

CANADA'S

style at home

Bathroom
Trends
WHAT'S
HOT
NOW

Fall in **LOVE**

WITH THESE
STUNNING HOME
TOURS

COZY FIREPLACES

9 EASY WAYS TO ADD
WARMTH & CHARACTER

Stylish Spaces
FOR DOG LOVERS

The Cat's MEOW

Durability and design merge in this fresh and youthful family home, where the felines outnumber the people and the kitchen is both stacked and sassy.

TEXT IRIS BENAROA

PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE CHAJECKI

DESIGN MICHELLE BERWICK DESIGN



“The homeowners’ stylistic preferences allude to the midcentury period, yet the overall feel is current – and a little funky.”



Twenty paws pad through this household in Aurora, Ont., where five felines rule the roost, leaping up on furniture like the bosses they are. “The family are foster failures,” laughs designer Michelle Berwick, who runs an eponymous firm in Newmarket. Over six months, alongside her client (acting as general contractor), she brought a cozy, modern edge to the bland 2,500-square-foot subdivision abode that hadn’t been renovated in 20 years. Enlarging the kitchen to fit a pantry and peppering rooms in tones of terracotta, green and cream were the gateway to the look. Hardy materials also withstand both cats and kids (the couple have two). Says Michelle, “Our clients intend to stay here as their forever home, so the renovation is tailored perfectly to them.”





YES, CHEF!

"As an ex-chef, this man knows how to cook and his wife and two daughters love enjoying his creations," says designer Michelle Berwick. Stainless-steel appliances, including a Wolf range and Sub-Zero fridge, intentionally recall a professional kitchen. For eye-catching pizzazz, Michelle interspersed white cabinetry with fluted wood detailing, from the toe kick on the quartz-topped island to the top of the fridge. "The oven hood is finished in a hand-trowelled plaster and tinted a grey green to give it soul and depth," she notes.

DESIGN, Michelle Berwick Design. Custom **CABINETRY,** Wheelers Studio. **COUNTERTOPS,** HanStone. **STOOLS,** West Elm. **ISLAND PENDANT,** CB2. **FAUCET,** House of Rohl.

PANTRY PERFECTION

Lush dark green cabinets distinguish the pantry from the main kitchen. The old dining room was shifted elsewhere to create this room, a function-packed workhorse that corrals all of the husband's gadgets. "He has a ton of them and he used to retrieve them from the basement," says Michelle. A stand mixer and other oversized tools of the trade are stashed inside the appliance garage behind the tall doors, while a beverage fridge, microwave and extra sink are handy for entertaining.

CABINETRY PAINT, Green Grove 2138-20, Benjamin Moore. Custom **CABINETRY,** Wheelers Studio. **FAUCET,** House of Rohl.



“Arched doorways ensure the space is not only functional but feels like intentionally separate rooms that flow together nicely.”



SEATING & STORAGE GALORE

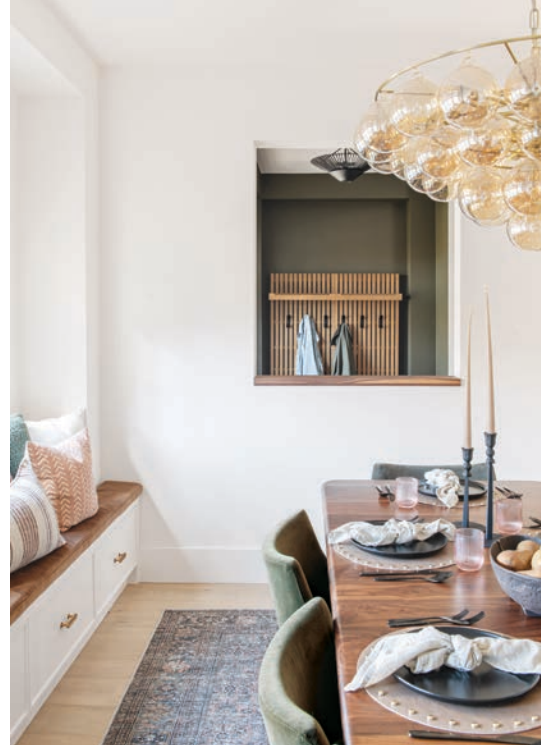
A long caramel-toned channelled banquette was upholstered in wipeable vinyl for all the little paws and feet in the house. Riveting ribbing along its base echoes the kitchen cabinetry. "There's also drawers," says Michelle (shown), "because you can never have enough storage." The round table is stylishly sculptural, while the chairs hit a Midcentury Modern note, per the clients' request.

