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“We wanted to invest in making a statement right in the front foyer, to create something modern and luxurious.”

— OLIVIA BAILEY,
TORONTO DESIGNER



In place of a large piece of art, a built-in wine storage unit lined with cool turquoise-tinted porcelain has an ethereal, cloud-like look, the perfect backdrop for a chandelier of crystal raindrops.

VALERIE WILCOX

‘A DESIGN THAT WILL LAST’

A CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR FINDS WAYS TO HAVE FUN
WITHOUT GETTING TRAPPED BY TRENDS

MARTHA UNIACKE BREEN

Lovers of classic design know that this style doesn't necessarily mean stuffy or boring. For the interiors of a new build in the Bayview Village neighbourhood, overseen by Toronto designer Olivia Bailey, it's a showcase for creativity.

The clients, a family with three teens, had worked with Bailey before, on a penthouse they had lived in before embarking on the building of their new home. Beyond

stipulating that they wanted the interior to have a contemporary/transitional air rather than leaning too modern or too traditional, they gave her free rein. Her response was to fill the house with light, interior views and a wealth of design-rich details.

The front door opens on a dramatic black-and-white foyer, under a tray ceiling with reeded details, as crisp and elegant as a tuxedo. “We wanted to invest in making a statement right in the front foyer, to create something modern and luxurious,” says Bailey.

Overhead, the first of several custom chandeliers in the house, all Bailey's original designs, features a series of concentric brass circles inset with natural quartz crystals. Smaller touches of black — twin floating lacquered consoles with drawers; insets in the door casings on either side — set off the most dramatic gesture in the room: a marble-look porcelain tile floor, with a vivid pattern of chevrons and triangles with brass inlay.

One of the door openings leads to the formal dining room, where a built-in wine

compartment, fitted with smoked-glass doors and floating shelves for bottles, works as an oversized artwork: the backdrop is a book-matched piece of porcelain with a soft turquoise tint that behind the glass has a softened, cloudy look.

It's the perfect backdrop for another of Bailey's chandeliers, which contains hand-blown glass droplets suspended from a brass ceiling medallion. Displayed against the cloud-like porcelain, they look like raindrops suspended in air.

See [TOUR](#) on HP4

GARDENING

KEYS TO GROWING
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
CHRYSANTHEMUMSFall Home Show
rolls out latest in
design innovation

DAVE WILKES

If you are looking for expert advice for your next home renovation, make sure to visit the 2025 Fall Home Show. The annual event returns to the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place, in Toronto on Sept. 26-28, and is a must-visit for homeowners, design enthusiasts, and DIYers in equal measure. It is a resource hub, an idea incubator, and a gathering place for everyone passionate about making their space truly their own.

This year's instalment has more than 225 vendors and experts. The show offers an excellent opportunity to explore the latest in design innovation, sustainable building materials, and smart renovation practices. At the main stage, attendees will hear from some of today's leading industry voices, including Tiffany Pratt, Jane Lockhart, Frankie Flowers and Michael Holmes Jr. Topics include designing and building your own custom home, renovating small spaces for maximum function and style, and how to collaborate effectively with contractors and designers. These presentations aim to give homeowners the tools they need to make confident, informed decisions.

Head over to the DIY Centre, where you can participate in free, family-friendly seasonal activities like pumpkin painting, a budget-friendly option for seasonal decor. This is a fun, interactive space that blends creativity with practical takeaways you can use at home.

If you are seeking expert advice on such projects as a kitchen layout, new col-

our scheme, or lighting recommendation, stop by the Reno+Decor booth for a complimentary 15-minute design consultation. Bring your plans, sketches, or even just a few inspiration photos. Their expert designers will provide personalized advice on everything from cabinetry and countertops, to millwork and finishing touches, to help bring your vision to life.

Navigating a renovation process can be overwhelming, but finding a reputable professional to get the job done does not have to be. Look for exhibitors with the RenoMark logo — these are contractors who have committed to a strict code of conduct, verified annually by the Canadian Home Builders' Association and BILD.

Visitors can also explore seasonal tablescapes and stop by the free, all-ages Paint Your Own Pumpkin station to decorate a custom pumpkin to take home for their Thanksgiving or Halloween display.

