

# ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

*Coloured details work with simple backdrop to bring out boldness*

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WHEN THE HOMEOWNER TOOK POSSESSION of this three-storey property on a ravine two years ago, she essentially got to start with a clean slate. The contemporary house, surrounded by parkland, had just been built from the ground up. After fitting the kitchen and bathrooms, the seller left the midtown property raw-walled and ready for customization.

Working with designer Erin Jones of Carey Mudford Interior Design, the new homeowner created a monochromatic scheme to act as a backdrop to the lively punches of colour found throughout the house. The starting point for

the brights was a cowhide piece in acid orange, found at Elte. The rug-turned-wall-hanging informed everything from the fabrics in the living room to the stairway's bold orange and gold wall covering. "I'm originally from Montreal, and I wanted my home to be bold, modern and fun," said the homeowner.

"We went through about three different schemes before we ended up going with pink and tangerine," said Jones. Reserving colours for the accessories and accents meant that they could be switched easily over time. Although the homeowner was considering a purple

sofa, Jones advised a more neutral option. The brown leather sectional she ended up choosing was practical enough for any future scenarios and large enough to seat numerous guests; it could also offer a warm tie-in with the mahogany-coloured kitchen cupboards in the open-plan room. To achieve a perfect mix – balancing textures, patterns, shapes, sizes and colours – Jones sketched the sectional to imagine how the custom cushions would be positioned on it as an ensemble. "They're still laid out exactly as I drew them," she said. "The homeowner kept that sketch!"



DESIGN

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*The dining room chairs are remakes of a classic Eames design. Their simple Mid-century Modern lines and dark colour create interesting contrast with the rustic and pale reclaimed barn-door tabletop.*



Flow is important throughout the home, and several elements reappear on different storeys. The grey marble of the kitchen countertops, for instance, is repeated in the bathrooms, powder room and living room. When the homeowner had the fireplace built, she was left with large enough off-cuts to have custom marble-and-steel side tables made, too.

The modern kitchen – equipped with Miele dishwasher, Jenn-Air gas stove, Thermador electric stove and microwave, and Sub-Zero refrigerator – was a key selling point for this house. “Everywhere else I looked, I would have wanted to rip the more traditional kitchen out,” said the homeowner. “All I had to do here was paint a wall.” She quickly became a fan of the oversized sink, which is set directly opposite the gas stove and able to hold large loads of dishes, and is framed by an easy-to-clean sparkling, tiled backsplash. ☞



*In lieu of balusters, a glass panel supports the stairway's handrail – another well-conceived element that creates a sense of openness and flow among the different areas in the home.*

*“I wanted my home to be bold, modern and fun.”*



*The sectional sofa is low-backed to avoid obstructing the view of the ravine. When the trees are in full leaf, the urban living space feels like a forest retreat. (Opposite) Instead of searching for art on a scale that would work in the tall stairwell, the homeowner made a statement with bold graphic wallpaper.*

