, \$16; ceramic **HONEY POT** \$24; VdeV. Folding **KNIFE** with wooden handle, \$34, Boutique DDD.

# Liquid Gold

Honey and vanilla make this silky Panna Cotta with Caramelized Almonds a treat worth the cheat. **RECIPE** HUGO ST-JACQUES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TANGO | **FOOD STYLING** LAURE CORTEN

## INGREDIENTS

MAKES 4

### Panna Cotta

- 2 tsp plain gelatin
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup 35% whipping cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp vanilla
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt

### Caramelized Almonds

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup coarsely chopped almonds
- 2 tbsp honey

## DIRECTIONS

**Panna Cotta** Pour 2 tbsp water into small bowl; sprinkle gelatin over top. Let stand for 5 minutes. In saucepan, combine cream, honey and vanilla; heat over medium heat until small bubbles form near edge, about 10 minutes. Reduce heat; whisk in gelatin mixture, stirring until dissolved. Remove from heat. Let cool slightly; stir in yogurt.

Divide mixture among four 1-cup ramekins. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate until set, about 4 hours. (Make ahead: can be refrigerated for up to 2 days.)

### Caramelized Almonds

Preheat oven to 350°F. In bowl, combine almonds and honey; spread on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Bake until almonds are caramelized, about 10 minutes. (Make ahead: can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week.)

To serve, run knife around inside edge of each ramekin; turn out onto plate. Garnish with almonds and drizzle with honey.

## tip

For an extra wow, garnish with shards of sesame brittle: melt sugar in a small pot over medium heat; stir in sesame seeds. Pour onto baking sheet; let harden and break into shards.







▼ Patterned **TABLECLOTH**, \$20, H&M Home, hm.com.



▶ Stone and gold-colour **TRAY**, \$40, HomeSense, homesense.ca.



▼ Tobacco **MUG**, \$40, AGO, shop.ago.ca.



▲ Ivan ceramic **RAMEKINS**, \$67 for 2 (medium and small), Wolf & Badger, wolfandbadger.com.

▶ Weave **TRAY**, \$70, EQ3, eq3.com.



◀ Honeycomb Honey **JAR AND SPOON**, William Yeoward, \$170, Amara, amara.com.

▼ Freeform **PITCHERS**, from \$26, Wills and Prior, willsandprior.com.



shopping



▶ Seagrass **COASTERS**, \$24, set of 4, Wills and Prior, willsandprior.com.



60  
YEARS  
together

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DELINEA design Vuesse

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# high OR low?



Seeing double? These small-space dining rooms look the same, but their budgets are as high contrast as the art on the walls. Can you tell them apart?

**PRODUCER** PETER PAQUETTE  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** MARK BURSTYN



HIGH \$3,327



\$790

1 Vista slipcovered **CHAIR**, \$395 each, Home Soci ete, homesociete.com.

\$405

2 Elizabeth Taylor by Bert Stern (25" x 31") **ART**, All Posters, allposters.com.

\$75

3 Holden **VASE**, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

\$160

4 Ava 20" **PILLOW** and **INSERT**, \$80 each, CB2, CB2.ca.

\$679

5 Oak **DINING TABLE**, Must, mustsociete.com.

\$1,218

6 Brit **CANE CHAIR**, \$609 each, Maison Corbeil, maisoncorbeil.com.

**PAINT**, Classic Grey OC-23, Benjamin Moore. Black **BOWL, PLATTER**, female shape **ART**, HomeSense. Black **PAINTED ART**, by Justyn Chapman; **FRAMING**, Dimension Gallery.

LOW \$1,221



\$258

1 Henriksdal **CHAIR**, \$70 each, IKEA, ikea.ca; cotton dining chair **COVER**, \$59 each, BEMZ, bemz.com.

\$30

2 Black and White framed fashion **PRINT**, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

\$20

3 White textured **VASE**, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

\$100

4 Faye 20" **PILLOW** and **INSERT**, \$50 each, EQ3, eq3.com.

\$199

5 Ravavor oak veneer **DINING TABLE**, IKEA, ikea.ca.

\$614

6 Norah cane **CHAIR**, \$299 each, Mobilia, mobilia.ca; Justina **CHAIR PAD**, \$8 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.





Hot seat! Natural cane contrasts dark boucle and wood.

Nadia black cane **CHAIR**, \$379, CB2, cb2.ca.

## Mix It Up

The magic is in the mix when it comes to today's on-trend furnishings. Contrast is key: in colour and value (think light and dark side by side) and materials, like wool, wood and woven naturals. Highly textural visually and to the touch, they grab attention, so pair them with less showy partners. We love how the wovens invite the look of outdoors in, even if some components (like upholstery materials) are strictly for inside. Bonus: the masterful mix of materials lets them blend into almost any decor.



## Focus on Form

Today's trend for minimalist black and white art owes a debt to modern masters like Matisse and Picasso. The power of form finds full expression in black and white; these will add impact to any room, no matter its palette.

Inside Out poster, \$15; Le Collage No. 3 poster, \$12; Desenio, desenio.com.

## EARTHLY DELIGHTS

Shapely ceramics with a handmade look serve as a sculptural centrepiece for the table.

∨ **HIGH**

**\$1,035**

Corvo Vase in Parchment, Elte, elte.com.



**\$307**

Heather Rosenman Ceramics' Lava in Luna/Black, Provide, provide-home.com.

**\$78**

Melville Ceramic Vase, Renwil, renwil.com.



**\$25**

Stoneware Bud Vase Berry by Bloomingville, Indigo, indigo.ca.

∧ **LOW**

# fall TRENDS

Soon it will be time to settle back into the comforts of the great indoors for fall and winter. Why not add a few of fall's biggest trends to refresh your space? From retro to rustic, here are our top picks for feathering your nest this fall.

**PRODUCER** KARL LOHNES



Embrace **LOUNGE CHAIR**, \$580, [sundays-company.com](https://sundays-company.com).



Lechuza **DINING TABLE**, \$2,499, [crateandbarrel.com](https://crateandbarrel.com).



## 01 VINTAGE GROOVE

Furniture that's sculptural, a bit chunky in shape and form, and often with a somewhat heavy masculine presence brings an earthy retro feel that looks fresh and modern.

# 02 THAT '70S THING

The glamour of the 1970s is back with bursts of gold, reflective brass and Lucite. Use this trend to add a mod touch to a trad space or give a retro vibe to a contemporary pad. Tip: treat each 70s-inspired piece as art or sculpture that looks best on its own – a little goes a long way.



Worldwide Lighting Starburst  
**CHANDELIER**, \$1,420, lowes.ca.

Jacques **BAR CART**, \$2,025,  
jonathanadler.com.



**BRILLIANCE** with charcoal frame,  
\$1,050, sunpan.com.



# 03

## BLACK & WHITE ABSTRACT ART

Looking for an easy way to make a statement in a tired room? The neutrality of black and white art allows it to fit into any style, while giving the decor a contemporary spirit. Tip: don't be afraid to go big - large-scale works are the best way to make an impact with black-and-white abstracts.

*The Great Thinker* acrylic **PAINTING** by Cali, 40" x 60", \$1,080, [caliartstudio.com](http://caliartstudio.com).



Black Marble reproduction  
**PRINTS** by Cali, \$344 for  
set of two 20" x 30",  
[caliartstudio.com](http://caliartstudio.com).



Mylounge leather  
**LOVESEAT** in  
Cinnamon, \$2,750,  
sundays-company.com.



Altman leather **DRESSER**  
\$2,980, sunpan.com.

## 04 LEATHER

Lookout for leather as it makes a comeback on the home decor scene. You'll see both upholstered and case-good furnishings being wrapped in luxe looking leather. Home accessories, such as lamps, trays and pillows, will introduce this look in smaller, more subtle ways.



Raw marble  
**TABLE LAMP**,  
\$229, cb2.ca.

## 05 RUSTIC STONE

Think honed, textured and rough edges as a way to create a realistic (dare I say, Flintstones?) look. This trend is authentic and raw looking, even if the stone isn't the real thing.



Catalyst **DINING TABLE**  
with black marble top, \$2,928,  
crateandbarrel.com.



This Canadian design expert and media personality dishes on how to make rooms cozy and colourful this fall.

TEXT KARL LOHNES

# Jane Lockhart

*Jane Lockhart is a familiar face from design and decor television. She's also about to celebrate her 25th year heading her own design firm. We spoke to Jane about some of the most challenging decor dilemmas homeowners encounter. And, bonus, Jane – always a pro trendspotter – offered us some insider info about colour and style trends that are on the horizon.*

**KL:** What is your go-to neutral colour to paint walls? What is a more daring colour that you would like to start using in your interior projects?

**JL:** For a good, all-around neutral that works well with grey or any of the new creams, beiges and cognacs, my go-to is Sea Salt CSP-95 from Benjamin Moore. It's a classic taupe that never goes out of style regardless of the trends. I would love to see more Velvet Cloak CSP-480, also from Benjamin Moore, as a daring new direction. It's a "blackened" burgundy, a warm alternative to navy or black. It's grounding and delicious all at once.



Saariinen **DINING TABLE**, Design Within Reach.



**KL:** Small spaces always seem to be a challenge when decorating for entertaining. What does the perfect small space dining table look like to you?

**JL:** I love a small round pedestal table as it's comfortable to fit chairs around, and the circular shape promotes good conversation at meals. The Saarinen dining table is a classic modern shape; its elegant pedestal base looks less cluttered than four table legs. A natural matte-finish marble or stone is truly beautiful and will stand the test of time. A smaller 35-inch-diameter table seats four comfortably, and it can be tucked away anywhere and double as a work space or games table.

**KL:** The colder weather will be here soon. What are three easy decorating ideas that make a room more cozy?

**JL:** Definitely any kind of fireplace creates a huge difference in making a living or family room cozy. Whether it's electric or the real thing, it amps up the cozy factor and creates a solid focal point in any room. In a bedroom, natural textures like woven wood, cotton weave area rugs and cable-knit wool pillows and throws definitely change how the space feels, moving it from cold to warm. Layering textures with items like that creates a softness even with the coolest of colour palettes. Finally, bold patterns will change the feel of a room. For instance, patterned tiles in a laundry room will change the clinical feel of the space without compromising clean-ability.

Even the most subtle of wallpaper patterns can envelope a room with coziness.

**KL:** We collect art over the years. What are your tips to incorporate a variety of art into a room's decor?

**JL:** The best way to tie a collection of art pieces together is to look for a colour connection. This creates a rhythm when viewing one piece to the next and pulls them together as a grouping. It could be black and white, bold and colourful, or pastels; grouping them into colourways is an easy way to ensure they look great together. I like to reframe art pieces in the same or similar frame for continuity and flow. Get inspiration for wood or metallic frame colours from furnishings that already exist within the room. Take all the art pieces and reframe to make them the same size. If you have photos, reproduce them at the same size for continuity, so they feel like an intended collection and are tied together by scale and size.



**KL:** How do you feel about white kitchens? Are they a classic or a cop-out?

**JL:** It's a classic and bestseller! Over the past several decades in Canada, white remains the easiest kitchen colour to work into interior decorating plans. Even though cabinetry styles have changed over time, for a country that struggles with light in winter, white is bright and neutral, as it fits any colour or decor style. It's easy for a new purchaser to add to white kitchens – with appliances, crown mouldings or countertops – to update its personality.

**KL:** Any predictions for a 2022 decor trend you will be incorporating into your designs?

**JL:** I look forward to seeing more “book-matched” cabinet hardware. This is where the two hardware pieces on a set of doors are a mirror reflection. This trend allows for more integrated cabinetry and a custom furniture look that's less boxy and offers a unique designer look. Hardware is like jewellery for a room.



# FASHION HOUSE

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT  
PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN MILLER



With the pulse of Paris as inspiration, designer Alina Ryssina gives a Toronto condo an haute couture makeover.



# F

ashion designer Christian Dior once said, “The tones of grey, pale turquoise and pink will prevail.” If the quote seems tailor-made for this modern condo, it’s for a good reason. “The owner, Paige Peake, is a buyer who works with luxury brands and was highly inspired by Dior’s flagship store in Paris,” says Alina. In fact, the boutique’s soft greys, warm woods and delicate marble underlie the design. “They’re a traditional French aesthetic,” says the designer, “but I knew I could incorporate them into a contemporary space, then layer in soft shapes and glamorous elements.” A three-month renovation transformed the standard-finished, 1,400-square-foot new-build as a sophisticated residence, one that stylishly reflects the creative energy of the fashion lover who lives here.

**OPPOSITE** Designer Alina Ryssina relied on rounded shapes and soft textures to temper the condo’s minimalist architecture. “I wanted elements that were the opposite of all the straight lines,” she says. “The organic forms and curves of the furniture are quirky, playful and found in nature. The textured rug is a one-of-a-kind vintage piece, and I love how worn and imperfect it feels in a new space.” The Dior inspiration is on display not only on the coffee table, but in the pink and turquoise artwork. “This is one of Paige’s Dior silk scarves,” says Alina. “It’s a special item with meaning that she wanted to display. I just guided her with the framing and placement of it.”

**RIGHT** The landscape art above the vintage console is actually a TV. The image displayed was chosen for how the colours complement the room.

**DESIGN**, Alina Ryssina, Studio Alina Ryssina. **CONTRACTOR**, Teo Home & Renovations Inc. **PAINT**, Strong White 2001 (living room, kitchen), Farrow & Ball. **SOFA**, Crate and Barrel. Round **CHAIR**, Jonathan Adler. Pink marble **TABLE**, Montana Labelle. Vintage **COFFEE TABLE, SIDE TABLES,** @lebonobjet. Vintage curved **CONSOLE TABLE**, Bettencourt Manor. **CUSHIONS**, EQ3. **FRAMING** (of scarf), Dimensions Custom Framing & Gallery.



#### THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE

After extending the kitchen island from seven to 12-feet long, Alina needed furniture that could hold its own in the open-plan design. “These aren’t small-scale furnishings, rather, they’re typical-sized ones intended for bigger spaces,” she says. “I like the ‘conversation’ between the living room and exposed kitchen – the furniture has a strong balancing presence, so it doesn’t feel like the island cuts the room in half. The large-scale items make the areas feel integrated.”

**RIGHT** The cabinetry introduces some traditional style in a more contemporary manner. Says Alina: “I opted for a Ɖ-inch rail detail instead of a more typical Shaker-style door. The alignment of elements is very intentional to keep a clean and consistent flow, which is why I added the open shelves above the pantry. They make the millwork feel more like a library and less like a kitchen, which, again, integrates all the open spaces to function together but act as individual rooms.”



## “PAIGE’S CONDO IS AN ESCAPE FROM THE CONCRETE JUNGLE BELOW.”

**OPPOSITE** “The pendant lights needed to be very specific as I couldn’t centre them over the new island, which isn’t symmetrical with the bulkhead,” says Alina. “I also couldn’t add any junction boxes without lowering the ceiling.” She found these contemporary fixtures that introduce edgy black accents

and lend compelling shapes that become a focal point so the bulkhead has less visual prominence.

**KITCHEN MILLWORK MANUFACTURER,** Tacoma Woodworking. **HARDWARE,** ADH Hardware. **ISLAND PENDANT LIGHTS,** Estiluz. **ISLAND STOOLS,** Rove Concepts. **BRASS FAUCET,** Rubinet.



# “THE HOME NEEDED TO REFLECT PAIGE’S CREATIVE, BRIGHT AND SOPHISTICATED ENERGY.”



**LEFT** Paige was drawn to this traditional-style headboard and artwork, which Alina complemented with contemporary styling. “The nightstand and paper-lantern bedside lamp parlay a modern vibe, which typically might not come to mind for a bed of this style, but they exude energy,” says the designer. The herringbone floors, which replaced the former dark brown planks, give the space a cohesive refresh and impart Parisian flair.

**OPPOSITE** Richer colour counters the lack of natural light in Paige’s home office. “The caramel tones carry the feeling of natural warmth and sunlight into the dim hallway,” says Alina. She custom-designed the shelf and the desk, which has a hidden drawer integrated into the worktop and features French cane-fronted storage cabinets that are freestanding so they can be moved to act as side tables. The shelf is both practical and pretty. “It’s a stylish way to get clutter off the narrow worktop, and I curved it on the underside so it has a softer feel.” Paige collected the art and accessories over time.

**PAINT**, Dove Tale 267, Farrow & Ball. **NIGHTSTAND**, Crate and Barrel. **ART**, @oneeyegirl. **CUSHIONS, BEDSIDE LAMP, HEADBOARD**, Pottery Barn. **DESK, SHELF FABRICATION**, APA Furniture.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



# Shift Work Style

A double-duty living room works hard day and night. **DESIGN** JACIN THE LEROUX



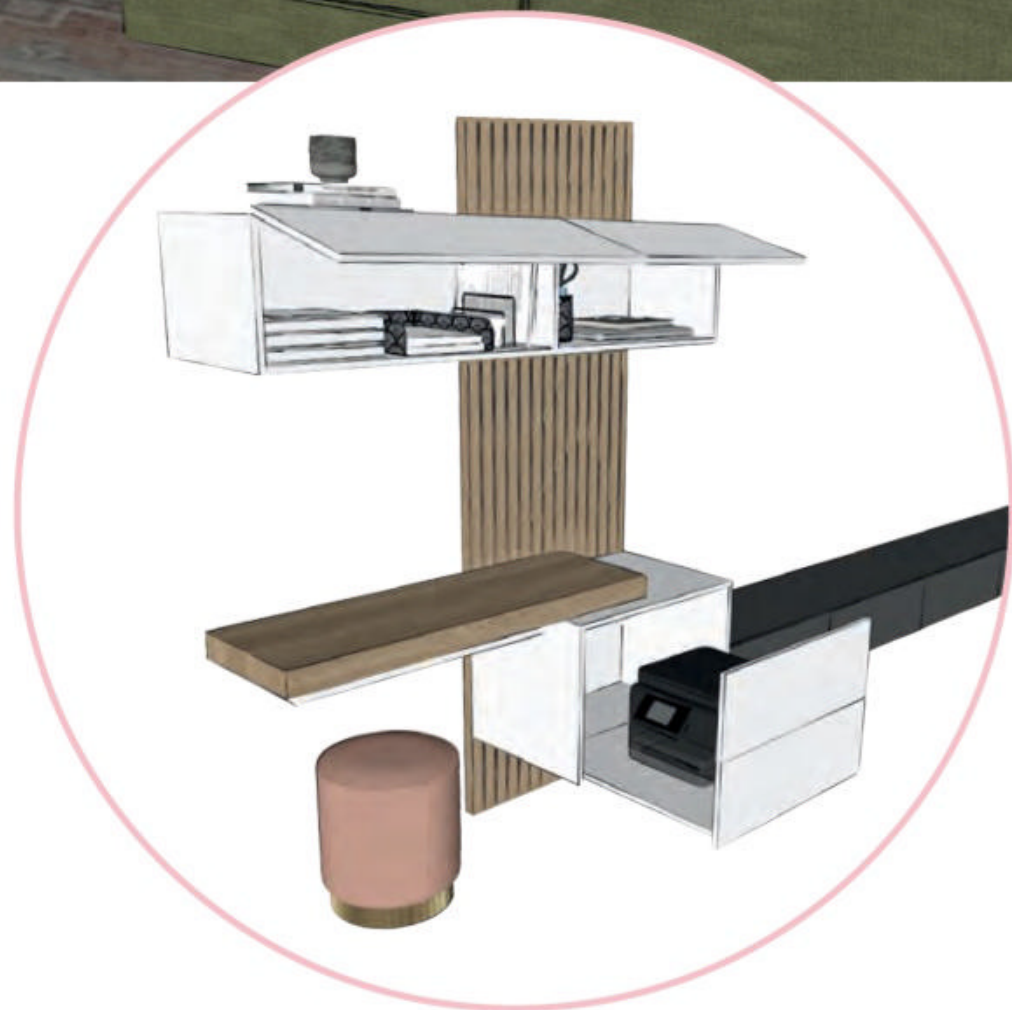
**W**orking from home is likely to be the new norm for many of us. In tight quarters, that means making rooms into multi-purpose spaces. A great place to start is the living room, which is usually underused during the work day. Maximize its functionality with custom furnishings (worth the cost if working from home is your new lifestyle) and flexible floor plans. We designed a smart day-use desk space that folds away to keep your living room a stylish oasis at night.

## Day

Sleek, sophisticated and smart, the custom desktop – perfectly sized for a laptop – slides out from the wall unit for the workday, and folds away flush with the built-in at quitting time. The elevated closed storage cubbie stashes supplies; a large lower drawer conceals the printer.

## Night

After work, the desk can be cleared for children’s homework, board games, or to be used as an extra countertop for appetizers when entertaining. Alternatively, when it’s not needed, slide it back for extra floor space – dance party, anyone?



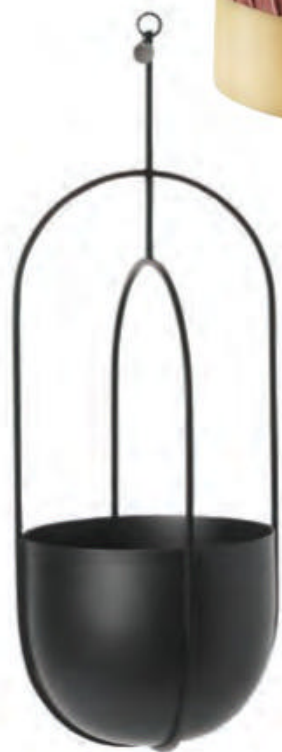
1



2



3



# Shopping

4



5



6



7



8



Pair black-and-white abstract art with dark olive green and light rosy hues for an on-trend look.

1 Velvet **OTTOMAN**, Monarch Specialties, \$80, Hudson's Bay. 2 Terre **PENDANT**, \$278, Maillé Style. 3 Ferm Living hanging **PLANTER**, \$109, Finnish Design Shop. 4 Dimaro **COFFEE TABLES**, \$230 (large), \$320 (small), Must Société. 5 Ouma **RUG**, \$269, Structube. 6 Dive-Raf **SOFA**, \$2,495, Element de Base. 7 Fields cane **CHAIR**, \$999, Crate and Barrel. 8 Duo d'art Jérémy **WALL ART**, \$458, Maillé Style.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# ROOM TO READ



Filled with family mementoes and favourite books, the library in the home of Windsor, Ont., decorator Mable Cheung is where she and her family read, relax and make memories to last a lifetime.

**TEXT** MARTHA UNIACKE BREEN

**PHOTOGRAPHY** VICKI BARTEL

## Children's Corner

The bottom shelf of the library features books Mable and her husband Bogdan loved as kids, as well as a set of children's encyclopedias purchased volume by volume by Bogdan's mother when he was little. All are within reach of Elliana and Nikolai, who – at 7 and 5 respectively – are already avid readers. A reading lamp, side table and sofa with a cozy blanket are just right for curling up with a book.

**DESIGN**, Mable Cheung, Interiors with Mable. **PAINT**, Onyx 2133-10, Benjamin Moore. **HORSE HEAD, BUST, SHELL** (on middle shelf), live-edge **SIDE TABLE, ARMCHAIR**, HomeSense. **ROUND VASE**, H&M. **SMALL PLANTER**, Costco. Gold **TROLLEY**, Walmart. **FRAMED PICTURE** (on top shelf), gold **TRAY**, Target. **RECORD PLAYER**, Crosley. **READING LAMP**, Hudson Valley Lighting. **GREENERY**, Sobey's.





## Memory Lane

The gallery wall opposite the bookshelves contains a trove of memories: a credenza like the one in Mable's childhood home, under a collage of framed maps and favourite photos of the couple's travels (along with a Pop-Art graphic of their wedding date). The organic, Mobius-like brass sculpture and circular vase add a rhythmic counterpoint to the rectilinear shapes of books, frames and the family chess set.

**SOFA**, IKEA. **METAL SCULPTURE**, Studio McGee. **CHESS SET**, Italfama. Gold **FLOOR PLANTER**, Zara Home. **FRAMES** and **ARTWORK**, Indigo, Michaels. **CREDENZA**, Wayfair. White **BOWL** (on credenza), **CANDLE**, oversized "toy" **JACK**, macramé **PILLOW**, HomeSense. Gold **BOWL**, H&M.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# START WITH ART

Where better to find inspiration for a decorating scheme than a favourite work of art? Here's how to design your space with artistry. **PRODUCER** NATHALIE PAQUIN

## Opulent

Nothing but a daring look-at-me palette of rich reds, golds and blues could support this dramatic painting. Bold accessories, decadent textiles and luxurious furnishings are necessities here.



Nalia **PAINTING**, 30" x 60", \$399; Mong **PILLOW**, \$69; Wazuli lacquered metal **VASE**, \$249; Mobilia. **SOFA** in Dietrich fabric, \$799; Bota **BOWL**, \$39; Structube. Loom **RUG**, \$1,599, BoConcept. Wool blend **THROW**, \$40, H&M Home.



**KENYA SAND**  
6116-31,  
Sico



**EXOTIC RED**  
2086-10,  
Benjamin Moore



**ADMIRALTY**  
DLX1042-7,  
Dulux



# Serene Scene

Inspired by a majestic landscape photograph, we assembled an elegant, restrained grouping of modern furnishings. Sober black and white is the ideal foundational palette for this peaceful space.



Summit **ART**, 18" x 18", \$99, Urban Barn. Hodde **CARPET**, \$149, IKEA. George Nelson Bubble Collection Bell **PENDANT LIGHT**, \$1,619, EQ3. Adèle ceramic-top **DINING TABLE**, from \$1,695, Must Société. Granfeld metal **VASES** with textured matte black finish, \$78 for 3, Renwil. Wendale grey lacquered wood **SIDEBOARD**, \$1,499, Mobilia. Toou Cadrea **CHAIR**, \$180, Nüspace.



**BAKERY  
BOX**  
BI-W09,  
Behr



**LINDEN  
WOOD**  
6182-42,  
Sico



**CAVIAR**  
SW 6990,  
Sherwin-  
Williams



# Floral Notes

We're blushing at the beauty of this pretty floral poster that suggested a romantic light-as-air palette. These soft shades would be oh-so-soothing in a guest or teen's room.



Watercolor Magnolia **POSTER**, 25" x 22", US\$45, society6.com. Cotton **DUVET COVER** (including two pillowcases), \$60, H&M Home. Sean velvet-covered **SOFA BED**, \$299, Structube. Ulla wool **RUG**, \$839, Article. Luftmassa/Skafet **PENDANT LIGHT** with pink bulb, \$40, IKEA. Velvet Warrington **CUSHION**, \$58 (suggested retail price), Renwil. Bronte By Moon mohair **THROW**, \$177, amara.com.



