

CANADA'S

styleathome

tips for a
SUCCESSFUL
(AND INEXPENSIVE)
RENO

BIG IDEAS

for how to

DECORATE with
NEUTRALS

spa

BATHROOM STYLE

48 ideas to **CREATE**
YOUR OWN

CELEBRATE AUTUMN'S
ARRIVAL WITH DELICIOUS
APPLE DESSERTS

SEPTEMBER 2012



0 69426 71548 6

\$5.99
09

PM40064924

styleathome.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: TRACEY AYTON

2012 *September*

NEUTRALS FOR EVERY
STYLE DEFINE OUR STATE
OF MIND THIS MONTH

call of the wild 104

the great escape 112

a perfect match 120

putting the
new in neutral 128



A PERFECT MATCH

With a talented designer by their side, newylwed homeowners were able to make the house of their dreams come true.

TEXT
RHEA SEYMOUR

PHOTOGRAPHY
TRACEY AYTON



OPPOSITE Fresh florals, a covered dish made of bone and a lacquered box are subtle touches in the living room that allow other details, such as the nail-head trim on the armchair, to shine.

DESIGN, Kerrisdale Design, kerrisdale-design.com.

The traditional oil-rubbed bronze

chandelier in the dining room provides a welcome contrast to the modern glass table lamps. The large mirror with a distressed antique-white frame is flanked by a set of botanical prints, offering just a hint of colour.

TABLE LAMPS, Crate and Barrel; botanical **PRINTS**, HomeSense.



F

For most brides, planning a wedding is daunting enough. But when Mimi Yeo was getting ready for her big day, she was also overseeing the construction of a 4,000-square-foot home in Vancouver's leafy Dunbar neighbourhood. To add to the stress level, her fiancé's family was coming from his hometown of Glasgow, Scotland, to stay in the new house during the wedding. Mimi hired a wedding planner to help manage her bridal duties and brought in Karla Amadatsu, principal designer of Kerrisdale Design, for the construction phase of the house to handle every aspect of the new home's interior, from the lighting and fixtures to the millwork and finishes. "There were a lot of decisions to be made," says Mimi. "Karla took what we wanted and visualized it for us."

The couple's dream house was realized: a light, airy abode with rustic European charm inside and out. "We travel to Europe a lot and we really wanted it to have a Tuscan feel but also be modern," says Mimi. "And we didn't want it to feel too precious or new." To create a contemporary home with old-world character, Karla incorporated many elements into the design, including a coffered ceiling and beautiful millwork in the living and dining rooms, iron railings and a rounded front door. "In a new build, these details make the home →



OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT, TOP The large coffee table provides ample space to corral books and unique finds in interesting vignettes.

OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT, BOTTOM The living room, where the young family entertains and relaxes, is comfortably stylish. A traditional sofa with rolled arms and tufting in a neutral linen fabric is a timeless, versatile piece. It gets an update with toss cushions in modern botanical and trellis prints. The flat-woven wool rug in espresso offers an additional layering of pattern. The artwork – a replica of a map of London (“a nice reference to the homeowner’s U.K. background,” says designer Karla Amadatsu) – was chosen for its complementary colours and aged quality.

Florentine Plaster CC-520
WALL PAINT, Benjamin Moore; **COFFEE TABLE**, **FLOOR LAMP**, **TOSS CUSHIONS**, Kerrisdale Design; **SOFA**, London **MAP**, Restoration Hardware.

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP The side table perfectly sets off the library-style armchair in the living room; built-in bookshelves hide audio components and create a display place for books and treasured objects; a custom iron railing and crisp white panelling make the staircase a focal point; black and white pieces add a level of depth.

SIDE TABLE, Restoration Hardware; **ARMCHAIR**, Kerrisdale Design.

