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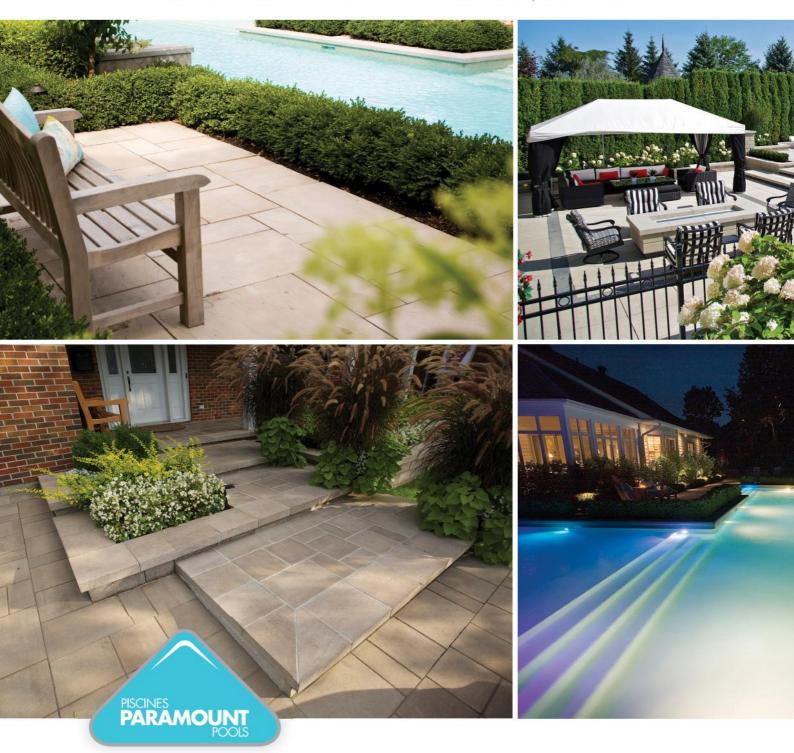
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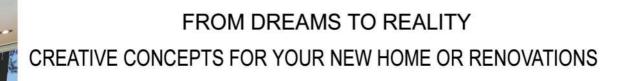
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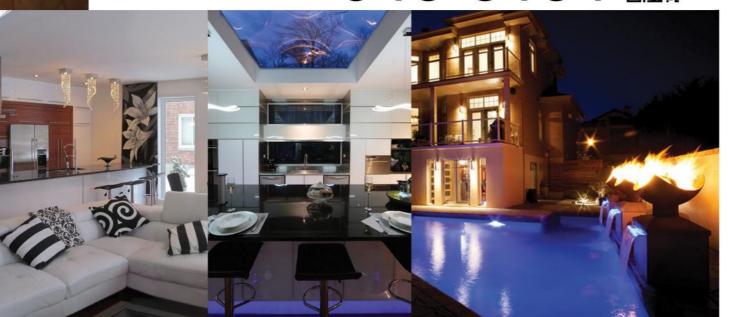


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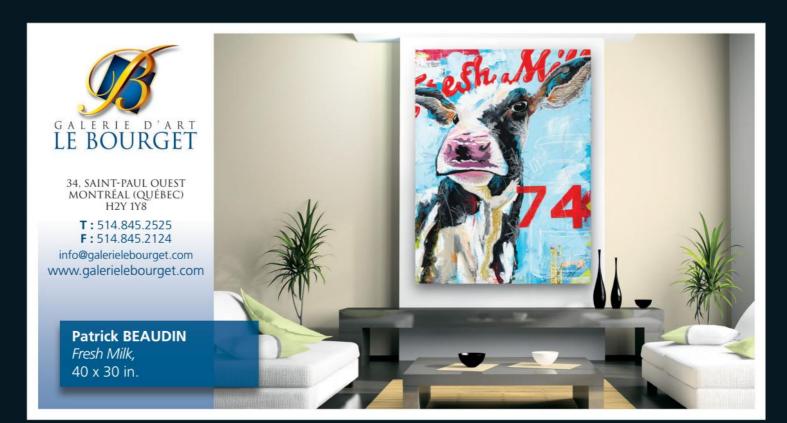








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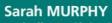




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Ligne Roset blows into Griffintown this March. The world-renowned name in French design will set up shop in the neighbourhood, bringing with it a new wave of modern furnishings for the home. Stay tuned for the official opening.

**EDITOR'S LETTER** movatohome.com



AS AN EDITOR, I have been privileged to visit some spectacular homes. And I have noticed that despite the fact that each house is unique in its design, decor and architecture, there is something that all homes have in common. Their kitchens are the focus of family life.

It was ever so. The kitchen has always been the go-to room for intimate conversations, homework, coffee klatches and weeknight dinners. What's new though is that kitchens are now showpieces, as highly designed as other rooms. In fact, I've noticed something curious: even people who never cook-the ones who do little more than prepare their morning coffee in the space-want well-designed kitchens with all the bells and whistles that serious cooks have.

In this, Montreal Home's annual special kitchens issue, we show you some gorgeous kitchens, all of which are main-attraction rooms. Some are sleekly contemporary, others cozy, recalling an earlier time.

If you crave beautiful cookware, you'll want to read our special feature on kitchen tools. The Montreal Home team has been busily sourcing some of the coolest items on the market. Whether you're an avid home cook who dreams of having copper mixing bowls and hand-made porcelain serving dishes, or your kitchen is simply the space in which you prepare that morning coffee, you'll love our guide to the latest in cookware. I know you'll also be fascinated by Tony Whitney's guide to high-end, hand-made imported kitchen knives, which are beloved by professional chefs and home cooks alike.

Your kitchen is the heart of your home. May you be inspired to make the most of it.

STEPHANIE WHITTAKER

Editor-in-Chief stephanie@movatohome.com

P.S. There are several ways you can stay in touch with us:





# KITCHENS, BATHROOMS AND CUSTOM CABINETRY

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### CONTRIBUTORS



### **DREW HADLEY**

"It was great collaborating with the team at Montreal Home on the annual Kitchens issue," says photographer Drew Hadley, who began shooting kitchens for Montreal Home in 2010. "We shot some superb kitchens, notably the clean, open one in St. Lambert and another in the Jean Talon Market neighbourhood, both designed by

the architectural firm Naturehumaine. I love the light and the simplicity of the spaces," says Drew, whose work has been published in magazines internationally.



### CLAIRE NEWELL

Claire Newell, a 22-year veteran of the travel business, is the owner and president of Travel Best Bets. She is also a travel expert on Global Television in B.C. and is on CKNW radio three times weekly. In the U.S., Claire appears on NBC's Today Show and Fox News. The author of Travel Best Bets-An Insider's Guide to Taking the Best

Trips Ever, Claire is also co-host of Operation: Vacation, airing on the Travel + Escape Network in Canada and the U.S. In this issue, Claire writes about Thailand as an exotic vacation destination.



### **DENISE PALISAITIS**

Montreal stylist and scout Denise Palisaitis, interested in design from an early age, studied at the New England School of Art and Design in Boston, before arriving in Montreal in the mid-90s. In styling two kitchens by Naturehumaine for this issue, Denise used a minimal approach. To highlight the contemporary design, the focus

remained on the layout, natural lighting and overall architecture of the spaces. "The interaction between the kitchen and other social spaces within the homes was beautifully achieved," Denise says.



### SUSAN SEMENAK

Susan Semenak is a Montreal writer and journalist who profiled two very different kitchens for this issue - one in a modern condo and another in a traditional home. "Matte or shiny? Wood or marble?" Susan says. "It's always amazing to me how much of who we are turns up in how our kitchens look."



## TONY WHITNEY

Tony Whitney has a lifelong interest in fine craftsmanship and precision engineering, whether it's found in a watch, hand-crafted kitchen knife or automobile. He calls himself an enthusiastic, if not too talented, cook and is particular about the knives he uses. He spoke to kitchen knife manufacturers in Japan and Europe to gather infor-

mation on some of the world's finest cutlery. His media experience includes radio, television, upscale lifestyle magazines, business magazines and websites in Canada, Europe and the U.S.

