

Home Sweetest Home

When the unexpected happens, finding a sense of self starts right at home. Jennifer Scott transforms a Vancouver apartment for the new woman of the house.

Written by STACY KENDALL • Photographed by TRACEY AYTON



OPPOSITE: A cluster of amethyst crystals on the vintage chrome coffee table makes a strong centerpiece in this downtown Vancouver apartment. **THIS PAGE:** A living room vignette features a copper-and-gold lamp from Stylegarage, potted succulents, and an '80s chrome table (a Craigslist find). All of the accessories were chosen for their ability to impart a sense of composed harmony to the space.

THIS PAGE: In the streamlined kitchen, Scott added various white accessories that are at once playful, functional, and aesthetically cohesive. She suggests using a monochromatic scheme to tie collected objects together for visual impact. **OPPOSITE:** Scott purchased many of the objects and furnishings that give the living room personality at CB2, including the teal floor cushions, the hanging metal sculpture, and the sofa. Pairing large frames with wide matting and small prints (like these from Nineteen Ten) gives the illusion of big art without co-opting the swath of white wall that lends a sense of serenity to the space.



Having it all sometimes means starting over. Emerging from a recent divorce, Erika Gilmore forged a new look for her new life: feminine minimalism. The 800-square-foot apartment in downtown Vancouver that she bought at the beginning of 2013 was the first in a series of symbolic, defining purchases.

“My previous home was in an older apartment building and the décor was a mix of furniture that my partner at the time and I had collected over the years,” Gilmore says. “It was comfortable, but there was no real style to it, so I wanted something new and modern and fresh. I saw this as the opportunity to create my dream space.”

Gilmore started decorating—painting the spare contemporary space all white, adding only a few personal objects—but quickly realized that it didn’t feel like home. “I lived there for 10 months with plenty of indecision on the décor before finally getting in touch with Jenn,” she says. “I was already on my second uncomfortable couch and very unhappy.”

Jennifer Scott, founder of the Vancouver design and lifestyle company A Good Chick to Know, worked closely with Gilmore to create a space that felt warm, yet clean and minimal. “This was such a personal journey for her, and her story drove the design,” Scott says. “She was waiting for the right pieces, and she didn’t want to just buy stuff for the sake of stuff.” »



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A white chair from Novo Furniture and desk from CB2 are accessorized with a throw blanket from Ikea. The bright yellow bench from Crate and Barrel and mirror from Urban Barn give guests a cheerful welcome. A Marimekko print that Gilmore had originally chosen for the living room makes a greater statement in the master bedroom. **OPPOSITE:** Layered accessories and a bold EQ3 rug add warmth and texture to the apartment.



One previous purchase Gilmore was happy with was an area rug for the living room, patterned in blues, pinks, and purples. But she couldn't make it work in the space.

"The cool colors of the rug made all the furniture around it read as too warm—the whites looked like cream, the grays looked beige," Scott says. "Erikka kept buying furniture and sending it back." Scott's solution was to balance out the cool hues of the rug with a scattering of warm accessories—pink velvet pillows from the Cross Décor & Design; a green vintage wool throw—which enabled the velvet sofa to read as true gray. "It's basic color theory," Scott says modestly.

To Gilmore's surprise, embellishing the white interiors with select colorful objects didn't make it feel cluttered—it was the missing link in her quest for personality and comfort. "Jenn took my apartment from empty and cold to a very pretty, comfortable, and warm space while keeping with the modern look and feel that I wanted," Gilmore says. "I now finally have a home that I am very proud to live in." And as for Scott, whose interior work is usually more eclectic? She came away with a fresh appreciation for the streamlined side of design. "I went through a journey, too, by learning the art of editing. Sometimes having just a few items can be amazing." ✱

"I've never worked with anyone who started out with literally no accessories in her home. She was open to starting fresh, and doing it her way." —JENNIFER SCOTT, DESIGNER



THE REST IS HISTORY

MISSION: Insert vintage details into a historic loft with a modern, open plan.

Written by LINDSEY M. ROBERTS
Photographed by TRACEY AYTON

Residents Tavia Cosper and Jude Popp loved their open, urban loft—but not as much its slick, modern aesthetic. So they searched antique shops and auctions for patinated pieces, such as a vintage garbage can and an aged Dutch painting, to add warmth to their new home.



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Finishes and appliances in the kitchen were chosen by the developer, who turned the building from a warehouse to lofts. Cosper and Popp added the industrial-inspired stools to bring in a sense of history. The smaller-scale appliances make efficient use of the compact area.



The former McLennan and McFeely Building (now the Koret Lofts) had already stood the test of time when it underwent a loft conversion in 2004. Built in 1906, it was designed by a significant Vancouver architect, Edward Evans Blackmore, and eventually became one of the largest warehouses in the city, housing the production of architectural metalwork, industrial products, and sportswear.

When Tavia Cosper and Jude Popp bought their slice of history, though, it came with contemporary, sterile white kitchens and bathrooms. The pair loved the brightness and

openness of the modern layout, but decided, when decorating, to emphasize the warmth of the original brick, concrete, and wooden posts and beams. "We liked the old industrial style and that's the style we wanted to keep," Cosper says.