BANQUETTE FABRIC, Tonic Living. **TABLE**, Pottery Barn. Custom **CHAIRS**, Michelle Berwick Design. **CANDLE-STICKS**, MBD Shop. **ART**, On the Wall Framing. **PENDANT LIGHT**, Light House Co. **BLACK BOWLS**, HomeSense.

DISHY RETRO DINING

"She gravitated to pieces with a Mid Mod feel, like this '70s-inspired table," says Michelle of the custom beauty that sports rounded edges and a wood tone straight out of the *Brady Bunch* era. Sculptural brown velvet chairs and an arched mirror continue the curves. Above, a cheeky chandelier, like clustered grapes, glows beautifully as night falls.

Custom **DINING TABLE**, **DRAPERY**, Michelle Berwick Design. **CANDLE-STICKS**, MBD Shop. **DINING CHAIRS**, CB2. Mltzi **CHANDELIER**, Light House Co. **MIRROR**, Crate & Barrel. **RUG**, Wayfair.



PICTURE PERFECT

"One of my favourite moments is the oversized gallery wall of travel photos reminding the family of their adventures," says Michelle. A unified black-and-white scheme and precise spacing feels tidy and intentional. The Napoleon fireplace is finished in a ribbed, hand-trowelled plaster. It's flanked by custom walnut benches with mesh fronts, so hidden electrical components can breathe.

Oatmeal **SECTIONAL**, Urban Barn. Green **SOFA**, **COFFEE TABLE**, CB2.
RUG, Loloi. Terracotta **VASE**, MBD Shop. **PICTURE FRAMES**, Desenio. **SIDE TABLE** (beside sofa), Elte Mkt.

"We gutted all three floors and reimagined the layout on the main floor. Our clients intend to stay here as their forever home."







“Every woman dreams of
a nice, bright dedicated
spot for makeup
and storage.”



A DOSE OF PURR-SONALITY

"It's a small space, so we wanted to make it fun," says Michelle of the chic, character-filled powder room on the main floor. "We had to do a cat wallpaper for the five cats!" A black-and-white mosaic floor, recalling an old-timey restaurant, invites retro flair, while the vanity is dark for cohesion.

WALLPAPER, Spoonflower. **VANITY**,
MIRROR, Pottery Barn.



BUILT-IN BEAUTY STATION

In the principal ensuite (opposite page), Michelle carved out a special spot for the lady of the house. "We put the L-shaped vanity under the window because it's nice to have natural light when doing makeup," she says. Drawers keep beauty essentials concealed, while the table's cozy wood takes its cue from the double vanity with its architecturally arresting, flush arched doors.

BATHTUB, Vaterno Bath & Kitchen. **STOOL**, **MIRRORS**, CB2. **CHANDELIER**, **SCONCE**, Matteo Lighting. **FAUCETS**, House of Rohl. **CHAIR**, HomeSense. **VANITY**, Wheelers Studio.



THEY'VE GOT HANGUPS

Marble-look porcelain flooring and a gorgeous oak hall tree with slatted detailing is a fantastic way to greet guests in the front entryway—the family mainly enters the house through the garage, which has a mudroom. “The tile has light veining and it’s textured, so it looks like marble—but it’s wipeable and easy for kids and cats,” says Michelle.

HALL TREE, Crate & Barrel. **TILE**, SS Tile and Stone.

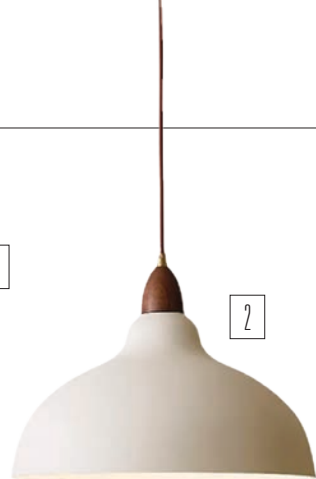
LAUNDRY BUT MAKE IT LOVELY

The laundry on the main floor is sunken down, making for high ceilings. “We took advantage of that,” says Michelle, pointing out the tall, stylish walnut cabinet she incorporated into the space. “We couldn’t get normal-depth cabinetry, so we made it skinnier and had it routed for air holes for design and practicality,” she says. The girls play competitive sports, so it was crucial the dirty clothes could breathe.





