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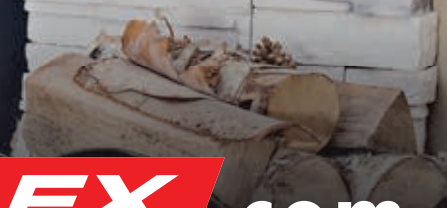
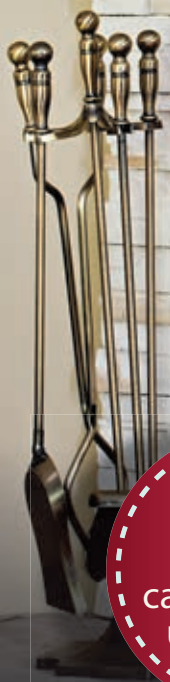
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different but the SAME

After travelling to both Prince Edward Island and Las Vegas within a week of each other, I can't help but reflect on how differently people choose to spend their leisure time. What we seek out to recharge and refresh us ranges from humble, real, simplicity and solitude to frenetic, explosive, high-octane, even artificial excitement.

People are unique creatures, thankfully, and one person's heaven is another person's hell. The same applies to our location choices for daily living—our neighbourhoods and homes. Some of us are drawn to the bright lights, big city while others seek out calm and quiet with nature as the backdrop. Of course many of us like a bit of both, which can make life interesting and certainly our decorating even more interesting.

But even with our differences, there are always a few overriding trends (for lack of a better word) that seem to blanket us all as we move through a period in time together. Larger movements in society, as a whole, which bond us together, no matter our differences. I read about one recently that I found interesting. It was in an article in *The Globe & Mail* about the recently redesigned the SF MOMA (San Francisco museum of modern art).



The article talked about how this is the age of 'sharing' and our public buildings need to reflect that. Lobbies are more accessible now—“an open invitation to the city” to come in and reflect, recharge, learn, think and take a picture for your Instagram feed. We need places for all sorts of non-commercial experiences in the middle of a busy city. Also, people don't plan the way we did in the past. We change the course of our day quickly and so it's important that we can pop into a museum without planning a visit. There's even a whole movement called 'street culture' where people can enjoy art, music, food, or a coffee—easily accessible to all and often free. The barriers to art and culture are breaking down just like everything else thanks to modern technology.

In the old days, museums were built as windowless fortresses, “temples of culture” to protect the art and then the second priority was to invite people in to view it. Today museums are light-filled glass structures and function more like living rooms where the attention is on the people, who in turn want to experience art. That's a big difference.

Aren't we all privileged to live in a time where it's possible to choose: a natural beach, a crazy casino or just a place in our own hometown that's both impressive and accessible and designed with our learning and creativity in mind? Just like the people who inhabit it, the modern age has its faults but it has its attributes as well.

COBI LADNER, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

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letter from reader

Dear Cobi,

I have always loved reading *RENO & DECOR*. I even at one point had a subscription (it's hard to find where I live). So when I did pick up a copy at a Benjamin Moore store and opened it to the page from the editorial director, I was so thrilled to find a letter from you. I have had a subscription to *House & Home* for probably 30 years. One of the things I most looked forward to when opening up my new issue was reading about your life and what renovation you were tackling at the time; when you moved to the suburbs, when you started your family and when you bought your cottage in PEI. I too am a little sad that you sold. But as your family grows, (coincidentally the same time as my own), your words about memories also rang true with me. I so missed reading your editorial.

Anyway, I just wanted you to know that I am happy to know where to find your little snippets on life again.

So glad to find an old friend.

Karen B.

COTTON THROW FROM COBISTYLE

This cobistyle cotton throw is hand-stitched and printed with a floral bird motif. Great for those cool, late summer evenings—use it as a throw, a bed overlay, a picnic blanket or a table runner. 49"x59" Retail value: \$90 cobistyle.com



win this

The winner of the April/May giveaway, the Pier 1 gift card is Teresa B from Maple.
CONGRATULATIONS TERESA!

To enter, email editorial.contest@renoanddecor.com by September 30, 2016, and your name will be entered for a chance to win this cotton throw from cobistyle, valued at \$90. One entry per person, per issue. Include your full name, address and daytime phone number to be eligible to win. Open to Canadian residents only, aged 18 and over. No purchase necessary. Winner agrees to have their name published in an upcoming issue.

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MARK CULLEN RECEIVES ORDER OF CANADA HONOUR

Horticulture educator, environmentalist, and our very own garden expert, Mark Cullen is among the 113 newest appointees to the Order of Canada. Rideau Hall announced the list of winners on the eve before Canada Day, which includes great Canadians like Olympian Nathalie Lambert, writers Jacques Godbout and Robert Sawyer, and editorial cartoonist Bruce MacKinnon.

Cullen's take on the recent recognition for his contribution to Canada is one he shares with the nation he has influenced. "I am, of course, delighted to receive the Order of Canada. I believe that this Order is not just mine, but belongs to every Canadian who works to make our country a greener and more prosperous place. Without Canadians who are willing to learn more about the gardening experience, I would not have been awarded this honour. To my audience and supporters, a heartfelt 'thank you.'" Congratulations Mark from the HPG team, and thank you for sharing your valuable garden knowledge with our readers in every issue.



A NIGHT OF STARGAZING UNDER THE CIOT SKY

On the evening of June 23rd, the Fermenting Cellar in the Distillery District in Toronto was transformed with a spectacular sky display of CIOT products hovering like UFOs, and displays showcasing the artistic work of Alex Turco and Igor Marziali. Attended by the who's who of the interior design world, and many of CIOT's closest friends and clients, the evening was a spectacular success and a wonderful way to thank CIOT's loyal clientele. CIOT is one of Canada's largest importers of ceramic and stone tiles and slabs from Italy, with locations in Toronto, Mississauga, Vaughan, Quebec City and Montreal. ciot.com

a fall FAVOURITE

You know it's fall when the Fall Home Show comes to town. Taking place at the Exhibition Place (100 Princes' Boulevard, Toronto) beginning Friday, September 23 and running until Sunday, September 25, you will get the inspiration and tips you need to organize your space, big and small, effectively. Discover the latest styles, innovative products, and explore concepts for your next reno and shop great deals from over 300 retailers. Everything you need to shape your space is waiting for you at the Toronto Fall Home Show, featuring industry pros and experts including Kimberley Seldon, Frank Ferragine, Damon Bennet, Kate Campbell, Sharon Grech, Chris Palmer, Jennylyn Pringle, Michael Penney and many more. For more information or tickets, call 416.644.5400 or visit fallhomeshow.com

DEKTON COLOUR LAUNCH



It was a colourful evening and it wasn't just the variety of ice cream flavours served to the crowd. On June 9th, the Toronto Cosentino City Centre's showroom was buzzing with design influencers that evening for Cosentino's 'A Taste of Dekton' colour launch. The recently launched Dekton XGloss series, a high-gloss, high-reflective surface made with Trilium, essential materials recycled from its own production process, it captures the visual texture and colour variation of aged and oxidized stainless steel with hues ranging from deep grays and blacks to rusty undertones. Seven new shades from the Dekton spring series were presented that evening including wood-inspired, natural stone and textured, concrete finishes.

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KIMBERLEY SELDON

KIMBERLEY'S GUIDE TO

ECLECTIC STYLE

The Do's and Don'ts of achieving a curated look in your home



Merging households, inherited furnishings, well-intentioned gifts that miss the mark and the occasional impulse buy—1950s wastebasket with bejewelled poodle—yes, I bought it! All of these scenarios contribute to decorating dreams that go “off track.” Alas, you can't have it all, and calling it eclectic doesn't help. Here's my own recipe for getting the mix right.

KIMBERLY
SELDON'S
80/20
RULE

As long as 80 per cent of your interior is cohesive (same style, same period, same philosophy), the other 20 per cent can deviate with some specific guidance:

Certain styles, owing to diverging philosophies, just don't mix. Victorians relished ornate, excessive and mass-produced consumerism. In contrast, the Arts and Crafts movement favoured a return to honest craftsmanship and simplicity. Victorian decor marries well with Edwardian, Asian, Formal English and French furniture. Arts and Crafts combines best with contemporary upholstered pieces as well as clean-line country style.

When it comes to placing a chair rail or adding wainscoting, aim for a ratio of 70/30, 70 per cent empty wall space above 30 per cent panelling or moulding. Paper or paint the above wall portion as desired.

When mixing various woods, it's important to consider the mood of individual species and the degree of formality each suggests. For example, mahogany, cherry, and oak are often considered “formal” woods;

therefore, they combine well with one another, provided one variety is dominant (about 80 per cent). Pine, maple and bamboo have a more casual attitude making them compatible with one another but less compatible with more formal wood.

When more than one area rug is required in an open space (either a living room or a living-dining combination, it's far more effective to choose carpets that harmonize rather than match. Neutral Sisal may work with a faded Turkish or Kilim carpet, but looks too humble beside a fine Persian.

