

Cool & Cosy

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WELL-APPOINTED ROOMS CATER TO GUESTS.

When Toronto interior designer Theresa Casey and her husband, Robert Gray, a graphic designer, wanted to create an office and a home-away-from-home for guests, they decided to give their unfinished basement's 600 square feet the same luxe look as the rest of the house.

The grandeur of the finished space is in the details, such as handsome doorknobs, hardwood floors and the bathroom's 1940s marble vanity. But everything is put together with a looseness that feels modern, not precious. "Nothing is too perfect," says Theresa. "It looks lived in."

1. USE TRANSITIONAL SPACES

A short, wide hallway that connects the various spaces becomes its own room, complete with built-in storage for tools, out-of-season clothing and holiday decorations. **Design, closets, wall colour,** Theresa Casey, Casey Design Group.

2. MIX HIGH AND LOW

In the laundry room, white lacquered cabinets are dressed up with vintage drawer pulls and a marble countertop and backsplash. The front-loading washer and dryer allow for folding and storage space, which Theresa keeps tidy with labelled wire baskets and wood boxes. A vintage ladder adds hanging space and anchors a mini gallery wall. **Rug, Elte; cabinets, Ikea; countertop, AST Stone; backsplash, Saltillo.**

3. ADD THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Making the switch to a high-efficiency wall-mounted furnace, low-profile boiler and tank-less wall-mounted water heater meant Theresa could double the size of the bathroom and include a steam shower. To give it the air of an old Parisian apartment, she added brass sconces and a gorgeous tile floor. **Sink, The Door Store; sconce, Casey Design Group; wall treatment, Kari Serrao.**

4. MAKE IT LUXE

Guests shouldn't feel like they're in a leftover space. Theresa upholstered the bedroom walls with silk damask to give it extra warmth. The handsome wood headboard and mirrored side table channel 1930s glamour. **Headboard, 507 Antiques.**

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Opposite: Floor plan illustration by Jenn Lawrence



ADD HIGH-CONTRAST COLOUR
Theresa painted the stairwell's exposed-brick wall a custom shade of red. The crimson hue gives the appearance of depth and, paired with the basement's simple black and white scheme, feels bold and cheerful. Theresa didn't organize the gallery wall, which features her own original drawings on Mylar and an architectural drawing by Robert; she just picked a piece and started hanging to give the arrangement on-the-fly flair. **Wall colour,** Casey Design Group; **rug, Elte; flooring,** Aspen Wood Floors.

