



FUNCTION FOR FAMILY

A SUCCESSFUL REDESIGN OF YOUR HOME
ALWAYS STARTS WITH A WELL LAID-OUT PLAN



Designer Theresa Casey worked with the homeowners of this Bloor West Village home to create a light and airy feel, with an underlying emphasis on style and function.

BY DANIELA PITEO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN KELSO

It's all about the plan. Designing a beautiful yet functional home isn't formulaic, but Theresa Casey will tell you that a good plan yields dramatic results.

In Bloor West Village, down on Larkin Avenue, a 1980s domestic construct needed a solid plan to get it up-to-date. The house lacked personality, so the young homeowners sought the design expertise of Casey Design Planning Group Inc., an award-winning group distinguished as a vanguard in Canadian designers.

"The starting point of designing a space is de-

termining the needs of the homeowners," Casey says.

Once Casey has firmly established what the homeowners need, she presents a floor plan that outlines the function of the space, thus providing what the residents want.

After a concept for the space has been revealed, the transformation begins.

"This project is a reflection of a young couple starting out with children," Casey says. "We worked together to add a lot of style to the house."

The style that is reflected, room to room, is light, airy and spacious – with an underlying emphasis on style and function.

Casey created a colour palette for the home that

is soft, with bursts of colour that complement the subtle grey and cream coloured walls.

In the family room, the eye is drawn to the custom-made turquoise leather ottoman that is flanked by a plush grey sofa and two black wire bucket chairs with red accent cushions. The different materials and colours vary, yet nothing is overpowering or off-putting.

"I can look at things and break it down by eye," Casey says. "I know how to mix colour. It is a skill I have developed."

The skill Casey has honed has stemmed from her extensive education, where as a post-secondary student she studied art history, fine art and design in Canada, the United States and Italy.

The combination of these fields of study >>

>> have culminated in a career where traditional and contemporary elements of design mix and mingle seamlessly.

These principles of design have become Casey's trademark – as seen with the turquoise leather ottoman, which also doubles as a coffee table. It adds a burst of colour to a soft and understated room, as well as being stylish and practical.

Moving from the family room up to the master bedroom, Casey again uses pops of rich colour and contrasting materials to complete the room.

"I always try to mix things up," Casey says. "In the master bedroom, we've used a light lavender custom fabric headboard and placed rich oxblood cushions on the bed."

The master bedroom also features a wallpapered accent wall.

"Wallpaper adds interest, depth and impact to a wall and a room," Casey says.

In the master bedroom, Casey chose damask wallpaper, a reversible figured fabric typically made of linen, silk or cotton.

For many years homeowners veered away from wallpaper, considering it too burdensome to apply, but Casey asserts that with a skilled hanger, the ease of application isn't problematic.

It's a great way to add a focal point to a room without being ostentatious, Casey says.

Casey uses wallpaper throughout the house to accent a room and add style to the house, but she

'Symmetry isn't always important. You can balance a room without identical items opposite each other.'

- Theresa Casey

is careful to use it sparingly so it doesn't overpower the home.

There are many ways to add richness in a room, as Casey demonstrates in the living room, with angular modern furniture and turn-of-the-century pieces.

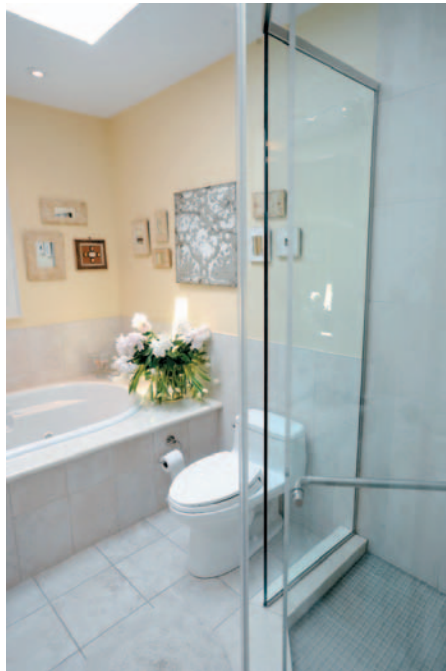
"In the living room, we added two columns, architectural remnants from the turn of the century that add a sense of history and texture to the space," she says.

The room features sleek furniture with straight lines but also incorporates a soft, fabric-covered accent table on one side of the centrally located fireplace and juxtaposed by a dark, solid wood table on the other side.

"Symmetry isn't always important. You can balance a room without identical items opposite each other."

A cardinal principle of designing a functional and sophisticated room is scale, she explains.

"Furniture must always fit the room," she advised. Furnishings are not meant to fill a space, but help define it. >>



An airy and light feel is experienced through the home as you go from room to room. Designer Theresa Casey used wallpaper in many instances to add a focal point to a room, without being over-the-top. While wallpaper served her purposes with this redesign, Casey warns not to overdue it.

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>> “Size can bring down the quality of a room, whether the furniture is too big or too small,” Casey says.

It is integral, says Casey, that layout and floor plans are meticulously examined because beautiful pieces and complementary colour palettes are wasted on a room that fails to utilize space to its advantage.

“I have a trained eye and I know how to put things together that aren’t always similar, but that I know will fit and work well together,” Casey says.

Homeowners hire Casey to help them add their own personality and character to their house.

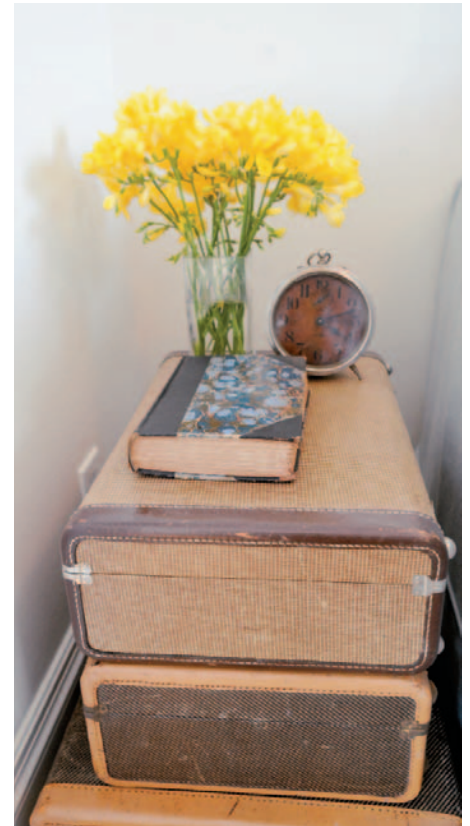
“I am hired so I can interpret who the homeowners are and create a style in their home that shows their personality.”

At Larkin Avenue, the six-month project infused personality into each room and Casey’s design plan came full circle. **CL**

Theresa Casey is an award-winning designer with an educational background in art history, fine art and design. Read more at www.caseydesignplan.com



Infusing personality in each room of the house was Casey’s goal during this six-month redesign project.



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2206A Bloor St. W. Toronto, ON p: 416 915 3982 e: info@innerluxe.ca | www.innerluxe.ca