As a general rule, contemporary interiors feature about 20 per cent patterned textiles and 80 per cent solid or tone-on-tone materials. Traditional interiors, however, tip the balance in favour of patterns though some like damask may be subtle.

Relieve the monotony of endless cabinet doors in kitchens by incorporating

specialty glass or wire on front doors or open shelving. Aim for 80 per cent closed storage, which is ideal for an average-sized household and add 20 per cent specialty or display.

Revitalize neutral interiors with punctuations of colour. A small addition of striking colour, say a series of vases in char-treuse or a pair of pillows in cobalt, can transform the mood and personality of a room.

Save money and create a more upscale look in the bathroom or kitchen combining 80 per cent stock cabinetry with 20 per cent semi-custom options. This allows you to create one standout focal feature such as a stainless-steel medicine cabinet or a Gothic arch valance above the sink.

In a living room that is 80 per cent formal, introduce 20 per cent contrasting furnishings—more casual. It's the mix that enlivens the space and lends it personality. ♦

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BY SILVANA LONGO

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GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME

The colour authority Pantone refers to this grass-green shade in the Spring/Summer 2016 collection as Green Flash. Let's face it; it is the colour of the outdoors, one that we Canadians never tire of. This brilliant hue is representative of nature's persistent influence, even in urban environments. This mossy shade will perk up your interiors much the way freshly cut grass stimulates the senses.



15-0146 Green Flash

Pistachio Sliver Chair with Gold Base, \$179; casalife.comBarcelona Accent Lamp in Emerald, \$450 US; jonathanadler.comGreen Bottle, \$65; cobistyle.comEmerald Pop Decanter, \$228 US; jonathanadler.comBamboo Shower Curtain, \$24.50; kikkerland.comPillow Foxtrot, \$55; cobistyle.comGucci Leather Slip On, \$695; holtrenfrew.com

SIL
SAYS:

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Velvet Darcy Daybed in Emerald, \$1,598; anthropologie.com



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SUNNY DAYS

No colour exudes cheerful optimism like this happy-go-lucky shade of yellow Pantone calls Buttercup. It reveals a shining beacon and will, without a doubt, transport your interiors to happier, sunnier places... nice to know as the days start to become noticeably shorter this time of year. Hang on to the light for as long as you can...



12-0752 Buttercup



Braided Pendant Cord Lamp, \$24.50, Edison Bulb, \$12.50; kikkerland.com



Kaylee Toss Cushion, yellow, \$39; urbanbarn.com



Yellow Wilco Side Table, \$460; casalife.com



Loewe High Top Sneakers, \$1,190; holtrenfrew.com



Yellow Nixon Border Alpaca Throw, \$350 US; jonathanadler.com

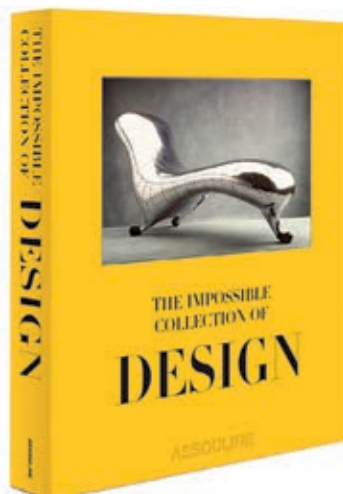


Lighted Globes, yellow or green, \$109.50; indigo.ca



Porcelain Print Bowl, medium, \$13.99; eltemkt.com

Impossible Collection of Design Book, \$845; elte.com



Wedgwood Wallcovering, contact JF Fabrics for pricing; jffabrics.com



Second Life Rug, Bamboo Yellow, (5.5' X 9.3') \$1,865; elte.com



Gold and white rectangular box, \$80; cobistyle.com

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TONES for Tots

In this issue, *R&D* welcomes back our talented Art Director, and proud new mom, Emilie Simpson. Her darling daughter has us thinking about decorating beautiful and also baby-friendly nurseries... up to the task is the new Tones for Tots Natural Nursery line, an inspiring collection of seven playful paint colours that don't contain any harmful toxins. Inspired by the birth of her son in December 2015, president Jennylyn Pringle wanted to expand on the Fusion Mineral Paint family and create a child-friendly, zero VOCs paint line for a nursery or child's bedroom. Mineral paint is made with raw ingredients like ground pigments that result in a superior, smooth matte finish.

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Little Teapot



SILVANA LONGO
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Pick

Little Stork



EMILIE SIMPSON
ART DIRECTOR

Little Lamb

Little Whale

Little Star

Little Speckled Frog

Little Piggy

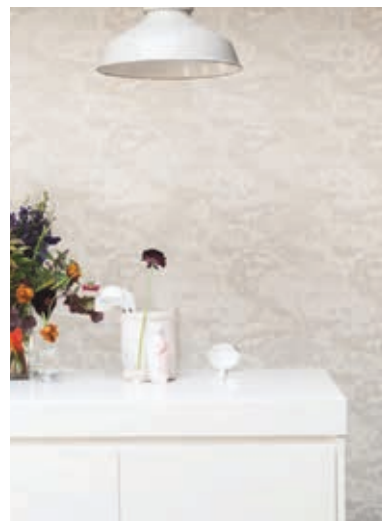
FARROW & BALL unveils three new wallpapers inspired by the 1940s



Enigma is a beguiling and bold geometric design, encompassing a series of interlocking rectangles.



Arcade, inspired by the art deco movement is a soft, romantic take on the classic curved motif.



Gable depicts charming rural scene of ploughed fields and farmyard animals, perfectly captures the youthful innocence of simpler times.

Farrow & Ball celebrates its 70th year with a new wallpaper collection inspired by the decade it was founded in—the 1940s. Like all artisanal wallpapers, the new designs are block printed using real paints, creating a seamless look in any space. Each design is available in seven colours. Available at showrooms and farrow-ball.com, September 1, 2016. These three uniquely textured papers are contemporary interpretations of classic '40s prints.

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VICKY SANDERSON



Casalife
Showroom ▶



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Growth across Toronto's southwest corner blurs old neighbourhood boundaries

Where does Mimico begin and end? What are the boundaries of New Toronto? Is Etobicoke a distinct neighbourhood, even though it was amalgamated into the City of Toronto in 1997? Those are the kinds of questions locals love to squabble over, says Chris Logan, who lives—and sells real estate—in the area.

While everyone may have an opinion on local geography, lines on a map aren't really relevant when the entire zone is growing at such a rapid pace, suggests Logan.

"The whole area is on a roll and that effect will spread across neighbourhoods," he says.

Growth is fuelled by a revitalization project that began in the early 2000s, including the revamping of the Humber College Lakeshore campus, which dovetailed with a rising housing market. That's because Mimico offers great real estate value, says Logan, who bought a house there in 2007. At the same time, he notes, friends

who purchased a similar house in Bloor West Village paid more than double. Since then, Logan's property has almost doubled in value.

Newcomers to the area looking for affordable, well-made, high-design furniture will want to visit Casalife at 350 Evans Avenue.

The Canadian-owned company began when designer Robert Whitfield started a small furniture design and manufacturing company in his hometown of Vancouver.

Buffeted by economic headwinds that hit the West Coast hard in the early 2000s, Whitfield moved to Toronto and opened Casalife in the then little-known Liberty Village neighbourhood.

Surrounded by a burgeoning condo market, Whitfield began designing furniture that fit small spaces, including, he says, the first bed in Toronto with drawers underneath.

These days, Casalife's offering is much more than just small-space, flexible pieces, especially since Whitfield opened the 70,000-square-

"The whole area is on a roll and that effect will spread across neighbourhoods"

- CHRIS LOGAN

Skating the figure-eight rink at Colonel Samuel Smith Park is a great way to enjoy winter



foot location in Etobicoke in 2015.

"In the Liberty Village location, we'd often just have the small version of a sofa on display. Now we have the space to show the larger version," he says, adding that homes—some very large—now account for about half his sales.

The new location also has room for a clearance area, where customers can find great buys. But even without the bargains—and the famous bi-annual sales—foot traffic is growing quickly. Customers are impressed, he says, with personalized design services, and the liveability of the designs.

"If you took transitional and contemporary looks, and drew a line of practicality down the middle—I'd say that defines our brand. It's a timeless look, and people respond to it."

When it's time to get outside, Logan suggests a trip to the Figure-Eight outdoor skating trail at Colonel Samuel Smith Park and in summer, a visit to the Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat at Humber Bay East and Lakeshore Blvd is a lovely afternoon out.