**ETCHED GLASS**  
626,  
Benjamin  
Moore



**JAGUAR  
ROSE**  
DLX1186-3,  
Dulux



**BLUEBIRD  
FEATHER**  
SW 9062,  
Sherwin-  
Williams

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# SEPTEMBER 2021



## OBJECTS OF OUR AFFECTION

Don't you love to walk into a home filled with art and objects chosen and arranged with care? It's like wandering through a museum of someone's life. You get a sense of the person's tastes, what makes them happy, what moves them. As summer wanes and you step inside for fall and winter, take a fresh look at your rooms to see if they reflect you. Put something you love on display - there's no better way to feel at home.

Designer Emily Griffin knocks the blah off a new-build condo with fun winks of colour and playful patterns.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

# Bright Ideas







# Like

many empty nesters, Vicki Rusen and her husband downsized to a condo, actually two units they joined together to create a 1,700-square-foot abode in Toronto's Beaches neighbourhood. And like many new owners, they called a designer for help. "Vicki liked how we use colour," says Emily. "Her previous home was traditional so she wanted this space to feel young, fun and colourful." Emily's floor plan tweaks – converting one of the three bedrooms into a den and adding a powder room – netted a smart layout and inspired the designer's vision. "I wanted the condo to feel like a well lived-in house with warmth and soul." The results yield just that, as well as plenty of design ideas.



Designer Emily Griffin (left)  
with Vicki Rusen.



## Add Colour

The kitchen's gorgeous mottled backsplash lends an artisanal vibe to the practical space. "The tiles were such a great find - Vicki and I both fell in love with them," says Emily. "They're very large [40 by 40 inches] and porcelain, so not too expensive. They feel almost like a work of art, and the blue shades helped inform colour choices throughout the condo."

**DESIGN**, Emily Griffin, Emily Griffin Design. **CABINETRY, ISLAND**, Aya Kitchens. Custom **RANGE HOOD**, Grown Design. Island **STOOLS, RUNNER**, Snob. Cabinetry **HARDWARE**, Upper Canada Hardware. **COUNTERTOPS**, Eternal Calacatta Gold Polished, Silestone. White subway tile **BACKSPLASH**, Creekside Tile. Thomas O'Brien **PENDANT LIGHTS**, Island **BOWL**, Elte.

*“Because this is an open space, I didn’t want the kitchen to look too ‘kitcheny.’ It had to feel special.”*

## Keep It Simple

“The condo’s building process offered a restricted choice of cabinet profiles so I went with the simplest one: a flat white panel front,” says Emily. “I then let the tiles, hardware and lighting, things that I could control, bring the kitchen to life.” She designed the range hood to reflect the cabinetry’s silhouette and chose wood stools to further the warm tonal palette of the oak floors. She also added the transom window to let light into the otherwise window-less bedroom behind.

## Curate Style

“The dining room has a modern Saarinen-style table paired with elegant Gubi chairs, an eclectic light fixture and a gilded mirror. Overall, they feel good together and look ‘collected’ rather than bought,” says Emily. The chairs’ teal velvet alludes to the kitchen’s blue hues, and the playful Italian-glass chandelier is a reminder to source resourcefully: it had been in storage for years in the garage of Vicki’s hair stylist.

**MIRROR, TABLE, RH.** Gubi **CHAIRS,** Hollace Cluny. **BOWL,** Elte Mrkt. Window **FABRIC,** Threadcount.



*“There are so many ways to approach design. I don’t tend to decorate with any set rules.”*





## Go Beyond Neutral

Emily and Vicki both wanted neutral sofas for the living room but decided to push the envelope a bit. “Cream, beige and grey felt too safe and not interesting enough,” says Emily, “so we landed on blush which I think is a beautiful neutral. We then pulled in colours and patterns in an array of pinks, blues and wheats. It’s very soothing without being boring.” The painting is from renowned Winnipeg artist Michael J. Kuczer.

## Make a Statement

The fireplace facade, surprisingly, remained plain old white for a long time. “We debated a lot about what to do with it, as it was screaming for something unexpected,” says the designer. “We landed on this gorgeous Martha Sturdy sculpture and painted the bump-out dark teal green to let the piece really pop.” The owners’ vintage Martha Sturdy lamps (on console table, rear wall) flesh out the artistic effect.

**FIREPLACE PAINT**, Salamander 2050-10, Benjamin Moore. **ART** by Michael J. Kuczer, Snob. **SOFAS**, Lee Industries. **SOFA FABRIC**, Lillian August Collection from Hickory White, Elte. **CUSHIONS**, Memo Showroom. Custom **COFFEE TABLE**, Emily Griffin Design. Coffee table **FABRICATOR**, Apa Furniture. **RUG**, Elte Mrkt. Sophie Cook **VASES** (on console table), Hollace Cluny. **CANDLESTICKS**, Mary Ratcliffe Studio. Drapery **FABRIC**, Threadcount.





*“I love transitional spaces, and design them as carefully as I design principal rooms.”*

## Break the Mould

“The den is a slight departure from the rest of the condo’s palette. I went moodier with rust accents and copper-toned grasscloth so it feels cozy and warm – almost like a winter room,” says Emily. The sofa converts to a pull-out for overnight guests and the sconces act as reading lights. To amp up the natural light in this windowless room, Emily expanded the entryway and added antique doors that close for privacy. “An ottoman, versus a coffee table, lets you put your feet up comfortably, and there are lots of pillows for cocooning and small drinks tables that can be moved easily.”

Provincial Shangrila **GRASSCLOTH**, Primetime Paint & Paper. **SOFA BED**, Montauk Sofa. **CUSHIONS**, Memo Fabrics. Dark wood **SIDE TABLE**, **PENDANT LIGHT**, Snob. Custom **OTTOMAN**, Emily Griffin Design. **OTTOMAN UPHOLSTERY**, John and Chris Interiors. ED Ellen Degeneres **SCONCES**, Shades of Light. **PHOTOGRAPH**, by Jesse Louttit, through artist. Photograph **FRAMING**, Dimensions Gallery. Vintage **DOORS**, The Door Store.

## Be Open to Change

Sometimes the best vignettes, like this one outside the primary bedroom, happen unexpectedly. “These were Vicki’s old stools – think pedestrian beige with nail-head details – that I painted and re-upholstered for use as extra seating around the condo. But when we hung the art here, the stools just looked so good beneath it that we ended up keeping them there.”

**STOOL LEG PAINT**, Gentleman’s Gray 2062-20, Benjamin Moore. Stool **FABRIC**, Memo Showroom. Stool **UPHOLSTERY**, EuroCraft Restoration. Michael J. Kuczer **ARTWORK**, Snob. **ANTIQUE DOOR**, The Door Store.



*“I found the wallpaper and then the headboard fabric, and thought, this will be really cool.”*

## Go for It!

“When I first showed Vicki the combination of the bedroom wallpaper with the headboard fabric, she wondered how in heaven the two would work together, but she trusted me. Once we committed to that pattern play, we couldn’t wimp out on the rest of the choices.” The lamps pop against the grasscloth, and the duvet cover at the end of the bed continues the boldness. “It pushes the room that little bit more forward and makes it sing.”

Seema Krish Juhu Indigo grasscloth **WALLPAPER**, Y & Co. **BEDSIDE TABLE**, Barbara Barry. **TABLE LAMP**, Decorum Decorative Finds. **HEADBOARD FABRIC**, Christopher Farr, Kravet. Wave print **BEDDING**, Imli Lifestyle. **RUG**, Elte.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK







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# CALM, COOL & COLLECTED



When one designer's best-laid reno plans met a roadblock, she just went with the flow.

TEXT ANNE EASTBOURNE | PHOTOGRAPHY PATRICK BILLER

**OPPOSITE** While the architecture is undeniably modern, designer Jennifer Garnett's poetic mix of tones and textures in art and accessories is a feast for the eyes. The living room's spacious grey sectional and ethereal acrylic side table with wood-grain detailing are mod contrasts to the chunky live-edge tree-stump coffee table. A silky hide rug balances the two-toned flat-weave it sits on. Jennifer's tips for curating eclectic pieces? "When pairing different styles, it's important to get the scale right, and that the materials and palette are complementary," she says.

**DESIGN**, Jenn Garnett Design. **ARCHITECTURE**, Jennifer Scholes Architect. **BUILDER**, Arthur Ross. **GREY SECTIONAL**, Article. Gus\*Modern **CLEAR TABLE**, Stylegarage. **FRINGED STOOL**, Spruce. Flat-weave **RUG**, IKEA. **BLACK SCONCE**, HomeSense. **PORTRAIT PAINTING**, Guff. **BLACKBIRD ART**, Christine Flynn Art. **WHITE VASE**, West Elm. **WOOD CANDLESTICKS**, Bettencourt Manor.

**RIGHT** In a twist on convention, the living room was located at the back of the house to capitalize on views of the newly landscaped backyard and create a breathtaking sightline from the front door right back to this wood-burning Stûv fireplace. A streamlined arrangement of mid-century modern lounge chairs and a light-as-air ottoman balances the exuberant gallery wall opposite. The sliding door on the right accesses the backyard. White oak flooring installed throughout the house was finished on site with Rubio oil.

**CHAIRS**, West Elm. **STOOL**, Inabstracto. **MIRROR**, Anthropologie. **CEILING FIXTURE**, Shelter. Vintage **CRANES**, Casa Alma. **WALL PAINT**, Simply White OC-117, Benjamin Moore.



D

esigner Jennifer Garnett's statement-making Toronto home rose from the ashes – literally. While sections of the house were being demolished (the place was bought specifically for its reno potential), someone set it ablaze in the night and it had to be torn down. Unlike the flamboyant phoenix, however, Jennifer's new 3,000-square-foot house – shared with husband Joe Strolz and teenage daughter Zara – has the more demure good looks of a graceful swan.

The fire sent Jennifer and the project's architect, Jennifer Scholes, back to the drawing board. "Sometimes, you need to pivot!" the designer recalls. The rejigged design focused on creating an integrated network of contemporary spaces flooded with natural light and linked to the outdoors via huge windows. Space for a fourth bedroom was sacrificed to make room for clutter-busting built-ins and a two-storey light shaft with skylight. →

The aesthetic is calm and clean-lined. “Using similar materials throughout, but in different ways, creates a cohesive flow,” Jennifer says. “Each room still has its own wow moment, but as a whole, the home reads as one.” Natural materials like white oak and marble add warmth to the architecture. But what really makes this home enchanting is Jennifer’s skill at layering decorative elements and colours to curate a cutting-edge mix that’s both fresh and friendly.

A fair bit of that charm comes by way of treasures she’s thrifted and collected over the years. “Layering vintage art, antique rugs, plants and personal objects gives it that extra bit of personality,” Jennifer says. Her recipe? It’s instinct, she admits. “But, generally, if I’m using multiple colours in one room, I like to see each colour in at least two to three places. It can be obvious or very subtle, but there should be a way for your eye to connect it.” There’s also the matter of knowing when to scale the palette up or back. “Because our public rooms are open-concept, I used neutral colours to keep the eye moving throughout the space,” she says. Upstairs, the bedrooms are splashed in favourite hues.

Feedback from friends has reiterated that Jennifer truly got the mix right. “Back when we could have people over, the most common thing guests would say was, ‘It’s modern, but so warm.’ That’s the biggest compliment to me. It means we’ve created a space that’s not just pretty, but feels like home.” This swan, it seems, has a bit of fire in it, after all.



A diverse collection of art makes a statement in the bright white living room. "At first, we had a single large art piece here. It was quite minimal and it never felt balanced to me. So we brought this art wall from our place in Prince Edward County, and now I love it," Jennifer says. "Art plays a big role in this house. Depending on the scale of the art and the room, it has the ability to pull a space in and make it more intimate, or open it up. In open-concept spaces like these, I use it to create rooms within a room."

**THROW PILLOWS**, CB2 and West Elm. Hounds-tooth-style **THROW**, Cabane. **GOLD SIDE TABLE**, West Elm. **CROSS ART**, Christine Flynn Art.

Tucking the dining table and ample banquette seating into a corner is a space-efficient move that also gives the dining area an innate coziness. "We wanted a casual dining area that we'd actually use on a regular basis, and an inviting space that encourages use outside of dining, too," Jennifer explains. The leggy, open base of the banquette keeps the look light and airy, making the room feel larger.

**TABLE**, IKEA. **CHAIRS**, Craft Home Decor. **BUILT-IN** and **BANQUETTE CONSTRUCTION**, Ma Belle Kitchens. **ART**, Bradley Wood. **CHANDELIER**, Lambert & Fils. Vintage **CANDELABRA**, Casa Alma.



**BELOW** Acknowledging that the kitchen is the hub of family life, Jennifer situated it in the middle of the main floor, then designed it to feel warm, integrated and “not super kitcheny – more like furniture.” To that end, all appliances except the wall ovens are panelled, the toaster and coffee maker are tucked into an appliance garage, and a downdraft fan drops into the island when not in use. Even the counter stools slide under the island to improve flow.

Kitchen **DESIGN**, Jennifer Garnett and Jennifer Scholes. **CABINET** and **ISLAND CONSTRUCTION**, Ma Belle Kitchens. **MARBLE**, Diamante Granite & Marble. Black **PENDANT**, Lambert & Fils. **STOOLS**, Blu Dot. **BOWL** on island, West Elm. **OVENS**, Thermador. **CUTTING BOARD**, HomeSense. **BASKET** with oranges, Ferm Living.

**RIGHT** Generous swaths of white oak give the quiet architecture warmth. The interplay of white and wood cabinets was carefully considered. “I wanted to use wood to keep it from feeling sterile, but because we used it extensively in other places on the main floor, it needed to be restrained,” Jennifer says. “Combining it with white cabinets also kept the budget in check.” The island is topped with the Calacatta marble used for the backsplash, but the counter around the sink is Caesarstone for durability.

**COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH**, Diamante Granite & Marble. **FAUCET**, Blanco.



**RIGHT** The verdant feature wall was a late addition in the primary bedroom. Jennifer started with the walls painted a pale silvery green, but the room felt “void,” she says. “It needed more drama, so I tried the darker shade and that gave it a cozier feel, provided a contrasting backdrop for the headboard and made the sconces come to life. I have an affinity for green. It feels the same as when you bring a plant into a room. It has that same calming nature.”

**WALL PAINT**, Essex Green HC-188, Benjamin Moore. **BED, BEDSIDE TABLE**, West Elm. **BEDDING**, CB2 and IKEA. **THROW** with tassels, Rug & Weave. **FLORAL PILLOW**, HomeSense. **SCONCE**, RH. **WINDOWSEAT**, Ma Belle Kitchens.



**LEFT** Throughout the house, Jennifer brought in darker wood furniture to contrast the white oak floors and millwork. “I love the uncluttered shapes of mid-century design and the deep wood tones of many of the furniture pieces of that era,” she says. Jennifer is also a fan of Moroccan rugs in a bedroom. “They’re so soft. I wanted this bedroom to be both uncluttered and cozy.”

**CHAIR**, Guff. **SHEEPSKIN**, Article. **RUG, ORANGE PILLOW**, West Elm. **SIDE TABLE**, HomeSense. **RUG, PLANTER**, West Elm. **PLANT**, Greenwood Nurseries. **ART**, Christine Flynn Art. **WICKER LAMP, CREDENZA**, Bettencourt Manor.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT** In Zara’s bathroom, black-toned hardware and lighting are kid-friendly alternatives to the brass in mom and dad’s space. “I don’t usually buy art from HomeSense, but this one caught my eye,” Jennifer says of the art in the hallway. “Zara is really into horses, and I wanted her to have something she loved. Plus, the scale is perfect for the space.” Glass railings on the stairs allow light to flow more easily down to the first floor from the skylight.

Horse **ART**, HomeSense. **VANITY**, Roman Bath. **FLOOR TILE**, Ceragres. **WALL TILE**, Daltile. **MIRROR**, Ginger’s. **SCONCE**, Amazon.





**LEFT & BELOW** In the primary ensuite, herringbone-patterned wall tiles bring texture to the monochromatic palette. “To add a little more drama, we tiled all the walls in this bathroom,” Jennifer says. The room boasts a spacious glassed-in shower, freestanding soaker tub and a pair of vanities. “Two vanities is a nice way for us to keep our mess to ourselves!” Jennifer says. For consistency and flow, she repeated some design elements – subway-style wall tile, hexagonal floor tile and dark-wood vanities – in all bathrooms except the powder room.

**TUB**, Victoria & Albert. **TAPS, FAUCET**, Aquabraxx. **VANITY**, Modern Bath. **KNOBS** on vanity, Amazon. **WALL TILE**, Daltile. **FLOOR TILE**, Ceragres. **SHOWER FLOOR TILE**, Antica Tile & Stone. **SHOWER GLASS**, Vast Interiors Custom Glass and Mirror. **STOOL**, Love the Design. **TOWEL** on stool, Tonic Living. **VASE** on stool, Gifted. **LIGHT FIXTURE**, West Elm. **PLANT, PLANTER, MOSS. TOWEL TABLE, CB2. HAND TOWEL**, Tonic Living.





**ABOVE** The family's third bedroom acts as guest room and home office, as well as a blank canvas for another gallery wall. "Art - a mix of modern and vintage - plays a major part in my styling phase," Jennifer says, explaining her design process. "I gather pieces that I think will work well together, making sure there's a balance of wood, metal and painted finishes for the frames, as well as both vertical and horizontal pieces. I rearrange them on the floor until I find a layout I like, take a photograph for reference, and then recreate it on the wall."

**DAYBED, BASKET, IKEA. RUG, TABLE, HomeSense. PLANT, Moss. PENDANT LIGHT, Morba. THROW, Gifted. ART, Christine Flynn Art, Vintage Fine Objects, Make Moves Vintage, and MacCool's Re-Use.**

**BELOW** Built-ins are an important key to Jennifer's deft styling. "They maximize a feeling of calm," she explains. "Tons of storage on all three floors keeps the space clutter-free and means that only the things we want to be on display are on display." In the basement family room, those include the family's guitar, dried greenery and figurative artworks. A sliding glass door leading to the backyard fills the basement with natural light. A projection screen descends from the ceiling here for movie viewing.

**BUILT-INS, Ma Belle Kitchens. STOOL, HomeSense. ARTWORK, Christine Flynn Art, Casa Alma, and Old Faithful.**

**OPPOSITE** A romantic etched landscape mural establishes a traditional mood in the family room, which Jennifer quickly dispelled with a Moroccan-style rug splashed in toasty reds and oranges. "The area needed some colour, so we went big on the rug!" she says. The modular sofa seats everyone comfortably on movie nights — and was also a durable base for Zara's forts and games when she was younger. "Zara and her friends could rough around down here without concern of anything breaking. Now, the whole family uses this space, and I've brought in more styling elements."

**SECTIONAL, Stylegarage. WALLPAPER MURAL, Anthropologie. OTTOMANS, DEER ARTWORK, HomeSense. RUG, Keep. BLACK CHAIR, Love the Design. THROW PILLOWS, CB2 and H&M Home.**





**BELOW** The eye-catching full-height backsplash in the main-floor powder room was a win-win: the lookalike material has the luxe feel of marble, but the price tag of ceramic tile. A dark-stained vanity anchors the airy space, and brass hardware and lighting – plus a sunny photo of Palm Springs – inject of-the-moment style.

**VANITY**, Ma Belle Kitchens. **Caesarstone COUNTERTOP**, Diamante Granite & Marble. **BACKSPLASH TILE**, Ciot. **MIRROR**, Anthropologie. **TAPS, FAUCETS**, Kohler. **SINK**, Victoria & Albert. **PENDANT LIGHT**, Lambert & Fils. **VASE**, West Elm.



**ABOVE** Bringing in lots of natural light was a central design goal. Huge windows were a start. “We also added open-to-below areas to create a central light shaft that spans the height of two floors and is topped with an oversized skylight,” says Jennifer. In the kitchen, the staircase wraps around cabinetry that houses fridge and freezer columns, and the pantry. “The cabinetry serves to bridge both floors and create a visually pleasing monolithic volume,” she adds. Two green armchairs beside the stairs invite friends to chat with the chefs and “make the whole area more conversational.”

Kitchen **DESIGN**, Jennifer Garnett and Jennifer Scholes. **CABINET CONSTRUCTION**, Ma Belle Kitchens. **FLOORING**, Elite Flooring. **RUG**, The Door Store. Green **CHAIR**, Guff.

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The original features of this heritage home shine like stars when paired with savvy storage and thoughtful furnishings.

**TEXT** BETHANY LYTTLE

**PHOTOGRAPHY** TRACEY AYTON

# CHARACTER STUDY

**B**uilt in the early 1900s, this West Vancouver gem is a character-home lover's dream. It's one of those rare dwellings that still has its original exposed brick walls, wood floors and leaded windows, some with stained glass. "Obviously, we wanted to emphasize these heritage elements, not relegate them to the background," says designer Sarah Marie Lackey. "But we wanted the house in which these homeowners had raised their now-grown family to assume a fresher, more contemporary, uncluttered look." She also wanted to base any changes on how the homeowners live. →



**OPPOSITE & THIS PAGE** The breakfast nook looks out onto a pool and lush hedges. “I didn’t want to obstruct the view so I chose a glass chandelier. It’s transparent and it sparkles with natural light,” says Sarah. The homeowner prefers a neutral palette, so Sarah placed natural elements, such as pottery and wooden beads, atop a linen runner. They were also attached to their family table. So instead of buying new, Sarah had it refinished to give it new lustre. A coffee and tea station was appointed with light oak shelves that contrast the exposed brick walls. “It makes a cozy spot during solo morning coffee and a convivial gathering spot when the couple is entertaining.” Most of the porcelain and pottery on display had been stowed in cupboards. “I brought these wonderful pieces into the light to be enjoyed,” says Sarah.



“The wife is one of those amazing people who is a master at doing a thousand things at once, and she is an incredible host. So, I wanted the home to mirror these strengths,” says Sarah. That’s why she and the design team decided to remove portions of the kitchen wall, opening the space up to the family room. As well, they altered the home’s footprint to add a sparkling new laundry room where the garage had formerly been. “We also reconfigured the home office, which turned out to be extremely timely given the onset of the pandemic,” says Sarah. To honour the home’s age, she stayed true to traditional shapes for the mirrors and lighting. As well, she brightened every room with a continuous palette of willowy neutral tones, such as soft billowing greys and sandy naturals. “Honestly, what I love most about this house is how the brick and stained glass bring so much grace to spaces that, ultimately, were designed for everyday efficiency,” Sarah says. “In my view, what’s old in the house makes what’s new look even better. And vice versa.”

**LEFT** “The homeowner is incredibly organized, so she was a perfect candidate for glass-door cabinetry,” says Sarah. Library sconces, rather than inner-cabinet lighting, illuminate the breezy grey colour Sarah opted for here. Practicality meets grace in the bar stools, which feature removable covers. “They’re Velcro, so you just pop them off and toss them in the wash.”

“I wanted the cabinets to have a sense of history and the feeling of furniture. By lighting them from the outside with library sconces rather than from the inside with millwork lighting, I was able to achieve this.”







**ABOVE** The eight-foot long kitchen isn't huge, but by removing part of the wall and appointing the space with a mammoth island, Sarah provided awesome storage and a destination for cocktails and snacks with friends. **BELOW** Floating shelves in the kitchen invite display, and the brass articulating light fixture brings an air of history. **DESIGN**, Sarah Marie Interior Designs. **CABINETRY**, International Cabinets. **TABLE REFINISHING**, Thao's Refinishing Studio. **CHAIRS**, Bertanie, CF Interiors. Glass **CHANDELIER**, CB2. **POTTERY**, linen **RUNNER**, 122 West. **CABINETRY PAINT**, Mindful Grey SW 7016, Sherwin-Williams.





*"To make antiques really shine, place them on modern shelves or on a contemporary cocktail table."*





**OPPOSITE** The family room is open to the kitchen and breakfast nook. Its modern fireplace has clean lines that blend seamlessly with the ceiling beams. “It was tempting to have the sectional face the fireplace, but this would have made the space feel cut off and separate. So we placed it perpendicular to the island,” says Sarah. She opted for an ottoman, not a coffee table. “Ottomans tend to be about an inch lower, and believe it or not, that’s way more relaxing when you put up your feet.”

**LEFT** Sarah’s clever tip for creating tonal shelf displays? “Buy books at garage sales, then remove their dust jackets, then arrange them by hue.” The weigh-scale is an antique, dating back to the time when the house was built. The objects on the marble cocktail table and throw pillows can be changed out when the homeowner wants a refresh.

Lee **SOFA** and **ARMCHAIRS**; Fournahds **COCKTAIL TABLE**; Marcantonio **OTTOMAN**; **RUG**; CF Interiors. Round **MIRROR**, West Elm. **VASES** and **ACCESSORIES** (on mantel), 122 West. **THROW PILLOWS** (on sofa), 122 West and Crate and Barrel. Custom **THROW PILLOW** (on armchair), Fabulous Furnishings.



**BELOW & LEFT** “This was already a home office,” says Sarah. “We reduced its footprint, but compensated for this by adding banks of storage.” The desk chair is modern, but pairing it with a timeless shaded pendant and vanity stool ties in with the heritage leaded glass.

SK **CHAIR**, Little **STOOL**, West Elm.  
**PENDANT, LIGHT OVER DESK**, Visual Comforts.  
**TRANSOM WINDOW**, Kits Glass.

**OPPOSITE** “We loved the room’s stained glass window so much, we had a custom transom window made to match,” says Sarah. The transom cleverly conveys light to the adjacent laundry room.



**BELOW** The homeowner has a passion for gift-wrapping, so Sarah ensured there’s a zone for this.





“Windows don’t have to face the outdoors. Transom windows in interior walls usher light from one room to the next.”





**ABOVE & BELOW** “This is the back entry where the family typically comes in. It’s super narrow, so we added hooks for coats and bags, and a console table for keys and phones,” says Sarah. The mirror is new, but traditional enough to nod to the home’s age.

**CONSOLE TABLE, VASE,** West Elm. **ROUND MIRROR,** CB2.



**ABOVE** The home’s former garage is now a swish laundry room with extra storage for staples such as batteries, light bulbs and detergent. “For someone as organized as this homeowner, a space like this is a dream come true,” says Sarah. The honeycomb shape of the backsplash tile is inspired by the shapes in the home’s leaded glass windows. **TILE,** Terra Sol Tile. **WALL LAMP,** RH.

**OPPOSITE** To refresh the powder room, floral wallpaper in modern neutrals was paired with the custom vanity. **MIRROR, SCONCES,** CB2. **WALLPAPER,** Metro Wall Coverings.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



# Making History

In Chester, N.S., a Georgian-style home celebrates the art of life lived beautifully.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY JANET KIMBER







A

lthough it appears to have been here for centuries, this four-bedroom cedar shake-and-shingle home was built in 2016. “It’s on the harbour right in the village, so we designed it with sensitivity to the surrounding vernacular architecture,” says designer Philip Mitchell. “Then we really pushed the boundaries with the interiors.” →

**OPPOSITE** Designer Philip Mitchell ensured the home blends into its setting in a historic Maritime village. Similarly, Mark Narsansky, Philip’s husband, designed the landscaping to give the impression of established gardens. Birch trees, and mounds of hydrangeas and native plants fill the sloping lot.