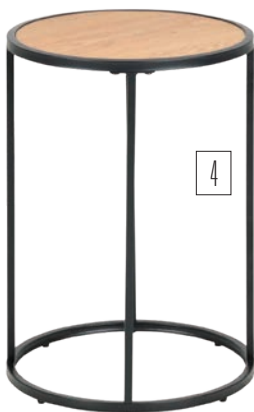
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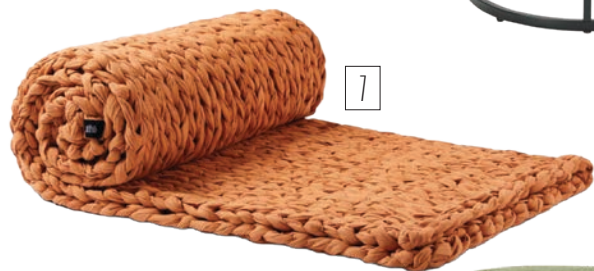
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get the look

DECOR INSPIRATION



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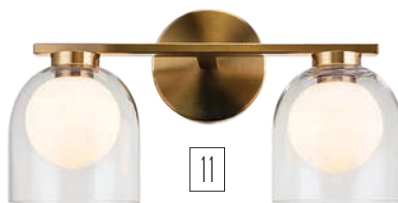
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1 Le Carré **SOFA**, \$1,800, Avenue Turk. 2 **PENDANT LIGHT**, \$165, Walmart. 3 Wren **PILLOW** in Ivory Multi, 20" x 20", \$79, Article.
4 **SIDE TABLE**, \$60, Meubles RD. 5 Misty Pine Forest Winter **ARTWORK**, 60" x 30", \$309, Wayfair. 6 **MAKEUP MIRROR**, \$20, Amazon. 7 Hand-knitted **WEIGHTED BLANKET**, 8 lbs, \$200, Silk & Snow. 8 Nerissa **SIDE TABLE**, \$599, Mobilia. 9 Zibeli **COUNTER STOOL**, \$99, Must. 10 Terracotta **VASE**, \$79, EQ3.
11 Derbishone 2-light **VANITY**, \$366, Light House Co.

THE STORY OF THE LAND

The owner's vision was inspired by the aesthetic of the series *Yellowstone*, combined with the lifestyle of a working ranch.

TEXT VÉRONIQUE QUIRION
PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE CHAJECKI
DESIGN MICHELLE BERWICK DESIGN



Located on a 150-acre estate in Newmarket, Ont., this home was designed to feel as though it had always belonged to the landscape. Here, life unfolds to the rhythm of the seasons, the harvests and cherished family traditions. From the very first sketches, designer Michelle Berwick knew this residence needed to tell a story that went far beyond design. “I kept coming back to the same idea,” she says. “This house should not simply be a place to live, but an authentic reflection of a family whose roots have been deeply embedded in this land for seven generations.”

Inspired by agricultural traditions, gatherings in the family barn and memories passed down through generations, Michelle selected materials that are both authentic and timeless. The most meaningful? The integration of reclaimed wood from the family’s original barn, thoughtfully reimagined throughout the home. A tangible tribute to the past, it infuses every room with a sense of history, character and soul.

*“More than a renovation,
this project reflects a
family whose story has
been rooted in the land for
seven generations.”*

ROOTED BEAUTY

Driven by a contemporary ranch-inspired aesthetic, this dining room strikes the perfect balance between generous proportions, raw materials and refined finishes, creating a harmonious dialogue between tradition and modernity.

DESIGN, custom **DINING TABLE, DRAPERY,** Michelle Berwick Design. **BUILDER,** Alair Homes Aurora Newmarket. **ARCHITECT,** Bird. **MILLWORK,** Wheelers Studio. **CHAIRS,** Brice’s Furniture. **CHANDELIER,** Pottery Barn. **RUG,** Flor.



“Even the back kitchen deserves a glow-up. Since the space isn’t closed off by a door, the same materials are carried through from the kitchen to create a seamless continuity.”





TIMELESS BALANCE

The original barn's reclaimed signature wood is showcased on the kitchen ceiling. To balance its rustic character, designer Michelle Berwick and her team opted for porcelain tiles, mixed metals and durable textiles, as well as carefully selected accessories and tableware passed down through generations.

WALL PAINT, Chantilly Lace OC-65, Benjamin Moore. **ISLAND COUNTER**, Cambria. **BACKSPLASH**, SS Tile and Stone. **COUNTER STOOLS**, **PENDANT LIGHTS**, Wayfair. **RANGE**, Wolf. **FRIDGE**, Sub-Zero. **FLOORING**, PurParket. **HARDWARE**, Handle This. **STYLING ITEMS**, MBD Shop.



“The homeowners were deeply inspired by Yellowstone, so we translated that admiration through textures, materials and a sense of understated grandeur.”