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Volume 8, number 1, Kitchen issue 2016 Date of issue: March, 2016

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# **EVERLASTING TRENDS**





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movatohome.com

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# MontrealHOME



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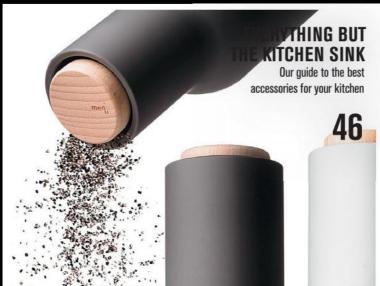
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**DESIGN** movatohome.com





### 1. UP ON A PEDESTAL

With clean architectural lines, this pedestal sink adds contemporary style to small bathrooms and powder rooms. The base is ash wood with stainless steel accents, and the basin is natural marble. From Godi's Dancing Room collection, it can be combined with many functional and slim storage solutions such as the cabinet shown here. Sink: 13.7" w x 11" D x 25" H; cabinet: 53.1" w x 8.7" D x 79.2" H.

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### 2. COFFEE WITH CONNECTIVITY

Nespresso's Prodigio has all you expect in a coffeemaker-and more. It offers quick heating in 25 seconds, auto power-off, and three cup sizes, among other features. A handy app for your smart phone provides capsule stock management (Prodigio will alert you when capsule stock is running low) and the ability to schedule a brew at your desired time every day. \$269 and up.

Linen Chest www.linenchest.com





### 3. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Here's the most recent addition to the Downsview Kitchens repertoire, offering contemporary styling and technologically advanced hardware. It features a blend of clean-lined door frames, soft-edge cabinet fronts, a wide variety of drawer inserts, low-profile illumination assemblies, and power-balanced mechanisms that effortlessly swing, slide or lift oversized cabinet fronts.

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### 1. DECONSTRUCTING DESIGN

Looking like a thick scribble made with a marker, the Chantal suspension luminaire adds a witty touch to home decor. Designed by Marco Lascialfari and handmade in Italy, it's part of the complete line from Martin Eden, now available at Iluce Concepts Lighting + Design. Chantal is offered in various colours, and there are other styles in the series including small pendants and floor and table lamps.

Iluce Concepts Lighting + Design 5153 Decarie Blvd., Montreal www.iluceconcepts.com 514-564-5823



## 2. STAY HEALTHY WITH STYLE

The hybrid Waterlogic water purifier is an environmentally friendly alternative to bottled water. Its Firewall technology produces taste with less waste in three steps: water flows through a high-quality active carbon filter, then a double-helix uv array purifies the water all the way to the nozzle, which has Bicote protection to further reduce the chance of contamination. Holds 1.5 litres of water. \$229.95.

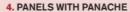
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### 3. FABULOUS FAUX

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**DESIGN** movatohome.com



DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016 movatohome.com



**A LOVE OF FOOD** motivated one Montreal couple to buy a home one street away from the Jean Talon Market and to make their kitchen the focal point of their renovations.

"My partner really likes how spirited this neighbourhood is because it reminds her of when she lived in Los Angeles," one of the homeowner says. "And we both enjoy the nosh."

The couple, who share a dentistry office as root canal specialists, purchased a duplex and hired the Naturehumaine architectural firm to transform it into a single-family dwelling. "They emphasized their desire for a spacious commercial-quality kitchen but with softer modern touches," says Stéphane Rasselet, owner/architect of Naturehumaine.

Passionate about cooking, the couple decided to locate the kitchen and main living areas on the upper floor where they knew they would prefer spending all their waking hours. "We enjoy having more natural light, as well as being distanced from the sidewalk bustle and street and laneway traffic," the homeowner explains. "At night, the neighbourhood is quieter, so our bedroom on the main floor is perfect."

**DESIGN** movatohome.com





**DESIGN** MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016



Both avid cooks, the homeowners wanted a lot of counter space. Naturehumaine provided it with not one but two islands. The smaller one often serves as a breakfast or lunch counter as well as a beverage centre for guests.

**DESIGN** movatohome.com



The owners did their homework to find ideal countertops. They selected black soapstone from Brazil with a white vein running through it.



"We love the large panels because everything is readily accessible, which makes us more likely to use things. Yet we can instantly hide everything for the minimalist look we like."

The fun-but-serious cooks requested extensive counter space. Naturehumaine obliged with two islands. The first measures 17 feet in length while the second is 8.5 feet. "A three-foot gap allows the cooks to pass in front and behind the counters with ease, and creates easy access to the powder room hidden behind the dark lacquered panelling," Rasselet adds.

Both homeowners did extensive research to find the ideal countertop. "We initially considered marble but were concerned about it staining," one of them says. "The black soapstone is perfect."

The couple often dine alone or with friends at the smaller island. "It's especially nice in the summer with the warm late sun," one of them says. "The island is often a beverage station as well, with me setting out the various liquids and liquor for guests to help themselves while my partner and I finish the cooking."

Another major requirement was convenient storage for all their small appliances and numerous cookbooks. "We love the large panels because everything is readily accessible,

which makes us more likely to use things," the homeowner says. "Yet we can instantly hide everything for the minimalist look we like."

Naturehumaine chose anigre, a warmly coloured African hardwood with minimal lines, as the veneer for the island and some cabinetry to contrast with the black and grey lacquered sections. "We always like to incorporate some raw elements if the clients agree," Rasselet says. "So we formed some of the end shelving in plain steel."

Large windows, patio doors and a skylight in the roof above the larger island naturally brighten the space. "The stove hood is clad in Gyproc to give the illusion of it sliding out of the skylight," the homeowner adds.

Supporting metal pillars are the only dividers between the kitchen and dining area. "We both wanted the connection between the kitchen and main eating area to be as open as possible because it's not unusual for us to serve five or six dishes," the homeowner says.

Their invited family and friends are fortunate indeed. >>

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BY TONY WHITNEY

SHARPEN YOUR SLICING SKILLS Home cooks love the high-end kitchen knives that are valued by pro chefs



**CULINARY** movatohome.com







Miyabi chef's knives by Zwilling J.A. Henckels Hattori, a knifemaker who, though in his late seventies, is happy to tackle blade-grinding and polishing. The company produces some blades in 63-layer Damascus steel, the production of which is challenging and time-consuming. Although such knives are expensive, production is almost always oversold, making them difficult to obtain. Linen Micarta is a favoured handle material at Hattori, but buyers can also choose such woods as cocobolo, magnolia, ebony or quince.











Chef's knives by Shun Cutlery



Opposite page: Sarah Wiener knives by Pott's

Shun knives from Japan are widely available and many come with distinctive Damascus-patterned blades and hammered finishes. These handcrafted knives combine function with an almost artistic appeal. Shun uses a high-grade steel claimed to provide outstanding edge retention. A variety of handles is available in the Shun range, including linen Micarta and several hardwoods.

On the other side of the world, Seki has its equivalent in the German city of Solingen, south of the Ruhr Valley. Long known as the "city of blades," Solingen produces about 90 per cent of all knives made in Germany. Knife-making history in the area predates that of Japan, and blacksmithing sites around the city are said to date back 2,000 years. The popular and affordable J.A. Henckels knife range is produced there.

One of Solingen's premier manufacturers of cutlery is Zwilling, a company that is especially active in the medium-to-high-end chefs' knives market. Zwilling has been partnered with Henckels since 1731, so there's lots of experience to draw on.

The Pro Chef range from Zwilling includes high-quality six-inch to 12-inch knives that have heft enough for heavy cuts but are also easy to use for light work. The curved blade is useful when a rocking cut is needed. The handle on this knife is a composite material with traditional three-rivet attachment points.