**DESIGNER**, Philip Mitchell Design. **BUILDER**, Luke Kaizer Construction and Renovation. **LANDSCAPE DESIGN**, Mark Narsansky.

**THIS PAGE** Flooded with natural light, the entry hall and stairway double as an art exhibit where three-dimensional objects, such as a trio of mid-century vases, mingle with flat canvases. The console table in blue-grey nods to the home’s harbour views. “In any new project, we take our cue from the geographical location,” says Philip. The antique alabaster pendant imparts a sense of history.

Nendo **CONSOLE TABLE**, Avenue Road. **VASES**, 1st Dibbs. **CEILING PENDANT**, 507 Antiques. **ARTWORK** Large blue abstract (halfway up stairs), by Brian Coleman, Anne Irwin Fine Art; large concentric circles in gold frame, by Heidi Leverty, Bau-Xi Gallery; blue photograph (above console), by Max Wright, Renann Isaacs Contemporary Art.



Among its features are a light fixture that suggests a lily pad, an Italian mid-century chair fashioned from wire and wood, and an oxidized metal coffee table that looks like it belongs in a sculpture garden. The home's unifying element, however, is its art. "The homeowners are longtime collectors, so it was really important to me to curate and create a cohesive presentation for their pieces." With this in mind, Philip reinterpreted conventional spaces, such as staircase landings and bedroom dressers, as gallery spaces. Corners of rooms became opportunities to display sculpture. And items, such as vases that one might typically set on a table, were elevated to shelves and presented as artifacts for viewing. The outcome is a show-stopping dwelling that can truly be described as both a gallery and an escape.



**OPPOSITE** An expressive lily-pad ceiling fixture catapults the living room out of tradition and into artistic expression, as do the metal coffee table and Italian mid-century wire chair that double as sculpture. Philip took advantage of the room's generous footprint. "Rather than orient the furnishings around the fireplace, we created two separate seating areas – one with a sectional and one with a sofa," he says. "This makes it easy to host large numbers of guests."

Beacon Hill Road **SECTIONAL**, Avenue Road. Lee Jofa **SECTIONAL FABRIC**, Luvern **RUG**, Kravet. Monolithic **SIDE TABLE**, Dennis Miller. Vintage **ARM CHAIR**, 507 Antiques. Smith-berg **ROUND COFFEE TABLE**, Holly Hunt. Cantante **WALL SCNCES**, Avenue Road. Mies van der Rohe **OTTOMAN/DAYBED**, Of Things Past. Branching Disc **CEILING FIXTURE**, Hol-lace Cluney. **TOSS CUSHIONS** (on sofa), Kravet, and Samuel and Sons. Adela **LARGE GLASS LAMP**, Circa Lighting.

**ABOVE** In the den, two channel-tufted chaises invite the homeowners to settle in for reading or to watch a movie. As they do, a shared drum table is within reach for drinks. Above it hovers a triple-circle pendant light. "Typically, this would hang in the centre of a room, but placed here it surprises the eye and brings a wonderful ambiance," says Philip. And for more practical purposes, each chaise was assigned an adjustable metal side table with built-in reading light. The bust belongs to the homeowner's family. Although not particularly old, it assumes a classical look when singled out for presentation on a pedestal.

Custom **CHAISES**, Philip Mitchell Design. **CHAISE FABRIC**, Lee Jofa, Kravet. Light Ring **CEILING PENDANT**, Avenue Road. Travers **SCONCE**, The Urban Electric Co. Peter Sandback **DRUM TABLE**, Hudson **FLOOR LAMP**, Dennis Miller. **DRAPES**, Brunswick & Fils; Jonathan Adler **CHEVRON RUG**; Kravet. **ART** (above fireplace), by Andrew Plum.





“YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT SUCH DISPARATE OBJECTS TO WORK TOGETHER, BUT THEY DO BECAUSE THEIR COLOURS AND SHAPES RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER.”



**OPPOSITE** Mid-century cane chairs and a custom table are illuminated by a textural chandelier. “It reminds me of a lobster trap dipped in white,” says Philip. Plush armchairs in chenille and embroidered fabrics pair with the lustrous wall art above a walnut sideboard. The simpler lines of a mid-century lamp bring balance.

**ABOVE** Floor sculpture in half-donut shapes, an Art Deco pedestal and framed landscapes live in harmony.

**RIGHT** Designer Philip Mitchell, who also lives in Chester, approaches all projects with geographical location in mind.

**TABLE**, Dennis Miller. **Lorae ARMCHAIR**, Bright Chair. Vintage **DINING CHAIRS**, 1st Dibbs. Robert Marinelli **BUFFET**, Profiles. Ironies **CHANDELIER**, South Hill Home. **ARMCHAIR FABRIC**, Lee Jofa chenille and Lee Jofa Balboa, Kravet. Lotte & Gunnar Bostlund **TABLE LAMP**, 1st Dibbs. **VASES**, Vintage Fine Objects. **ART**, Vlad Grospic (large abstract landscape over buffet), Oeno Gallery; Brendan George Ko (text with white matte; left of doorway, top) Gallery Page & Strange.



“For a wow factor, we hung a multitude of blown-glass ceiling fixtures. There are about 11 of them,” says Philip. The rose-gold counter stools were a splurge. Bronze finishes, including hardware, are subtle, as are the soapstone backsplash and waterfall island.

**CABINETRY**, Bellini Custom Cabinetry. **Katie Conical Pendant CEILING FIXTURES**, Circa Lighting. **FLUSH-MOUNTS**, RH. **Park Place COUNTER STOOLS**, Avenue Road. **RANGE**, Wolf. **BACKSPLASH**, CIOT. **Etal Carmona WOOD VASE**, Avenue Road.



**ABOVE** The cabinetry is simple and, though modern, features beadboard doors. “The slats tie in with the shiplap walls elsewhere in the home,” says Philip. The colour of the cabinets isn’t strictly historical, but its sophisticated quietude blends seamlessly with the home’s traditional architecture, including the coffered ceilings. The live-edge Cumaru wood vase features a split that’s stitched together with hemp.

“HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE HOME, WINDOW COVERINGS ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM IN ORDER TO PRIVILEGE THE HARBOUR VIEWS.”



Two guest suites (this page and opposite) offer plenty of accommodation for friends and family. The off-white suite pairs a leather headboard with a leather bench. Texture is the focus in this room, but blown-glass lamps hint at colour. The charming chest of drawers with carved rosette detail is topped with a row of hair picks that doubles as sculpture. Stripes in the roman shades and patterns in the shams enliven the space.

Flannel Northport **HEADBOARD**, Kravet. Tulu **TWIN THROW PILLOWS**, Zak + Fox. **BRAIDED SHAM TRIM**, Samuel and Sons. **CEILING FAN**, Wilcorp Ceiling Fans. Nias **ROMAN SHADE**, Kravet. **DRESSER**, Bunny Williams Home. Spanish Glass **LAMPS**, RomEla. **BENCH**, KWH Furniture. **BED LINENS**, Deborah Sharpe Fine Linens. **JUTE RUG**, Dash & Albert. Leather **ARMCHAIR**, Cocoon. Copper Armour **ROUND END TABLE**, Studio A Home. **ART** (above dresser), Hanna Ruminski, Art Interiors.





The second guest suite features striated wall coverings and a luxurious channelled headboard covered in a graphic print. Black and white bedding is warmed by the Art Deco wood side table and gold accents in the frame and lamp.

Thibaut WALLCOVERING, Lee Jofa Groundsworks Ojai STRIPED SHAMS, Kravet. BED LINENS, Deborah Sharpe Fine Linens. END TABLE, 1st Dibbs. Swing LAMP, Circa Lighting. Diamond RUG, Dash & Albert.





**ABOVE** Lucky visiting grandkids get to snuggle into this attic room after dark. The twin iron beds are cooled by a vintage-style ceiling fan on warm summer nights. Philip used the beds as a jumping-off spot for a series of visual repeats, including matching reading lamps, throws and bedding. Even the stripes in the indoor/outdoor rug are a type of repeat. The Danish chest-table and large lamp between the beds provide a focal point and a place for sleepy kids to set bedtime story books and small toys.

Laredo **BED FRAMES**, The American Iron Bed Company. Wilcorp **CEILING FAN**, Kendall Lighting. Lee Jofa Ground Works **ROMAN SHADE**, Kravet. **END TABLES**, Philip Mitchell Design. Westbury **TASK LAMPS**, Circa Lighting. Bennington **THROWS**, One Kings Lane. Danish **CHEST/TABLE**, Patina Antiques Inc. Samson striped **RUG**, Dash & Albert. Gaios large **LAMP**, Circa Lighting.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

The classic bathroom features white shiplap walls. “To give it some edge, we did black frames for the windows and used a black tub,” says Philip. The basket and round mirror soften the space.

**TUB**, Gingers. **MEDICINE CABINET** (over sink), RH. Maxine **WALL SCONCE**, Urban Electric. Vintage Murano **CEILING PENDANT**, Decorum. **BASKET**, Gingers. Antique **MIRROR** (on wall), Forma Framing.



# Back to Baking

Cooler weather means it's time to get back to home baking. Pastry chefs and restaurateurs Bettina Schormann and Erin Schiestel share recipes for irresistible indulgences from their book, *Earth to Table Bakes*.

RECIPES BETTINA SCHORMANN, ERIN SCHIESTEL | PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI



**WHITE CHOCOLATE  
MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES**

## WHITE CHOCOLATE MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES

MAKES 18 TO 20 COOKIES

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup macadamia nuts
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup lightly packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped good-quality white chocolate or white chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 300°F (150°C). Place the macadamia nuts on an unlined baking sheet and bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until toasted and brown. Let cool to room temperature. Increase the oven temperature to 360°F (185°C).

In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar on medium speed. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and add the egg. Mix until combined. Add the salt, baking powder, baking soda and vanilla. Scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed, mix until fluffy and smooth, about 5 minutes. Add the flour, white chocolate and toasted macadamia nuts. Mix on low speed for about 1 minute.

Remove the bowl from the stand and use a spatula to gently fold the batter to make sure the ingredients are well combined without knocking the air out of the dough. Some ingredients may get lost at the bottom of the bowl, so be sure to scrape them up. Line the same baking sheet you used to toast the macadamia nuts with parchment paper.

Roll the cookie dough into 1-inch balls, the equivalent of about 2 tablespoons of dough. Arrange on the prepared baking sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, turning the baking sheet after 10 minutes, until the cookies are golden brown. Let cool to room temperature. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 5 days.

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**LEMON  
ZINGERS**  
(PAGE 94)

## ULTIMATE BANANA BREAD

MAKES ONE 9x5-INCH LOAF

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- ½ cup lightly packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- ½ cup full-fat sour cream
- 2 overripe bananas
- 1 ripe banana

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease and flour a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan.

In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, mix the egg, butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and vanilla on medium speed for 5 minutes, until light and fluffy. Add the sour cream and mix for 30 seconds. Add the flour mixture to the butter and sugar mixture. Mix on low speed until just combined. Add the overripe bananas and mix for 15 seconds.

Remove the bowl from the stand and finish mixing with a spatula or wooden spoon, stirring and scraping the sides and bottom of the bowl until all ingredients are well combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared loaf pan. Bake for 30 minutes.

Remove the loaf pan from the oven. Cut the ripe banana in half lengthwise, following the curve of the banana. Place the banana halves on top of the loaf, cut side up. If you place the banana on the loaf any earlier, it will sink to the bottom. Return the loaf to the oven and bake for an additional 20 to 30 minutes, or until a wooden skewer inserted in the centre of the loaf comes out clean. Place the loaf pan on a wire rack and let cool in the pan for about 10 minutes. Turn the loaf out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 4 days.

## LEMON ZINGERS

MAKES 16

### Graham Crust

- ½ cups store-bought graham cracker crumbs
- 6 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar

### Lemon Filling

- 2 cans (14 ounces/414 ml each) sweetened condensed milk
- 10 large egg yolks

- 4 tbsp lemon zest
- 1 cup + 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice

### Candied Lemon Slices

- 1 large lemon
- 1¼ cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1 cup water

Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Grease an 8-inch square baking dish and line it with parchment paper, leaving a 1-inch overhang on all sides.

**Graham Crust** Place the graham cracker crumbs, butter and sugar in a small bowl. Stir to combine. Firmly press crumb mixture into the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Bake for 7 minutes. Remove from the oven; let cool. Reduce the oven temperature to 350°F (180°C).

**Lemon Filling** In a medium bowl, whisk the condensed milk, egg yolks, lemon zest and lemon juice until smooth. Pour over the crust. Bake for 25 minutes until the filling only jiggles slightly when the baking dish is touched. Let cool to room temperature, then transfer to the fridge to chill for at least 2 hours. Reduce the oven temperature to 200°F (100°C).

**Candied Lemon Slices** Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Using a mandoline or sharp knife, cut the lemon into 8 paper-thin slices. Discard the seeds and the rind ends of the lemon. In a medium saucepan, bring 1 cup of the sugar and the water to a rolling boil. Remove from the heat. Add the lemon slices and stir until softened, about 1 minute. Drain. Lay the poached lemon slices on the prepared



ULTIMATE  
BANANA BREAD

baking sheet and sprinkle generously with the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of sugar. Bake until slightly crispy, about 45 minutes. Let cool completely, then cut each slice in half. Use the parchment paper overhang to lift the zingers out of the baking dish. Place them on a clean cutting board and pull the parchment paper away from the bars. Run a knife under hot water for about 30 seconds to heat it up. Dry the knife with a clean kitchen towel. While the knife is still hot, cut the lemon zingers into 16 bars, cleaning the knife after each cut. This will help create very clean, crisp cuts. Top each bar with a candied lemon slice. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week.