If the fresh air makes you hungry, Logan recommends the family-owned SanRemo Bakery at 374 Royal York Road, which serves hearty hand-made pizza and croissant sandwiches, deli products and creamy Italian pastries. He has only one piece of advice. "Don't go too often. Everything is so good—it can be dangerous!♦



◀ SanRemo offers prepared food, deli products and a huge bakery selection

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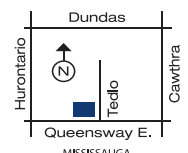
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SOURCES

chrisloganhomes.com, casalife.com, toronto.ca,
sanremobakery.com

PASSAGE to INDIA

BY GABRIELE PIZZALE • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE CHAJECKI

A couple's love of colour and the rich influences from India permeate throughout their new-build home





"AWASH IN LOTS OF NATURAL LIGHT, THE COLOURS STEAL THE SHOW; purple, pink and orange are sprinkled throughout the main floor."

When you think of India, vibrant colours and luxurious fabric immediately come to mind. This is exactly the mood these homeowners wanted to evoke in their 8,000-square-foot new build. Sanjay and Priyanka Luthra commissioned this substantial home and selected most of the finishes themselves, but they quickly became overwhelmed. Sanjay stressed that he had been in many large homes and found them either overcrowded with inappropriate furniture or too sparsely furnished. It was very important to him to get it just right. "We realized we needed professional help to make our new house, our dream home, and to get that wow-factor,

we contacted Gabriele Pizzale Design," says Sanjay.

We were delighted to work on this project, we love colour and were eager to give the homeowners a showpiece. The home's construction was almost complete when we were retained except for a few additions we took on, such as the millwork in the front hall and the bespoke fireplace in the family room. Antique mirror was clad with a custom-metal screen all anchored by quartz on the base. These customized details distinguish this project from other builder homes.

STRIKING COLOUR SCHEME

Awash in lots of natural light, the colours steal the show; purple, pink and orange are





"PAINTING THE CEILING A METALLIC GOLD adds sparkle to the space."

paint picks

Caponata
AF-650

Newburg-
Green
HC-158

Pashmina
AF-100

sprinkled throughout the main floor. This colour scheme unifies the main floor, but it does not feel overwhelming because of the right balance of repetition. Wall colours are kept light and simple so the fabrics and furnishings could shine.

Entertaining is really important to the homeowners, they wanted a space that is both stylish but practical for their two young children. We chose fabrics for the high-traffic rooms, such as the kitchen and family room, that are not only hardwearing but also easy to clean. It is of no value to have a gorgeous chair that is ruined by sticky peanut butter fingers. There is a happy medium between practicality and style.

PARTY CENTRAL

As in most homes, the kitchen and family room are where the homeowners spend most of their time, so it was crucial to start with a well-thought-out space that

addresses their needs. A large kitchen table with eight chairs and three bar stools allow for lots of seating, and the homeowners love the blend of all the colours in the floral pattern on the drapery. Unique pieces in the family room are also a big hit; the statue-like drinks table and the Sherpa fur stools in particular. With seating for 12 in the family room, there is never a shortage of places to make your guests comfortable.

Dramatic, dark aubergine was Sanjay's wish for a paint colour in the dining room. We made this work by lighting up the cabinetry and adding upholstered chairs in a striking, horizontal stipe. Painting the ceiling a metallic gold adds sparkle to the space. The living room offers a more intimate entertaining area with a sumptuous velvet sofa, and two enveloping tube chairs. Various geometrics were used in large and small scale in the fabrics, rug and accessories.



MODERATE MASTER

Bold colours and pattern work well on the main floor, but for the family's private space on the second floor, we chose a more restful palette. The generous master suite, with adjoining sitting room is adorned with soft blues and greys. Silver-leaf dresser and nightstand fronts add a touch of glamour.



LOUNGE BAR OR MOVIE NIGHT?

The go-to place where the homeowners like to unwind is the basement sitting room. Teal is a preferred colour so we combined it with purple to create a lounge-like vibe. A large, custom sectional was designed with an oversized chaise that can be used on both sides, creating maximum seating in the room. Again we aimed to discover one-of-a-kind accessories and furniture. The wood-slat wallboard in the bar area is a foil to the glass tile and the purple leather swivel chairs add to the uniqueness of the space.

If all this entertaining makes the Luthras tired, they can relax in the nine-seat theatre room. Each leather chair reclines all the way back and is the ultimate in movie-watching luxury. The dark walls, and blackout drapery make this a cosy space that also has great acoustics.

Overall, this project lasted more than a year but the end result was well worth the wait. "The big reveal that Gabriele and her team gave us far surpassed our highest hopes... and everyone we have over is just wowed by the results," enthuse the homeowners. Mission accomplished. ♦

SOURCES

LIVING ROOM UPHOLSTERY: Gresham House **FABRICS:** Kravet **RUG:** Minster **COFFEE TABLE:** Berhardt **DINING ROOM TABLE:** Cocoon **CHAIRS:** Fabric, Telio **UPHOLSTERY:** Designer Upholstery **LIGHT:** Gerrie **CABINETS:** Stutt Kitchens **FAMILY ROOM UPHOLSTERY:** Gresham House **FABRICS:** Kravet **CASE GOODS:** Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams **DRAPERY:** Avant Garde **CARPET:** Hellenic **FIREPLACE:** Metal, Jeff Mack Design, Quartz Cambria **LIGHTING:** Gerrie **KITCHEN TABLE AND CHAIRS:** Canadel **FABRIC:** Joanne Fabrics **BASEMENT LOUNGE SECTIONAL:** Designer Upholstery **FABRIC:** Joanne Fabrics **CHAIR:** Gresham House **PURPLE LEATHER CHAIRS:** Della Robia **CARPET:** Minster **PAINT:** Benjamin Moore

Gabriele Pizzale wants to live in a world where the spaces she designs reflect the people who enjoy them. Her bespoke designs with a high-end flair have accented homes and office spaces across the GTA. You may recognize Gabriele from her 12-year stint as a design expert on Cityline. gabrielepizzaledesign.ca



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JAMIE ALEXANDER
& GLEN PELOSO

ONCE UPON A *TREND*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY ARNAL

A look at where trends are born and how they end up in your living room



Trends are a constant discussion

in home decor. Home-owners want that “on-trend look,” or get that same look for less, but where does the “look” come from? The answer is a combination of trendsetters, trade-shows, buyers and the international collective consciousness of consumers.

WORLD AFFAIRS

One of the values of working with a design professional is to ensure you have the most current ideas incorporated into your space. We travel the world attending tradeshows in the U.S., Europe and Asia where we meet with a variety of manufacturers and wholesalers. Some of those manufacturers have engaged internationally famous industrial designers like Tom Dixon, Philippe Stark, Richard Dyson and, our very own Canadian, Karim Rashid to name but a few, to create products like the Dyson Vacuum, the ghost chair, and the new mid-century modern shapes like Rashid did for BoConcept in 2012. These items would normally be presented at the Milan Furniture Fair

(Salone del Mobile Milano) and from there they enter the retail world.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Furniture buyers for the retail industry are exposed to the whole world of shopping. The shapes and styles that appeal to them are what make it into their stores and several months after that, the customer base finally has an opportunity to see the latest collections. Typically customers will respond to what they see in magazines, television or fashion windows. For buyers it can be an educated guess at what customers will like. Then there is the geography component; a store in north Toronto is so far removed from a furniture market in Miami or Europe,

and buyers are influenced by what they see in the market place. Just like you might buy a bathing suit on a beach in the Caribbean, and never wear it again; or it may be the envy of your friends.

MORE ON METALS

As you walk through the tradeshows, the trends become evident. We saw the rose-gold trend emerge a few years ago, however, buyers didn't really warm up to it and it went away. It wasn't until trendsetters like Tom Dixon used rose-gold as part of his lighting collections, which also was prominent at the wholesale markets, that retail store owners found it appealing and brought it back to their stores. Designers also responded to rose-gold equally



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well and started using it in their design work. Finally, homeowners warmed up to the metal and the trend became well established.

ON THE HOME FRONT

The trends are also influenced by the events of the world. Lately the world news has been filled with terrorism, failing economies, and political change with the current American election season. We can make a compelling argument to say that consumers are looking for elements that make their home feel safe and secure and indeed, the most popular home decor trends reflect that.



SERENITY NOW

Let's start with the pantone colours: Serenity and Rose Quartz. A rose quartz is a crystal that people interested in gems will tell you, is about love and calm. Serenity needs no explanation. Next, let's look at gold as a metal. Typically, gold is associated with stability and success; gold bars, gold metals, gold standards, golden rules. The metal is associated with security and stability. Blue is also a very popular colour and incidentally, is more often than not, people's favourite colour. Typically, the hue is linked with "blue chip, blue-blood royalty, police officers and the true blue of relationships, which all provide a sense of security. Finally, the popularity of the mid-century modern style of the '50s brings back the post-war calm of that time when houses were plentiful, babies and families were booming and the middle class was vast.