Zwilling's Bob Kramer Euroline stainless steel knives are popular with both professional and amateur chefs. The Damascus Collection uses special high-strength steel that's also used to produce razor blades, so optimum sharpness is assured. Alternating layers of nickel and stainless steel (50 in all) create a unique Damascus pattern on the blade. The favoured handle material for Zwilling's Euroline products is an ergonomically shaped soft-touch synthetic resin. Although these knives are designed in Germany, they are manufactured in Seki; it's a fascinating example of international cooperation between two cities famed for the same product.

When buying high-end chefs' knives, there are some key things to remember to keep them in top shape. As any chef will tell you, sharpness is critical for top performance, and a blunt knife is a dangerous knife. If you decide on one of the sharpening rigs that kitchen stores sell, make sure that it matches your particular knife. Because of cutting-edge angle variations, not all sharpeners are compatible with all knives.

And one last warning: Never put a high-quality knife in a dishwasher. Always clean it by hand, and both blade and handle will give many years of service. High-quality chefs' knives can give reliable service for decades if they're looked after.

This page: Damask knife by Sknife



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## GADGET GUIDE \*\*\*

EVERY KITCHEN NEEDS THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

IT NEVER HURTS to have useful tools in the kitchen or to be able to present food stylishly—ganache with panache, anyone? If you're tired of the pedestrian kitchen gadgets sold in most stores, or think your table presentations lack a certain zest, read on to find cookware, serveware and tools that are a stylish take on kitchen staples.

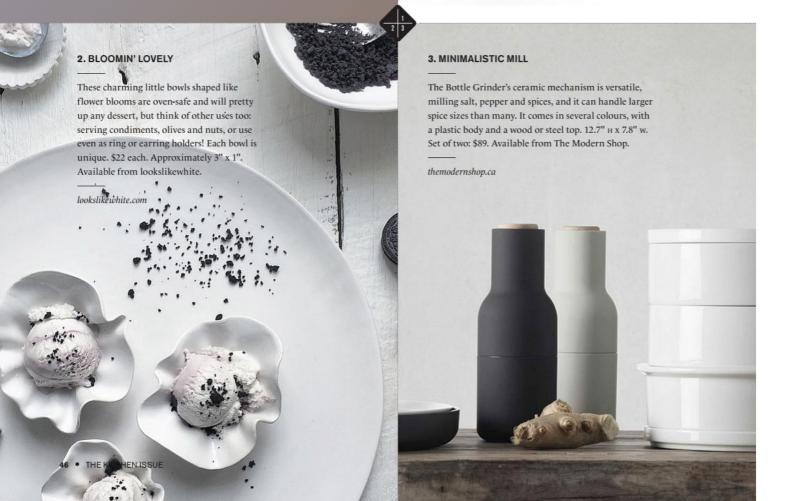
BY PHILLIPA RISPIN

#### 1. THE DAILY GRIND

A welcome change from the standard mortar and pestle, this spice grinder from Tom Dixon features a solid-block marble bowl. The brass weighted ball has an inner cast iron core that provides a satisfying heft. \$155. Available from The Modern Shop

themodernshop.ca







#### 4. DECORATE WITH APLOMB

The Aplomb suspension lamp by Foscarini will light up your kitchen island with halogen or LED bulbs. The shade is concrete, with a suspension cable and cord, and comes in white, grey or chestnut. 14" H x 6.5" D (diameter). Each shade \$789.

Available from
The Modern Shop.

themodernshop.ca

#### 5. HAPPY MEDIUM

The Medium tea-leaf container, made in Japan, provides handsome storage in on-trend copper with a wax finish. The handle on the inside lid is brass, and the lid fits tightly, making a sealed vessel. The canister is antibacterial. \$110. Available from Mjölk.

store.mjolk.ca

#### 6. LONG AND LEAN

Asparagus, leeks and cheese straws will never look so good as on this porcelain platter with a linen-textured surface. We show it with a glazed matte finish, but it can also be made with a shiny white glaze. 14" L x 6" w. \$85. Available from lookslikewhite.

lookslikewhite.com

#### 7. HAPPY HERBS

The terracotta Grow Pot from Menu is simple but versatile, for herbs, plants and flowers. Nestle some parsley within it; later, you can pick some and chop it on the accompanying solid oak board. 5.9" H x 4.7" w. \$132. Available from GRshop.com by Gabriel Ross.

grshop.com



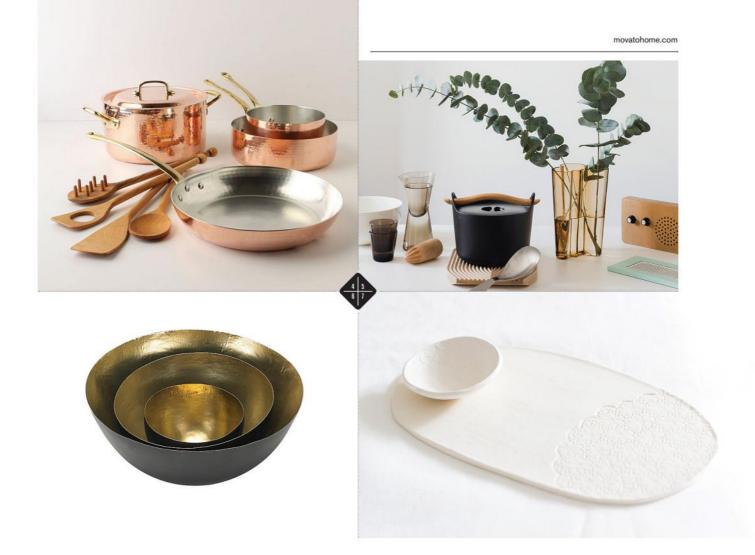
#### 2. CONCRETE RESULTS

Keep your Celtic sea salt, jook yeom or Kala Namak safe and dry in this sleek salt box by Bérard. It's crafted of concrete, with an olivewood lid. \$55. Available from Les Touilleurs.

lestouilleurs.com







#### 4. COOKING WITH COPPER

These solid copper pans from Ruffoni have hand-applied tin linings. They're handhammered, with handles of polished cast brass, and conduct heat excellently. \$798 for a set of three: small 2" H x 9.5" D (diameter); medium 2.5" H x 11" D; large 2.75" H x 13.75" D. Available from Anthropologie.

anthropologie.com

#### 5. PERFECT POT

From 1960 comes this Iittala cast iron pot, designed by Timo Sarpaneva. The pot is enamelled, matte black on the outside and glossy white inside. Plunk it in the oven or on the stove; either way, the detachable wooden handle will come in handy. \$335. Available from Les Touilleurs.

lestouilleurs.com

#### 6. FORM FOR CONTENTS

In Tom Dixon's signature gold interior and matte black exterior, the Form Bowl Deep Large Set brings style and elegance to the kitchen. The bowls are handmade of brass finished on the interior with a gold wash. Set of two bowls.

4.5" H x 12.9" D (diameter).
\$271. Available from The Modern Shop.

themodernshop.ca

#### 7. HELPFUL DUO

Take a break from the standard wooden cheese board with this cheese plate. The accompanying bowl is perfect for chutney or pickles. \$85. Available from lookslikewhite.

lookslikewhite.com

#### 1. MAKE MINE MAPLE

Give your tea ceremony a Canadian twist with the maple Ceremony tray, milk and sugar set. Hand-crafted by artisans, it features a three-millimetre solid brass surface on one side for hot kettles. The pitcher is porcelain. \$225. Available from Mjölk.

store.mjolk.ca



#### 2. ADDING TO THE MIX

Every kitchen needs a copper mixing bowl – it's a classic. These imported bowls are solid copper and should be washed by hand. Two sizes: small 64 ounces, 4.5" H X 8.25" D (diameter), \$44; large 160 ounces, 5.25" H X 12" D, \$68. Available from Anthropologie.

anthropologie.com



#### 3. KEEP IT ROLLIN'

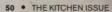
The Timber & Ore rolling pin is an elegant tool for pastry-making. It's crafted in copper and stainless steel, with sheesham (Indian rosewood) handles. 17" w, \$39.95. Available from Anthropologie.

anthropologie.com

#### 4. PROFFER ON PORCELAIN

This large porcelain plate goes with everything. Use it as a serving platter or as a fruit or cheese plate. \$175. Available from lookslikewhite.

lookslikewhite.com







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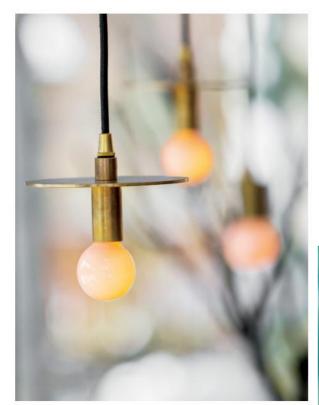








DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016 movatohome.com



"The high ceilings and large windows make us feel as if we're living outdoors year-round."