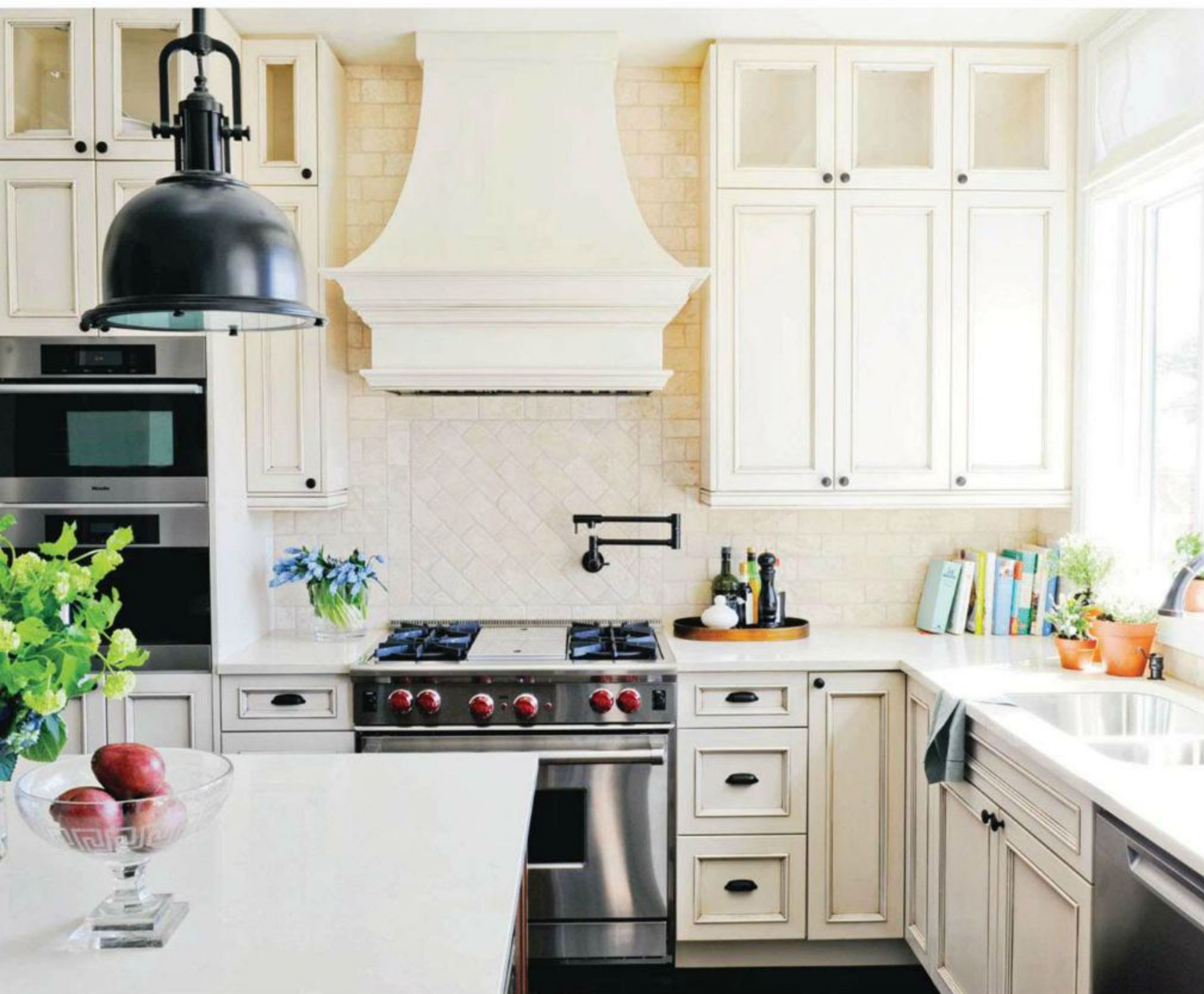
The reclaimed trestle dining table extends to seat eight. “It’s really substantial and not overly sleek,” says Karla, “so it feels warm and livable.”

Lancaster Whitewash HC-174
WALL PAINT, Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE**, **ARMCHAIRS**, **SIDEBOARD**, Restoration Hardware; **RUG** (similar), West Elm.

Karla's 5

TOP TIPS FOR DECORATING WITH NEUTRALS

- **Build in architectural details** Millwork, panelling and coffered ceilings create visual interest.
- **Use textures** Layer different textures together, such as sisal rugs and linen upholstered furniture.
- **Pay attention to undertones** When using neutrals together, the undertones in the paint, fabric and wood colours should complement each other to create a serene and harmonious feel.
- **Add something old** Mixing in vintage or antique accessories or furniture suggests age, which lends greater character to the space.
- **Consider contrast** Every light, neutral space can use a dash of black to bring it to life.



The kitchen blends style and functionality. Antique-ivory paneled cabinetry in a glazed finish lends an aged feel, while oil-rubbed bronze pendant lights, faucets and hardware add character. Since counter space is at a premium, the microwave and coffee maker were both built into the cabinetry.



ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT

Freshly cut muscari in soothing blue-purple pick up on the shades of other blossoms displayed throughout the kitchen, as well as in accents like the cookbooks and bottles of oils and vinegars.

ABOVE, MIDDLE In the nook off the kitchen, classic white Louis-style chairs upholstered in a taupe-grey linen and

a traditional oak pedestal table are a simply elegant pairing.

Louis-style **CHAIRS**, **CHANDELIER**, Kerrisdale Design; **PEDESTAL TABLE** (similar), Pottery Barn.

BELOW, RIGHT A large window was conveniently placed right above the stainless steel sink so that homeowner Mimi Yeo could enjoy full views of the outdoors while doing the dishes.