Whether you are planning a full-scale renovation or just thinking about a new coat of paint, the 2025 Fall Home Show is a one-stop resource for bold ideas, smart solutions, and the chance to connect directly with experts who can assist you to bring your project to life.

For the full schedule, exhibitor list, and to purchase tickets, visit www.fallhomeshow.com.

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Dave Wilkes is President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), the voice of the home building, land development and professional renovation industry in the GTA. For the latest industry news and new home data, visit www.bildga.ca.



The 2025 Fall Home Show returns to the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place in Toronto, on Sept. 26-28.

Potted chrysanthemums are popular in autumn, but they often wind up in the compost bin at the end of the season. And although you might think planting them will prolong their lives, experts have mixed opinions about the idea. Potted mums and garden mums are fundamentally different. Potted varieties generally have larger blooms and don't do well in the cold. Garden mums, however, are much hardier. If you still wanted to try transplanting potted mums into the garden, there are a few tricks you could try. Garden mum expert QiuXia Chen recommends first cutting the plant back to two-thirds of its size. Then plant it in early spring, after the last frosts. That "gives garden mums a season of warm weather to grow a strong root system," Chen told The Spruce. *Postmedia News*



PHOTOS: VALERIE WILCOX

In the kitchen, white oak and white-lacquered cabinetry temper the bold porcelain-clad surfaces.



A double-sided fireplace adds human scale to the large primary suite. The softer palette includes the fireplace's natural travertine cladding and wide-plank oak floors.

BALANCE WINS OUT
OVER SYMMETRY

TOUR

Continued from HPI

The living room features another still life in black and white, dominated by an imposing porcelain piece. This time, it's a striped slab that lines the fireplace surround and rises to the ceiling. With such a bold statement, other elements in the room are kept quiet: twin consoles with round edges and reeded columnar legs form a surface for the owners' collection of African objects collected on travels; pure-white sofas are upholstered in cushy bouclé and are tailor-made for curling up with a book or for quiet conversation.

The family room is as extroverted as the living room is contemplative. The two-storey space rises to 22 feet, and here again, a chandelier performs as applied art: a tapering cascade of glass sheets suspended on wires, illuminated from within by LEDs, flutters in the air like dozens of tiny handkerchiefs.

"I always prefer balance to symmetry," Bailey explains, pointing out that the fireplace stack is set slightly off-centre. It's clad in another standout piece of porcelain, in a comparatively quiet pattern of slender gold and grey veins on white. The two-sided gas fireplace itself,



The foyer makes a striking opening statement, with crisp white walls, black accents and an eye-catching tile floor.

fronted by a low hearth in ribbed porcelain, seems to emphasize the height of the ceiling.

To the upper left, a glass-railed mezzanine leads to the bedrooms. A small library area with a built-in desk provides a place to catch up with a book or homework while the family gathers below. White oak cupboards to the left under the mezzanine offer storage and co-ordinate satisfyingly with decorative white oak cladding at the upper right. The composition finishes with a set of under-lit floating shelves set on a smoked mirror.

Many of the porcelain slabs were actually chosen by the clients, together with the designer, on a trip to the stonemason Marble Design. It was their choice to make another assertive porcelain

comes softer and more personal, though the signature porcelain slabs continue to add personality to the design. (The teenage daughter's ensuite, for example, features a bright pink porcelain.)

The primary bedroom, Bailey confides, was so large that one of the challenges was figuring out how to bring it to human scale without closing it in. Part of the solution was to install a double-sided fireplace, open on three sides, at the foot of the bed. (It's clad in one of the few natural stones in the house, a gently striated grey travertine.) By contrast, a seating area on the inner side of the primary suite provides a place where the parents can stretch their feet out and have a drink and conversation in private at the end of the day.

Noting that some large houses can feel cold or imposing, Bailey explains, "I wanted the space to feel luxurious without being too overwhelming. We used a lot of neutrals and earth tones, then added statement colours and elements in very specific place s," such as the strongly patterned porcelain slabs, the lighting and artwork.

"It's refined and not designed to be trendy," says Bailey. "It's a design that will last."

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Upstairs, the house be-