

Secrets from the DESIGN WORLD

by Elisa Krovblit

Good design looks effortless and enticing. It makes a statement as soon as you see it. It's stunning, compelling and enjoyable. Whether it's casual or formal, indoors or out, it feels complete and comfortable, like the space anticipates your every need. It offers the perfect place to sit, to work, to put your glass down. The colours and patterns work. Everything has purpose, without trying too hard.

Don't you wish you could do that in every room in your home?

Great design is a talent, a skill and a challenge. Designers have to educate themselves on an extensive list of techniques and styles. While some of us imagine it would be a lot of fun to shop and decorate, it's actually a lot of work and effort. As fashions change and trends evolve, it's a designer's job to know what trends are coming, what styles will work and where to find everything needed to make a space come alive with the visions that their clients request. They need to know

quality, availability, trades, suppliers, fabrics, textiles and materials for every surface.

Their knowledge is vast and their resources are seemingly never-ending.

When you hire a designer, you don't just pay them to put pretty things in all the right places. You hire them for this vast knowledge - for their ability to coordinate the hardwood flooring installer who needs a week, the supplier who needs six weeks to order your sofa, the relationship with the stone company who is going to cut, deliver and install a five-figure slab of marble in your kitchen - all while knowing where to go for the right linens, toss cushions and table lamps. Never mind the hours of consideration, the drafts and drawings - and the good ones, they still make it look easy!

But there are a few things to be learned from a designer, so HD&R has gone to the source. We've interviewed some of our favourite Canadian talent and they've graciously shared some of their secrets - from managing projects to favourite places to shop.

Now you know!

YANIC'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. CARROCEL ANTIQUES – TORONTO CARROCEL.COM

They have everything from fine art to vintage accessories, including lighting and mirrors to large scale upholstery like sofas and armchairs, and their showroom is 20,000 square feet!

2. CB2 – CB2.COM I am a little obsessed with cb2, I have to say! They are so easy to work with, they have multiple locations, they have affordable price points (which I love because anyone can shop there) and they are very on trend.

3. JALAN JALAN – MIAMI JALANMIAMI.COM

One of my favourite places to shop when I'm in my other hometown of Miami, Florida, their items are so unique and exotic. They carry lively materials from bone inlay to teak and petrified wood. Many of their influences come from Morocco and Africa.

Decor tip: 1.You can't go wrong with a white backdrop - it is the perfect blank canvas.

2.Anchor any scheme with black. 3.Never compromise on quality.

Golden rule: Work with what the space has to give you, not against it ...And if you think it's expensive to hire a professional, wait until you hire an amateur!



YANIC SIMARD

is the principal designer of the Toronto Interior Design Group. Simard has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and has appeared as a regular guest expert on Citytv's *CityLine*. tidg.ca

photos by Brandon Barre



WILLIAMS'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. ELTE – TORONTO ELTE.COM The staff is awesome, extremely knowledgeable and helpful. It's a great place to bring clients so they can see the variety of choice available.

2. VINTAGE FINE OBJECTS – TORONTO VINTAGEFINEOBJECTS.COM A marvelously curated shop of curiosities and stylish items composed by Kevin Austin, its proprietor.

3. MECOX GARDENS – MECOX.COM Mecox has many shops scattered throughout the United States, my two favorites are in Palm Beach and Southampton, New York. Their general look is much like mine – understated elegance with a relaxed vibe with a hint of whimsy.

Decor tip: My best to decor tips are: Have confidence, don't ask everyone what they think, hire a designer, do your research and start with something you love as the inspiration for a great space.

Golden rule: Never, ever, under any circumstances live in the house while you're renovating it! I will not work with clients who lives inside the renovation. I just don't. It's a recipe for disaster, a nightmare and should never happen. People think they can handle it but they can't.



WILLIAM MACDONALD

is the principal of WillMac Design. His firm is best known for creating stylish approachable spaces that evoke a simple timeless elegance. Servicing clientele throughout Canada, the United States and overseas. www.willmacdesign.ca @willmacdesign



CANDICE OLSON

is a successful designer with a devoted viewership. She is a published author and a creator of extensive lines of housewares, furnishings, accessories and finishes. At candiceolson.com, the inspiration never stops, though you may not be able to tear yourself away from her Pinterest boards @candiceolsondesign

CANDICE'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. CURATED KRAVET – CURATEDKRAVET.COM – A one-stop online designer resource for all things beautiful for the home! Great design source for insomniacs like me!

2. 1ST DIBS – 1STDIBS.COM For those rare and exotic and often quirky finds – it's like having a Paris flea market at your fingertips!

