

BC HOME & GARDEN

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TRENDING IN
2013

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PERSONALIZED
SPACES
AND THE
COLOUR BLUE

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THAT PACK A
PUNCH!





TUDOR RENOVATION

How one homeowner infuses eclectic elegance into a traditional home

TEXT **BARB SLIGL** PHOTOGRAPHY **TRACEY AYTON**

You might not think a stately Tudor house off Southwest Marine Drive in the posh enclave of Vancouver's west side holds any surprises. Picture rolled-arm sofas, parquet floors, ornate fireplaces and elaborate banisters and you'd be wrong.

Partly, anyway.

Yes, you will find needlepoint accessories, curvaceous armchairs and mottled mullion windows, but these more traditional architectural features and design items are juxtaposed with a sleek Saarinen dining table, a cowhide rug, Eames chairs and contemporary artwork. Think eclectic – in a good way.

The sweet ceramic pig on the front steps and hot-pink wire rabbits on the lawn hint at the joyful combo of carefully curated and collected pieces inside – from family heirlooms to backstreet bargains found in Brazil.

It's all a mishmash, says homeowner Shelley, who moved into the heritage house along with her husband and three kids a decade ago, largely for its location. The huge 100-foot-by-200-foot lot had plenty of privacy and space to play. All that was needed was a revamp of the long-untouched house itself, which was no small task.

Shelley wanted to retain the original character and “do as little as possible to make it a bit groovier.” So, while a major addition doubled the square footage from 2,200 to 4,500 square feet, the home still fits seamlessly into the tony neighbourhood. In the original part of the house, features like those warbled windows, the wood floor and built-in niches and bookshelves were kept. The old banister was removed and stair railing flattened and modernized. The living room fireplace was stripped and replaced with a floating marble mantle.

The revamp was done bit by bit and remains a work in progress. Things change, tastes evolve. Shelley's approach was to “groovy it up” in stages, live in the home and then figure it out. The new addition, which still conforms to the shapes and rooflines of the original house, gave her a chance to play more with her personal style. She told the contractor to forget crown mouldings, door jambs or window casings. It's all about open concept and an airy expanse of windows. “I even added windows in funny little places to let in more light,” says Shelley.

West Coast Modern inspired

Her inspiration, after all, was Dan White, the renowned Vancouver West Coast Modern residential architect who designed her childhood home. She remembers “growing up in a house that was really beautiful and, at the time, kind of avant-garde.”

Shelley managed to incorporate West Coast Modern-style into the envelope of a traditional Tudor house. The kitchen is as plain as possible with no clutter on the creamy-white marble countertops and no distracting hanging pendants or island stools. Simple white cabinetry and one long, unadorned, horizontal window over a huge custom sink are embellished only by

Shelley's approach was to “groovy it up” in stages



MODERN MIX Contemporary features and furnishings bring this stately home into the 21st century while original built-ins and warbled windows blend the property into the neighbourhood.

framed artwork leaning against the stark glass backsplash.

The monochromatic white palette continues throughout the home as a backdrop for pops of colour from bold artwork, area rugs and pillows. A spot of colourful chaos comes from a collage of family photos adorning one wall. Tchotchkes with personal meaning, like a hand-painted vase, needlepoint from her great grandmother



WHITE OUT (Left) White walls, an all-white kitchen and Saarinen kitchen table and dining table (below, left) create a monochromatic backdrop for pops of colour from bold artwork, area rugs and pillows.

and packaging from her grandfather's grocery store, are displayed next to travel finds, designer pieces and contemporary art. Noguchi and Ikea lamps grace the same room. It's a well-honed mix of pieces that comes out of a very modern sensibility.

Trial and error

Her biggest lesson in the whole design process came courtesy of her friend Cathy Radcliffe, a design associate at Riesco & Lapres Interior Design: there's no right answer. Just know what matters to you. For Shelley, that means spending extra money on art rather than radiant in-floor heating. ("Put some socks on," says Shelley, pragmatically.) Faced with choosing pot lights, her decision





was easy. Select the cheapest. But high-end, double-thick marble for the kitchen countertops and bathroom vanities was a must.