## PLUM AND CARDAMOM COFFEE CAKE

MAKES ONE 8-INCH SQUARE CAKE

- 8 whole medium ripe plums
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cups full-fat sour cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter, melted
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup whole (3.25%) milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

### Plum Glaze

- 1 cup icing sugar
- Juice reserved from slicing plums
- 2 tbsp whole (3.25%) milk



Find more tempting recipes in *Earth to Table Bakes* by Bettina Schormann and Erin Schiestel, Penguin Canada, \$35.



## PLUM AND CARDAMOM COFFEE CAKE

Cut the plums into  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch slices over a small bowl, collecting the juice. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease an 8-inch square cake pan and line the bottom with parchment paper. In a large bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, cardamom, baking soda, baking powder and salt. In a medium bowl, whisk the sour cream, butter, milk, egg and vanilla. Add the butter mixture to the flour mixture. Stir until just combined. Using a silicone spatula, fold in three-quarters of the sliced plums, being careful not to overmix. Transfer the batter to the prepared cake pan. Scatter the

remaining plum slices on top, making sure to reserve the juice for the Plum Glaze. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until golden brown and a cake tester inserted in the middle comes out clean. Let cool slightly, about 10 minutes. Run a thin knife around the edge of the pan and turn the cake out onto a plate.

**Plum Glaze** In a small bowl, whisk the icing sugar with the reserved plum juice. Add the milk and whisk until smooth. Drizzle over the cake before serving. Serve warm. Store any leftovers in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days.

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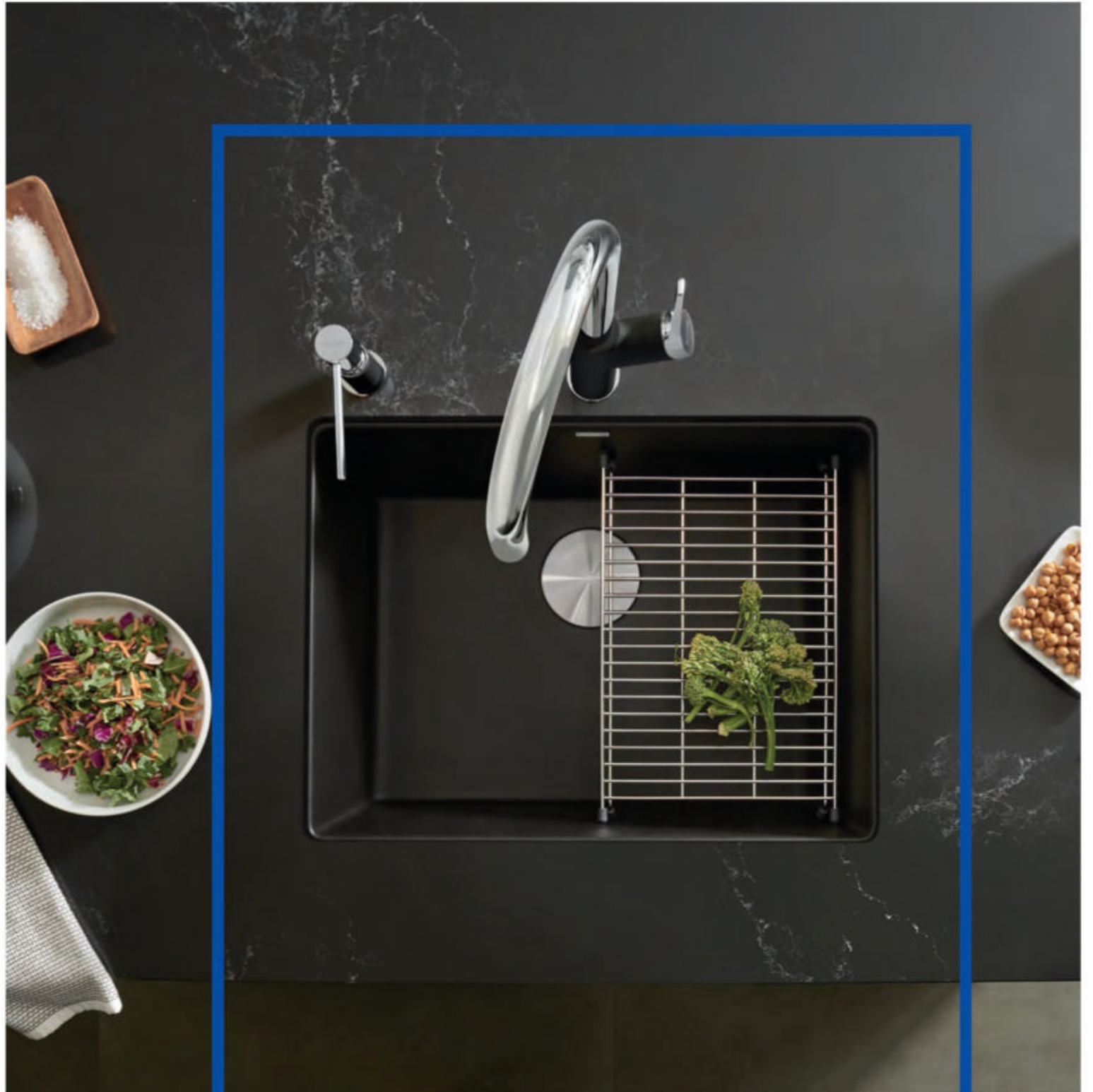


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## The Heart of the Home

Kitchens are one of the most exciting home renovation projects to undertake. But they can also be intimidating. Not only are there so many material choices to make, but once complete, the kitchen layout has to be perfect. After all, it's not like you can just move the fridge if you don't like how the room turns out. This isn't the living room and the fridge isn't a sofa! Plus, we all know kitchen renovations are pricey. That's why, in my opinion, it's the one room (along with bathrooms) where a pro designer is essential.

But that doesn't mean you aren't the most knowledgeable person about what you need. A designer can't wave a magic wand and create your dream kitchen if you don't know what you love. So, step one is to get inspired, and that's where we come in. The designer kitchens in this special issue are, quite frankly, some of the smartest, most stunning kitchens I've seen. They are as distinctive as their owners, with storage ideas you'll want to steal. And the expert mix of finishes is just gorgeous. Most important, they are welcoming and warm; exactly what we want the heart of the home to be. I guarantee you'll find the inspiration you need to get started – I know I'm clipping more than a few ideas for my own files. Enjoy!

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**Two Fold Interiors**  
twofoldinteriors.com

## V

**Vintage View Wine Storage**  
vintageview.com

**Virginia Johnson Art Studio**  
virginiajohnson.com

## W

**Wheeler's Studio**  
wheelersstudio.com



# What's New in KITCHENS?

The latest looks and hottest products for the heart of the home.



## TROPICAL TENERIFE

Riobel's Tenerife Collection takes its inspiration from the majestic Canary Island palm tree. The kitchen faucet's tall neck suggests the tree's towering form, and the crosshatch detailing on the spout mimics the tree's distinctive bark.

Available in five finishes, this elegant faucet will bring a tropical touch to both transitional style and modern kitchens.

Riobel Tenerife Pull-Down Bar and Food Prep Kitchen Faucet with C-Spout in Antique Gold (TE55D1LMAG), \$1,570, [houseofrohl.ca](http://houseofrohl.ca).



## SANDS OF TIME

Adamina from Caesarstone's Whitelight Collection features a mix of subtle warm sandy colours in a quartz surface that's neutral but doesn't fade into the background. The gorgeous mottled tones will blend beautifully with cabinetry, paint and tiles in similarly soft colours, while the touch of grey in the surface will come to the forefront beside stainless steel or polished concrete. 5222 Adamina, [caesarstone.ca](http://caesarstone.ca).

# ECONOMY + CLASS

Dreaming of a classy custom kitchen but your budget is strictly big-box? Maybe you really can have it all. Edmonton-based Kitch is clever – they design and build custom door and drawer fronts that fit IKEA cabinets. Here’s how it works: you design the layout and buy the Sektion base boxes from IKEA, then work with Kitch to design custom doors and drawer fronts – choose from six styles, four finishes and tons of colours. They ship across Canada, too. [mykitch.ca](http://mykitch.ca).



## GO OLD SCHOOL

There’s something nostalgic about the Topique Automne high chair. Its shape – with rounded cherry-wood seat and back, and steel pencil legs – is a throwback to a circa '70s classroom chair. The barstool is a lesson in straightforward and pared-down design that’s also easy to clean and sturdy – perfect for young families.

Topique Automne high chair, \$365, [alphabetmobilier.com](http://alphabetmobilier.com).

# WATER WORKS

If the kitchen is the heart of the home, then the sink is the heart of the kitchen. A

well-designed sink sets the style of the room and simplifies daily cleanup and food prep. Blanco's integrated faucets, sinks and accessories make it easy to customize this hard-working zone. Going for a modern farmhouse look? Pair a sleek

Linus faucet in black with their new apron-front Vintera sink made of Silgranit, Blanco's high-quality granite composite.

It has a smooth stone-like finish but is non-porous, so it's easy to clean with soap and water (no harsh chemicals or sealants required). Plus, it's heat, scratch and stain resistant, so it definitely puts the modern in modern farmhouse.

Linus faucet, \$695 price; Vintera sink, from \$1,795; [blanco.com](http://blanco.com).



# COFFEE TALK

Be your own barista. For the coffee connoisseur, De'Longhi's Specialista Prestigio serves up a commercial-quality coffee experience with its integrated grinder and steam wand. Preset recipes for your favourite specialty coffee, from espresso to Americano. Looks pro and the coffee is divine. \$1,700, [delonghi.com](http://delonghi.com).

# PRETTY HOT

We just love the on-trend "perracotta" hue – a mix of pink and terracotta – of Caraway Cookware. It's also ceramic-coated, a finish that's touted as a healthier, greener alternative to other non-stick coatings. Free from polytetrafluoroethylene and other heavy metals, it's also oven-safe up to 550 Fahrenheit.

Caraway Cookware set, \$575, [indigo.ca](http://indigo.ca).



# BELOW THE SURFACE

Behind every material choice in kitchen cabinetry and countertops is a maze of pros and cons. Our guide helps you navigate the options based on your budget, lifestyle and aesthetic needs.

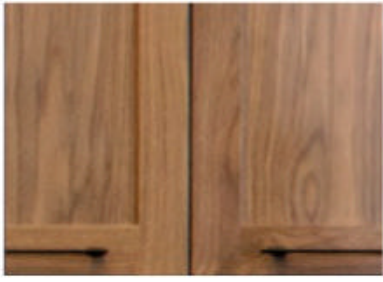


Note that there are several quality levels for each material mentioned.

The price ranges given are for information only.

# CABINETS

## WOOD



### PROS

- / Suitable for kitchens of all styles.
- / Excellent longevity; small dents and wear and tear just add patina.
- / Can be repaired easily.

### CONS

- / Changes in temperature and humidity can cause microcracks.
- / Marks easily.

### COST

\$\$\$\$

## LACQUERED MDF (medium density fibreboard)



### PROS

- / Stable regardless of temperature variations.
- / More economical than wood.
- / Available in a variety of colours.

### CONS

- / Damages more easily than wood.
- / Solid colours only (no grain).
- / Difficult to repair.

### COST

\$\$\$

## MELAMINE



### PROS

- / Wide range of colours.

### CONS

- / Melamine is less resistant to humidity, so if water infiltrates the surface, the door will swell and the edge will lift off.
- / Repairs of surface are almost impossible.
- / Fingerprints may show on matte-finished entry-level melamine; glossy finishes can reveal scratches.

### COST

\$

## THERMOPLASTIC



### PROS

- / Can create daring looks, mimicking marble, leather, fabric and more.
- / Economical.
- / Easy to maintain.

### CONS

- / Will loosen and crack when near heat sources.
- / The door interior is melamine, so its colour may be different from the exterior facade.
- / Difficult to repair.

### COST

\$\$

## POLYESTER



### PROS

- / Economical.
- / Available in several styles, from flat to moulded.
- / Heat and moisture resistant.
- / Will not discolour.

### CONS

- / Cannot repair; if the door is damaged, a new one must be ordered.
- / Doesn't tolerate repeated contact with water.

### COST

\$\$

## ACRYLIC



### PROS

- / Available in several colours.
- / Good resistance to humidity.
- / Can be used near heat sources.

### CONS

- / The glossy surface can show microscratches; cleaning must be carried out carefully to prevent damage.

### COST

\$\$\$

LEFT, FORMICA; WOOD, MDF, MELAMINE, ARMOIRES CUISINE ACTION; THERMOPLASTIC, CLUB CUISINE BCBG; POLYESTER, ARMOIRES CUISINE ACRION; ACRYLIC, MIRALIS.

# COUNTERTOPS

## BUTCHER BLOCK



### PROS

- / Excellent surface for chopping.
- / Easy to clean.
- / Lends a warm, natural look.
- / Gentle on crystal and china.

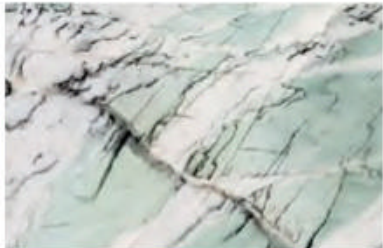
### CONS

- / Prone to water damage; will blacken if installed around the sink.
- / Scorches and scratches easily.
- / May contract in dry conditions.

