

WINTER 2016

LIFE *at home*

A SHOWCASE OF CANADIAN LIVING

THE Enchanting SEVEN STONES WINERY

DESIGNER
MELISSA DAVIS
A WOMAN OF CONTRASTS

MAKING WINTER
MEMORIES
COAST-TO-COAST

PM42937512

Century 21
CANADA



“Treat the design and decor of your living room not as *special* but rather as beautiful.”

reading lights, picture lights and candles. Just as an example, in my own living room, there are 22 sources of non-natural light in the 10 foot by 14 foot area. For a great spot to find beautiful lighting for your living room, consider checking out Royal Lighting in Toronto.

In my living room, there's also enough seating for 10 people; I've achieved this by using a mix of sofas, easily moveable side chairs and stools for perching, plus lots of empty floor space for pillows. Tables showcase trays filled with objects that have special meaning but there's always room for a cocktail or bowl of pistachios.

I have also incorporated a desk into my living room, which doubles as another servery if a party breaks out.

I like my living rooms to be casually grand – not formal or intimidating. It's all in the attitude of the execution and the overall balance; use high with low, shiny with matte, rough with smooth, colour with black and white, gold with silver and precious with “junk”

Live in your living room – and don't just save it for a special occasion or holiday. Use it to its full potential and create a beautiful and comfortable space where you can eat, drink and be merry – everyday!

Treat the design and decor of your living room as beautiful, useable and easy – not “special”. Think about how you live and what you want the living room to do for your lifestyle. For my clients and myself, I use the living room as a multi-functional space for working, playing and entertaining. Knowing that they have to fulfill many roles I design living rooms to be versatile, stylish and easy to live in. I like to use sturdy but lush fabrics like velvet and linen blends with a fun pattern; one of my favourite sources is Robert Allen Fabrics. Look for strong durable surfaces like stone and hardwoods, a variety of floor covering like sisal mixed with hides, persians or dhurrie's and accents that are amusing, personal and lend humour to the atmosphere.

Lighting is a important factor as well. To create a functional and well-lit space, I recommend using a mixture of overhead lighting, table lamps, floor lamps, up lights,

HOW TO REALLY

Live IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

by William MacDonald

As a designer, I've designed a lot of living rooms over the years; in fact they are my favourite rooms to create. Some are more formal, while some casually luxe or lavishly homey, but all are well-lived in.

Ironically the living room is the space that is lived in the least! Many people prefer to spend time in the family room or kitchen, however I think it's a huge mistake and a waste of good real estate to ignore the living room. Saving the living room for a special family occasion or the holidays is a shame; it's a room that should be used and enjoyed everyday.