When you put the combination of buyers, social consciousness, industrial designers who create new and trending products with design professionals, you end up with great "on-trend" design that reflects and responds to the current influences marking this moment in time. ♦

Glen Peloso and Jamie Alexander are co-founders and principals of Peloso Alexander Interiors. They bring 35 years of combined experience to creating environments that merge the client's lifestyle, personality, and architecture. pelosoalexander.com, twitter @glenpeloso & @glenandjamie, Facebook.com/glenpeloso

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About a GIRL

A vibrant bedroom for a tween poised for a bright future

BY DVIRA OVADIA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



Creating a space for a 12-year-old girl that easily transitions into a space for a young adult takes the keen eye of an experienced designer. A tween views her bedroom as a place where no rules apply, where she can escape from the world and do more than just sleep. Often-times, her favourite items in the bedroom are varied and not cohesive. That's when a designer steps in; to turn her bedroom into a much-desired retreat, filled with her favourite things that can grow with her into young adulthood.

INTERCHANGEABLE COLOURS

Tweens love colour, and with that in mind, this bedroom received a healthy dose of fresh, invigorating hues. Sometimes you have to go beyond the ordinary, and choose colour combinations that seem avant-garde, particularly when you're designing a space for a tween, teenager or young adult. The palette selection was based on what is popular with the age group, (8 to 12); the bright colours were then paired with elegant, neutral blues and timeless crisp whites, which allows for mixing and matching, and transitions easily into the next phase of life.

LAYERS OF COLOUR AND TEXTURE

The star of this room is the bedding. We chose prints inspired by spring and summer, which added depth and drama to the space. We mixed and matched colours, and added layers of texture, drawing inspiration from the walls, carpet and even the desk. Duvets from Anthropologie and eclectic Boho sheets have a young appeal but also can easily transition beyond the teen years. A Mongolian lamb fur pillow in white adds extra texture and softness—perfect for snuggling on a chilly night.

PRACTICAL YET FABULOUS

We chose a simple desk and turned it into a statement piece by adding a classic, yet hip Panton chair by Danish designer, Verner Panton. The comfort of this chair is the result of slightly flexible material formed into one single piece and the anthropomorphic shape is ideal for long hours of studying or surfing the net.

BEAUTIFULLY FUNCTIONAL

Lighting adds ambience to a room. In this case we also chose to use the lighting as a means for framing the dramatic windows. We hung a cluster of Tom Dixon contemporary pendant lights with a brushed bronze interior over the desk for ambient and task lighting, and to further draw the eye upward to the windows. For extra mood lighting, we chose a vintage-inspired table lamp. The brushed bronze colour pairs beautifully with the pendant lights and adds modern appeal.



TWEEN ROMANCE

As much as young women love colour, they also love romance. So to add a feminine touch and some romantic charm, we used roman shades as the window coverings to soften the room. Keeping the roman shades white allows for easy transition as well.

FINISHING TOUCHES

We needed a good rug to ground the room. The classic, rich-blue carpet not only adds warmth and grounds the space, it also adds some contrast to the flooring below, and heightens the contrast with the bright tones of the room.

In the end, we not only created a practical and functional bedroom for sleeping, working and lounging, we added enough colour and style to appeal to a tween with pieces she can take with her into adulthood. ♦

paint pick

Mt. Rainier
Gray
2129-60

SOURCES

ORANGE & WHITE DESK:
IKEA **DESK CHAIR:** Panton
Chair in white **PENDANT**
LIGHTS: Tom Dixon
ROMAN WINDOW
COVERING: Cinzia Designs
CARPET: West Elm
BEDDING, PILLOWS &
HARDWARE: Anthropologie
BEDSIDE LAMP:
Restoration Hardware
PAINT: 2129-60 Mt.
Rainier Gray, Benjamin
Moore **INTERIOR DESIGN &**
STYLING: Dvira Ovadia

Dvira Ovadia, Living by Design Toronto-based celebrity and award-winning designer Dvira Ovadia, Principal of Dvira Interiors, is known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows. Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces. Servicing clientele throughout Ontario and the GTA. dvira.com @DVIRAdesigner



— ALL IN THE SHADES OF GREY —

When it comes to choosing a flooring option the biggest consideration seems to be the colour of the floors. Most clients will come to our showroom with a colour in mind, but they are usually more flexible on the species of hardwood they want. What they care about is achieving specific look. These days one of the biggest trends in flooring is grey coloured flooring. This trend is a few years old now but it is proving to have some staying power. Although some manufacturers of hardwood products are starting to move towards lighter and more natural colour tones, grey floors are still one of the most sought after flooring choices among consumers.

When it comes to choosing grey flooring, it is good to keep in mind that all greys are not created equally. Getting a grey colour on hardwood floors is actually a more challenging task than most would imagine. The biggest reason for this is that the wood itself is going to have a colour that will enhance or fight the grey stain that is being applied to it. Usually a true grey is not possible to achieve on hardwood flooring. It is easier to find a true grey laminate flooring since that is a picture that is being printed and therefore the colour

can be manipulated to create the desired effect. Also a lamination is printed on white paper, which allows for the exact expression of the colour being printed.

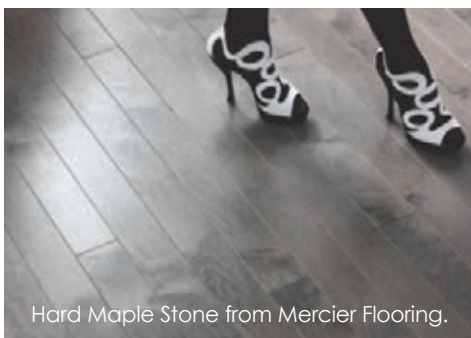
Red Oak, which is one of the more popular species of hardwood in Ontario, has a red tone to it as a natural wood. When a grey stain is applied to a red oak the red undertone of the red oak comes through and it tends to give the flooring a warmer grey look. A good example of this is the Shadow stain from Mercier Hardwood Flooring on red oak. The other popular species in Ontario is Hard Maple which is much whiter and more golden in tone as a raw product. Therefore when grey stain is applied to maple it tends to be lighter in colour and more washed out and a lighter colour over all. The grey on Maple also tend to look a little colder because there is not redness in the raw wood to give it much warmth. Again a good example of this is the Stone stain from Mercier Hardwood Flooring on Hard Maple.

One of the other techniques used on hardwood flooring is to put a very thick, paint-like layer on the floors. This technique allows for the natural tone of the hardwood to be covered completely and it will allow for a more neutral grey.

The Travertine Hard Maple from Lauzon is a great example of this type of technique. This is one of the three greys available in the Line Art series from Lauzon that features three grey stain on a hard maple along with the line art that mimics grain pattern. The overall effect is a textured floor that has a more even colour tone and mimics the look of rift and quartered oak.

Aside from the species of the wood which will change the stain colour, there are many different varieties of grey, from blue greys to brown greys. Depending on the overall aesthetic of the room you want to create different shades of grey are suitable for different rooms. A warmer brown grey will allow you to have warmer colours in the rest of the room. A bluer colder grey is going to limit the colour choices to the cooler blue tones, black, cooler whites, and other shades of grey. So depending on what you want to create there are more than 50 shades of grey for you to choose from.

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New indoor kitchen line from DCS offers total kitchen solution



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“With the exciting, new DCS Indoor Kitchen line, homeowners can expect new levels of cooking power and product performance that together make up the total kitchen solution,” explains Roger Bridge, GM Marketing. “This line elevates and pushes boundaries within the current marketplace, and builds upon DCS’s commitment to provide outstanding kitchen solutions for people’s indoor and outdoor living areas.”

The DCS Indoor Kitchen line has the following product additions and enhancements:

MORE RANGE MODELS With the addition of an eight-burner, 48-inch model and a four-burner, 30-inch model, DCS offers a diverse selection of range sizes to provide design flexibility. These additional models are available in both gas and dual fuel.

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NEW DROP-IN COOKTOPS The Drop-In Cooktops feature a functional 21-inch deep design that comes in both 30-inch and 36-inch widths. With Sealed Dual Flow Burners™, the

Drop-In Cooktops deliver up to 20,000 BTU for fast boiling and gentle simmering. In addition to the heat options, this cooktop offers a full-surface simmer across all burners with precise temperature reduction to a gentle 140 F, which allows consumers total control of the temperature they desire.

WALL OVEN REDESIGN Built with the same power and functionality as previous models, the new DCS Wall Ovens have been given a complete esthetic makeover. The oven boasts higher quality touch points with metal dials and buttons, and can be installed to be flush or proud.

LED HALO CONTROL DIALS The LED halo control dials use colour indicators to provide consumers information at a glance. When the LED halo controller is white, this indicates the burner is heating up. Orange means the intended temperature has been reached, and red means the appliance is in the self-cleaning mode. This feature is

available on the DCS Dual Fuel and Gas Ranges, as well as the Professional Cooktops, Wall Ovens, and select Drop-In Cooktops.