In the kitchen, Cosper and Popp softened up the clean lines of the existing steel-topped island with three former medical stools, which tilt forward and backward, and added additional storage with antique bar shelving. They even hunted for a garbage can for months until they found one that looked suitably weathered. »

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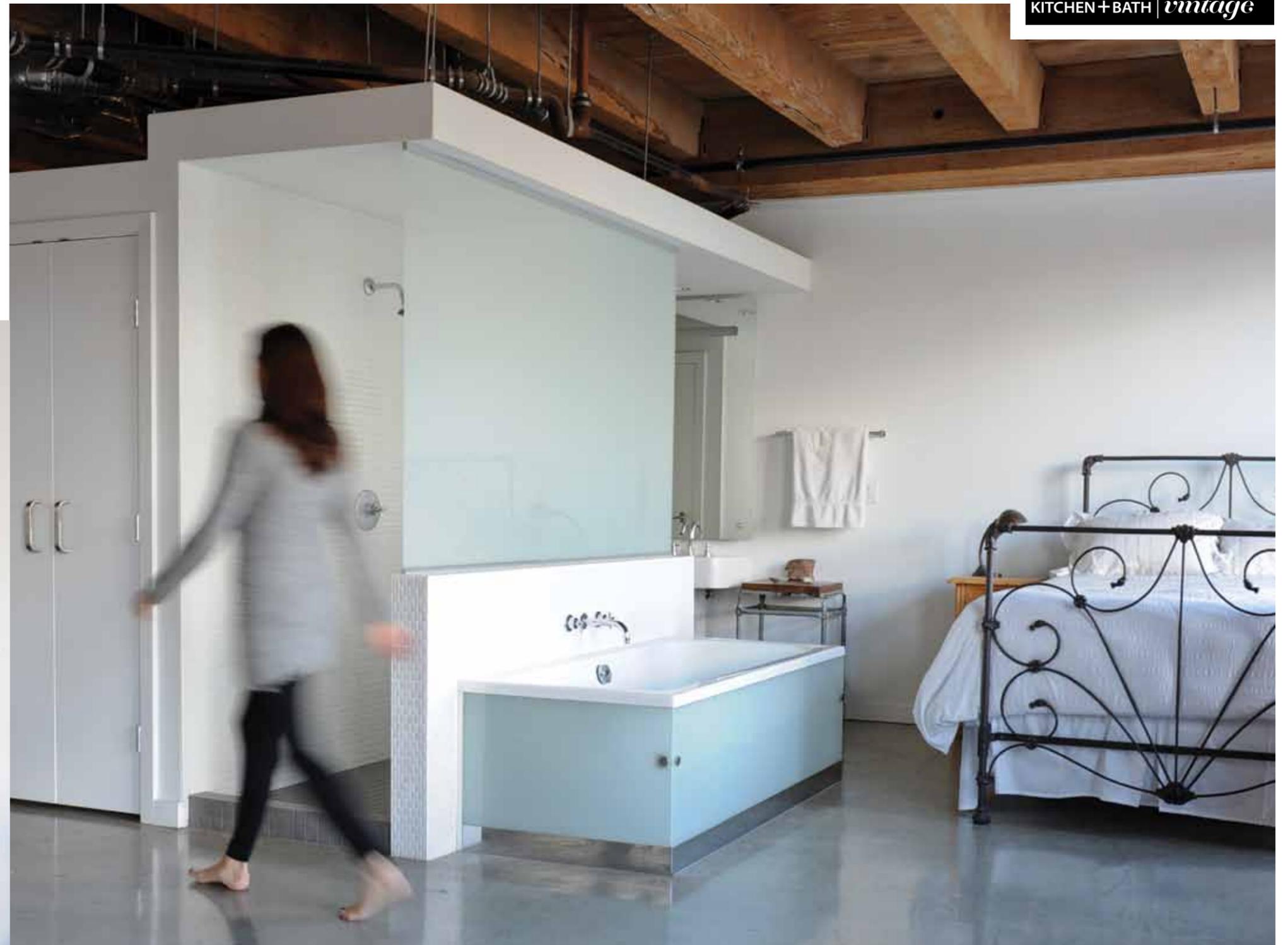
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LEFT: The bathroom mirror reflects furnishings with personal meaning to Cosper and Popp. The antique table is from Cosper's mom and the chair was from Popp's former law firm. **ABOVE:** Though it took some getting used to, Cosper and Popp now embrace the open bed and bath area. "I can watch TV and still have a conversation with Jude if he's in the bath," Cosper says.

A wrought-iron bed, purchased from JoJo's Place, anchors one corner of the loft. It sits just a few feet away from the bathtub—a situation that takes the open-living concept to the extreme. At first, the couple talked about installing a wall or curtain between the two spaces, but in the end, they decided it was a conversation starter and left them as-is. The contrast and proximity of these two

elements—the "industrial and homey" bed, and the clean-lined, icy-looking tub and shower—exemplifies what's successful about this space. The two styles don't clash; the modern elements shine attention, through contrast, on all of the well-loved antique pieces. By layering texture and personality into their home, Cosper and Popp have added their own story to the building's rich history. ✱