

HOUSE & HOME OF THE MONTH

An undulating bleached-oak coffee table loosens up the living room and evokes Vancouver's ocean shoreline. Designers Cathy Radcliffe and Teigan Jorgensen chose modern pieces such as the Carl Hansen armchairs and the Platner chair, both in sumptuous textures, to create a contemporary yet classic look with an approachable feel. "This is the most-used room in our house," says homeowner Lisa. "We hang out here as a family, dog included, with our feet up on the coffee table to watch TV and catch up." **Sofa**, Montauk Sofa; **chairs**, **coffee table**, **rug**, Inform Interiors; **throw pillows**, Gild & Co.; **white vase**, Vancouver Special; **window coverings** (throughout), Cloth Studio; **ceiling colour**, Lamp Room Gray (88), Farrow & Ball.



Quiet Revolution



HUSHED COLOURS
AND NATURAL MOTIFS
TURN DOWN THE
VOLUME ON BUSY CITY
LIFE. DESIGNED TO
SOOTHE AND RENEW,
A VANCOUVER HOME
BECOMES THE
PERFECT RESPITE.

Text by CATHERINE SWEENEY | *Photography by* JANIS NICOLAY

RIGHT: The entryway's rustic table was one of the first pieces chosen for the house. A modern Cassina stool is a striking counterpoint. "This furniture pairing is symbolic of the family moving from a contemporary space to embrace a more cosy space — it signals the merging of two styles," says Teigan. **Wall hook, stool, table lamp, Inform Interiors; table, Gild & Co.; stair runner, Banner Carpets; candle, Fornasetti; wall colour, Simply White (OC-117), Benjamin Moore.** **BELOW:** For Lisa, seating in the living room was an important consideration. "I wanted to have lots of room for people to sit," she says. "We can easily fit 10-plus friends or family in here without feeling jammed." **Wall hanging by Alexander McQueen, The Rug Company; side table by Knoll, bench, Inform Interiors.**



THE TREND

In today's hyperconnected world, wellness isn't just a buzzword; it's the latest luxury item. From light-drenched offices overflowing with plants to whitewashed meditation studios dubbed "gyms for the mind," it's clear that health is the new wealth. In homes, a similar move toward wellness translates to laid-back looks, placid colour schemes and flowing floor plans. For Lisa and Scot, who both have demanding jobs in banking and finance, it made perfect sense to turn their Vancouver house into a dreamy respite — they craved a tranquil environment where they could unplug and unwind. So, designers Cathy Radcliffe and Teigan Jorgensen had most of the home painted in Benjamin Moore's Simply White, with the same matte finish on the walls, trim and millwork. The all-over hue highlights the home's architectural features but also creates a calming backdrop for busy family life that includes two teenage daughters, Kira, 19, and Reilly, 17, and their black lab, Finn. Thankfully, the family's vibe dovetailed nicely with the design team's style. "We tend to like a relaxed, layered, somewhat imperfect look," says Cathy. "Our goal is for the decorating to endure — nothing needs to be changed out over time."

Placing the desk in the centre of Lisa's home office frees up space for shelving and a sitting area. Lisa instantly fell in love with the dimensional rug and the blue Saarinen Executive chair that accent the glass-topped desk. **Sofa**, Montauk Sofa; **desk**, **desk chair**, **pendant**, **table lamp**, **stool**, Inform Interiors; **rug**, Livingspace; **millwork** and **fireplace design**, Cathy Radcliffe Design; slate **hearth**, Fontile Kitchen & Bath.





The David Wilson painting of Vancouver's Burrard Bridge was a gift from Scot to Lisa and has pride of place in the kitchen. "We didn't want anything distracting from it," says Teigan. The view is the same one the couple had at their first apartment together. **Dining chairs, dining table**, Inform Interiors.



ABOVE: A showstopping Lacanche range was the jumping-off point for the whole kitchen. The designers mixed sleek, flat-front cabinetry with custom millwork, and layered the look with different countertop materials for visual interest. "With the deep charcoal base and the strong, graphic quality of the pendant above, we felt a darker counter on the island was needed to complement and anchor the other dark, tonal elements," says Cathy. **Range**, The French Barn; **runner**, Örling & Wu; **hardware**, Bradford Hardware and Cantu Bathrooms and Hardware; white **plant container**, salt and pepper mills, Vancouver Special; **mortar and pestle**, Designhouse; **utensil holder**, wooden **cutting boards**, Inform Interiors.