DCS KITCHEN FAMILY MATCH Choose between two handle profiles, round or square, to provide the perfect fit for any style of kitchen; so that the overarching esthetic of the products match.

To make up the complete kitchen solution, the DCS Indoor line also offers Integrated Refrigerators with ActiveSmart™ that provide exceptional food care at an incredibly competitive price. Additionally, the product line would not be complete without DishDrawer™ dishwashers.

For more information on the 2016 DCS Indoor Product Line, please visit:
<http://dcsappliances.com/indoor-kitchenfamily/>



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from HOUSE *to* HOME

BY YVONNE WHELAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN

Putting your stamp
on a new home
inevitably begins
with colour choices

After meeting new mom and Global News anchor, Farah Nasser, it was clear that she wanted her home to feel welcoming and be a reflection of their strong family values. The couple had recently purchased this beautiful home but their previous furniture wasn't quite fitting with the new space.

LIGHTEN IT UP

There were a lot of dark tones and exposed-brick walls, so the objective was clear from the outset; introduce some colour and give a sense of warmth, personality and fun. They wanted their home to feel livable but not overly decorated or forced.

We started with the family room and chose to keep the overall palette in neutral grey tones with a decided splash of turquoise in throw pillows and accessories.

FABULOUS FURNISHINGS

To create a comfortable environment with lots of seating, our starting point was the large sectional. I love when a room feels balanced, so we added a rustic coffee table that warms up the cool lines of the space. A patterned rug ties the room together and creates the anchor for all the furniture.

Simple, white cabinets flank the modern fireplace and custom black-and-white prints work beautifully to create the perfect balance.

Drapery is one of my most favourite ways to add warmth to any space so in keeping with the contemporary feel to the gauzy two-toned panels, ripple-fold pleats were selected, attached to a clean and simple track for easy movement.

ADD THE UNEXPECTED

I always like to add a fun factor to a family room. It's the place where you spend time with your loved ones and it shouldn't be stuffy or too serious. In this space, the delightful fringed cubes add a touch of whimsy and are perfect for extra seating. They were also a big hit with the little ones.



PRACTICAL CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

The dining room is used daily by Farah, her husband and two young children so it had to be practical. We selected materials that are easy to maintain since the dining table is used for meals, homework and crafts. A distressed wood table works well as it already has a lived-in look and the patina only looks better with wear. Custom draperies were created to add some punch, pattern and interest to the space, while the light fixture just completes the look.

MEANINGFUL ARTWORK

No room feels complete without the right artwork. Art is so subjective and should be meaningful to the individual. It also elevates a home's one-of-a-kind esthetic. The map of Paris, for instance, hanging in the dining room means something special to Farah and her husband. It is their favourite city and they have had many happy memories exploring *la ville lumière's* charm. It also looks fabulous in the space and complements the overall vibe.



FAMILY ROOM/DINING ROOM SECTIONAL: Elte **CHAIRS, BENCH AND COFFEE TABLE:** Sunpan **RUG:** FLOR **WHITE CABINETS:** Structube **ARTWORK:** Celadon Art **FRINGED CUBES, THROW, PILLOWS, MIRROR AND ACCESSORIES:** HomeSense **DRAPERY:** Yvonne Whelan Design, JF Fabrics **LIGHTING:** Union Lighting **DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS:** Pied a Terre **MASTER BEDROOM UPHOLSTERED BED:** Elte **NIGHT STANDS AND CHANDELIER:** Restoration Hardware **BEDDING, PILLOWS:** West Elm **PILLOWS:** H&M Home **HARDWARE:** Canadian Drapery Hardware

RUSTIC GLAMOUR

In the bedroom, blush tones soften the masculine look of the exposed brick. The juxtaposition works well as it balances the room and adds a touch of femininity. Colour can transform a space and the key is to choose the right tone and to use it sparingly. Just a hint goes a long way.

To add some interest and contrast, I selected a variety of textiles, for instance, the bedding has a rustic rawness to it since it is a distressed cotton duvet with deconstructed edges. By adding the silk blush quilt and Mongolian wool pillows, we gave it some polished glamour. The stunning chandelier also adds a hint of softness and elegance to the room while the dark metal keeps it from being too over the top. By selecting quiet, neutral colours for the headboard and nightstands, it allows the soft-pink blush tones to take centre stage.

The addition of colour and pattern to this house has truly elevated a sense of cosiness, beauty and relaxed sophistication for this family to enjoy for years to come. ♦

Yvonne Whelan is an award-winning Toronto designer, most recently receiving a CDECA award, and an award for Best Design Service 2015 from Build Magazine. Yvonne's career started in fashion with the likes of Alfred Sung, Chaps and Ralph Lauren. With her extensive knowledge of colours and textiles, she's taken her cutting-edge design sense and expertly translated it to home decor. yvonnewhelandesign.com





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FALLING *for* COLOUR

Lower temperatures and less humidity make September a perfect month for painting

BY VICKY SANDERSON

September may be the month in which summer starts to slip away, but take heart—Labour Day doesn't spell a definitive end to warm weather. And for homeowners who lazed their way through the dog days, there's still time to tick items off the to-do list. Temperate fall days with low humidity are, for example, perfect for painting.

Here are some tips, tricks and trends that may inspire you to tackle painting projects—inside and out—before the days get dark and cold.



FRONT-OF-HOUSE FACELIFT



Because an exterior paint job can seem a daunting task, DIY/colour expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault says formulating a plan is critical.

"People underestimate either how much it will cost or how long it will take. Once you put it on paper, though, you can create a functional task list that can also generate a shopping list, costs and a schedule," says Allaire Perrault.

There are ways to reduce the budget on an exterior refresh, she insists. To prove it, she took on the recent makeover of a North Toronto bungalow with dingy, dented aluminum siding, a tired front door, pitted concrete steps and rusting railings.

Her first suggestion is to "work with what you've got, because if it ain't broke, you don't fix it." Here, that meant choosing a palette of cream, mauve-grey and black that complemented the drab brown roof and brickwork, rather than replacing either.

Top on this homeowner's to-do list was the siding. Painting it was not a DIY- job they relished and replacing it

was not in the budget, so they enlisted SprayNet, which applies proprietary coatings on aluminum and vinyl siding, stucco, aggregate and brick that are solar-reflective, weather- and peel-proof.

SprayNet claims that its water-soluble, eco-friendly solution outperforms the factory paint of brand-new siding. The cost for an average house will be in the neighbourhood of a few thousand dollars, far less than that of replacing siding, windows and doors.

Refreshing the porch was a more manageable DIY project, suggested Allaire Perrault, so it was treated with Rustoleum's Deck & Concrete Restore 10X Resurfacer—a liquid coating that forms a non-slip, barefoot-friendly surface over wood and concrete. Railings, shutters and a tired light fixture were sprayed in crisp black, which matched new cast-iron planters, while a new door with a beautiful leaded pane from Home Depot added handsome punctuation to the creamy neutral used on the house.

INSIDE JOB

Whites and dainty blush tones may be hot for 2016, but colour never goes out of style. In fact, bolder hues are nipping at the heels of oh-so-safe neutrals, says Mylène Gévry, marketing manager for Sico paint.

"People are becoming comfortable expressing themselves with colour inside their homes," she says.

Gévry likes red in kitchens, especially when paired

with a glass or stone backsplash and creamy white accents. In smaller spaces, she suggests it works better on one or two walls.

Because coverage is key to highly coloured rooms, Gévry recommends a paint-and-primer-in-one product that's smooth and deep in hue. Sico's MUSE fits the bill, she says, and offers resistance to scratches, marks and stains.



"Whites and dainty blush tones may be hot for 2016, BUT COLOUR NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE. In fact, bolder hues are nipping at the heels of oh-so-safe neutrals . . ."

PAINLESS PAINT PROJECTS

Sometimes, all a room needs is an interesting accessory or accent to make it come alive. Creating one is easy with decorative Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan, the U.K.-based artist who launched her paint line in 1990.

Water-based, non-toxic and extremely low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Chalk Paint sticks to most surfaces, including walls, wood, concrete, metal, plastic, fabric, earthenware, and stone—indoors or out.

Sanding and priming are rarely needed, and the paint dries so quickly that a second coat can be applied in far less than normal wait times. (One coat is often sufficient.) When dry, a soft wax is applied to the surface to add a touch of sheen and increase durability.

The whole process is so simple that an old piece of furniture can be transformed into a statement piece in the course of a morning, leaving you the afternoon to get outside and enjoy what's left of the late-summer sun.



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GREEN SPACES

Trend watchers say green—in all its glorious incarnations—is poised to take centre stage in the world of design.

Why green, and why now? "Why not?" answers design consultant and blogger Margot Austin.

