



Rich tones enchant in the library, where the millwork is saturated in a cerulean blue. Mustard linen drapes beautifully play off the millwork, as do the red wing chairs that interior designer Theresa Casey picked up in New York. **Interior design,** Casey Design Group; **contracting,** Nicolini Construction.



# Crown Jewels

HISTORIC COLOURS AND INTRICATE PATTERNS EQUAL A STATELY STUDY IN CONTRASTS.

Text by IRIS BENAROIA | Photography by TED YARWOOD

While many of us go taupe for fear of turning our homes into overstimulated circuses, Toronto interior designer Theresa Casey embraces the rainbow: “Colour is the easiest way to transform your space — you can have a wall come forward or recede. Sometimes a small room doesn’t have a lot of light, and you add a beautiful eggplant purple *et voilà*, your space is cosy and warm.” She often asks homeowners, “What makes you feel good?” — which is what she did here. It’s a good question, bordering on the philosophical.

“I’m looking for what makes a space work,” says Casey, who incidentally notes there’s nothing wrong with neutrals, if that’s your thing. Most importantly, “it’s meaningful to see someone’s personality come through in their space.”

To wit, this three-storey Edwardian is flush with old world sophistication and a soulful, literary air that perfectly reflects its inhabitants. “They’re very passionate, and she’s a real book person. They entertain a lot and travel. She bakes, and he cooks,” says Casey of the owners, who share the home, in a leafy Toronto neighbourhood, with their son, daughter and family dog.

Rooms throughout the 7,000-square-foot dwelling are peppered with jewel tones and gorgeous tilework. Pattern is prominent, verging on haphazard, which gives the interior an uncontrived look, as though it came together naturally over decades as opposed to being conjured in a single reno. Detailed millwork, antiques and a classic kitchen with vintage hardware and miles of hanging copper pots evoke a bygone era. But that doesn’t mean it’s old-fashioned or serious (note the TV in full view on the main floor). “I would call it

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ABOVE: Pots bubbling with delicious soup on the gas range are par for the course in this cook's kitchen. Copper cookware is suspended from a brass rod for a lively, scullery look. The rack above is 15' across and is used both for display and storage. The light fixtures are original turn-of-the-century ship lights Casey bought at a New York auction house. **Tiles** (throughout), DGM Enterprises.

LEFT: A pair of 19th-century high-back chairs and a tufted sofa centred on an oak fireplace offer appealing symmetry in the richly layered living room, as do oval artworks framed by the two doorways. The art's turquoise and ochre shades pop against the sunroom's fresh apple-green walls. **Sofa design, fireplace design**, Casey Design Group; **chairs**, 507 Antiques.

WEB See more of Theresa's work in our gallery. [houseandhome.com/mar12](http://houseandhome.com/mar12)



Rich olive green, brown and red mingle in the baking room off the kitchen for a lively old world look. "The colours are complementary, so they work well together," says Casey of the red cabinets and classic green marble countertop. The window looks original to the house, but is actually a new design. **Window design, cabinet design**, Casey Design Group.

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1. The bold blue of the impeccable millwork in the library amplifies the impact of the detailed tilework in the entryway. 2. Cosiness emanates from the family room, where a TV looks right at home among books. **Sofas**, Restoration Hardware. 3. Olive green subway tiles that reach the ceiling in the pantry are an arresting counterpoint to the marble floors. **Ladder**, Ribbehege & Azevedo. 4. The reading room is a perfect example of the home's dramatic layered look with contrasting patterns and colours happily comingling. 5. In the powder room, glazed ceramic floor tiles pop in blue, brown and cream. 6. Traditional hues such as the mustard in the settee impart warmth in the traditional dining room. **Drapes**, Télio. 7. Upstairs, the soft blues and greens are more subdued than on the main floor. **Crystal lamp**, Kantelberg & Co. 8. Exquisite tilework is prominent even in the home's utilitarian spaces like this second-floor laundry room. 9. A luxurious pewter tub shines in the principal bathroom, which is clad in painterly onyx marble. 10. The girl's bedroom is a sophisticated shade of soft pink.



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**Rich & Moody** THERESA CASEY TURNS BACK TIME WITH A PALETTE THAT'S RESTRAINED BUT MEMORABLE.



Range of historic hues  
Clockwise from left: Saffron (MSL053), Plumage (MSL163), Calabash (MSL099), Martha Stewart Living.



Rustic hand-painted tiles  
Coloured Earth collection border, deco and medallion tiles, Ann Sacks.



Sumptuous solid textiles  
From left: Desire Indigo, Belia, Sienna Cognac, Designer Fabrics.



Subtly exotic Persian wool rug  
Persian rug, Elte.

Rich & Moody: Produced by Holly Meighen/Photography by Felix Wedgwood (except paint)



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