



LEFT The saying "There is always strength in numbers" applies especially to grouped artwork. "The frames are mismatched, so the homeowners can easily add to the display," says designer Karla Amadatsu.

**DESIGN,** Kerrisdale Design, kerrisdaledesign.com; **FRAMES** (all except three custom matted in centre), Pottery Barn.

BOTTOM LEFT Soft aquas and taupes on plush living room furniture lend a beachy feel, especially with all the radiant light cascading through the windows. A delicate crystal bowl and mirrored tray are unexpected foils to the chunky coffee table.

SOFA, TOSS CUSHIONS (on sofa), COFFEE TABLE, TRAY, Kerrisdale Design.

opposite These clutter-free downsizers keep the condo's ornaments to a minimum and the decorative details unobtrusive. The organic-shaped bowl holding pears on the kitchen island and the simple clear glass pendant lights hanging above it are perfect examples of the homeowners' serene style.











ownsizers fall into two camps: sentimentalists and pragmatics. The former cling to their children's doodles for decades, as though Picasso himself drew them; the latter expunge the contents of their lives with panache and purpose. This last group describes these Surrey, B.C., homeowners. For nearly 20 years, the couple lived in a 4,000-square-foot home. But after they retired and their now-grown children moved out, they surveyed the many rooms, anticipating the endless dusting and vacuuming (not the most enjoyable way to spend their golden years), and decided to buy a condo.

They methodically downsized from their threestorey home in small bites until they fit into their new 1,450-square-foot, three-bedroom condo. (The purging took about a year.) Although the light-inviting corner unit was fitted with windows on three sides and a pair of glass doors in the living room leading to a large southwest-facing deck, the condo was painted a drab colour and the previous owner hadn't done a good job of maximizing its potential - and it had lots. So these new homeowners called in Karla Amadatsu of Kerrisdale Design to address its lack of personality.

"They wanted it to look like something out of a Diane Keaton movie - a little bit Hamptons," says Karla, referring to the iconic cream and pale blue coloured beach house in Something's Gotta Give.

The design certainly has coastal moments. Botanical artwork graces the entryway, while a dreamy turquoise landscape painting offers a blast of brightness near the pedestal dining table. And to liven the look, Karla integrated glamorous gold accents. Other flourishes, such as a black lacquered faux-bamboo sideboard in the dining area and bulbous white table lamps, allude to the Hollywood Regency period. The backdrop to these pieces isn't cream, exactly, but a whitish taupe that recalls a seashell caked in sand. "It has depth to it. It's not stark," says Karla.

The tonal warmth works brilliantly against the arresting contemporary kitchen with its flat-front maple cabinets, which Karla chose not to paint out. "Our goal was to freshen it up," she says, "so we added crisp white bar stools, pretty lighting and great accessories." Not just for show, this kitchen gets a lot of use. "When we entertain, our guests love the design, as well as the condo's perfect size," says one of the homeowners.

As for their old digs, with the rambling rooms and memories of Christmases and birthdays past, the homeowners aren't sentimental about it one bit. How could they be? When they're not on the golf course perfecting their swing, these carefree baby boomers are travelling abroad - and they don't have to worry about leaving an empty house. "We love it here," says one of the homeowners. "Downsizing has been a truly freeing experience."









**OPPOSITE** A mélange of seemingly disparate items, such as a damask ottoman paired with a zebra-patterned book, makes for an engaging entranceway. Symmetry is always pleasing to the eye: Here, the modern Parsons table, gold captain's mirror and twin table lamps establish a pyramid.

MIRROR, Parsons TABLE, OTTOMAN, small blue BOX, Kerrisdale Design; TABLE LAMPS, Pottery Barn; VASE, The Cross Decor & Design; ARTWORK, HomeSense; FRAMES, IKEA.

LEFT, TOP Decor 101: Pretty peonies add colour and texture and feel effortlessly elegant.

LEFT "Rather than brand-new polished fixtures, antique-look brass has warmth and gives the condo a sense of history," says Karla, noting the brass accents in the table lamps, floor lamp and the coffee table tray.

ARMCHAIR, Brougham Interiors; FLOOR LAMP, Kerrisdale Design.

ABOVE Who doesn't love a pedestal table? The classic space saver is paired with

bright white fretwork-backed chairs (matched dining sets are so yesterday!). For continuity, the table lamp base and gold-flecked vase on the sideboard echo the hanging lantern.

PEDESTAL TABLE, Country Furniture; DINING CHAIRS, LANTERN, TABLE LAMPS, SIDEBOARD, RUG, Kerrisdale Design; Moroccan TEA GLASSES (on sideboard), The Cross Decor & Design.

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