"It's a colour of optimism and we need that more than ever before," she says. "It's also a crowd-pleaser in that it plays well with other colours. Green is, after all, nature's neutral. And it comes in so many different moods: you get a very different feel from a chartreuse than you do a deep-moss green." ♦

*"IT'S A COLOUR OF
OPTIMISM and we
need that more than
ever before . . ."*

SOURCES

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SAMANTHA SANNELLA

the sweet SPOT

A cross between traditional and contemporary, find out how to pull off the ever-popular transitional style in your home

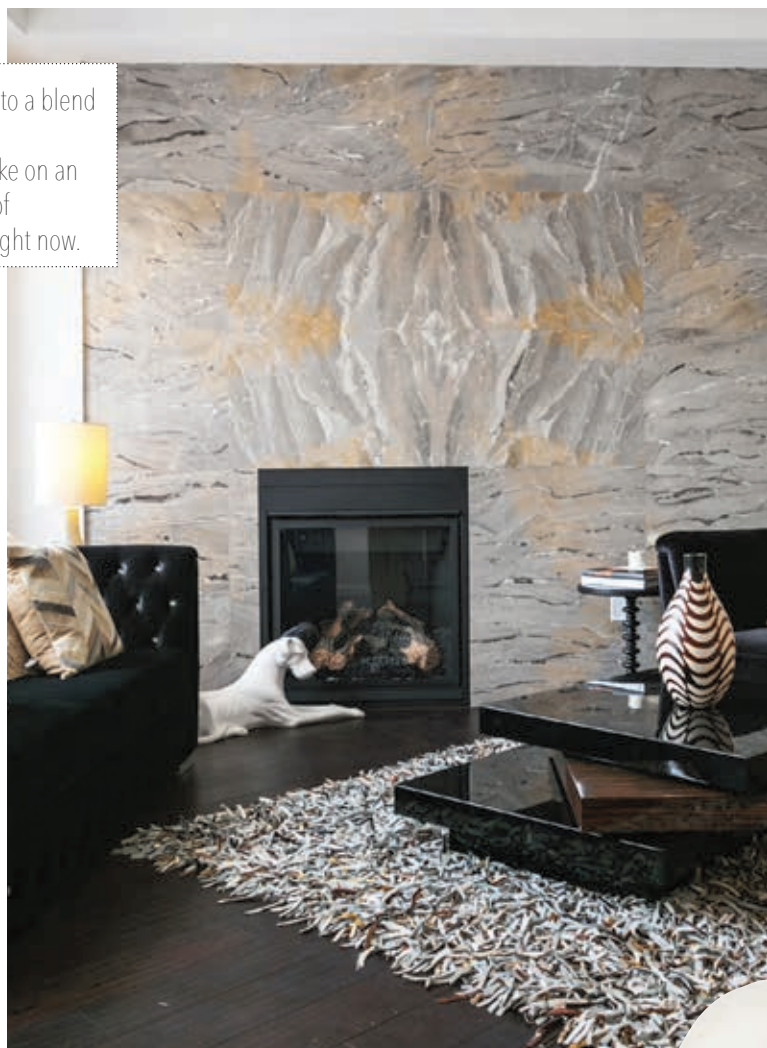
TRANSITIONAL STYLE design refers to a blend of traditional and contemporary styles.

You can think of it simply as a new take on an old classic, or a newer, quirkier version of traditional design. And it's a hot trend right now.

THE JUST-RIGHT FACTOR

Transitional design is all about the mix. It can marry curvilinear furnishings with straight lines, lacquered finishes with velvets, and reclaimed wooden flooring with brass accents. This mixing results in a room that is equally masculine and feminine in nature. Transitional style differs from eclectic style. Transitional styles tend toward the minimalist, while eclectic styles are more highly accessorized. While a traditional look is more ornate and stuffy, transitional tends to relax the comfort level and pare down the froufrou. Modern styles can be seen as too cold and museum-like, whereas transitional adds warmth through materials and texture. In short, the transitional style is more of a 'neutral zone,' which is one reason that I recommend this to clients who are looking to sell their homes. It appeals to the vast majority of people.

The following are guidelines for creating a transitional space.



A book-matched marble wall anchors an asymmetrical fireplace, which is balanced by the coffee table. A leather rug and pillows add texture. Colours remain neutral.

STAY NEUTRAL IN COLOUR Walls act as a backdrop and a cohesive background to mixed furniture. I typically paint the walls and ceiling the same colour. My favourite: Benjamin Moore AF10—Gardenia. It's a wonderful shade of white with just the slightest hint of pink. If you want to accent a wall or add some colour, go with very pale, subdued shades.

SKIP THE CLUTTER Too many accessories are distracting. I prefer adding interest through hardware choices, such as a lovely cabinet pull. My favourite: Emtek, Bristol Crystal Knobs.

AF10—Gardenia
Benjamin Moore

Bristol Crystal
Knobs, Emtek

ADD TEXTURE Use marble, wood, fabric, metal to add visual interest or texture. I love large crown moulding as a key feature or strongly veined marble on the wall. Other ideas might include using cabinet wood as a feature texture—such as rift-cut oak.

FEATURE UNIQUENESS Consider a pair of hand-carved doors from Indonesia, or a mosaic at the entry, or perhaps an ornate ceiling detail. Choose ONE item and let it be the standout feature. This reflects the personality of the owner and adds visual interest to the space.

COMFORT Comfort is paramount. Furniture is cosy and soft. Down-stuffed throw pillows are a must. Sectionals can be stylish and cool.

The transitional style is quite flexible. I enjoy taking a client's valued antiques or favourite artwork and designing a room around it to suit their personality. It allows me to pick and choose objects from a variety of sources. Akin to putting together a jigsaw puzzle, the end result is as pretty as a picture.◆

Combining a traditional mahogany front door with a modern marble entry and modern pedestals, creates a transitional style. Crown moulding and trim is used, but has a modern profile. Doors are simple, single panel and feature a modern hardware style with a flat-black finish.



SOURCES

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TRIM: victoriastrong.ca PAINT: benjaminmoore.com



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COLOUR YOUR WORLD

Essential DIY-painting tips for professional results

Iwould have to say that painters are the most-underrated members of any construction crew. You can spend thousands of dollars on the best materials and fixtures, but nothing will ruin the look of a finished project quicker than a bad paint job.

Of course, for many homeowners looking to keep costs down, painting is seen as a DIY-able task. While I'd always recommend hiring a pro if you can afford it, if you really want to paint the town—or at least, your house—yourself, here are some tips on how to do a better DIY-job of painting.

BEST PRACTICES

Rule #1: Invest in good quality paint-brushes and rollers. If you try to use a dollar-store brush, you're going to get a dollar-store finish. Good quality brushes will hold more paint, saving you time and arm strain, and the bristles won't come out and stick to your walls.

Before you pick up your brush, make sure you take care of the prep work first. If you're freshening up old colours, you're going to want to clean the walls first to remove dust and any grease spots, and fill the holes where artwork used to hang.

If you're not confident in your brushwork skills, you can cover up any areas that you don't want coated with painter's tape. You'll also want to remove the cover plates over light switches and electric receptacles, and

maybe put a piece of tape over the switches and receptacles too.

KEEPING IT CLEAN

You could get away with newspaper to cover the floor, but canvas drop sheets are best. They aren't slippery like plastic sheeting, and the paint will dry on the canvas, rather than sitting as glob waiting for someone to step in.

If you're painting new drywall, you'll need to start with a coat of primer. Primer is also a good base if you're trying to change a dark colour to a lighter one. There are even heavy-duty primers on the market that will cover up nicotine stains if you're renovating a place that used to be owned by a heavy smoker.

It's best to work from the top down. That way if there are any drip lines, you'll clean them up as you work your way down.

When you're done, store any leftover paint in a cool, dry location for future touch-ups, and make note of the brand and colour in case you need to buy more down the road.

JIM CARUK, RENOVATION EDITOR

**JIM'S
PICK**



Brenlo Custom Wood Products is one of my go-to places for trim. On their website (brenlo.com), you can search by material, dimensions, and styles ranging from Colonial and Arts & Crafts to Modern.

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Macerator/grinder unit concealed behind the wall.

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TRIM TIME

From the floor to the ceiling, trim undoubtedly enhances the look of a home

BY JIM CARUK

After drywall, trim is probably the most underappreciated building material in a home. Most of it just sits there at the base of our walls, going largely unnoticed. But trim serves a dual purpose: it protects the walls from damage (imagine what unprotected drywall would look like after a few rounds with the vacuum cleaner) and it can add a nice, low-cost design element to a room's decor.



KEEP IT SIMPLE... OR NOT

The current trend in baseboard trim is minimalist to go with the bright, open designs most people are choosing. That means simple lines, usually painted in a shade of white. If you're going with this approach, you can save some money by using MDF trim. But if your style is more traditional, there are countless profiles to choose from in a variety of plain to ornate designs, in a variety of stainable woods.

People often ask me if it's okay to paint the old trim in their house. I say, yes. Why live with a look that you don't like just on the chance that the person you sell your house to years down the road might like a natural-wood finish? If you do sell and the new owners really want wood, they can strip it themselves.