“Be confident in knowing what you like instinctively,” says Shelley. “Everybody knows what resonates with them.”

If you don’t have to do everything at once, get one room the way you like it and then move on. If you’re stuck, just remove what you don’t like.

“For me it was getting the old lumpy-dumpy furniture in the dining room out, because then I could look at it with nothing in it and it didn’t dictate how I felt about the space,” she says.

Soon after, the piece she’d always wanted materialized: a Saarinen dining table.

Shelley describes her home as “a collection

**BIT BY BIT Homeowner Shelley redeco-
rated the home in stages as her taste
evolved. She describes the result as “a
collection of things that make us happy.”**



INSIDE OUT As the weather warms up, the outdoor deck becomes an extension of the indoor living space with a contemporary area rug, sofa, armchairs and coffee table. Shelley keeps it “stark and simple.” For her, less is more so that the water view and neatly maintained plant beds and lawn are the main attraction.

of things that make us happy.” She’s hesitant to tamp down a defining esthetic, although the word groovy is oft repeated. After all, it’s about finding that groove, so to speak.

“Even if it was a hit or a miss, at least I tried and I did it myself,” says Shelley. That effervescent, eclectic style is reflected throughout this, yes, very groovy home. ■

GARDEN STYLING Laura Sugden See SOURCES on page 83



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Cornflower blue, personalized spaces, container gardening and resort living are among the hot picks identified by our local home-design and garden experts

Top Trends for 2013

Home

TEXT KRISTEN HILDERMAN

Blast from the past

Style has a tendency to move in cycles and colour influences for the coming year are sliding back to simpler times.

“Colour is going back to the '50s and the '60s,” says colour expert, author and stylist Maria Killam. “We’re seeing so much bright colour out there.”

Killam singles out cornflower blue as her favourite from this emerging colour palette. Although grey remains a popular pick for walls and furniture, accent colours are getting livelier, which means layering brighter blues over your trendy neutrals.

“The thing to note about these bright colours is that they really work best with a crisp backdrop,” says Killam. A cornflower blue accent doesn’t sit well in a space filled with warm tones like caramels, golds and browns; it needs the cool compatibility of greys, blacks and whites, she adds.

Despite grey’s massive popularity, Killam refers to it as a “debilitating colour” when overused. “People gravitate toward the trendy neutral and they decorate their whole house in it,” she says.

Shades of grey come to life when you introduce bright pops of colour, but a few throw pillows or vases aren’t enough for a powerful accent like cornflower blue.