3. RED DOOR HOME LIVING – CALGARY

REDDOORHOMELIVING.CA – I'm so proud to have many of my Candice Olson product lines featured at Red Door. Lori, Dan and their entire Interior Design team are simply Calgary's best!

Decor tip: Your home is the ultimate way to reflect who you are. Personal authenticity never goes out of style – it's believable and always feels comfortable. I often find that a bit of unexpected whimsy is all that's needed to bring that unique, one-of-a-kind personality to a space.

Golden rule: People often ask me what one thing will have the biggest impact when upgrading their space. Without exception, my response is always - lighting. It's the single most important design element in a space.

CARSON'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. FRESH HOME AND GARDEN – TORONTO FRESH.CA

I love that Fresh carries different styles of patio decor, helping the creative process.

2 THE CROSS DECOR AND DESIGN – VANCOUVER

THECROSSDESIGN.COM Every trip to Vancouver includes a visit to The Cross in Yaletown. Get lost for hours in this store poking through all of the home furnishings and design pieces

3. IRONGATE – NIAGARA IRONGATEGE.CA In the middle of Niagara's wine country, IronGate carries all of the man-made items that I love to include in my outdoor designs.

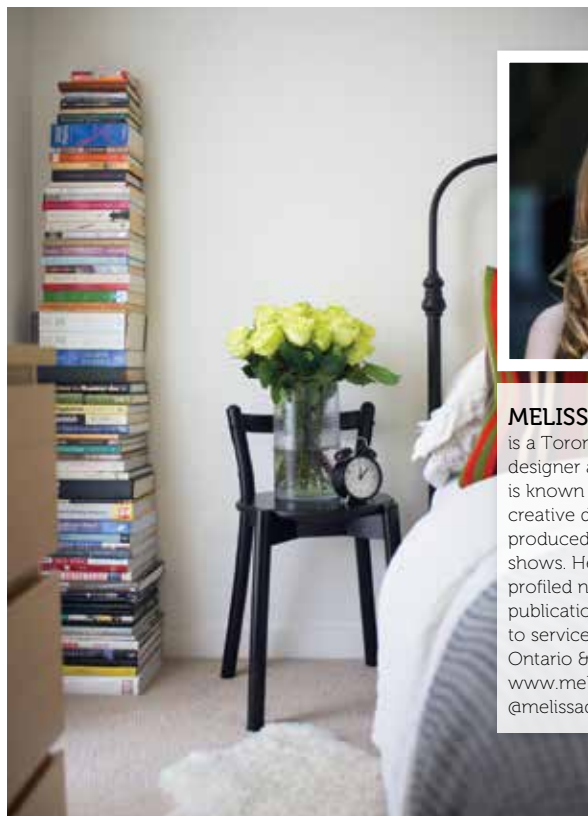
Decor tip: A successful outdoor room has a purpose and a clear definition. While multi-purpose is great for a small space, the outdoor rooms that makes us "oooh and aaah" are the ones that require no explanation. Treat each outdoor room with the same care and attention you would an indoor space.

Golden rule: For every outdoor room, include all of the exact same elements as an indoor space. Outdoor rugs and outdoor lighting are the key components that most homeowners overlook. They really finish off every space, and yet most homeowners rush out to buy them at the last minute – right before hosting a barbecue!



CARSON ARTHUR

is an international landscape designer with a focus on environmentally friendly design. He is HGTV's Critical Listing landscape guru and appears regularly on TV, writes for various publications about outdoor design and is the author of Garden Designs for Outdoor Living. Visit carsonarthur.com



MELISSA DAVIS

is a Toronto-based celebrity designer and contractor. She is known for her appearances, creative design and reno work produced for various HGTV shows. Her work has been profiled nationally in print publications. Her firm continues to service clientele throughout Ontario & GTA. www.melissadavis.com @melissadavis

MELISSA'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. LAMP CAGE – TORONTO LAMPAGE.COM If you dream it up, they can make it, and they build the lights right here in Toronto in back the shop.

2. MJÖLK – TORONTO STORE.MJOLK.CA I love Mjolk in the Junction for contemporary pieces that are truly timeless. Not a knockoff or mass-produced piece in sight.

3. IKEA – IKEA.CA For my day to day needs I love IKEA! No other company has the breadth of products, and that range truly allows creativity in design and budget.

Decor tip: Before buying anything, decide on an overall design direction and palette. Put together a selection of colours and materials and then keep referring back to that as you go, room by room. If you maintain continuity on the overall items, you can add individual personality and design for each room and it will still tie together.

Golden rule: I'm an advocate for choosing an overall timeless design to make sure the financial investment in design has lasting power. But make sure you keep five to 10 per cent of the budget for splurges and those special touches that really make the design noteworthy.