DRESSING UP THE WALLS

Of course, trim isn't limited to baseboards. Walls can be adorned with wainscoting, chair rail, plate rail, or a combination of all three.

There are a number of different companies making DIY-wainscoting kits. Or you simply add moulding pieces directly to the wall that will

"Of course, trim isn't limited to baseboards. Walls can be adorned with wainscoting, chair rail, plate rail, or a combination of all three."

make it look like you've installed recessed panels.

Note that when you're installing tongue-and-groove pieces, you'll want to leave a slight gap between them to allow for expansion and contraction. If you install everything nice and snug on a dry winter day, once the summer humidity rolls around, your walls will start buckling.

In fact, you should allow all your trim to have some time to acclimatize to your home environment by leaving it in the room it will be installed in for a couple of days before you install it.

STEP BY STEP

If you're painting the room yourself (see "Colour Your World" on page 54), you can save yourself a lot of time and aggravation by painting the trim before you install it. For best results, give it a light sanding before you lay down the first coat, and then sand between every layer of paint you add. The paint will level out better and

you'll have a nicer overall finish.

Don't forget to look up. Plate rail lining the walls just below the ceiling is both a decorative touch, and a handy storage solution or spot to house your knickknacks if space was tight.

LOOK UP, WAY UP

Adding ceiling medallions around light fixtures is another easy task for a DIY that enhances the look of a room.

There's also a wide array of choices for creating coffered ceilings with a grid pattern made from wood, drywall or MDF.

For another low-budget option, there are faux-timber beams on the market that are made of lightweight polyurethane.

Paint and trim are among the last stages of any renovation project, but they're also the finishing touches that wrap it up, so make sure you give the colours and styles you choose as much care and planning as you did to the rest of the job. ♦



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BRYAN TUCKEY

HOUSE CALLS

Whether you're buying or selling, realtors and renovators are working together



It's usually when you're thinking of selling your home or purchasing another one that the idea of renovating takes hold.

In many cases, an initial renovation conversation occurs between homeowners and realtors; and that's why a panel of RenoMark renovators recently spoke at the Toronto Real Estate Board's annual conference and gave a large group of real estate professionals some helpful tips.

One key piece of advice was to engage a professional renovator early as part of the home sale or purchase decision. Doing so will improve the understanding of how long it can take to get the appropriate approvals and plans in place to renovate, as well as a realistic budget. You can work through a realtor to find a professional renovator or you can use a resource like RenoMark to find one yourself.

RenoMark is a program that was started by BILD in 2001 so consumers could identify professional renovators and trade contractors. There is a website with a searchable database that allows consumers to find reputable renovators who specialize in certain project types and work nearby.

The program has been endorsed across the nation and here in the GTA there are more than 250 renovators and trade contractors in it. As part of the program, they must abide by a renovation-specific code of conduct that includes providing a written contract, carrying applicable licenses, obtaining permits and government approvals, as well as having a minimum of \$2 million liability insurance and offering a minimum two-year warranty on all work and more.

Given how competitive it is to buy a home in the GTA, you may want to take a renovator with you on viewings to get a true idea of what can be done

ONE KEY PIECE OF ADVICE WAS TO ENGAGE A PROFESSIONAL RENOVATOR EARLY AS PART OF THE HOME SALE OR PURCHASE DECISION.

and what it will cost. For example, if there is rental potential in the property, such as creating a rental suite, a renovator will know what it takes to ensure it is up to building and fire codes, and help you invest your time and money wisely.

Yet another hot topic in renovating real estate in the GTA is flipping, which is buying a fixer-upper and selling it for profit. The old adage of location, location, location still applies, but some advice from the renovator panel included working with a professional contractor and carefully considering government rules and regulations that could affect the project timeline and budget.

The real estate market in the GTA is robust and it is a good investment, but it's not one to be made without doing some homework first and engaging a team of professionals to help you get the best return. ♦



Bryan Tuckey is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association and a land-use planner who has worked for municipal, regional and provincial governments. Follow him on Twitter @bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

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flooring 101

BY MELISSA DAVIS

In a vast world of choices, know where to spend and where to save on flooring

One of the single largest design elements, and expenses in your home, will be the flooring. It's no wonder it is also one of the most difficult for homeowners to resolve. I find the problem isn't for a lack of options, but rather how many seemingly identical options there are available.

Combine the near-daily addition of new products with the sound bites embedded in our subconscious by our grandfathers noting that nothing is better than a good solid oak floor. Respectfully granddad, you're no longer correct.

Here's a quick overview of today's top options and how to use and combine them to get the greatest impact for your budget.

WOOD

Once the top choice for quality and longevity, solid-wood floors are now quickly being eliminated from the market. Made from approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch solid thickness of high-grade woods both above and below, from the substrate to the finished layers, they waste precious natural resources. Our Canadian climate inherently sees extreme fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels, which also presents big problems, causing gapping and buckling depending on the season. In short, don't use solid wood if you can avoid it.

Engineered wood is a layer of real wood where the thickness varies depending on the quality. It is adhered to a substrate of multiple layers of alternating directions of wood, much like plywood. This means a far more stable product, which also allows more design freedom with wider plank sizes and lengths.

WHERE



Opt for engineered wood in above-grade floors, over in-floor heating systems and, if the budget allows, even in basements.

"There's never been a better time to make the investment in new floors."

LAMINATE

No longer a dirty word, laminate quality has improved along with printing and production technology in general. Current offerings are near identical facsimiles of the real deal. Better companies offer five or more varied plank styles per box, which creates a very random and natural installation. It's also extremely hardwearing and über affordable starting at around \$2 per square foot.

WHERE



Perfect for playrooms, and basements and over in-floor heating systems. I like to match a laminate to my engineered wood and substitute the lesser-cost product and use laminate in the basement. Guests will never suspect the change but the cost savings translates to big bucks.



LUXURY VINYL

Laminate's fancy new cousin, this vinyl product offers all the benefits of laminate with the bonus of also being water-resistant and some are even deemed water-proof. Look for options with a base layer of cork and glue-free click systems that are simply held in place with their own weighted design.

WHERE



Playrooms, basements and even light, commercial projects. The malleable nature of the vinyl also allows for some forgiveness on unlevelled subfloors.

PORCELAIN TILE & SLAB

Much like the printing process on laminate and vinyl, porcelain floors can now be created to emulate virtually any material. Designers have been singing their praises for years. There is nothing quite like the soft organic nature of marble to elevate a design, however, natural stone is also porous, which means more maintenance and limitations in use, such as wet and high-traffic areas where staining may occur. Opt instead for better-quality porcelain like Maxime from CIOT, which is available in everything from mosaics to oversized slabs for a truly seamless look.

WHERE



Washroom floors, counters and walls and over in-floor heating systems.

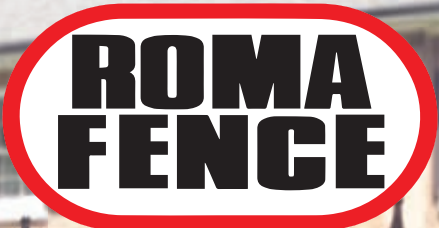
There's never been a better time to make the investment in new floors. By combining beautiful engineered plank floors with a hardwearing laminating or vinyl, and finishing it off with luxury porcelain, your investment will pay off in durability, looks and value. ♦



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF CIOT

Toronto-based designer and contractor Melissa Davis is known for her appearances, creative design and reno work produced for various HGTV shows. Her work has also been profiled nationally in print publications. With almost two decades of reno and design experience her firm continues to service clientele throughout Ontario & GTA, specializing in value-adding ROI and resale consultations. melissadavis.com @melissadavis





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The stunning colours of fall bloom splendidly in our gardens year after year thanks to these autumn staples

I know many Canadians who travel our country in search of autumn colour this time of year. Gardeners would be well advised to take a trip to their own kitchen and have a gander out the window. What can you do to lift the appearance of your garden in the fall? Many of the winter-hardy plants that we take for granted during the gardening season are fabulous autumn performers. Check out this list below and consider adding a splash of colour to your garden this fall and in coming years as these trees and shrubs mature right in your own backyard.



AMUR MAPLE



JAPANESE MAPLE

FLOWERING SHRUBS

Saskatoon Serviceberry [*Amelanchier alnifolia*]. A native plant that produces wonderfully vibrant apricot-red-yellow leaves in late September and October. The flowers in spring are always welcome as they arrive early, usually in late April, and the berries are a favourite of many songbirds from mid to late summer. Serviceberry matures to about five metres.

Amur Maple [*Acer ginnala*]. Is it a shrub or is it a tree? Let it grow long enough and you have a wonderful smallish tree. Trim it down and you have a shrub that can be trained to stand about two metres. Not a bad hedge either. Bright red each fall in October.

