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# Bare necessities

Industrial chic meets California cool in a Toronto interior that puts comfort above all else.





A cozy sectional defines this Toronto home's family room and offers ample space for the family who lives here to cuddle up and watch TV. A Berber-style rug and patterned indigo toss cushions offer exotic flavour. "I love that well-travelled look," says homeowner Lynne McEachern.

**DESIGN,** Lark & Linen Interior Design, larkandlinen.com; **SECTIONAL,** Crate and Barrel; **COFFEE TABLE,** EQ3; **MEDIA UNIT,** Calligaris; **HANGING CHAIR,** Serena & Lily; **RUG,** West Elm; **TOSS CUSHIONS, LUMBAR CUSHION,** Amber Interiors.

**OPPOSITE** Family photos printed through an app called Impressed, of which Lynne is the CEO, are a clever personal touch on the coffee table.

## TREND

Using vintage-style outdoor-friendly suspended chairs inside offers a fresh vibe.



**LEFT, BELOW** “Originally, a four-by-eight-foot mirror hung from the ceiling and separated the entryway from the living room,” says designer Jacquelyn Clark. “But we removed it to open up the space.” Encaustic-look porcelain tiles, which supplanted dark green slate that had seen better days, are low-maintenance and durable in this high-traffic area.

Onyx 2133-10 **DOOR PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; custom **SHELVING UNIT**, True Contractors; **MIRROR**, Elte Market; **SIDE TABLE**, Coolican & Company; **FLOOR TILES**, Mettro Source; **BASKET**, Elte.



## TREND

A black-painted door delivers high impact in any entryway.

“I love being in the house barefoot,” says Lynne McEachern of her west-end Toronto home. “The rugs are plush to walk on, the sofas are comfy to cuddle up on and our bed is hard to get out of in the morning.”

Lynne and her husband, Hamid Arabzadeh, purchased their 3,400-square-foot turn-of-the-century house 11 years ago after transplanting from Boston. The Canadian couple – she grew up in Halifax, he’s from Montreal – work in the tech industry and their careers have taken them all over the world, including London, where they met. When it came time to settle back in Canada, they decided to try out Toronto. “We liked the layout of the city, which reminded us of London, with all the great neighbourhoods,” she says.

When the couple found this house, they loved its trendy location as well as its open plan and move-in-ready status – the space had been given a distinctive loft-style look, featuring cherrywood, slate and concrete by its previous owner. “In Boston, we had just completed a painful two-year reno and really didn’t want to go through the process again,” says Lynne.

But after living in this home for 10 years, the couple – who now share the house with their twin eight-year-old sons, Aidan and Camden – craved a change, wanting to give the dark, masculine interior a fresh pick-me-up. “We



White-painted walls throughout the main floor brighten the space and strike a gallery-like setting. "I wanted a blank slate so we could collect and showcase art," says Lynne. The original too-yellow oak floors were bleached for a lighter look.

Pure White OC-64 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; custom **SOFA**, L'Atelier Home; **ARMCHAIR**, South Hill Home; **COFFEE TABLE**, Black Rooster Decor; **DRAPERY FABRIC**, Threadcount Textile & Design; **DRAPERY SEWING**, Tonic Living; **RUG**, Elte; *White Sands Beach #1* **ARTWORK** by Julia Christie, Lumas; custom **ARTWORK FRAMING**, Dimensions Custom Framing & Gallery; **SCONCES**, Lambert & Fils; **TOSS CUSHION**, Amber Interiors; geometric **BOWLS**, Jayson Home; **VASE**, Elte.

The couple had already upgraded the kitchen by spray-painting the cherrywood cabinetry white, replacing the slate countertops with black soapstone and installing a grey back-painted glass backsplash. So to refresh the space, Jacquelyn swapped the existing cabinetry doors (which had seen better days) for a Shaker profile similar to the original and incorporated chrome pulls. Exposed brick, wooden stools and hardwood floors warm up the stark black and white space.

Chantilly Lace OC-65 **CABINETRY PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; custom **CABINETRY REFACING**, True Contractors; **STOOLS**, Coolican & Company; **PENDANT LIGHTS**, Black Rooster Decor; **CABINETRY HARDWARE**, Restoration Hardware; grey **BOWL**, Artemano.

## TREND

Incorporate black accents into an all-white kitchen to update an old classic.





had made a few updates over the years," says Lynne. "We tweaked the kitchen, updated part of the basement, added a room upstairs and built a new garage. But then, the house needed more light and a look that better reflected our California coastal style."

