HOUSE TOURS SEP 16, 2026

INSIDE THE TORONTO CONDO A DESIGNER CREATED FOR HER OWN PARENTS

By: Sara Romano





Photography by Niamh Barry

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This project wasn't a typical renovation for Toronto designer Olivia Botrie.

"A smaller footprint doesn't have to mean a smaller idea of a home," says Botrie, principal designer and founder of **Dart Studio Inc**. The 1,400-square-foot condo imbued with '80s fixtures was a step down, size-wise, from the homeowners' previous family residence. The challenge was to bring it into the present and bring in a sense of refined ease.

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Luckily, Botrie had an advantage. “I designed this for my own parents,” says Botrie. “I knew exactly how they live—where they would actually sit, what they would use, how they entertain—so there was very little guesswork.”

The result is a contemporary, earth-toned home with bursts of subtle pattern and timeless fixtures. “I believe in choosing the one surface in each room that’s allowed to be loud, and letting everything else earn its place quietly around it,” says Botrie. “That restraint is what makes the bold thing actually feel luxurious rather than busy.”



Photography by Niamh Barry

A single slab of Dumont Blue stone sets the tone for the earthy kitchen. “The stone is the visual event; the painting is almost incidental,” says Botrie of the framed art above the sink.

style at home

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The oversized oak island is both practical and elegant. Deep staining and polished nickel hardware ground it in traditional style while providing ample **surface area**.



Photography by Niamh Barry

style at home

The dining room is elegantly pared back. Brown leather chairs and soft herringbone floors warm up the space. A light fixture made of ropey strands of glass adds a contemporary glimmer. But the star of the show is undoubtedly the scenic mural.

“Once you commit to something that specific, the rest of the room gets to go quiet,” says Botrie. “It gives the dining room a sense of occasion without making it feel formal or precious.”



Photography by Niamh Barry

Neutrals reign supreme in the living room, livened up with delicately patterned upholstery and panel moulding. An electric fireplace with a polished black limestone mantel welcomes classic comfort with a modern twist.

style at home



Photography by Niamh Barry

Drenched in a soft blue-green, the primary is calm and monochromatic. A velvet upholstered bed is paired with a matching headboard while brass sconces infuse timeless style. “We wanted it to feel restorative and deeply personal, almost like a retreat from the more expressive spaces elsewhere in the condo,” says Botrie.