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ACTING *out*

Designer Jamie Deck creates simple harmony throughout this Vancouver condo, resulting in a calming home for a new family of three.

TEXT LAURA MUIR
PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON



The master bedroom boasts the same restful grey and white colour scheme and contemporary clean lines used elsewhere in the condo.

DESIGN, Shift Interiors, shift-interiors.com; **CONSTRUCTION**, Zentech Interiors; **BEDDING**, Hudson's Bay; **NIGHT-STAND**, West Elm; **TABLE LAMP**, Mint.

LEFT The living room offers a warm layered effect thanks to natural greenery and a rich mix of materials, such as wood, glass, linen and wool. Two pouffes lend a hit of pattern to the space.

Balboa Mist OC-27 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Street Chic CSP-45 **NOOK WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **MILLWORK** (throughout), Omega Custom Furniture and Design; **SECTIONAL, TABLE LAMP**, Mint; **COFFEE TABLE TOP**, 18Karat; custom **COFFEE TABLE BASE**, Stylegarage; **POUFFES**, Country Furniture; **FLOOR LAMP**, BoConcept.

OPPOSITE The condo's original walnut front door served as the jumping-off point for incorporating wood into the space.

RUG, BASKET, West Elm.



With its sleek flat-panelled cabinetry, white granite countertops and stainless steel backsplash, the condo's original kitchen works well with homeowner Sarah Edmondson's penchant for modern design.

STOOLS, Mint.



LEFT The nook in the living room was the perfect spot to install a built-in buffet and open shelves. “The buffet, which is 20 inches deep, is where Sarah keeps things she doesn’t use every day like vases and Christmas items,” says designer Jamie Deck. The millwork runs past the nook on one side to lend architectural interest and visually elongate the space.

BELOW, LEFT A modern wooden table, easy-care leatherette chairs and a dramatic oversized pendant light define the dining area.

Custom **DINING TABLE & MIRROR**, Omega Custom Furniture and Design; **DINING CHAIRS, PENDANT LIGHT**, Mint; electric **FIREPLACE**, Bridge Fireplace.

BELOW, MIDDLE A framed Rudyard Kipling poem makes for whimsical artwork in the entryway. The two stools, which are used as perches for putting on shoes, can be pulled into the dining area to provide extra seating at the ends of the table.

STOOLS, 18Karat.

BELOW, RIGHT Underneath the TV, built-in drawers act as toy storage. The stain-resistant New Zealand wool rug is actually a piece of broadloom carpet. “We just got broadloom cut down to size – it’s half the cost of an actual wool rug,” says Jamie.

Custom **RUG**, Burritt Bros. Carpet & Floors.

It happens a lot. After putting a big down payment on a home, there might not be much left in the budget for decorating or design. But Sarah Edmondson was lucky. When she and her husband, Anthony Ames, purchased this newly built condo last year, she had two things on her side. Number one: The condo itself, in Vancouver’s Olympic Village neighbourhood, already boasted the high-quality finishes, light-flooded spaces, coveted ocean views and big soaker tub that were on Sarah’s wish list. Number two: She found a trusted designer – Jamie Deck of Shift Interiors – who understood how to turn the 1,300-square-foot condo into a dream home on a strict budget.

Sarah is a busy woman. A voice-over artist and a film and television actress for the past 20 years, she also

works as an executive coach, co-running a personal and professional development centre called Ethical Arts. On top of that, she and Anthony, also an executive coach, are now parents to a five-month-old baby boy, Troy. With so much on her plate, it goes without saying that organization is a priority for Sarah, and she wanted a family-friendly space that was orderly, comfortable and suitable for meetings, work functions and entertaining.

To determine the aesthetic, Jamie introduced Sarah to Houzz, a popular home-improvement website, where she could peruse photos of interiors and pick out what she liked. Based on the images she chose, it became apparent that “modern was the direction she wanted to go,” says Jamie. Sarah was also drawn to soothing colour schemes of grey and white, so Jamie incorporated





ABOVE Sleek white custom frames give the gallery walls in the hallway a uniform look.

Kendall Charcoal HC-166 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; custom **PHOTO PRINTING & FRAMING**, WT Designs.

RIGHT, TOP & BOTTOM An unused niche in the master bedroom was turned into a TV and storage nook (a panel slides up to reveal the television). The open shelves display prized items like a Moroccan jewellery box that belonged to Sarah's mom.

MIRRORS, HomeSense.

a neutral palette with various shades of grey and textural elements that add coziness and depth.

When it came time to allocate the healthy budget, key splurges – such as the millwork, sectional sofa, custom dining table and statement lighting – support the couple's busy lifestyle and give the condo a distinctive, personalized look. Shelves, cupboards and drawers in the living room and the ingenious TV nook in the master bedroom offer extra storage and even create multi-functional spaces the family can grow into. "In the living room, we added a long built-in underneath the TV and fireplace," says Jamie. "Its huge drawers were installed at child height, so when Troy's a toddler, he can open them up and pull out his toys. And when they have guests over, Sarah can easily chuck all of Troy's

toys in there, and it won't look like a messy play area."

Always cognizant of saving money, Jamie mixed high and low items and came up with clever inexpensive ways of creating the look Sarah wanted. For example, a wood-panelled wall in the master bedroom lends interest and warmth. But instead of using real wood planks, which would have cost about \$4,000, Jamie found a vinyl wood-look product that was considerably cheaper.

Besides expressing a few must-haves and giving her quick approvals, Sarah gave Jamie free rein and, in fact, was out of town when the 16-week project was being finished. "When I came back, it was done," says Sarah. "It was like one of those TV shows where you walk in and everything's perfect." And it's apparent she's not acting when she expresses her love for her new home.



The master bedroom gets its warm, cozy appeal from elements like the rustic feature wall (created with wood-look vinyl flooring), linen blend drapes and upholstered king-sized bed. "The mattress lifts up, and there's storage space inside the bed frame," says Jamie.

BED FRAME, Novo Furniture; custom **DRAPERY**, Shift Interiors; vinyl **FLOORING** (used as wall panelling), Evoke Unreal Flooring; **TOSS CUSHIONS**, West Elm.



SAVE VS. SPLURGE

DESIGNER JAMIE DECK
CLEVERLY BALANCED HIGH
AND LOW ITEMS. HERE'S
HOW SHE DID IT.

SAVE



FIREPLACE

An electric fireplace, a more affordable alternative to gas, creates a luxurious focal point.



ARTWORK

Although the frames are custom, the art is a selection of treasured photographs.

SPLURGE



MILLWORK

Custom millwork allows the condo to better meet the storage needs of the homeowners.



SECTIONAL

The high-quality sectional was a definite splurge – but it's the most-used piece in the space.