Lambert & Fils supplied the pendant lighting over the table.



A ST. LAMBERT HOUSE BUILT IN 1923 sold a couple on its charm, but it lacked space after they'd had two children.

They called upon architect Stéphane Rasselet at Naturehumaine design firm to expand their 22-by-28-foot starter home into a dream home with a bright, airy kitchen as its hub.

"Once we tore down the poorly built extension, we had the initial cube of a house," Rasselet says. "Using it as inspiration, we constructed a rectangular section alongside it, placed slightly back from the original building and extending to the backyard."

The family adores the new kitchen. "The high ceilings and large windows make us feel as if we're living outdoors year-round," one of the homeowners says. "The different shades of wood remind us of the many trees that give our backyard its leafy privacy, while the white ceilings and walls extend the winter's snowiness."

Alumilex till-and-turn windows and large immobile panes open the house to its treed backyard. Naturehumaine joined the large panes with silicone rather than steel or wood framing so the joints are less noticeable.



Everyone has space. "Even inside our heads," the homeowner says, adding that it has made life at home relaxing and downright joyous. "Our youngsters can be right next to us at the island or dining table without being in the way."

The parents regularly took their six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son onsite during the renovations so their older child in particular could understand why their family would benefit from dramatically changing the home she knew.

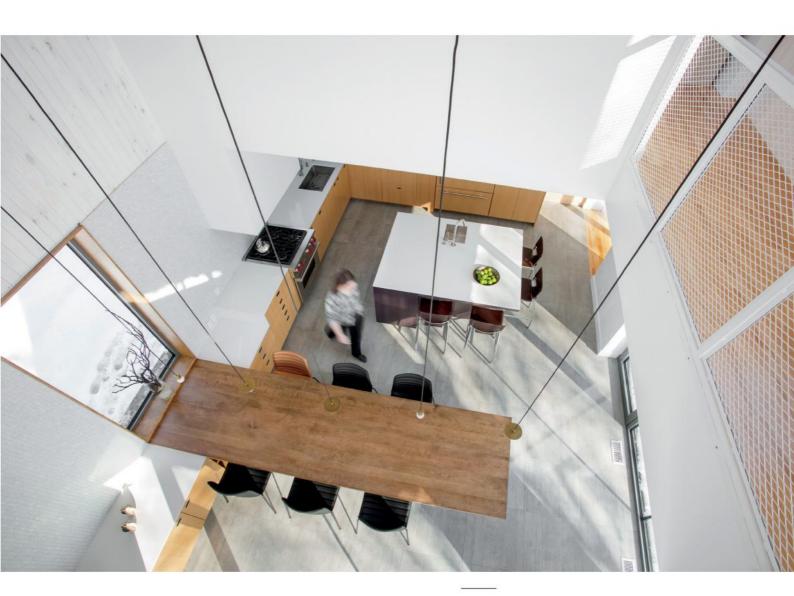
Planning extensively with the couple to maximize space, Rasselet and his team ran with the cubic inspiration for the modern kitchen. Montreal cabinetmaker Anthony Crul achieved the highly uniform lines by using quarter-cut oak veneer. A dark brown stain adds a relaxing contrast to a section featuring a roll-out appliance garage, as well as the island's base.

"We covered the stove hood in Gyproc so it's boxed rather than a typical vent," Rasselet says.

The room's cubic look was maintained by covering the stainless steel range hood above the Wolf gas stove with drywall.



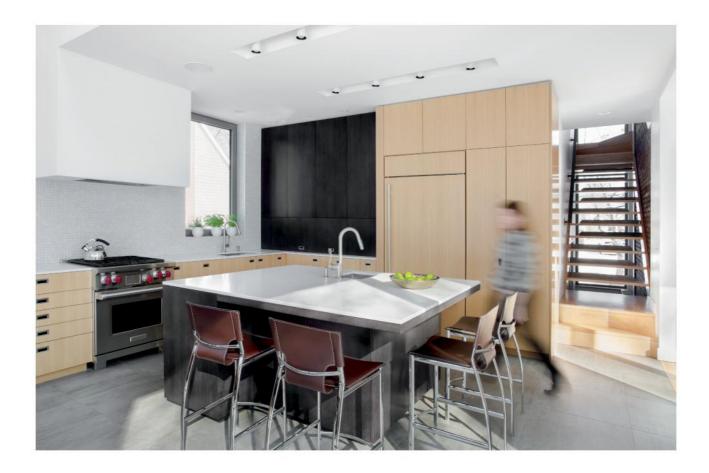
DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016



White quartz was chosen for durable countertops. "We use quartz in about 80 per cent of our projects because it's so resistant to dents and stains," architect Stéphane Rasselet of Naturehumaine says.



**DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016** 



Excessive boxiness was prevented by triangulating the ceilings that go up to the roof, framed by a second-storey catwalk. "We clad the upper area with a whitewashed pine so just the natural grain and knots come through like a misty forest," Rasselet says.

The large backsplash of rectangular marble tiles echoes the ceilings. "I don't like marble as a large surface, but this has a lot of character," the homeowner says.

A defining feature is the birch table that extends directly from the window frame over the customized buffet. "It makes our table part of the room's artistry, and I love how it aligns perfectly with the window to give everyone seated a perfect view," the homeowner says. "It has become the centre of activity with our children often drawing or playing there." >>> CONTRACT OF THE WARD OF THE WINDOWS OF THE WARD OF

Provenza's Re-Use "concrete" flooring gives the room an earthy, industrial edge with the everyday practicality of ceramic tiles.



ARTIST LORNE WINTERS CAPTURES A RANGE OF SUBJECTS IN HIS CAPTIVATING PAINTINGS



RY HILLE GENER

ART movatohome.com

DRIVING ALONG A COUNTRY ROAD, artist Lorne Winters once spotted bales of hay in a misty field that looked so serene he had to stop. "There wasn't even a bird chirping," he recalls. "I kept taking pictures until the mist lifted and some of the natural noises returned about a half-hour later."

Back at his studio in Glen Williams in the Halton Hills, Winters found a myriad of angles, colours, shapes and lighting to depict the hay bales in a series of oil paintings now being enjoyed by their respective owners.

"I want people to experience the beauty that I feel when I'm originally inspired and when I'm recapturing that beauty in my painting," Winters says. "It's so nice when buyers say they sit down with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine to gaze at one of my landscapes and actually feel themselves decompress."

Conveying the exquisiteness of a landscape or something as simple as the way a pub chair throws its shadows gives Winters a wide artistic breadth. He typically works on four or five paintings at once so that he's not waiting for the oils to dry, and each work progresses at a comfortable pace that retains his interest.

His colour palettes lend themselves to the warmth of home decor, and a number of clients own multiple paintings in his various genres. "A casual viewer doesn't necessarily notice that they're all by me," he says, "although I think there's a common undercurrent when you look more closely."

Winters began drawing as a child. His uncle, an animator, suggested that he attend Central Technical School where art would be progressively integrated into his high school education. "My parents drove me from Mississauga to my grandmother's house in Toronto every Sunday night, and I returned home on Friday evenings," he recalls. "It was great. My grandmother definitely spoiled me."

