

personality RULES

TEXT LAURA MUJR | PHOTOGRAPHY BRANDON SHIFFRIN

A designer creates a *luxurious yet cozy space* by at once going by the book and **taking bold risks.**

The best kind of creativity comes from pushing the boundaries and knowing when to follow a few key tenets. Take Yanic Simard's chic home, for example. High on personality, it's a layered mix of eras and styles, fabrics and textures, colours and patterns, and even price points. "I just had fun," says Yanic, the principal designer of Toronto Interior Design Group. "This time, I was my own client. And when you design your own space, you can really experiment. I thought, 'Let's do this. Let's mix the unmixable!'"

But don't be fooled. This space's Type T risk-taking aesthetic belies a highly pragmatic side. When Yanic first clapped eyes on this Victorian gem in a west-end Toronto neighbourhood over a year ago, he saw past the dingy interior to the charming home it could become. And, believe it or not, the house provided him the chance to live in a small space – he lives on the 640-square-foot main floor while the second-floor space is rented – as opposed to something uncontrollably sprawling.

For Yanic, "small" means comfortable and warm. So during the three-month reno, which included a complete gut job, he turned a large

Homeowner and designer Yanic Simard used to call the dark three-by-20-foot hallway "the tunnel." He brightened it up by adding graphic wallpaper, lighting that illuminates both up and down, and a row of mirrors, which reflect light and visually widen the space.





Designer pick
Designed by Yanic, the velvet ottoman with gold-leaf legs is a hit of luxury. The mossy green color ties in with the room's palette, creating continuity.

The den showcases Yanic's penchant for mixing not only styles and eras but also high-end elements and low-priced finds. The plush chair is paired with an elaborate gilt table he found curbside, and the ornate fireplace, original to the home, displays artwork that cost just over \$100. "I love combining expensive items with less expensive artwork," he says. "Price isn't everything."



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Two easy-to-move side tables take the place of one big coffee table in the den. "They have a sculptural, interesting shape, and they're see-through, so they keep the space airy," says Yanic.



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YANIC SIMARD, HOMEOWNER + DESIGNER



RIGHT The home's neutral backdrop – Yanic painted the walls in his signature light grey – is punched up with hits of blue and green. “Splashes of colour make a room feel less formal,” he says.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT A windowed nook in the den provides a spot to place a sofa bed covered in an inviting cerulean-coloured velvet. Linen-and-suede drapes – the hanging gives the drapes a modern twist – offer the room privacy and create a cozy, tucked-in feel.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT Elements like a velvet-upholstered headboard, silk drapes and an embossed-tin dresser enhance the bedroom's luxe vibe. A sleek glass Eileen Gray side table balances the lush look.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT The bedroom closet was outfitted with an organization system. “Functionality was paramount in my home, so I needed to incorporate a lot of storage,” says Yanic.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT A sofa turns into a dining banquette with the addition of a sleek Saarinen table and gilt Chiavari chairs. “I also have a few ceramic stools that I move around,” says Yanic.

front living room into two intimate settings that now serve as a den (it showcases his favourite mix of Art Deco, Mid-Century Modern and traditional styles) and a cozy bedroom.

Whether Yanic was renovating or decorating, it was those unorthodox choices that resulted in the home's dynamic and highly functional rooms. A modern chrome armoire paired with an Art Deco-style sofa bed ensures the den can easily accommodate overnight guests. And just off the kitchen, a sleek Saarinen table pulled up to a sofa creates a multi-functional room that Yanic uses for

dining, working, watching TV and entertaining.

Everywhere you turn, unexpected combinations amount to intriguing style tensions. But because of Yanic's informed use of some key design rules – repeat elements for visual flow and include items you love – the resulting look is far from unnerving. It's apparent that for Yanic, “mixing things up” is about more than just taking risks. It's about creating an inviting space with a strong identity. “I like a home that can tell a story,” he says.

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