FAMILY TIES

Designed to host both everyday moments and large family gatherings, the living room celebrates a lifestyle rooted in comfort and togetherness. Inspired by grand ranch residences, the space embraces generous proportions, noble materials and a timeless approach in which every element – from the natural stone to the reclaimed wood beams – helps tell a story of heritage, warmth and family legacy.

Custom **COFFEE TABLE, SIDE TABLES, DRAPERY**, Michelle Berwick Design. **SOFAS, RECLINERS**, La-Z-Boy. **TABLE LAMPS**, Urban Barn. **RUG**, Flor. **HARDWARE**, Handle This.

MOODY ELEGANCE

With a more theatrical expression, the sunroom (below) further embraces the *Yellowstone*-inspired aesthetic the homeowners love so much. Dark wood panelling wraps the walls and ceiling, while an impressive stone fireplace and boldly patterned furnishings come together to create a space rich in character.

Custom **SOFA, COFFEE TABLE, MANTEL**, Michelle Berwick Design. **CHAIRS**, La-Z-Boy. **SCONCES**, Wayfair. **MILLWORK**, Wheelers Studio. **SIDE TABLE**, Urban Barn. **ACCESSORIES**, HomeSense.





"Beautiful design should extend to every corner of daily life."

MIND AT WORK

As functional as it is inspiring, the home office combines classic lines with warm materials. Custom millwork, accented with richly stained wood details, creates a thoughtful workspace that encourages focus while preserving the welcoming character found throughout the home.

Cowhide **RUG**, MBD Shop. **SCONCES**, Hudson Valley Lighting Group. **OVERHEAD LIGHT, DESK**, Wayfair. **DESK CHAIR**, Sunpan.

GARDEN OF CURIOSITY

In the little girl's bedroom, pink hues, floral patterns and delicate textures mingle in a world inspired by her love of animals: horses, chickens, insects and the many small wonders of everyday life. A lively, joyful space filled with charm, it fully embraces her vibrant personality and reflects her boundless imagination.

BED, Crate & Barrel. **NIGHTSTANDS**, **DRESSER, MIRROR, RUG**, rattan **WALL FLOWERS**, Pottery Barn Kids. **ART PRINTS** (in Pottery Barn frames), Society6. **BUG PILLOWS**, Loloi Rugs.





WOOD EFFECT

From the majestic bed, nightstands and ceiling to the beautiful sliding barn doors, which open onto an elegant ensuite bathroom, wood takes centre stage in the primary bedroom. When it comes to personalizing this home, the cowboy hats displayed on the wall are a perfect touch.

Custom **BED, ROMAN BLINDS**, Michelle Berwick Design. **NIGHTSTANDS**, Niche Decor. **TABLE LAMPS**, HomeSense. **BARN DOORS**, Wheelers Studio.



“Between the two vanity mirrors, the window acts like a third mirror, opening onto the outdoors.”

SOFT HARMONY

The primary bathroom gently blends rustic wood, marble and glass. Like a subtle reminder of the connection between indoors and out, the glass shower partition echoes the room's windows. Hexagonal floor tiles bring an artisanal touch, while the marble walls add a timeless sophistication.

Custom **VANITY BENCH, DRAPERY**, Michelle Berwick Design. **PLUMBING FIXTURES**, Brizo; Delta. **TUB**, House of Rohl. **CHANDELIER**, Light House Co. **SCONCES, MIRRORS**, Wayfair. **COUNTERTOP**, HanStone. **WALL TILE**, Cercan Tile. **FLOOR TILE**, TilesInspired.





CALLING ALL COWGIRLS

"For the girls' bathroom, we allowed ourselves a bit of whimsy! The vertically installed tile in the shower and behind the tub brings a great sense of dynamism," says Michelle. The niches in both areas are functional and aesthetic. As for the fun art above the bathtub? It feels as though it was designed specifically for this space.

WALL AND FLOOR TILES, SS Tile and Stone. **TUB, PLUMBING FIXTURES,** House of Rohl. **ART PRINT,** On the Wall Framing. **ACCESSORIES,** Anthropologie. **MIRROR, CB2. SCONCES,** Hudson Valley Lighting Group.

"The sage green brings a soft, natural and soothing touch to the girls' bathroom."



MOOSE'S CORNER

The laundry room is both highly practical and visually appealing. The vintage-inspired mosaic floor beautifully complements the wooden drawers and shelving. Even Moose, the family's dog, has his own space for a well-deserved bath after a run through the fields.

COUNTERTOPS, HanStone. **WALL TILES**, Ciot. **WASHER, DRYER**, Whirlpool. **PLUMBING FIXTURES**, Kohler.

FOR MORE IDEAS
on spaces designed for everyone
– including your pup – turn to
page 61.