After graduation, he learned a lot by working for other studio artists for a couple of years, and then struck out on his own. "For the next 20 years, I worked as a freelance artist from my home studio on all of the big Toronto accounts, including Coca-Cola, Nike,

Canadian Tire and Labatt," he says. "I worked with some brilliant people and took pride and pleasure in making even the simplest illustration the best I could. But the business changed, becoming a lot more price-competitive—and I had always intended to get more into the fine arts side."

Winters has applied the self-discipline that he acquired as a commercial artist to his current practice. He works between eight and 10 hours a day, six days a week at his rustic studio inside a former mill (now a heritage building) overlooking a forest. "There's just so much I still want to learn and do," he says. "Besides, it doesn't feel like work to me. Art is not so much what I do, but who I am. I just love painting."

Every fresh canvas presents a new challenge. "In my figurative paintings, I try to capture the human spirit... a model's quiet moment of inner reflection," he says.

A lover of all arts, he contacted a dance studio to photograph the performers backstage for a series that depicts the moments that audiences don't normally see. When he decided to paint equine images, he contacted the owner of a nearby horse farm. "When something interests me, I find the people and places that can help me to artistically explore it," he says.

Winters's wife, Christine, persuaded him to begin teaching groups of four at his studio 18 months ago. "During the first class, I basically go step by step through the process of painting a still life so they have a good foundation in the techniques and language that I use, and then we move onto other subjects," he says. "When I see that light—that sparkle—in one of their eyes, it's so gratifying to know that I've passed along some of my knowledge."

He regularly opens his studio to sell the small canvases that he often does to hone an image before investing in a larger piece. "It's a way to get beautiful paintings into the hands of people who perhaps have less money," he says. "I don't believe art should be just for the wealthy."

Although he's busy keeping up with the demand for his paintings and classes, Winters hopes to find time to explore more of Canada. "It's such a beautiful country," he says. "It would be really nice to depict more of it in paintings." \*\*



"When something interests me, I find the people and places that can help me to artistically explore it."

















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# CRISP AND CLEAN IN BLACK AND WHITE

Condo apartment kitchen gets an unfussy but clever makeover

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN • PHOTOGRAPHY: DREW HADLEY • STYLING: JEAN MONET





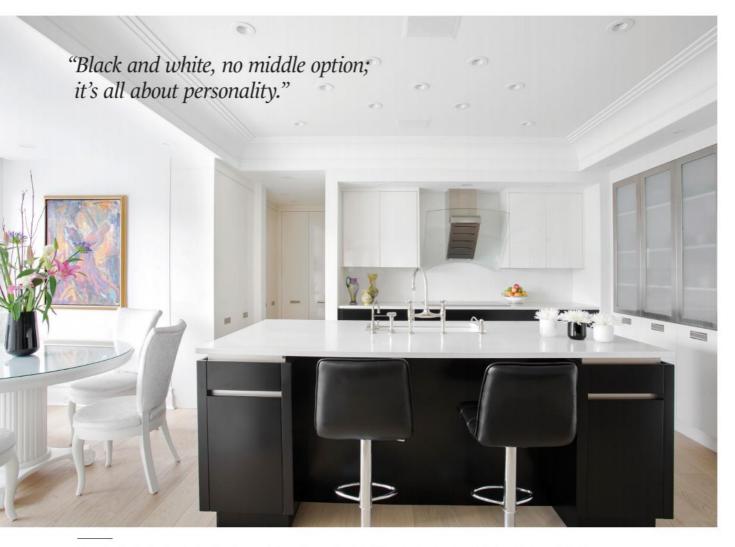
THE HOMEOWNER OF THIS KITCHEN is "a straight shooter," according to designer Jean Monet. personality," is how he describes her taste. And black and white it is: crisp colours and clean lines for a no-nonsense yet elegant kitchen that blends perfectly with the rest of the apartment

Monet, owner of Monet interiors, was responsible for the design of the apartment along with architectural designer Nataly Houle of Art Zone. However, the kitchen itself was built by the experts at Audacia Design, with owner Jean Drouin and his team in charge, and with input from Monet about

fore the redesign, "you couldn't see the kitchen at all," he recounts. "The room was compact and closed in. It was an obvious choice to open it up to the rest of the apartment." Thus the kitchen is now continuous with the dining and living rooms, but it can be readily hidden behind large sliding doors so that any kitchen mess is out of sight. The mirrors on both sides of the doors are a glamorous touch that also ensure, when they're closed, that the kitchen seems bigger than it really is (24 feet by 13 feet), thanks to reflections and abundant natural light. 🖙







General contractor Construction Jean Drouin renovated the entire apartment, including extending the wall behind the cooktop to maximize the counter area, which serendipitously provided space to enlarge the existing pantry.

To create functionality, the team replaced the original small island with a much larger one. Because the island contains the sink and provides a large work surface, it's guaranteed that whoever's preparing food will be able to look into the rest of the apartment much of the time, banishing the former cloistered-in-the-kitchen feeling.

The client chose Downsview Kitchens, for whom Audacia Design is the exclusive Quebec distributor, for the cabinetry. Drouin commissioned the company to produce ingeniously designed cabinets that provide a particular place for everything. This is especially evident in the open U-shaped walk-in pantry that Audacia designed to replace a smaller, closed pantry.

"The left side is shallower than the other, so there are shelves and racks for spice jars, vinegar bottles and similar small items," Audacia designer Sophie Levac says. With satisfaction she describes the section that hides the Panasonic microwave oven, which has a door that opens upwards from the bottom.

All surfaces are kept as streamlined and unadorned as possible. The Sub-Zero fridge and the Miele dishwasher are cased in. All the cabinet doors (model: Tania) and drawers have unobtrusive stainless steel handles. One exception to the uniform cabinets around the room is a section of glass-fronted upper cabinets on one wall.

"The homeowner wanted the texture of glass with stainless steel," Levac says. "She asked for it to be frosted so she wouldn't be obliged to keep only nice things on display."

When it came time to install the cabinetry, the floors weren't ready. "The clients wanted the same wood floors in the kitchen as elsewhere," Drouin says. "At a certain point the kitchen was ready but the floors weren't, so we installed the cabinetry with adjustable legs, standing on plywood before the flooring was installed." It's another example of the care and ingenuity that give this relatively small space a large impact in the home. \*





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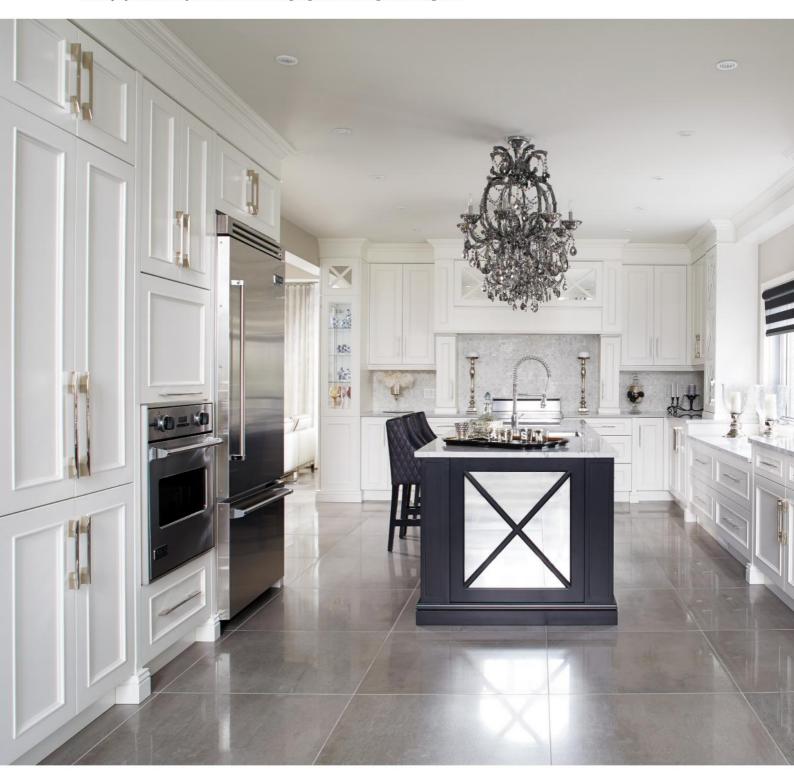
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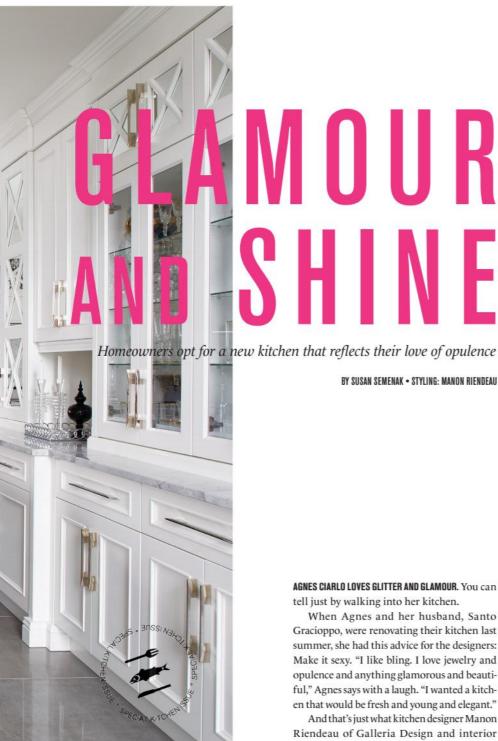
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**DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016** 



