

# Foreign Currency

A LANGLEY, B.C., COUPLE BRINGS THE HISTORY AND ROMANCE OF AN OLD WORLD FARMHOUSE TO THEIR NEWLY BUILT HOME.

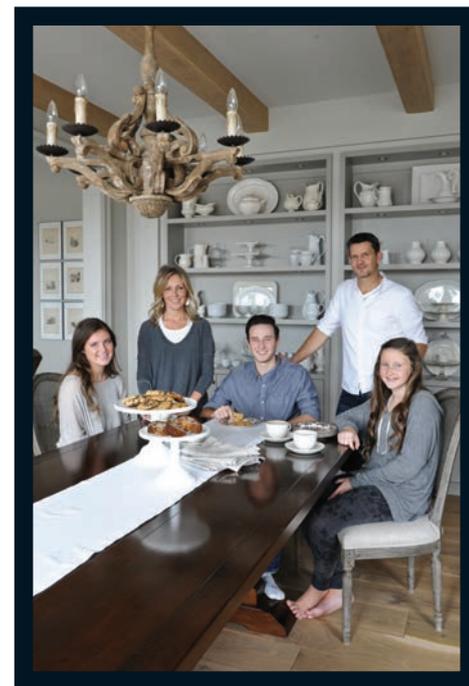
*Text by* REBECCA TAY | *Photography by* TRACEY AYTON

Framed vintage paintings and a trinket box purchased at an antique store in Fort Langley, B.C., decorate one of the home's bedrooms.





A sturdy farmhouse table in the dining room is surrounded by armchairs slipcovered in oatmeal linen for maximum comfort. Wing chairs at either end connote a sense of occasion, while a chandelier with gold-leaf accents and a large mirror give the room its sparkle. **Table, chairs, bell jars,** Restoration Hardware; **chandelier,** Aidan Gray. TOP RIGHT: Homeowners Lorna and Rick Penner with their children (from left) Richele, Cole and Halle.



**THERE'S A FAMOUS QUOTE** that says we must go to Europe to see the past and visit California to observe the future. But that distinction was blurred when a trip to the Golden State's Napa and Sonoma valleys spurred Rick and Lorna Penner to rethink their style. While others are taken by the area's lush Pinot Noir and farm-to-table foodie culture, Rick and Lorna couldn't get enough of the French country-inspired architecture and old world feel of the estates — a look that became the starting point for their new home in Langley, B.C. Family vacations to London and France, plus hours spent looking at online photos of traditional Belgian farmhouses, fine-tuned their vision for the lakeside villa.

An hour from downtown Vancouver, the half-acre property is surrounded by equestrian barns and riding trails (the family's youngest daughter takes riding lessons in the area). As the founder of Rodell Developments, which specializes in new high-end homes, Rick had constructed some properties in the neighbourhood and quickly grew to love the community. Both he and Lorna share a passion for building, decorating and selling houses — they've owned several since they married in 1988 — so they decided to snap up a single lot for themselves. With three of their four children grown up, it

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**SPLURGE**

- Caesarstone quartz countertops from Fanstone Marble.
- White oak island with cabinets by Old World Kitchens.
- Full-size Sub-Zero fridge and freezer.

**SAVE**

- White tableware collected for as little as \$3 to \$5 apiece.
- Kitchen cabinets are lower-cost painted wood.
- Exposed beams are decorative, not structural.



The kitchen island houses the microwave and drawers that hold servingware. Two full-height pantry cupboards and a panelled Sub-Zero fridge and freezer line the back wall. **Chandeliers**, Aidan Gray; **cake stands**, The Cross. TOP RIGHT: The family eats most meals at the kitchen table. The french doors open onto a covered patio with a barbecue and outdoor pizza oven. BOTTOM RIGHT: The great room's wood beams give it the air of a European farmhouse. Built-in white oak cabinets bookend the concrete hearth and conceal a flatscreen TV, and a pair of linen sofas from Lee Industries face across a raw wood and steel coffee table that adds industrial edge. **Artwork**, **chandelier**, Aidan Gray; **candleholders**, **coffee table**, Restoration Hardware.





TOP LEFT: A small dresser used as a bedside table in the principal bedroom holds books and gadgets, leaving the surface uncluttered for display. **Bedding, Bella Notte.**

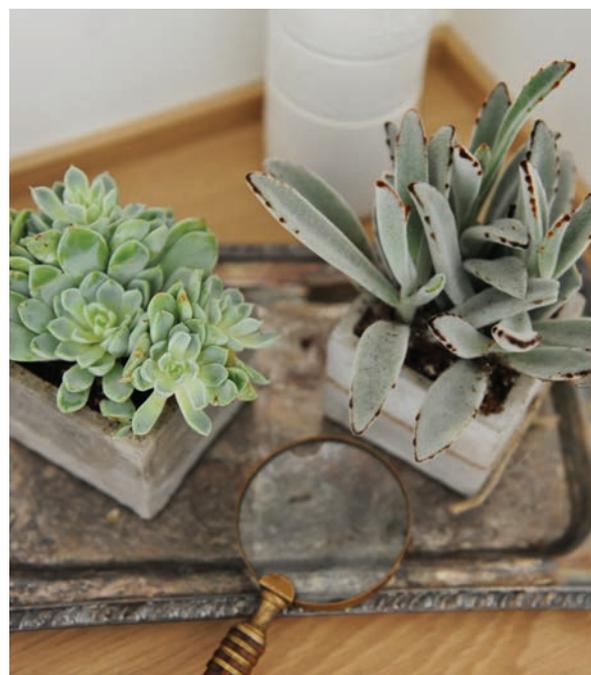
TOP CENTRE: Open shelves in the kitchen, painted in a custom grey shade, display Lorna's collection of white tableware (a mix of antiques and new finds from Pottery Barn and Crate & Barrel).

TOP RIGHT: French doors in the great room open onto a partially covered patio that overlooks a small lake. **Sofas, Lee Industries.**

CENTRE LEFT: A painting found at an antique store in California decorates Richele's bedroom.

BOTTOM LEFT: White and pale pink Bella Notte linens balance a dark iron bed frame in Halle's room. **Chandelier, bed, Restoration Hardware.**

BOTTOM RIGHT: In the stairwell, a grid of 15 framed drawings and prints, found at a flea market near Provence, adds stop-and-look interest. The white oak and wrought-iron banister is based on a design spotted at the Château de Beaucastel winery in France. **Frames, Michaels.**



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ABOVE: A nook in Richele’s bedroom was turned into a mini study space with offset shelves, a floating steel-edged desk and vintage photographs found at a flea market in Uzès, outside Provence. **Chair**, Restoration Hardware; **desk**, Canadian Heritage Timber Company; **lamp** by Ralph Lauren, HomeSense.

RIGHT: Richele’s bedroom has a subtle femininity, but doses of grey and a spare hand with accessories keep the look clean. **Chandelier**, Aidan Gray; **bedding**, Bella Notte.

**SPLURGE**

- Bedding sets by Bella Notte Linens.
- Intricate tiered chandeliers.
- Wide-plank oak floors throughout.

**SAVE**

- Vintage art found at a French flea market for €60.
- No rugs throughout the house.
- Drapes were sewn with linen from a bulk fabric store.