BELOW, MIDDLE

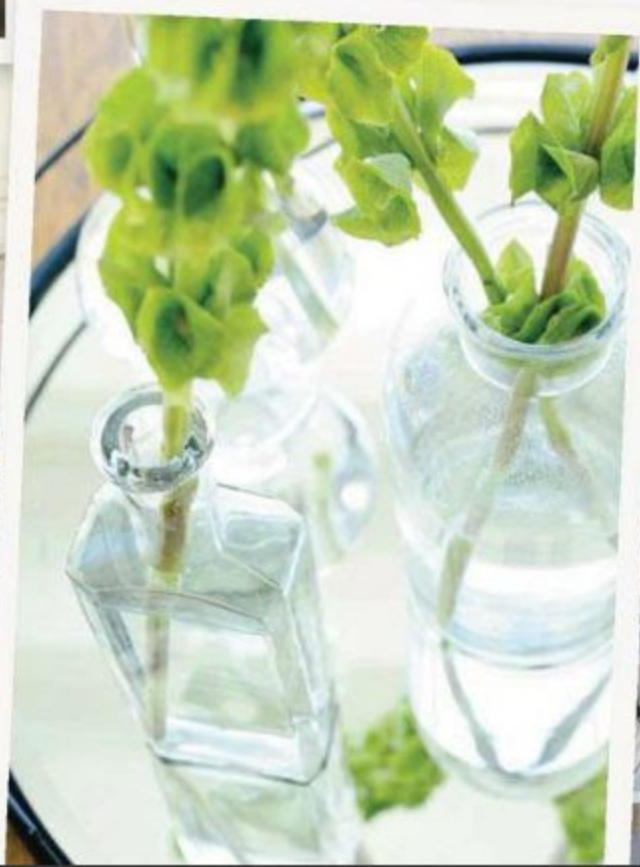
A collection of glass vases, filled with tall stems of Bells of Ireland, set in the middle of the pedestal table makes for a fresh centerpiece.

BELOW, LEFT The walnut-stained maple island is equipped with a handy wine fridge and extra storage for kitchen essentials. Guests gather around it

and relax on the upholstered linen stools while the couple cooks. Quartz was chosen for the countertops because of its longevity.

PENDANT LIGHTS, Kerrisdale Design; **STOOLS**, Pottery Barn.

LEFT Stainless steel appliances mixed with traditional cabinetry and a travertine-tiled backsplash give the space European flavour.





feel more custom and add a level of age and quality," says Karla.

The designer had a tight deadline of just six weeks to select and purchase all of the furnishings, from the window coverings to the artwork and accessories, in order to meet the couple's July 2011 wedding date. Karla chose classic furniture silhouettes in natural fabrics and finishes that were clean and unfussy to capture a modern European look. She also kept the future in mind, knowing the couple planned to have children (their son was born in April 2012). "I have two young kids and I'm always looking for materials and finishes that are practical," says Karla. "I'm a big fan of cottons and linens and woods that can handle wear and tear – materials that hold up well and are timeless."

For the paint and fabric colours, Mimi wanted a "neutral but not boring" scheme. As a result, Karla used layers of textures, from linen to aged leather, nail-head trim on furnishings and a mix of patterns in the toss cushions and rugs. "Texture and pattern are incredibly important with a neutral palette," says Karla. "Layering them provides interest without shouting at you," she says.

Although the construction wasn't completely finished on time for the special day – not surprising to anyone who has ever built a new house – Karla did manage to get the place decorated to exactly what the couple had envisioned: spacious rooms boasting soft, subtle tones with layer upon layer of texture and pattern for a warm and intimate feel, all wrapped up in a modern-meets-traditional European vibe. It's the perfect union of elements that turned this house into a home.

FOR SOURCES, SEE
OUR WORKBOOK



OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT,

TOP & BOTTOM A pretty vignette on the bedside table features fresh pink roses, books for added texture and a vintage Limoges porcelain dish from Paris. "European references add a bit of history to a new house," says Karla.

BEDSIDE TABLE, Restoration Hardware; **TABLE LAMP,** Kerrisdale Design; vintage **BOOKS & DISH,** Heather Ross [in house].

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP

The king-sized linen headboard in the master bedroom is adorned with antique brass nailheads, featuring a diamond-like design in the corners for added interest; bedside tables in aged oak with bronze hardware provide extra storage space and enough heft to balance the size of the bed; punches of black and dark brown – as seen in the home's iron railings and flooring – were carried through to the master bedroom via the convex mirror and bench; the paisley print used on the Euro shams speaks to both masculine and feminine sensibilities.

HEADBOARD, BENCH, paisley **EURO SHAMS,** Kerrisdale Design.

Mixing and matching bedding is one of Karla's tricks to designing a well-loved bedroom. Here, a white Belgian duvet and shams, striped linen boudoir pillow and paisley Euro shams work together to create a luxurious and inviting master retreat.

DUVET COVER, SHAMS, QUILT, Restoration Hardware; **DRAPERY,** Kerrisdale Design.