# MUUR

BY SUSAN SEMENAK • STYLING: MANON RIENDEAU

AGNES CIARLO LOVES GLITTER AND GLAMOUR. You can tell just by walking into her kitchen.

When Agnes and her husband, Santo Gracioppo, were renovating their kitchen last summer, she had this advice for the designers: Make it sexy. "I like bling. I love jewelry and opulence and anything glamorous and beautiful," Agnes says with a laugh. "I wanted a kitchen that would be fresh and young and elegant."

And that's just what kitchen designer Manon Riendeau of Galleria Design and interior designer Mari-Claire D'Elia did. They created an elegant kitchen with bright, white surfaces, touches of dramatic black, and everywhere glass and mirror to catch and reflect the light.

"They both wanted a kitchen that was chic, in the hotel style. And she really wanted it to have a sexy look with crystal and glass and all shiny things," says Riendeau, who designed floor-to-ceiling cabinetry in white-lacquered MDF and married it with finely veined grey granite countertops. D'Elia chose large pale grey porcelain floor tiles polished to a high gloss, and small Carrara marble mosaic tiles for the backsplash. 🖙





Pale grey glossy porcelain floor tiles measure 32 by 32 inches and are from Royal Ceramics.

And to carry the shine to a higher level, Riendeau custom-designed a hood above the stove concealed behind a set of mirrored panes. They echo the mirrored surfaces along two sides of the island counter and reflect two oversized crystal chandeliers that hang over the island.

"Everything we chose is meant to add a touch of glamour," Riendeau says.

The large U-shaped kitchen with two islands—one of them in a separate nook for sipping coffee or having cocktails—was created by removing a wall between the former kitchen and the dining room. And though that might seem like a tall order, Riendeau said the whole project took about five weeks so that the new kitchen would be ready for the couple's daughter's graduation party.

In the area of the kitchen nearest to the adjoining dining room, Riendeau installed cabinets with glass doors in the style of a vaisselier where Agnes displays her dinnerware and crystal. In the upper cabinets on each side of the sink, the designer opted for mirrored doors, which reflect light but keep the stored items hidden.

Agnes says she and Santo really love the cozy nook dedicated to coffee and drinks. It houses their espresso maker, wine fridge and a bar sink, plus another island with bar stools where guests congregate when they entertain.

"We turn it into our bar area. We put out a tray with the liquor bottles and cocktail glasses and champagne flutes and my husband mixes cocktails," she says. "It's fantastic."

### CATCHING UP WITH SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

Reno-show host keeps churning 'em out

Scott McGillivray is one busy guy. He's got not one, not two, but three shows for hat in production. We caught up with him on a typically hectic day to get the lowdown on his latest projects.

#### "We teach them all the other tips and tricks that we use to make profits in real estate."



ASK AN EXPERT

MH: You're working on your 11th season of Income Property, and it's a full season of vacation homes. Why is that?

**SM**: We get to work in very aspirational areas: cottage country, beach houses, ski lodges. It's all about showing people that you can invest in these areas and get tremendous returns, and that you can use an existing vacation home that you have to generate income while you're not there.

MH: Do you hear from viewers who've been inspired by the show to get their own income properties?

SM: Oh my gosh, all the time! Over the years the show's developed such a following and loyalty among people interested in developing long-term wealth. And I also go across the country, doing what I call a wealth tour. I train people on all the things that you don't necessarily get to learn in the 21 minutes that you have of the

TV show. We teach them all the other tips and tricks that we use to make profits in real estate.

**MH:** What's the number-one rule for anyone contemplating buying or renovating an income property?

**SM**: Make sure it generates positive cash flow. If you don't know what that means, then don't invest in real estate until you do.

MH: Scott's House Calls can help with that.
Tell us about it?

SM: Scott's House Calls is all online. We found that people have so many questions, and people are afraid of renovating and real estate investing. The idea is to create an interactive real-estate renovation and investing... conversation, let's call it... online. We go through what we call a campaign—say, a bathroom renovation. We take viewers step by step through the renovation and answer questions about it. It's supported with articles and blogs and other professional information and documents. This is the "how do you do it" portion of what you see on television. It will be live this spring.

MH: You're also in production for Home To Win, which features 20 of HGTV's stars and will air this spring. What's that about?

SM: It's a collaboration of HGTV hosts working together to renovate and give away a property. Somebody's going to win this house! I helped with selection of the property. I redid the roof recently, have been deciding interior layouts.

There are some host-versus-host competitions, but everybody pitches in.

MH: You're also working on Moving The McGillivrays, which is about renovating a place and making it your family's new home. Moving is hell; why the hell are you moving?

**SM**: (laughing) We've been meaning to move for some time now. We've lived in our place for almost 10 years and life has changed. Sabrina and I are now married; we have two children; our careers have progressed. Now we're getting the home that we wanted rather than the home that we needed.

MH: Why make a show about it?

**SM**: People have seen me do Income Property for a long time, and I get a lot of people asking about my design, my taste, my style, my construction techniques. I thought it was an opportunity to give my family some insight into what I do as well. I'm proud of the experience. It's a major, major renovation.

MH: Who makes the decor decisions in your family?

SM: Me-and don't tell my wife I said that (laughing). No, we work together; we're pretty much on the same page. I do 95 per cent of the construction decisions; we work together on layout, sizes, specifications. We're going into a design meeting right after this to choose fixtures and hardware and moldings. We really partner at this point. Once it's time to fill the house, it's a partnership.





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#### **◆ OPEN SATURDAYS** ▶

# A HAVEN FROM THE PRESSURE COOKER

Publisher Leah Lipkowitz's new kitchen is a refuge from her busy life



BY SUSAN KELLY Photography: Drew Hadley Styling: Jean Monet "You have to look long-term when designing a kitchen."