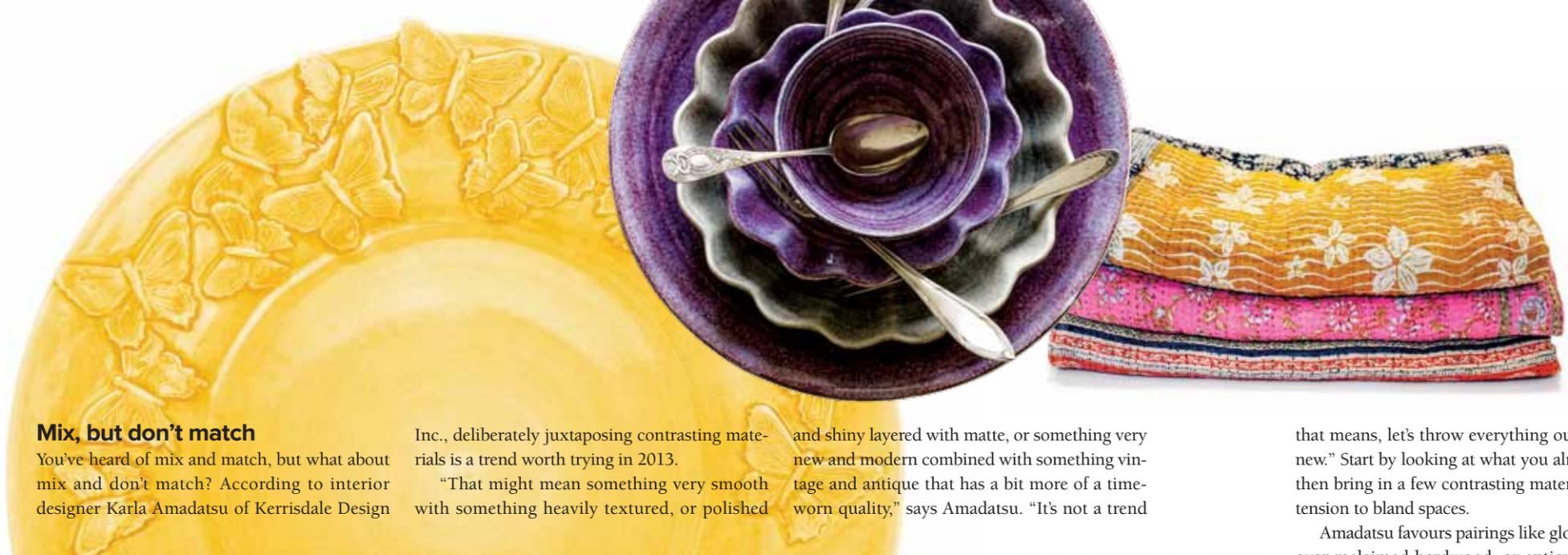
“You need to have small, medium and large accents of the same colour,” says Killam. She recommends buying several matching picture frames (Killam prefers Ikea’s 20-½-inch, square Ribba frames), painting them cornflower blue, fitting them with custom mats, and then filling them with postcard-sized pictures to match. Be playful with your accents by spreading them around your space, because in the end, colour is meant to be fun.

Colour expert, author and stylist Maria Killam

[PHOTO venturi + karpia]



KNOW YOUR NEUTRALS When used sparingly and subtly, greys and whites provide a cool and crisp backdrop for layering other styles, colours and trends. [PHOTO Tracey Ayton]



Mix, but don't match

You've heard of mix and match, but what about mix and don't match? According to interior designer Karla Amadatsu of Kerrisdale Design

Inc., deliberately juxtaposing contrasting materials is a trend worth trying in 2013.

"That might mean something very smooth with something heavily textured, or polished

and shiny layered with matte, or something very new and modern combined with something vintage and antique that has a bit more of a time-worn quality," says Amadatsu. "It's not a trend

that means, let's throw everything out and start new." Start by looking at what you already have, then bring in a few contrasting materials to add tension to bland spaces.

Amadatsu favours pairings like glossy marble over reclaimed hardwood, or antique wooden pieces with lacquered tables. "That juxtaposition of different materials will bring a lot of interest to a design," she says, adding that mixing finishes is a good alternative to just focusing on colour when designing a room. Different textures and materials can liven up even a monochromatic space.

Repeat performance

Art imitates life in the New Year as design moves toward organization. Interior designer Jennifer Scott of A Good Chick to Know sees this longing for order in our personal lives manifesting itself in the design world through a strong use of repetition.

"The new option that we see coming out is using more organic elements to create a graphic feel using repetition," says Scott. This means repetitious decor layouts, repeating a line of light fixtures or something as simple as arranging your bookshelf by colour. "It's creating that uniform feeling using the same item," says Scott.

The trend offers a lot of flexibility at a low cost, which is a boon for those of us pinching pennies after the holidays. "It's something that you don't have to go out and buy," says Scott. "You can take the things you already have and create it in an afternoon."

Scott and her colleagues like to hit up local vintage stores for small decor items to bring in elements from different eras.