To achieve an airy, beachy feel that still honoured the home's loft-like urban character, the couple hired designer Jacquelyn Clark. As former editor of *Style Me Pretty Living* (the design arm of the popular wedding website *Style Me Pretty*) and the writer of her own lifestyle blog called *Lark & Linen*, Jacquelyn has gained a solid reputation for her savvy design sense. "I trusted her eye," says Lynne. "I was familiar with her blog, and I like how she's curated her look."

Jacquelyn brightened the space by refinishing certain architectural details, such as

bleaching the floors and painting the dark wood ceilings white, while leaving other features – the big beams, exposed brick and wrought-iron railing – striking a beautiful balance between coastal and industrial. "I wanted to showcase the existing structure," she explains. "The hardwood and exposed brick add a bit of warmth."

Jacquelyn employed a neutral palette throughout the house, with a few hits of watery blue to achieve that coastal look, while clean-lined furnishings offer calming consistency and deliver comfort. "The more modern furniture plays off all the rustic architectural details," says Jacquelyn. "They're a young, busy family, and I really just wanted to create a space that felt simple, elegant and timeless." The barefoot-friendly comfort is an added bonus.

**RIGHT** Lynne wanted dining chairs that were comfortable and offered a light, airy feel. "But I didn't want to spend a ridiculous amount of money, because dining chairs often end up getting ruined," she says. These ones were scored online from a New York store called *France & Søn* and required a road trip. "The store didn't ship to Canada," says Jacquelyn (pictured). "So we had the chairs shipped to Buffalo, rented a van and picked them up from there. It was still more cost-effective than buying something similar here!"

Pure White OC-64 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; Gray Valkyrie 19 and Charcoal Valkyrie 1 **ARTWORK** by Kal Mansur, Reference: Contemporary.



## TREND

Ultra-modern dining chairs are comfy yet sleek and suit the California-cool look.

**RIGHT** The master bathroom's vanity takes advantage of the space's relatively small footprint: The sink is placed to one side to increase counter space, and opting for drawers instead of cupboards maximizes storage. "The tall mirror covering half the wall emphasizes the ceiling height and makes an unexpected statement," adds Jacquelyn.

Calm OC-22 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; custom **VANITY, MIRROR & COUNTERTOP**, True Contractors; **FAUCET**, Kohler; **FLOOR TILES**, Stone Tile International; **SCONCE**, YLighting.

**BELOW** With its contemporary plush wingback chairs, the master bedroom's sitting area is a perfect place for the couple to unwind in the evenings. The area is petite, so furniture serves double duty, like the dresser that also holds the TV.

**DRESSER**, Crate and Barrel; **DRAPERY FABRIC**, Threadcount Textile & Design; **DRAPERY SEWING**, Tonic Living; **RUG**, Crate and Barrel; **LIGHT FIXTURE**, Union Lighting and Furnishings; **SCONCE**, Design Within Reach.



## TREND

A long-armed articulating sconce frees up floor space in tight quarters.



## REFACE OR REPLACE?

If your kitchen is in need of an update but you're on a strict budget, know that refacing your cabinetry can save you up to half of the cost of replacing it. Designer Jacquelyn Clark covers the basics.

### What is it?

Refacing involves keeping the original cabinet boxes and changing the drawer fronts, doors and hardware.

### Who does it?

"If it's a custom kitchen to begin with, you have to go to a custom cabinetmaker or kitchen company," says Jacquelyn. "They will gather all the measurements and build doors to fit the existing boxes." If the kitchen has standard-sized cabinet boxes, replacement doors may be found at big-box stores.

### When is it recommended?

"It depends on the quality of the cabinets," says Jacquelyn. "If they're solid wood and in good shape, refacing not only cuts down on cost but also saves on the inconvenience and waste. If you're not sure about the quality, ask your contractor."

### What if you're changing the layout?

"Using the same boxes in that case is called retrofitting a kitchen, and I'm always hesitant to do that," says Jacquelyn. "It's often not worth the cost of a contractor's time to figure it all out. And when something inevitably breaks, you'll have to replace certain pieces anyway."

## TREND

Make a statement in a master bedroom with large abstract artwork.



The double-height master bedroom was brightened by painting the dark wood ceiling and beams a sophisticated greyish white. Watery blue elements and simple, clean-lined furnishings give the space a serene, subdued look that enhances its grandeur.

Calm OC-22 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **BED FRAME**, Blu Dot; **BEDDING**, Restoration Hardware; **RUG**, West Elm; *Blue Plateau One* **ARTWORK** by Kal Mansur, Reference: Contemporary; **SCONCES**, Triple Seven Home; **THROW**, Elte.

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