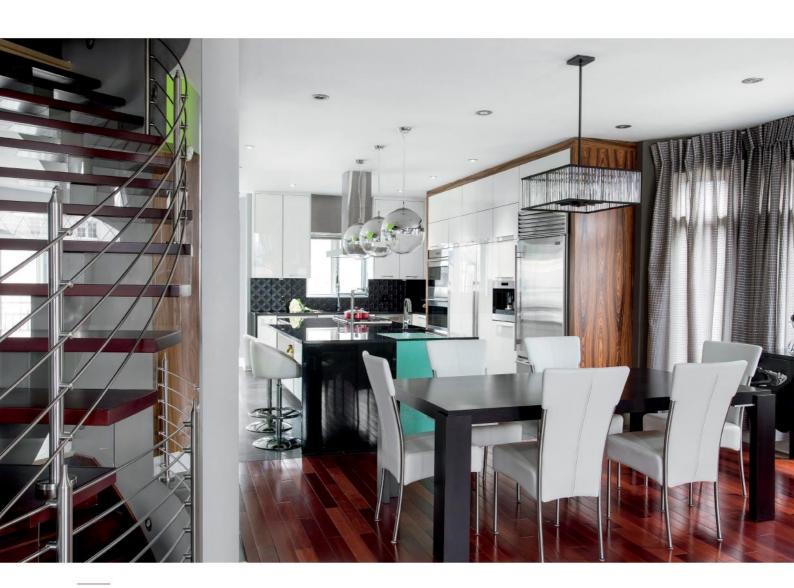
**PUBLISHING IS A PRESSURE-COOKER WORLD**, especially when you helm a fleet of home design magazines—including Montreal Home—and are readying the launch of a sister publication for the South Florida region.

For Movato Home publisher Leah Lipkowitz, the newly renovated kitchen in her West Island home provides a haven, a place to decompress and enjoy life.

This is a cook's kitchen, even though this entrepreneur has almost no space in her busy schedule to pick up a pan. "You have to look long-term when designing a kitchen," Leah says. "And I can see myself someday having more time to make muffins or have the family over for dinner."

Short-term, a recent health kick motivated her to experiment with making quick and healthful dishes at home, a move that helped her drop 20 pounds. She's now looking to expand her repertoire beyond grilled salmon and chicken.

**DESIGN** MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016



Designer Endrée Villeneuve chose exotic ipe wood for the flooring in the adjacent dining area. Its rich, red tones are a warm counterpoint to the black and cool grey tones in the kitchen.

#### "We have to make ourselves happy first. And I wouldn't have it any other way."

Part of Leah's job involves keeping abreast or even a little ahead of trends. And this creates expectations. What if your kitchen turns out to be all sizzle and no steak, style-wise? "In the end I don't do anything just to please someone else," she says. "We have to make ourselves happy first. And I wouldn't have it any other way."

And her way, she says, is all about making a strong statement in an understated way. The kitchen's grey-scale colour scheme proclaims timeless and classic, from the snowy white cabinets, built and installed by Cuisines Denis Couture, to earthy grey porcelain floor tiles to dramatic black granite countertops.

The kitchen redesign was part of a wholehome renovation helmed by designer Endrée Villeneuve of Vision enVert. Independent designer Leah Dagher acted as project manager and provided substantial contributions to the over-all interior design.

"The house was very traditional, more of a builder basic, when we started this project," Dagher says. "But Leah is modern. She wanted a bright open-concept space. And she already had modern furniture that expressed her personality, so we made the rest of the house look the same way."

The kitchen, built by Cuisines Denis Couture, features a restrained colour palette of white and cool greys. Villenewe added a punch of warmth with a recessed shelf in the island, clad in rosewood.







For the kitchen and bathroom design, Villeneuve worked with Kimberly Sorochina, a designer at Cuisines Denis Couture. "We loaded the kitchen with the latest equipment in terms of pullouts and accessories," says Sorochina. "For instance, we gave Leah a full pull-out pantry with stainless steel baskets. We used Blum soft-close hardware on all doors and drawers. The white cabinet doors have an acrylic finish," which Sorochina explains is easier than lacquer to maintain and also reflects the light better.

Sturdy stainless steel handles from Richelieu Hardware fit nicely with the kitchen's style. Richelieu was also the source for many features, some hidden but important, that make this an efficient, multifunctional kitchen: opening mechanisms, drawer organization systems, recycling systems, Leaf lighting for cabinets and drawers, Brillante decorative surfaces and cabinet doors, and a pullout table and hardware such as hinges and slides.

"The solutions provided for this kitchen are founded on the latest universal design trends that



revolutionize how we optimize storage space and maximize functionality without sacrificing design," says Veronique St-Cyr, corporate training and communications coordinator at Richelieu.

And she's right: all that functionality doesn't detract from the fact that it's a cleanlined, good-looking space, a "little black dress" of a kitchen, with impact added through accessories. These finishing touches include the 3D porcelain tiles on the backsplash that have a matte sheen and bold texture, and

large globular pendant lights that combine clear glass and gleaming chrome. For a splash of contrasting colour, a LED light panel inset in the end of the kitchen island can be set at whim to different hues at the touch of a button.

Villeneuve also added a custom-made stainless steel feature over the window. Visually, it coordinates with the appliances and funky range hood while drawing the eye upward and giving a traditional window shape some modern edge. 🖙

Designer Leah Dagher sourced various finishes and accessories, including the unusual pendant lights from Iluce Concepts Lighting and Design that illuminate the island.



The rosewood inset in the island creates an organic contrast to the contemporary lacquer cabinetry by Cuisines Denis Couture and the black granite countertops, sourced at Granite au Sommet by Dagher.



#### "Because life is about living, and I enjoy living."

She framed the cabinets and added an inset shelf to the island in rosewood to create a focal point. The noble natural wood is also on trend and coordinates beautifully with the expanse of ipe hardwood floors throughout the main storey. "Leah has a good heart, and the rosewood adds the touch of warmth that was needed to reflect that," says Villeneuve.

Trendiness aside, open concept was exactly the right approach for this kitchen, says Villeneuve. The original kitchen was only 11 by 16 feet, with a closed staircase blocking it from the front of the house. Her blueprint called for removing a wall and building an open staircase to create flow to the front of the house. "By further opening it to the dining room and breakfast nook, the kitchen became an integral part of the main floor," she says.

Leah had always dreamed of having the kind of house where she lives large and plays hostess. As she prepares to host a friend's birthday party, she reckons a good portion of the 100-plus guests will gravitate to the kitchen. And ultimately, this kitchen was meant to be lived in. "I hope it shows that you can make a statement that's beautiful and functional, and enjoy what you've created," Leah says. "Because

life is about living, and I enjoy living." >

The backsplash tiles, sourced at Planchers VIP by Dagher, have a three-dimensional aspect that creates depth. Appliances: Sub-Zero Wolf; cabinetry hardware: Richelieu Hardware.







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# LOOK! NO HANDLES!

Couple will always have Paris with SieMatic kitchen

BY JULIE GEDEON
PHOTOGRAPHY: CORRINE FORTIER
STYLING: MYRIAM BERNIER



some things are never the same once you've lived in France. A Town of Mount Royal couple realized as much when it came to renovating their kitchen. "They had thought about making it traditional like the rest of their home, but wanted the sleekness of the SieMatic kitchen they had enjoyed in Paris," Jean-Martin Lapointe, SieMatic Montreal's design and sales manager, says of the contemporary kitchen.

SieMatic introduced the world's first handle-free kitchen cabinets in 1960. The luxury

cabinetmaker based in Löhne, Germany, innovatively updated its integrated strip-handle technology for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the latest s2 version, representing the pinnacle of ergonomic design.

"All the horizontal and vertical channels for opening the cabinets and drawers are made with a polished nickel finish," Lapointe says. High-gloss lacquered cabinetry surfaces provide lustre and long-term durability. Ciot provided the classic Statuario marble that clads the backsplash and the sides of the island, as well as the floor tiles. The marbles provide just the right number of subtle shades to warm up the primarily lustrous white space. **DESIGN** MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016



SieMatic collaborated with renowned sink manufacturer Julien to customize a kitchen table with the same Brazilian granite surface as the countertops. Mirrored stainless steel legs provide stamina and reflect a nearly identical finish to the polished nickel of the discreet cabinetry pulls and toe-kicks.

"Unlike in Europe where kitchen cabinetry is considered more as furniture, we followed the North American trend to build the cupboards to the ceiling, which creates more storage," Lapointe says.