The kitchen was completely reconfigured with 16-foot-wide folding doors to open up the back of the house. Above the Silestone-topped island, a mobile-style pendant strikes a playful note. "Contemporary lighting adds a sculptural beauty to any aesthetic," says Cathy. **White countertop**, Caesarstone; **island countertop**, Silestone; **wall tile**, Stone Tile; **faucet**, Cantu Bathrooms and Hardware; **pendant, counter stools**, Inform Interiors; **exterior doors**, NanaWall Systems; **millwork design**, Cathy Radcliffe Design; **millwork fabrication** (throughout), Art's Custom Woodcrafting; **island paint colour**, Chelsea Gray (HC-168), Benjamin Moore.



The Carrara marble-topped dining table's traditional turned legs are actually made of china, for a unique twist on a classic look. The home's original wide-plank fir floors were sanded down to remove a reddish hue, then coated with a sealer to prevent reddening over time.

Dining table, dining chairs, pendants by Louis Poulsen, *Inform Interiors*; vintage **candlesticks**, *Pierre's Antiques*; **floor sealer**, Bona NordicSeal; **wall, wainscoting and trim colour**, Pavilion Gray (242), Farrow & Ball.

• THE HOME •

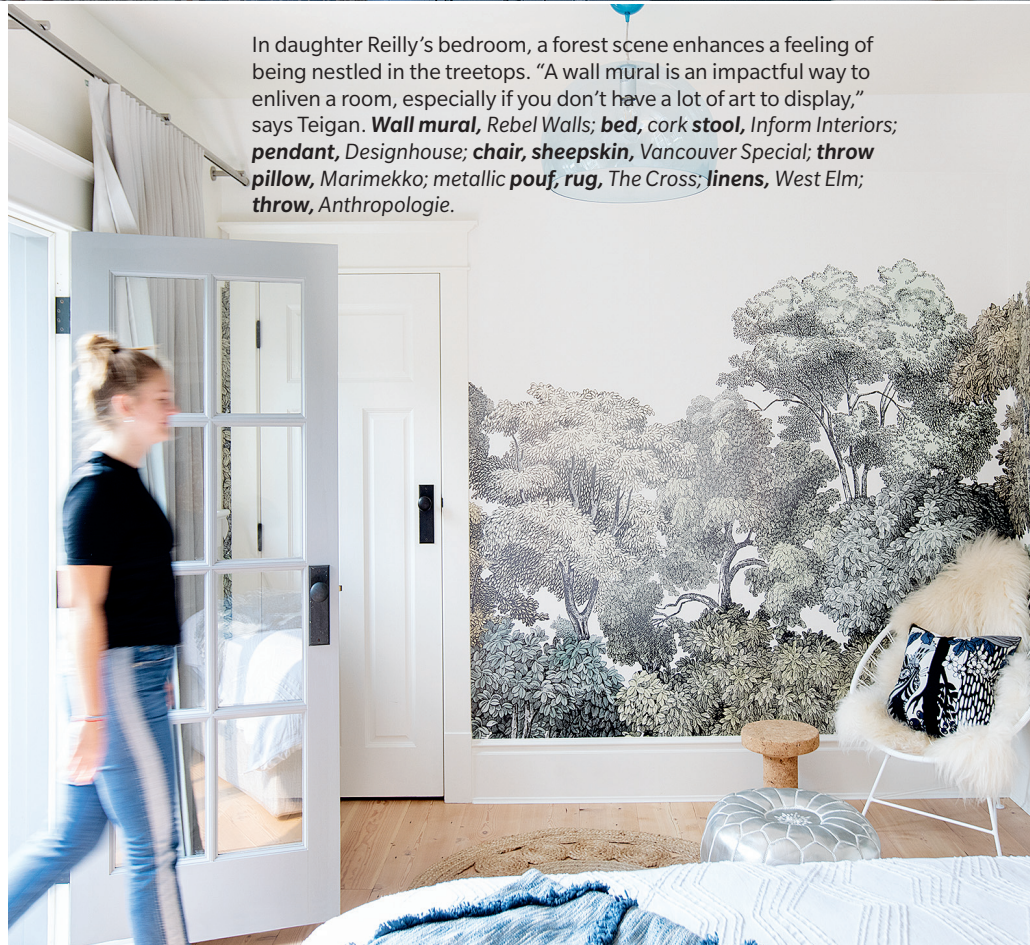
The family moved into the 12-year-old Craftsman-style house craving something “cosy and homey,” says Lisa. “I wanted a soothing feeling.” The designers took their cues for the interior from the home’s architecture, as well as the Vancouver landscape. Shades of blue and green appear throughout, along with leafy patterns and natural wood tones. “We wanted it to be like a big comfy sweater,” says Cathy, who also layered in relaxed textures and finishes. To amp up the snuggle factor, she chose wool rugs in grey hues and plush furnishings such as the down-filled Montauk sofa upholstered in a polyester fabric that feels like a short-pile velvet. Bold colour has moments, too; the star of the home office is a peacock blue velvet Saarinen desk chair, and pops of sunny yellow catch the eye in other rooms, adding levity and warmth. “We chose pieces in every space that would pull you around each corner,” says Cathy.