### COST

\$\$

## GRANITE



### PROS

- / Lots of colour options.
- / Easy to clean.
- / Not susceptible to scratches.
- / Good surface for working with dough.
- / Heat resistant.

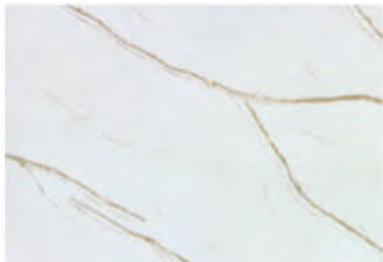
### CONS

- / Requires periodic resealing.
- / Can chip or crack; similarly, plates and glasses shatter if dropped on granite surface.

### COST

\$\$\$

## ENGINEERED QUARTZ



### PROS

- / Low maintenance (non-porous material that doesn't need sealing or resealing).
- / Boasts a rich, consistent look.
- / Stain resistant.
- / Hard and durable.

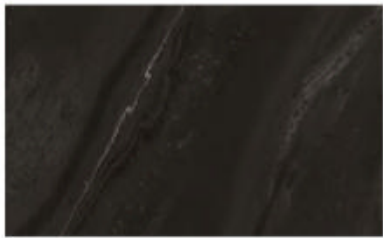
### CONS

- / Can be damaged by heat.
- / Seams may be visible.

### COST

\$\$\$

## MARBLE



### PROS

- / Widely available.
- / Lends a classic, luxurious look.
- / Doesn't conduct heat, so is good for baking and working with dough.

### CONS

- / Needs periodic resealing.
- / Chips, scratches and stains easily.
- / Etched by acidic foods like lemon, sugar, vinegar and wine.

### COST

\$\$\$

## LAMINATE



### PROS

- / Inexpensive.
- / Comes in a large variety of textures, colours and patterns.
- / Offers many edge choices.
- / Doesn't require special products for cleaning.

### CONS

- / Easy to cut and scratch.
- / Hot objects could leave burn marks.
- / Seams are visible.

### COST

\$

## STAINLESS STEEL



### PROS

- / Stain resistant.
- / Antibacterial and easy to clean.
- / Can incorporate an integrated sink.
- / Stands up to hot pots and pans.

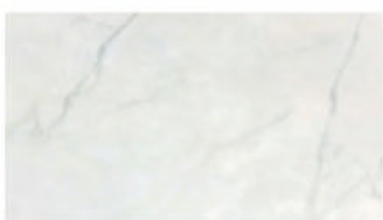
### CONS

- / Shows fingerprints and water spots.
- / Can cause noise (clink! clank!).
- / Can dent and scratch.

### COST

\$\$

## SOLID SURFACE



### PROS

- / Non-porous and maintenance-free (doesn't require sealing).
- / Scratches can be sanded out.
- / Available in a variety of patterns and colours.
- / Seamless installation.

### CONS

- / Can be damaged by hot pots and pans.

### COST

\$\$\$



Aside from its layout, nothing impacts the aesthetics and functionality of a kitchen more than cabinetry and countertop choices.

# A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING



Whether you're planning a reno or organizing a cluttered cabinet, these storage solutions bring order to the hardest working room in the house.

## 01 DOUBLE UP

Shelf risers are a brilliant way to double the storage capacity in cabinets or in a pantry cupboard with minimal investment. Who doesn't need more storage space?



# 02

## FLOATING ISLAND

Let's face it, some kitchens are too tiny for an island. Genius solution: put one on wheels! Quality casters let you push a small island against the wall when not in use, so the flow of the room isn't permanently disrupted. Choose one with open storage for pretty plates and woven baskets. This island has a smart vertical section for cutting boards. Consider having a countertop made specially for the island: choose butcher block or, for bakers, opt for marble. For a coordinated look, use the same countertop surface used elsewhere in the kitchen.

# 03

## PUT A LID ON IT

If you stack your pots, you know the pain of searching for the right lid. This DIY solution takes up less space than off-the-shelf lid holders. Remove the door and lay it flat on the floor; measure lids, then cut strong vinyl strips to length and secure them with the right size of screws and nuts appropriate for the depth and material of the door.



# 04 LOST & FOUND

Look for found space that would otherwise be wasted, such as the top of cabinets and the insides of doors. A simple but smart solution is to attach a ready-made spice rack to the inside of a pantry door. Tip: store most-used spices at the perfect height so you can easily grab what you need. Remember to choose a solid model, or have one custom made by a carpenter, so that the containers stay in place when opening and closing the door.



# 05 OUT OF SIGHT

If you have an open-plan home where the kitchen is visible from the living areas, a great trick for keeping things out of sight (and therefore out of mind) is to hide open shelving and other storage behind over-size sliding doors. This not only keep things organized and accessible, but transforms the open space from work zone to a relaxing, clutter-free area.



# 06 PREMIUM PARKING

The classic appliance garage gets a stylish update thanks to a sleek stainless-steel door. This custom garage is equipped for breakfast: roll up the door, pull out the shelf, slice up your bread on the pull-out maple shelf, and pop it in the toaster. Rise and shine!



# 07

## 3-IN-1

What's behind drawer number one? Another drawer, and another! For a sleek modern kitchen, less is more when it comes to separate components. Hiding numerous drawers or shelves within a single component reduces the visual clutter of a room. Opt for full extension drawers with automatic closing mechanisms for maximum storage and smooth opening and closing. Tip: don't store frequently used items like everyday cutlery in drawers within doors – save these spaces for speciality silverware or linens.

# 08 POP UP HELPER

We love ingenious solutions for small appliance storage! This pop-up shelf has a sturdy spring-loaded support system that slides out of its hiding spot and gently rises to counter height. Tip: install a power outlet in the cabinet for super-easy use.



# 09 SORT IT OUT

Times have changed. We need to be able to sort at the source when it comes to kitchen waste. Equip one mega-size drawer near the sink (for chopping and cleaning up ease) with several bins so that you can sort compost, recyclables and garbage in one place. Hire a good cabinetmaker or kitchen cabinet company to retrofit your existing kitchen – you won't regret this investment. Choose top-end hardware and strong, easy-to-lift containers that are big enough so you won't be emptying them frequently. Smart!

# In the Navy

Careful colour choices and function-friendly design merge for a mix that's neat and natural.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY VALERIE WILCOX

STYLING CATHERINE THERRIEN





## On View

“The kitchen is visible from the front door,” says designer Orsi Panos, “so, it needs to make a welcoming first impression.” A wall of handmade artisanal tile draws the eye inward. “Its shimmer contrasts with the monolithic black range hood, which is the kitchen’s focal point.” The lack of upper cabinetry accentuates the large window. Transparent Lucite counter stools keep the wood grain of the white oak island on show.

## ‘See-Worthy’ Navy

“I love saturated hues,” says Orsi, of the blue cabinetry. “I painted a lot of different blues on Bristol board to observe at various times

of day before choosing this one.” The colour alludes to nearby Lake Ontario. She added brass hardware because its warm tone complements the wood. Orsi opted for boxed-in cubbies instead of open shelves. “They balance the heft of the cabinetry, and have hidden outlets for small appliances.”

## Wonder Wall

A wall of storage and large drawers compensate for the lack of upper cabinetry. The end of the island has a reeded wood finish with a striated appearance that’s echoed in the washable cotton striped rug.

**M**ore blocks from Lake Ontario in Pickering, the kitchen in this 1960s home was closed off from the rest of the house and cramped. Designer Orsi Panos removed a wall and dispensed with upper cabinetry, creating an airier space that’s open to the adjacent family room and entryway. Her use of clean lines, warm textures and saturated hues makes this room a magnet for family and friends.



**DESIGN**, Orsi Panos, Orsi Panos Interiors. **CABINERY PAINT**, Hale Navy HC-154, Benjamin Moore. **MILLWORK, RANGE HOOD**, Wheelers Studio. **PENDANT**, Renwil. **CHIARO STOOLS**, CB2. **CABINERY HARDWARE**, Madison Hardware. **COUNTER-TOP**, TCE 4031, Granite Earth. **BACKSPLASH**, Centura Tile. **RUG**, HomeSense.

# Building a Legacy

Drawing on the Georgian architecture of their heritage home, one couple redesigns their kitchen for the 21st century.

TEXT ANNE EASTBOURNE | PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX LUKEY





## Grand Opening

Razing the wall created a spacious multifunctional hub perfect for designer Carly Nemtean, her husband Itay Joshua, and their daughter Sadie, 10 months old. “We have more flexibility and use the dining room much more,” says Carly, who loves the enlarged storage and prep spaces. “Being able to spread out and enjoy the space is a major bonus.”

**KITCHEN DESIGN, CABINERY,** Carriage Lane Design-Build and Joshua Design Co. **COUNTERTOPS,** Caesarstone Primordia 4043, Stone Edge Marble and Granite. **PULLS, KNOBS,** Myoh Hardware. Troy Lighting **PENDANTS** over island, tall **FAUCET,** Robinson Lighting & Bath. Drinking water **FAUCET,** Brizo. **PAINT,** Cromwell Gray HC-103 (cabinetry), Pale Oak OC-20 (walls), White Dove OC-17 (ceiling), Benjamin Moore. **TILES** (stove alcove), Saltillo Tile. Red **VASES,** CB2. **BUST** (on table), JKC Vintage Decor. **VASE** (on table), Crate and Barrel. **RUG,** Ruggable.



Designer Carly Nemtean and her husband Itay Joshua, who is an architect, faced a unique challenge when overhauling the kitchen of their 1825 heritage home in Richmond Hill, Ontario. They desperately needed space for storage, prep and entertaining, but the redesign also had to complement the home’s gracious Georgian architecture. They opted to carefully remove a wall, which opened up the kitchen to the dining room, enhanced sight lines and captured the eastern morning light. From there, they made thoughtful design choices rooted in what Carly calls a refined “contemporary Georgian” style. The resulting space bridges the centuries sensitively, and works for their young family.

## Past Perfect

A nod to Georgian symmetry, Itay designed a feature wall of tidy panel moulding to dress up the dining area. “We realized it looks most interesting painted in a dual-colour finish,” Carly says. Built of red oak, the island, too, was panelled, making it look like a piece of antique furniture. Other period-friendly details include the gilt-framed painting, cast-iron sink, olive coloured oak cabinetry and the bold mustard tone of the wall-paper. “It’s a rich punch of colour to balance the muddier neutral tones,” Carly says.



## Disguise & Display

The new design cleverly camouflages eyesores and plays up assets. Two essential heating ducts are disguised in tall cabinets panelled in reeded glass for a light look. Similarly, the stove’s alcove surround hides a brick chimney that had to stay put. On the plus side, character windows in the breakfast nook are on full display and left uncovered to max out natural light. “We have lots of privacy out there in the backyard, so we decided not to block the light or the original pane windows.”



## Balancing Act

Contemporary pieces like the rugged dining table and chairs, stainless-steel appliances and hammered-metal dome pendants contrast the traditional elements. “For consistency, we maintained square lines and edge profiles where we could,” Carly (pictured right) explains. Extending the kitchen countertop into the dining area is another move to establish continuity. “It’s one room, so keep it consistent,” she says. Refinishing the old hardwood flooring and infilling where necessary helped preserve the authentic look and kept costs down.



## In the Details

Adding little extras is often what makes us love our kitchens. For Itay, it’s the coffee bar (opposite, bottom left). “He’s a bit of a coffee snob. He’s pretty regimented with his morning routine, so he really wanted a designated area for our grinder, French press, cups, etc.,” Carly says. She loves the open shelves for the texture they add and the display possibilities they afford. Her treasures here include everything from family heirlooms to second-hand-shop finds. Carly’s styling tip: “For interest, vary short and tall items, and add height by stacking books or bowls.”

Yellow **WALLPAPER**, Vinyl Abstract Solid 6484 in Mustard, Phillip Jeffries. Gilt-framed **PAINTING**, Of Things Past. **LIBRARY LIGHT**, Robinson Lighting & Bath. **DINING TABLE**, RH. **PENDANTS**, CB2.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# ON CLOUD NINE

Subtle shifts in texture enliven a dreamy white kitchen. **TEXT** ANNE EASTBOURNE

**PHOTOGRAPHY** MACKENZIE JANE DEMPSEY

Custom home builder Kate Vance knew that an all-white kitchen was on the menu for her new house in Kelowna, B.C. “White is fresh, timeless and peaceful – I’ll never tire of it,” she says. Serenity is so much a part of the kitchen that it even sounds tranquil. Says Kate: “My house backs onto Mill Creek, and with the windows open, I can hear the water running.”





## Key Ingredients

Homeowner Kate Vance made sure to add interest to the low-key palette with textured finishes, like ripply backsplash tiles, board-and-batten walls and tongue-and-groove ceiling. Accommodating guests was a priority. “My five children and three grandchildren live close by, so visitors arrive often!” Kate says. She left the kitchen open to the living room, so the cooks don’t miss any fun. For easy circulation, she allowed 42 inches on all sides of the large island.



## Store More

Certain features made Kate’s must-have list: lights on dimmers, open shelving, and an island big enough for baking and equipped with special storage for ingredients and pans. “Supplies are within arm’s reach, but nicely tucked away,” says Kate. For longevity, Kate avoids trends. Her advice: if you opt for something like pretty brass hardware and lighting, make sure it’s easy to swap out later.