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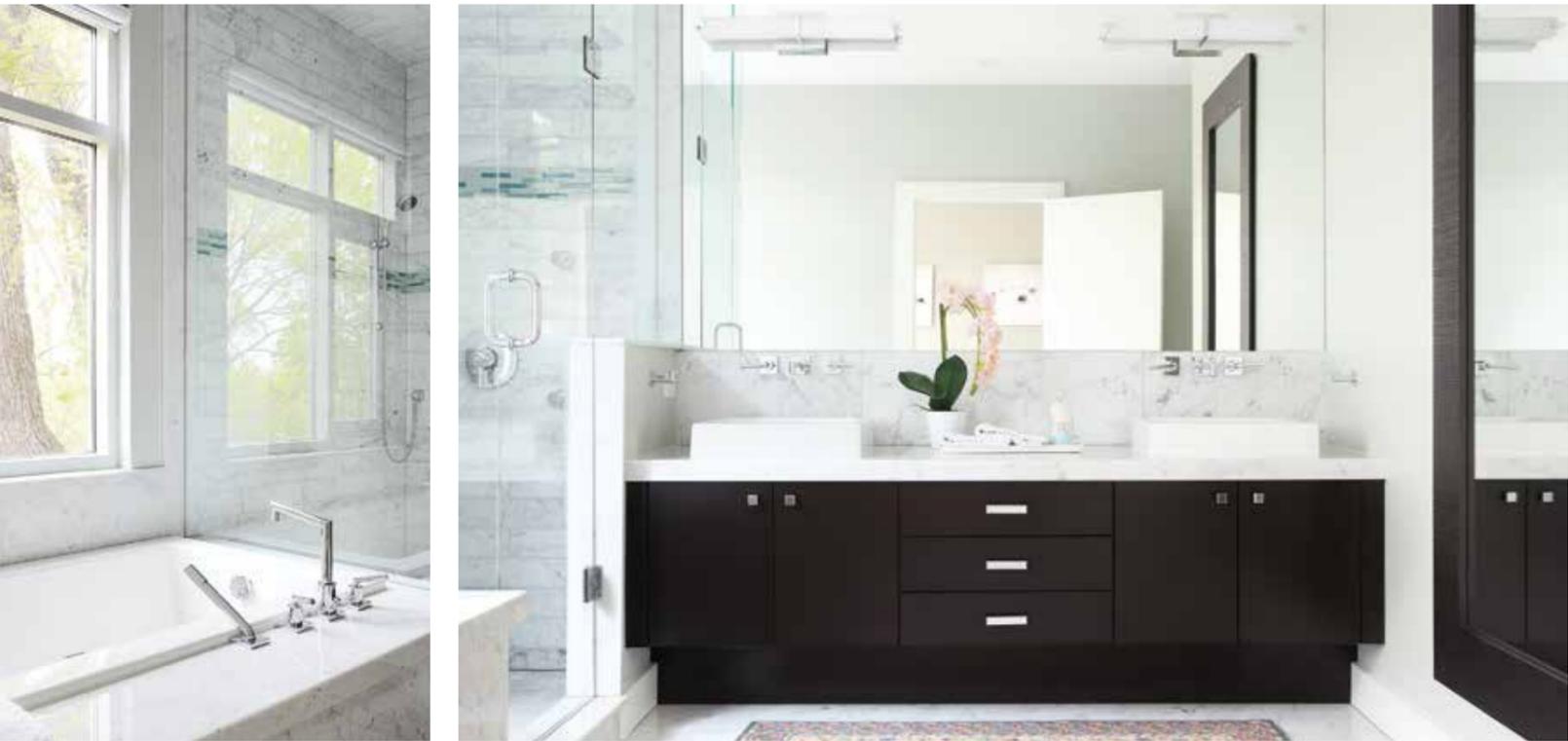
The practical space with its clean lines is softened with sculpted glass vases, ceramic bowls and one-of-a-kind pieces that the homeowner has collected at craft shows and on her travels. They're housed on shelves by the Mid-century Modern breakfast nook table from The Art Shoppe. Meals are eaten in this cosy spot daily, although morning meals and coffee are taken outside on the deck, which overlooks the ravine.

For holidays and dinner parties, the formal dining table is set. This repurposed barn-door-topped piece shipped in from California by Elte seats 12. The high-gloss pale-blue sideboard was custom designed by Jones to hold platters at serving height. Its cool, chrome-finished legs were selected to tie in with the dining table base. By day, the Illumina silver wall covering in this room is pale and discreet; by the soft light of evening, it shimmers. Statement silver lighting from Amarynth Glass Gallery completes the glitzy look.

The formal sitting room just off the dining room was the last space to be completed, so high-end and more economic purchases were brought together to keep the whole project on budget. The Elte chairs, for which the homeowner had matching footstools made, were a splurge, whereas the sofa was Crate & Barrel. “We dressed it up with custom cushions in Schumacher fabrics,” said Jones. Everything in this room was inspired by the framed, hand-stitched and bejewelled elephant wall hanging, a gift from the homeowner's brother from his travels in Thailand. Its gold threads play off the dark grey accent work around the fireplace.



*“We picked it because it was soothing.”*



*At right angles to the vanity mirror, a full-length dark-framed mirror ties in with the cabinetry and helps reflect the natural light that floods in through the large bathroom window.*

While an injection of colour is the impact felt upstairs, the more subtle effect is of a serene sleeping and bathing environment. The master bathroom is painted soft, mossy green. Bright and functional, it has a Neptune soaker bath and rain showerhead with multiple jets and functions. The large window by the tub lets in an abundance of natural light.

Most of the master bedroom's far wall is windowed, creating a sense of sleeping among the treetops. To keep the focus on the natural environment, the room is painted a slightly darker shade than the colour in the ensuite. Softer flashes of reds, yellows and blues can be picked out in the Indian hand-crafted rug on the floor, keeping things lively but in a somewhat gentler spirit than downstairs.

The wall art suspended above the headboard consists of three stark, wintry scenes by a Turkish photographer and purchased at Elte. “We picked it because it was soothing,” said the homeowner.

One of the fun touches in this room is the Urban Barn “hairy” cushions, set on the low Italian bed. With all her artistic flair and boldly colourful statements, the homeowner always leaves room for the playful. ☛



*Simple details such as colourful candles, a raspberry-red throw and patterned cushions add a note of fun in a soothing and relaxing bedroom space.*