Rather than arranging a gallery wall of family photos, Scott suggests grouping several frames closely together to give the illusion of one grand art piece. With just little adjustments, this trend can have an enormous effect on your space.

It's all about you

At his September 2012 presentation for Vancouver

interior design show IDSwest, Tommy Smythe urged the audience to make their needs the driving force behind renovations. "You need to renovate your house for you to live in, not for the next people who are going to live there," he said. "I've always said this – I think it's a stupid idea to decorate or renovate your house for other people." The supportive cheers from the crowd that day reflect the tide change in design and architecture: it's all about you.

Despite the shift toward personalized spaces, many are still hung up on what effect custom design has on resale.

"People are still compelled to have a formal living room," says Joy Chao, senior interior designer at John Henshaw Architect Inc. But according to her, resale issues are non-existent: "As long as the house is well designed and the space is utilized properly, it doesn't seem to be a problem."

Chao says more of her clients are beginning to eschew traditional features and layouts and designing their homes to their unique needs, whether it's lowering or raising countertops, customizing condo kitchens or completely flipping the floor plan in a loft – all things that she has done. It's time to reclaim your home for yourself and your family's needs.

Talking texture

Bold and bright colours are appearing in unexpected places in 2013. Julie Wu, co-owner of Vancouver home decor store Örling & Wu, says she's excited to see natural fibres like cotton and linen in electric colours. "I want them in chartreuse or yellows and the really fun turquoise," says Wu. Natural textures are more commonly found in neutral shades, but this new wave of textiles is making a statement in the design world.

When it comes to embracing this trend, it's all about how you incorporate

it. Wu encourages homeowners to be liberal with soft, romantic fabrics in vibrant colours. "Don't be shy," she says, "be joyous and celebrate each kaleidoscope of colour and really have fun."

Also for 2013, the rustic, reclaimed look is moving aside to welcome hand-painted china and bold-coloured glassware into the spotlight – "anything that's lacquered," says Wu. □

TRY THIS IN 2013 (Top left) These handmade, ceramic dishes by Mateus add the perfect pop of high-gloss colour (available at Örling and Wu) (PHOTO courtesy Mateus); (left) Karla Amadatsu mixes finishes for a subtle yet varied design; (below) incorporate bright, lamb's wool throws from Kilppan for stunning organic accents (available at Örling and Wu) (PHOTOS Janis Nicolay (top), courtesy of Kilppan)



ask the experts...



PRO PICK This Moe's Home Collection occasional table brings the garden indoors with an elegant indent for your succulents or cacti.

In this issue our experts help you divide your hosta, create a tranquil space for relaxing in the bathtub, give your seedlings their best shot at survival, set the scene for an everyday dinner table, demystify your rhododendron's peculiar hair growth and give your condo kitchen some special touches.



Q In magazines, I always see tables set for a full dinner. It looks great, but how can I decorate my table in an everyday look when it's not in use?

MARGOT JAGGER answers: It's not practical (or normal) to have your table set for a formal dinner every day. I believe wood tables were made to be seen, so first remove your tablecloth and protective cover if you use one. Place a rattan mat or coloured, woven runner along the middle of the table and then place fresh flowers or a live plant at the centre. Get creative with your vase or vessel. Invest in a special Martha Sturdy resin vase or use a beautiful bowl as a container for a multi-stemmed orchid surrounded by reindeer moss. Save the candlesticks for the formal affairs, but flank your centrepiece with a couple votives and light them for a little flicker at night. PHOTO (Table arrangement) Tracey Ayton



Q How and when should I divide my hosta?

WIM VANDER ZALM answers: Dividing a hosta, or any other perennial for that matter, is a process of splitting the mother plant into two, three or four or more parts that will become independent new plants. Generally speaking, the best time to divide your hosta is mid-March to April after all fear of heavy frost is gone.

Start by completely digging your hosta out of the ground. The root system is quite dense and compact, so getting it out should not be too onerous if you simply work your spade as deep as possible around the entire plant just beyond the root zone. Be careful to find that sweet spot where the spade easily penetrates the earth without slicing into any roots. Next, slide the spade underneath the clump to pry it out of the ground.