Japanese Maple [*Acer palmatum*]. Interesting—a red Japanese maple becomes more red in the fall. A green Japanese maple will turn either yellow or red, depending on the variety, and there are many. With a glut of these wonderful plants on the market over the last couple of years, chances are you can get a good deal at your favourite retailer.

TREES

Birch [*Betula spp.*]. If yellow is the colour that you are looking for, this tree is for you. Do not buy a European birch, as they are the most susceptible to the dreaded and deadly bronze birch borer. However, many of the native species are resistant, great looking even if the bark turns white a bit later, and they are good urban landscape trees but not great street trees as they hate salt.

Maidenhair Tree [*Ginkgo biloba*]. The oldest tree known to human kind has an interesting pedigree. Fossilized leaves told archaeologists that this tree existed at the time of the dinosaurs. It was thought to be extinct for many years until one day, in 1854, a European found one in the courtyard of a Buddhist monastery in the middle of China. It was brought back to Europe and bingo, now it is widely planted around the world. Very winter hardy, great yellow fall colour. No insects or disease will give you trouble with this one. Slow to get established but a wonderful permanent addition to your tree collection. Ask for a male tree, as the females can be a bit messy.

Douglas Maple [*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*]. For all intents and purposes, I will call the Douglas maple a tree, albeit a short one, growing to about nine metres. Prune away bottom suckers to encourage a more tree-like appearance. A great option for wet areas that receive a fair amount of sunlight. The Douglas maple is noted for its fall colours, showing off brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows. Like many other maples, the fall colours vary drastically from tree to tree so plan on planting a few for a dramatic effect.

Black Cottonwood [*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*]. Also known as the western balsam poplar, the black cottonwood is the west's tallest native broadleaf tree. And growing to 60 metres, it's no small thing. Requiring sufficient

moisture, the cottonwood will do well in floodplains and moist upland sites where nutrients are plentiful. As for their fall colour, the vivid yellows that turn orange and bronze as the season carries on will pleasantly surprise you. If you have the space, I encourage you to plant one of these large hardy trees.

It is interesting to note that leaf colour that becomes very evident come fall is not so much a 'change' of colour but rather the reversion of the leaf to its original colour. As the chlorophyll production stops, each leaf shows its true colours.

Whatever the reason for this magnificent natural show that occurs annually, I urge you to take a moment to remind yourself that people travel from all corners of the world to see what we have growing in Canada. ♦



MAIDENHAIR TREE

Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, author and broadcaster. Get his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com. Look for his new best seller, *The New Canadian Garden* published by Dundurn Press. Follow him on Twitter @MarkCullen4 and Facebook. markcullen.com



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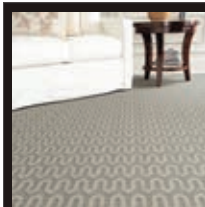
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AT HOME IN THE WORLD

International design influences arrive in Canada fashionably late yet always with style and grace

History has that amazing knack of repeating itself. I swore when I donated my finely tailored double-breasted blazer in 1999 to Goodwill, that it would be the last time I saw one, yet here we are today, with their triumphant return to the runway, albeit in a more trim, less linebacker-esque cut.

A similar repetitive trend in interior design is finding its way out of the shadows and into the homes of Canadians. We are typically a slower bunch to react to style trends, and wait for these fashion and housing changes to firmly catch on before daring to implement them in our own lives. In an entire lifetime of living in Toronto, now some 38 years, I can't recall a time when our city, or our country, has had a bigger international

lens shining so brightly upon us. We as a nation are also living (generally speaking) in a reasonably prosperous time, with real estate showing growth and a solid 10- to 15-year track record. Canada's labour market is also performing well, allowing for growth in the development of our nation and affording us the ability to travel abroad and improve our settings at home.

As such, we are seeing a lot of international design influence finding its way back into our homes.

MID-CENTURY SCANDI INFLUENCES

This is not the first time however, that we have undergone a similar transformation. The rise of new modernism in Canada, and most specifically

"Just the right amount of detail is enough to allow the element to function well."

Toronto, is bred out of our historical copying of design styles of Scandinavia—those stylish and minimalistic esthetics so common in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden. Back in the 1950s to 1970s, we in effect did the same thing, mirroring similar design trends and showing the world (most specifically at Expo '67) that we were stylish and followed the new rules of "good design" through simplicity, fine proportion and functional utility. The post-war development was in full swing and this clean-lined, modern design brought Canadians minimalism and functionality, and with it the feeling of less clutter within our busy and chaotic lives. A welcome change to the ornate, faux-chateau heavy-trimmed styling of our past. Stays in international hotels and resorts tend to help push these trends upon us as we are exposed to uncluttered rooms, which are inviting and airy upon our entrance into them. It is this feeling that helps clear our minds of the clutter of life back home, and one many are striving to recreate in their own bodes.



LAGOM ÄR BÄST Translated to mean there is virtue in moderation—as seen in this simple, clean and attractive glass and wood stairs.

REINTERPRETING 20TH-CENTURY DESIGN

Back in the early to mid-1900s, famous architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, as well as Le Corbusier and Walter Gropius helped to develop these trends in North America through their iconic designs. In today's more DIY-driven home culture, we are witness to a more haphazard deployment of this style trend, some embracing the mid-century design of years past, others pushing on with new modernism styling, which incorporates more glass and elements borrowed from industrial design.

SMART STYLE

When we look back in time, this Scandinavian design influence here at home will surely be linked to the corporate rise of IKEA in North America. Our nation's shift from suburban life to a more cosmopolitan, urban lifestyle, where we finally start to reduce the size of homes we reside in, requiring more minimalistic and functional trappings to fit inside our condos and stacked townhomes. This movement towards smart design continues to show the world that Canadians have also arrived to the style party.

CANADIAN DESIGN SENSE ON THE RISE

When designing your next remodel or new build, think of the Swedish proverb *Lagom är bäst*, translated to mean there is virtue in moderation. Just the right amount of detail is enough to allow the element to function well, as it is intended to do, without overdoing it—something all well-intentioned Canadians also have a long history of doing. As such, be prepared to continue to see more clean lines, square edges, flat panels, light colours at your sophisticated neighbours' homes for some time to come, as Canada continues to shine on the international design stage as a more major player. If you have read Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Tipping Point*, you will understand this trend has exited the "connectors" and is shifting past the "mavens" and onto the "persuaders." So remember, there is value in good design and be sure to work with quality professionals to execute the design and build of your next project right—one that looks great and is built for its intended function and will last beyond the next style trend—even if you look like a line-backer when wearing it!♦

Brendan Charters is co-owner of Toronto Design-Build Firm Eurodale Developments – 2016 BILD Renovator of the Year. Visit eurodale.ca or follow Brendan on Twitter @EurodaleHomes



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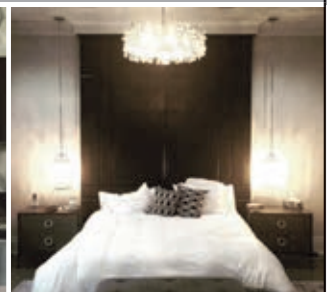


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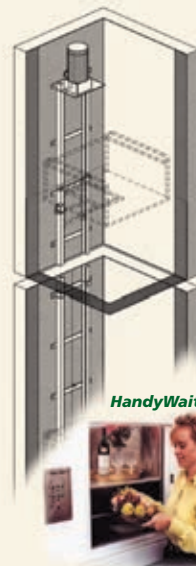


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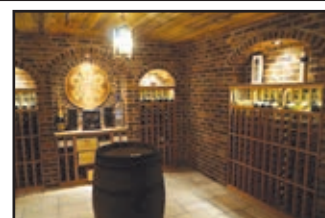
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POWER COUPLE

BY SILVANA LONGO



A black-and-white colour theme is as classic as Fred & Ginger—timelessly chic and elegant—it is a colour combination that makes a statement in both fashion and decor. Whether your style is modern minimalist or you have a penchant for graphic art deco, this high-contrast palette is like the power couple of colour stories...unequivocally striking and will add drama to any space.

1 Oxford Black Pepper Mill, Oxford White Salt Mill, \$19.95 each; crateandbarrel.ca **2** Cat Plate, \$12.99; **Spotted Plate**, \$12.99; **Leopard Plate**, \$7.99; hm.com **3** Germain 30-inch Barstool, \$349; cb2.com **4** Awning Stripe Dhurrie Lumbar Pillow Cover, \$79; potterybarn.com **5** Lattice in Black Accent Pillow, \$39.95; simons.ca **6** Black-and-white Melamine Tray, \$7.99; homesense.ca **7** Les Trésors Gourmands Box, \$9.50 small, \$14 large; simons.ca **8** Kendal + Kylie Striped Top, \$138; holtrenfrew.com **9** Hemming Chair, \$1,119; westelm.com **10** Blanket 78 per cent cotton, 22 per cent polyester, \$59.99; hm.com



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