**BUILDER, MILLWORK** (walls and ceiling) by Owen Campbell, Lakepointe Homes. **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**, Jeremy Newell Design. **LIGHTING** by Visual Comfort, Lights on Banks. **CABINET CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING**, Nixon Woodcraft. **CABINETRY PAINT**, Simply White OC-117, Benjamin Moore. **COUNTERTOPS**, Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo, RevitaStone. **BACKSPASH TILE**, Torlys’ Cable Bay vinyl. **FLOORING**, Ramco Floor & Tile. **BARSTOOLS**, RH. **APPLIANCES**, KitchenAid. **CABINET HARDWARE**, Marathon Hardware.

A balance of bold features and subtle finishes brings character to a busy kitchen.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN MILLER | STYLING MEG CROSSLEY & MORGAN MICHENER

# Patterned for Living



Designer Veronica Martin's mission was clear: transform this 1990s Toronto kitchen into a welcoming gathering spot for a young family. She happily complied with a design where some features – like timeless grey cabinets – form a subtle backdrop for eye-catching elements, such as the bold backsplash and new black windows. “Putting black frames around the windows and doors turns them into architectural features,” says Veronica, adding that they make the room feel current. Her thoughtful approach is a lesson in subtlety and smart choices.



## Island Time

The island is the room's focal point. "There are so many waterfall islands out there, but this one is custom-designed to 'fall' only one-third down, so it's special," says designer Veronica Martin. The homeowners' cork stools fit right in.

## Sip & Serve

The beverage station - which is integrated into a white oak expanse that includes a floor-to-ceiling pantry, fridge and coat closet - is a coffee spot in the morning and a bar at night. Says Veronica: "Pulling these activities away from the main prep area provides better ease of movement in the kitchen when there are guests."

## Back Story

The countertops are Caesars-stone for easy-care because the kids are still little, but the backsplash is a luxe marble. "It's thrilling," says Veronica. "It's like art in the space." To keep the focus on the marble, she painted the range hood the same colour as the cabinetry and wall so it fades to the background. A Moroccan rug adds subtle pattern.

**DESIGN**, Veronica Martin, Two Fold Interiors. Lower cabinetry and island **PAINT**, Purbeck Stone 275, Farrow & Ball; wall and upper cabinetry, Chantilly Lace OC-65, Benjamin Moore. **MILLWORK**, Norcab Kitchen and Millwork Co. **HARDWARE**, Top Knobs. **BACK-SPLASH**, Stone Tile. **FAUCET**, Delta. **APPLIANCES**, Jenn Air. **RUG**, Mellah. **LIGHTING**, Cedar and Moss. **VASES**, H&M Home. Bird image **ART** (on top shelf), Virginia Johnson.







TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT  
PHOTOGRAPHY BRANDON BARRE

# MODERN LOVE

A dated kitchen comes alive thanks to a thoroughly modern, and mostly monochromatic, makeover.

**D**esigner Iman Lalji likes to look on the bright side. When she first saw this kitchen in its before stage, she wasn't phased by the stove oddly angled in a corner or its teeny L-shaped island; instead, she saw potential. "It was typical of a 20-year-old home in the Toronto suburbs," she says. "Good bones, but dated finishes." The owners wanted something more modern and luxurious, and Iman set the update in motion with a new design, rich materials and a strikingly bold palette.



## GRAPHIC JAM

Designer Iman Lalji took the timeless, graphic appeal of black and white and gave it a twist. “I wanted to make it look more modern by mixing in some warmer tones,” she says. “The veining in the porcelain wall slabs is actually green and I like that it’s subtle, not overpowering.” Different shades of blush – from the pinkish laminate metal drawers and coppery stool accents to the rose-gold look of the sconces and faucet – layer in the desired warmth. “Plus, the metallic finishes just give everything a bit of a glamorous feel.”

## PROFILE PICK

Flat-front cabinetry ensures that the carefully considered accents remain a focal point. “I’m a minimalist at heart and felt the attention should go to the veined porcelain and the blush drawers,” says Iman. “Hardware wasn’t necessary in my mind – I wanted the owners to enjoy the detailing and

subtlety of the other items and materials we chose.” The island’s cooktop furthers the seamlessness of the backdrop. “They’re individual burners that I first saw on a design trip to Spain,” says Iman. “They can be configured exactly as you like and the best part is they allowed us to hide the down-draft vent beneath the counter.”

## MIX MASTER

To keep the aesthetic lively, Iman introduced some more traditional elements into the modern mix. “I layered in a soft Roman blind that feels classic, yet still ties into the black and white. The sconces have a time-honoured silhouette, but the blush tone puts a fresh spin on them, and the cane chairs add an old-meets-new vibe,” she says. “In this space, the chairs feel like a new take on vintage style, similar to the floor tiles – familiar black and white but laid in an unexpected pattern.”



**DESIGN**, Iman Lalji, Designed by Iman. **CONTRACTOR**, Sazeh Developments. Floor and wall **TILES**, COUNTERTOPS, Caesarstone. **ROMAN BLIND**, Model Space Designs. **RANGE**, Pitt Cooking. **DOWNDRAFT VENT**, Alpine Canada. **STOOLS**, Gabriel Scott. **SCONCES**, Tudo & Co. **FAUCET**, Taps. White **VASE**, RH. Black **VASE**, Black Rooster. Metal **RING SCULPTURES**, Vex Marble **TABLE**, CB2. Cane **ARM CHAIRS**, France and Son. **WINE WALL**, Vintage Wine View. **APPLIANCES**, Caplan’s.





Savvy, budget-conscious decisions bring upscale style to a dark 1980s kitchen.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREN MILLER

# LIGHTEN

*Up*



**M**ehnaz Malik knows a limited budget doesn't mean sacrificing function or aesthetics. With family life and budget informing her choices, the designer opted for laminate millwork in this kitchen belonging to a young family in Toronto. "Laminate is strikingly similar to white oak veneer but way more economical and durable," she says. Its pale tones, both textural and warm, and the newly widened glass doors bring a lightened spirit to the room. "The kitchen is now the epicentre of their home," says Mehnaz, "full of warmth, joy and positive energy."

## Accentuate the Positive

"I used colour and saturated tones in the black faucet, soft blue stools and the gold in the pendants," says designer Mehnaz Malik, who employed a mostly light-toned palette to bring brightness to the previously dark space. Closed storage keeps things neat and tidy, while an open wood cubby displays pretty pottery. The lighting is a masterful mix - think under cabinet, recessed ceiling, gorgeous mid-century inspired island pendants and contemporary dining chandelier.

## Centre Island

The 10-foot-long island serves as a spot both for meals and homework. New expanded glass doors flood the south-facing room with an abundance of natural light.



**DESIGN, CABINETS,** Mehnaz Malik, Natari Design. **WALL PAINT,** Chantilly Lace OC-65, Benjamin Moore. **VICOSTONE COUNTERTOPS,** Apex Custom Fabrication. **KENTWOOD FLOORING,** Quality Sterling Group. **AQUADESIGN FAUCET,** Taps. **KITCHENAID WALL OVENS,** Caplan's. **ISLAND PENDANT LIGHTS,** Rejuvenation. **STOOLS,** Design Within Reach. **TABLE,** Huppé. **CHAIRS,** Rove Concept. **SERGE MOUILLE CHANDELIER,** Bethel.



TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT  
PHOTOGRAPHY LARRY ARNAL

# NEW ORDER

A back-to-the-studs redo serves up a sleek kitchen jam-packed with design ideas, including the perk of a pantry.

“The days of a massive front living room and poky little kitchen are gone,” says designer Michelle Berwick. “Life happens around the island.” When Michelle was hired to renovate this 2004-built house in Aurora, Ontario (home to an owner who loves to cook and her two teenagers), she doubled the kitchen’s original 400 square feet to a hefty 800, added an expansive island that seats four, and included lots of dream-kitchen details like gorgeous colour, cheery finishes and splurge-worthy materials. Michelle’s savvy advice: “When redesigning an existing kitchen, don’t feel confined by its footprint.”





*“Walls can come down and new spaces  
can be completely reimagined.”*





## Living Colour

“The new kitchen is moody, yet bright,” says designer Michelle Berwick. “I tempered the inky navy cabinetry with light quartz countertops and a blue-veined backsplash. I also went with a white oak island and stained it to jive with the hardwood flooring.” Her colour expertise is on display in the range hood’s unexpected hue. “I broke up the blue cabinetry with black, then accented the kitchen with a mix of gold- and black-toned metals – even the faucet has a two-tone gold and black matte finish. I believe open floor plans need to have a connecting element.”

## Hide & Seek

Gutting the home allowed Michelle to reconfigure the layout and steal some space from the old dining room to create a new dream pantry. “What mom doesn’t want to feel like Batman dashing in and out of her secret hidden

pantry?” she laughs. “Its door looks like any other cabinet door so the pantry inside is unexpected. I also integrated the electrical so the lights automatically turn on and turn off when the door is closed – it couldn’t be easier to use.”

## Storage Stories

With budget in mind, Michelle had originally suggested laminate countertops in the out-of-sight pantry, but the owner was open to splurging. “I was excited to be able to continue the quartz countertops here, and such a fancy material demanded fancy accessories, like these beautiful paper, two-tone and flat white baskets. They’re functional but still pretty, and they repeat the cognac colours I used throughout the main floor for continuity.”

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

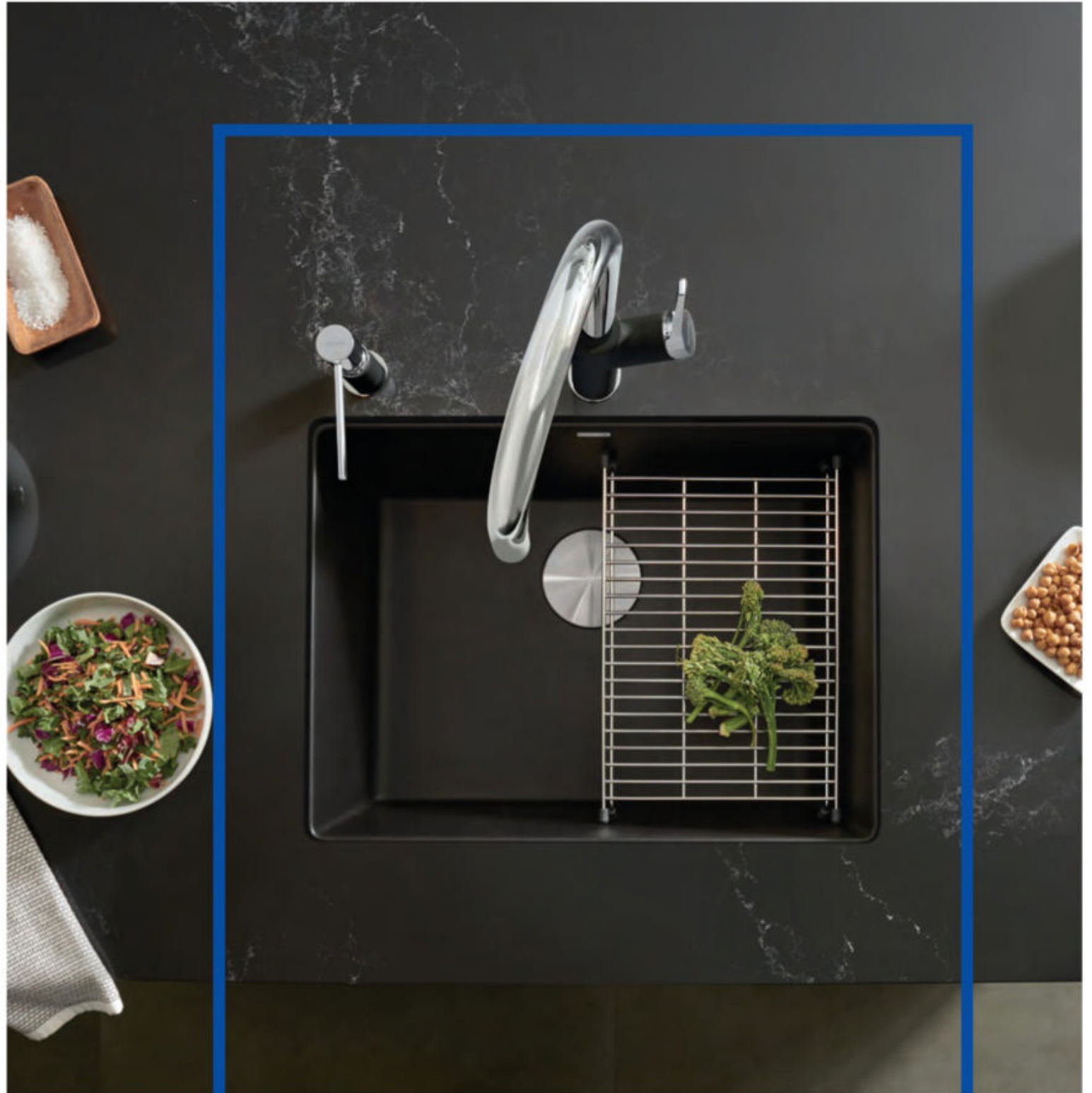


**DESIGN, WINDOW COVERINGS,** Michelle Berwick, Michelle Berwick Design. **FLOORING,** Project Hardwood. **CONTRACTOR, CABINETRY,** Hartley Built. **CABINETRY PAINT,** Polo Blue 2062-10, **RANGE HOOD PAINT,** Onyx 2133-10; Benjamin Moore. **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Schoolhouse Electric. **COUNTERTOPS,** Cambria. **FAUCET,** House of Rohl. **STOOLS,** Nuevo Living. **PANTRY BASKETS,** Gray House Co.





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