Now you will require two garden forks. While you can chop the clump into four even sections using a shovel, my preference is to insert two forks – back to back – into the centre of the clump and pry the plant apart. Once the clump is in two sections, divide them into two more. I don't usually recommend splitting the mother clump into more than four pieces.



Q How can I transform my cookie-cutter condo kitchen into a more distinctive space?

REBECCA LAPRES and NANCY RIESCO answer: Pendant lights are often found suspended over the kitchen peninsula – you see similar styles at your local Starbucks. Replace them with a larger, more current alternative. We love the Caravaggio pendant or the more organic Drop One or Drop Two pendants from Original BTC.

Transform your beige, drywall backsplash with bright, patterned wallpaper like Cole and Son's Cow Parsley. Each time you enter your kitchen, you'll be transported to a colourful urban meadow. If the backsplash is sporting its original, dull tile, we love using a subway tile instead – it's timeless and looks great in both modern and traditional spaces. The classic is white ceramic, but you could consider other materials such as glass or marble.

If you're replacing countertops, we recommend engineered stone in bright white or soft smoke. The backsplash can be done in the same material for a seamless and elegant look that unifies the two surfaces.

Cabinets look well dressed in a gorgeous, warm grey. We like Benjamin Moore's Kendall Charcoal – it's elegant, modern and suits any style. Jewelry in the form of shiny new cabinet hardware provides the perfect final touch. The Spritz Pull from Restoration Hardware is plain and pretty enough to suit any interior. PHOTO (Portrait) Tracey Ayton; (light fixtures) High Tower Caravaggio from Inform Interiors



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Q I love relaxing in the tub, but my bathroom is not very inviting. What can I do to transform it into a tranquil space?

JENNY MARTIN answers:

When trying to create a Zen or spa feel, you want to design a space that allows your eye to float effortlessly around the room. That means you want to avoid high contrast, like dark walls next to a white shower surround. Keep tones subtle and soft: creams, sands, taupe and pastels paired with natural textures. I love travertine, marbles and beach pebbles.

Incorporate accents in warm wood tones like teak or espresso. Try working with diagonal lines and accent with circular forms, whether wall sculptures, light fixtures or small pieces. Keep lighting low by replacing your light switches with dimmers or adding under cabinet lighting.



Q How can I ensure the seedlings I grow inside for my garden aren't too leggy and flopping over?

CONWAY LUM answers: There are three easy-to-correct reasons for leggy seedlings:

1. Air temperature is too high. Warm temperatures are ideal for germination, but to sustain top growth, 20 C (68 F) or so would be excessive. Try dropping the room temperature a few degrees after the seeds sprout.

2. Poor light quality. On dull days or when the only light source is a window, consider supplemental light, but make sure the bulbs are suitable for plant use. Grow lights offer a broader light spectrum and less heat than traditional light bulbs.

3. Improper watering and feeding. Water and fertilize seedlings according to their particular needs. Avoid extreme conditions, such as excessive feeding under poor light.



Lastly, I would also recommend you ensure that there is good circulation around your seedlings for optimum health. Good luck with this year's veggie garden!

Q What is the brown, hairy coating that I am seeing on the leaves of my rhododendrons? Does this indicate a problem, and should I be doing something to get rid of it?

SHIRLEY EPPLER answers: What you are seeing is perfectly normal – and, you'll be interested to hear, it's a characteristic of rhododendrons that is much sought after by collectors.



Called indumentum, it appears on the undersides of the leaves, is usually cinnamon brown in colour and resembles felt. Indumentum is, in fact, a covering of fine hairs or sometimes scales that help to store water and protect the plant from cold and heat. One of the most popular indumentum-rich rhododendrons is the Japanese species *R. yakushimanum* and its hybrid 'Ken Janeck'. ■



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