

PERFECT BLEND



Olivia Botrie has brought modern comforts and family-friendly functionality to her early 20th-century home – all while respecting its original character

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KITCHEN
Sage green cabinetry has a traditional feel while the dark wood slatted island and pendants bring a more contemporary edge. For a similar island, try Ikea Metod units with Nordic Skyline wood veneer slat fronts by Noremax. Try Speckle pendant, Ferm Living



**‘MODERN PIECES WITH CLEAN LINES ARE THE PERFECT
FOIL FOR THE PERIOD FEATURES OF THE HOUSE’**





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Early 20th century building converted from three properties

ROOMS Two sitting rooms, kitchen-diner, mudroom, cloakroom, office, three bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION

Toronto, Canada

SITTING ROOM

A sculptural vintage mirror takes inspiration from the shapes in the detailing of the fireplace.

Limestone fireplace surround, Trumeau Stones. Achille square coffee table, Tikamoon, would work here. Vintage large carved wood-framed mirror, Vinterior, is similar.

DINING AREA

Olivia has chosen a round table that echoes the curved bay window.

Large Florentius round dining table, Shropshire Design, has this look. Try dining chair 05, Swyft. Catania chandelier, Crate & Barrel, is similar

WHY DID YOU BUY THIS HOUSE? I lived on the same street in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighbourhood with my husband, two young children and our dog. We loved the area but needed more space as our family grew. The house was formerly three properties but had already been converted into a large family home. It had great bones with a layout that could be refreshed without a full reconfiguration.

WHAT BUILDING WORK DID YOU DO?

Although much of the original layout was retained to optimise the budget, it was a full gut renovation with new plumbing, electrics and joinery. We also added a skylight in the mudroom, which has transformed it. I designed and managed the renovation in the evenings and on weekends, while also running my design practice, Dart Studio.

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL VISION?

I love spaces that feel old and full of character while still fresh and liveable, so I wanted to honour the home's original architecture but add warmth, personality and function. My priorities were storage, family-friendly functionality and timeless design balancing colour and pattern – I wanted character with modern comforts.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST

IMPORTANT TO YOU? The kitchen – it's the hub of family life and where we spend the most time. The custom woodwork, reeded dark wood island and marble splashback create a rich, inviting centrepiece.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR

PALETTE? I gravitated toward heritage-inspired shades



CLOAKROOM

The smallest room in the house offers scope to be bold with patterned wallpaper that might feel overpowering elsewhere. Martha UMBER wallpaper, Lulie Wallace. Thomas Crapper marble top and stand, Old Fashioned Bathrooms, is comparable. Pebble-shaped mirror, Perch & Parrow, would work in this space

CHILD'S BEDROOM

Fresh shades of blue and white suit the coastal theme. Asiatic Ives rug, Rugs Direct, is comparable. Clemmie single headboard in Linara Flax Blue, Neptune, would work. Try Malpasoo footstool in Bodo Stripe Ink, The Pure Edit



EN SUITE

Hexagonal floor tiles and a colourful shower curtain elevate this wash space.

Try Soho vanity, Made in the Cellar. Palma hexagonal tiles in Blue, Topps Tiles, are similar. Neel Blue abstract geometric shower curtain, Debenhams, has this look

MAIN BEDROOM

Aged brass details and a velvet fluted headboard add depth and sophistication to the scheme.

Etched Fern wallpaper, Schumacher. Wilton Moss Green velvet ottoman bed, Daals, is similar. Try Liang & Emil Ophir two-drawer bedside table, Olivia's

from Farrow & Ball, like Treron for the kitchen and Setting Plaster for the living room. Wallpaper plays a key role.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Balancing quick design decisions as construction progressed while being constantly exposed to new products and ideas. We also had to decide what to prioritise to stay on budget. For instance, the basement was waterproofed and shelled out first, then finished later on.

WHAT PROBLEMS DID YOU OVERCOME?

Originally dark trim in the hall was repainted in a lighter taupe to brighten the space. A planned fireplace restoration was also swapped for a vintage limestone surround when the original proved unworkable.

ARE THERE ANY THREADS THAT RUN

THROUGHOUT? Wallpaper, heritage colours and custom joinery tie the spaces together. Brass accents, textiles and vintage furniture layer in warmth and continuity.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT?

Seeing my vision come to life as both a designer and homeowner, while creating a forever home for my family.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME?

Don't rush into opening everything up. Distinct rooms create intimacy and opportunities for layering design. Be strategic with splurges – like marble slabs – and balance them with smart cost-savings, like quartz counters or staged renovations. 25

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