In the principal bathroom, the original vanity was revived with a marble top and a coat of soft, watery blue paint that picks up on the patchwork floor tile. For chilly mornings, a towel warmer is arm's length from the shower. **Tub, wall hook, cork stool**, Inform Interiors; **tub filler**, Just Add Water; **floor tile**, Stone Tile; **panelling design**, Cathy Radcliffe Design; **panelling fabrication**, Rockridge Fine Homes; **towel**, Örling & Wu; **cabinetry hardware**, Bradford Hardware; **vanity colour**, Normandy (2129-40), Benjamin Moore.

— THE OUTCOME —

“We wanted it to be beautiful and elegant but not super formal,” says Lisa of her original design goals. “I think we’ve accomplished that. When you walk in, you feel relaxed.” It’s now the house everyone likes to be at, teens and adults alike. The thoughtful makeover means there’s room to recharge *and* reconnect. “We entertain more here,” says Lisa. “We love having our families over, and the kids have their friends over, too. I love it when there are 18 pairs of Converse piled up at the door; it just feels good to have people in this house.”



In daughter Reilly’s bedroom, a forest scene enhances a feeling of being nestled in the treetops. “A wall mural is an impactful way to enliven a room, especially if you don’t have a lot of art to display,” says Teigan. **Wall mural**, Rebel Walls; **bed**, cork **stool**, Inform Interiors; **pendant**, Designhouse; **chair, sheepskin**, Vancouver Special; **throw pillow**, Marimekko; **metallic pouf, rug**, The Cross; **linens**, West Elm; **throw**, Anthropologie.

Reminiscent of the subdued palettes seen in Nordic design, the home's colour scheme works equally well in Vancouver. In the principal bedroom, tonal wallpaper adds a hit of pattern and highlights the unusual ceiling line without overpowering it. **Bed**, LivingSpace; **nightstands**, **sconces**, **stools** by Carl Hansen & Søn, **rug**, Inform Interiors; **wallpaper**, Cole & Son; **linens**, Bacci's.



TREND *in focus*

Designer Cathy Radcliffe's top tips for crafting a soothing sanctuary.

- 1. PRIORITIZE STORAGE** Plan out exactly where everything goes, down to the vacuum cleaner and tea towels. This minimizes visual clutter and allows for a tranquil environment that can be easily maintained.
- 2. FOCUS ON LIGHTING** Mix multiple types of lighting, including table lamps, ceiling fixtures, sconces and candlelight to deliver soft pools of light in every room. Keep recessed lighting to a minimum, as it tends to cast harsh shadows.
- 3. WRAP ROOMS IN A UNIFYING COLOUR** Use a single paint colour and finish on walls, trim and millwork to simplify and visually expand spaces. The enveloping effect is cosy and comfortable.
- 4. EMBRACE IMPERFECTIONS** Create spaces that don't feel precious or sterile with a mix of natural materials such as textiles, wood, stone and metals that will develop character and patina over time. Materials with some imperfections like wrinkled linen and vintage furnishings and accessories that show some wear have a relaxed vibe.
- 5. PARE DOWN SPACES** Calm means something different to everyone. Regardless of whether you lean toward eclectic or minimalist looks, collect, display and use only the things you love. Functional, everyday items can also be beautiful.