SieMatic augmented storage in the TMR kitchen with some other neat tricks. Several of the toe-kicks along the base cabinetry open bottom shelves to store trays. One cabinet has twice the normal depth with space reclaimed from a former chimney.

The homeowners sought to maximize functionality for daily living and lots of company.

Customized panels disguise the overhead ventilation spanning the cooking area. The epicurean couple installed an induction cooktop, teppanyaki (Japanese grill) and deep fryer in the thick Brazilian granite counter. "Our clients selected granite slabs for all the surfaces to avoid the staining that's possible with marble, but wanted Statuario marble cascading down the sides of the island and to form the backsplash to have some of its classic qualities," Lapointe says.

Three ovens – induction, steam and speed – complete the cooking array. "All the kitchen appliances are from Gaggenau – another high-quality German company," says Lapointe. "They are the Porsche of appliances."

"Our clients selected granite slabs for all the surfaces to avoid the staining that's possible with marble."



**DESIGN** MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016



Both Julien sinks are crafted from folded rather than cut stainless steel to make the bottom the same thickness as the sides. "The bottom sounds less tinny," Lapointe notes. "The sinks are also thick enough to be re-buffed one day."

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# HOW TO GET A NEW KITCHEN

**ONE CHALLENGE** that homeowners face is finding the right company for a renovation job. Redesigning a kitchen is a case in point. It can be difficult to know where to start in seeking out the best designers and contractors. Montreal Home asked Line Goulet, owner and vice-president of Centre Design Réalité, a kitchen-design and general-renovation company in Laval, for her advice on how to find the best kitchen design company.



Q: Line, homeowners can get overwhelmed when they're faced with choosing a kitchen design company. How should they begin their search? A: The first step is to discuss the nature of the project. For instance, will they need to replace appliances? They should look at decor magazines and web sites, and visit showrooms to learn what's available in styles and materials and determine what they like. They should be ready to discuss this with a designer. In turn, the designer will give them realistic options in terms of their needs and the space to be renovated, and give them an idea of the cost as well as possible financing options. Homeowners should also discuss their degree of involvement in the project, which will depend on their knowledge and experience, scheduling of the renovation, and how much time they're prepared to invest if they want to be hands-on.

**Q**: How can a client discern if a kitchen design company is reputable?

A: Reputable companies aren't low profile! They advertise, and they provide their Régie du Bâtiment du Québec registration number so prospective clients can check their validity and determine in whose name the company is registered. Reputable companies have several kitchen projects under their belts and good references from clients and suppliers. They train their kitchen design specialists so they can ask pertinent questions about what their clients need in terms of function and ergonomics and then suggest solutions. They keep their showrooms up to date with the latest kitchen and bathroom materials. Reputable companies belong to industry associations such as the APCHQ (Association des professionnels de la construction et de l'habitation du Québec), Réno-Maitres, Chamber of Commerce, and the like. They also enter projects in well-recognized competitions that highlight their expertise and the quality of their work.

**Q**: What does it mean when a kitchen design company offers a turn-key solution?

A: A turn-key solution means that the company is the general contractor and is responsible for the entire process. This includes consultation and design by a kitchen designer, as well as a decorator to guide the choice of materials, finishes, and hardware for the cabinetry. It means the company provides complete project-development plans and a schedule. The company orders cabinets, countertops, handles, tiles, plumbing supplies, electrical equipment, building materials and other supplies. It hires the crew and qualified tradespeople to work on schedule. It takes care of demolition, reconstruction, and debris removal while protecting the rest of the home from damage and dust. The company ensures communication among the various people involved and oversees the work from start to delivery of the finished project. The company can also work with an architect's plan or can hire an engineer when required, submit permit applications, present plans to the city for approval, consult experts on appliances, obtain a cleaning of the premises, and provide home decoration on request. That's a true turn-key solution.

**Q**: How long does the process of getting a new kitchen take?

A: From the time a kitchen design company is hired through production and delivery of cabinetry, it can take from four to 12 weeks, depending on the season and the cabinetry materials. If installation is expected during peak renovation season (April through July), it could be eight to 12 weeks. This is the time when cabinetmakers are busy with builders of new homes that are delivered at the end of June. If the project involves simply changing cabinets while keeping the existing plumbing, wiring, floors and appliances, it could take one to two days. But if it involves new flooring or plumbing or wiring, it will take between three and seven days. If major modifications are necessary, such as removing load-bearing walls, making structural changes, tiling floors and/or backsplashes, moving plumbing, adding or changing windows or doors, caulking, installing new cabinets and stone countertops, etcetera, it could take three to eight weeks. (Some renovations require manufacturing doors or windows, or support beams, and things must be done in a certain order for satisfactory results.) Moderate renovations will take one to two weeks on site.

**Q:** What would you recommend for a homeowner who wants a new kitchen but has limited space in his/her home?

A: There are several practical solutions for small spaces: adding more drawers to maximize storage space, having cabinets extend to the ceiling for high storage of seldom-used items, and using the space behind toe kicks. Designers have to see the space to determine the possibilities.

**Q:** What actions should a homeowner take to ensure the smoothest possible purchase of a new kitchen?

A: Look at magazines or the websites of reputable companies to learn what style they're most comfortable working with; mark the pages or print pictures. Be realistic about contingencies and possible unforeseen issues. Consult the Régie du Bâtiment about companies, checking their achievements. Meet designers to see if the chemistry and their understanding of your needs are good. In general, prices vary from one place to another for equivalent services and products. Above all, do not think that hiring just anyone (including your handy DIY brother-in-law) will save you money. Remember that if the experts have a good clientele, it is because they have built that clientele over time and through experience. 36-



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# COOKING TOGETHER

A Kirkland kitchen is redesigned and enlarged to welcome friends

BY JULIE GEDEON • STYLING: KARINE GRAVEL

A luminous effect was created with white Shakerstyle cabinetry featuring diamond-textured glass in the upper cabinet doors. A lightbox was custombuilt over the sink to hide overhead plumbing.



DESIGN MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016 movatohome.com



A KIRKLAND HOMEOWNER who loves to cook is delighted with the large and luminous kitchen she has after a renovation doubled its original space.

"The house was divided into small rooms," recalls Karine Gravel, a kitchen design specialist at Les Armoires Créabec. "We tore down the walls to a study and dinette to expand the kitchen and have it open nicely to the dining room."

White Shaker-style cabinetry with a diamond-like texture on the glass in the upper doors gives the room its brightness. "We curved the moldings a touch to give the cupboards a contemporary flair," Gravel says. "The stainless steel hardware is also inspired

by the classic modernity of the 1950s, but the shell-like pulls are definitely current design."

Every inch of potential storage space is put to use. The toe kicks open as drawers for snack boxes, and the fridge is framed on one side by a small broom closet.

A neutral canvas of white, grey and a bit of black was chosen so the homeowner could add a dash of whatever bright colour she fancies to change the look for the season, holidays or simply to suit her mood.

Kashmir White granite was chosen for the countertops because of its natural black and grey specks. "The darker grey ceramic backsplash and lighter porcelain floor tiles complement the stainless steel appliances, while the predominant white softens their industrial edge," Gravel says. "We picked chrome for the island lighting and faucet to add a tad of shine."

The island was lengthened to accommodate the homeowner's friends when they join her to do pickling and canning. "She really wanted a kitchen where more than one person could prepare food at the same time," Gravel says.

Moreover, she adds, the homeowner doesn't miss the study. "We built a slim drawer within the island's apron where she can store her laptop for use on the counter." :>

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# OPENING UP TO HIGH STYLE

Empty nesters' kitchen is modernized and lightened up

BY SUSAN SEMENAK / PHOTOGRAPHY: TUDOR SPINU / STYLING: NATHALY LOPEZ

Natural light from a French door, an adjacent floor-to-ceiling window and another large window illuminates the kitchen.







The backsplash is tiled in molten glass rectangular tiles in a trio of taupe-hued colours.

Built-in fridge and wall ovens: Thermador. The granite countertop colour is Antique Brown.

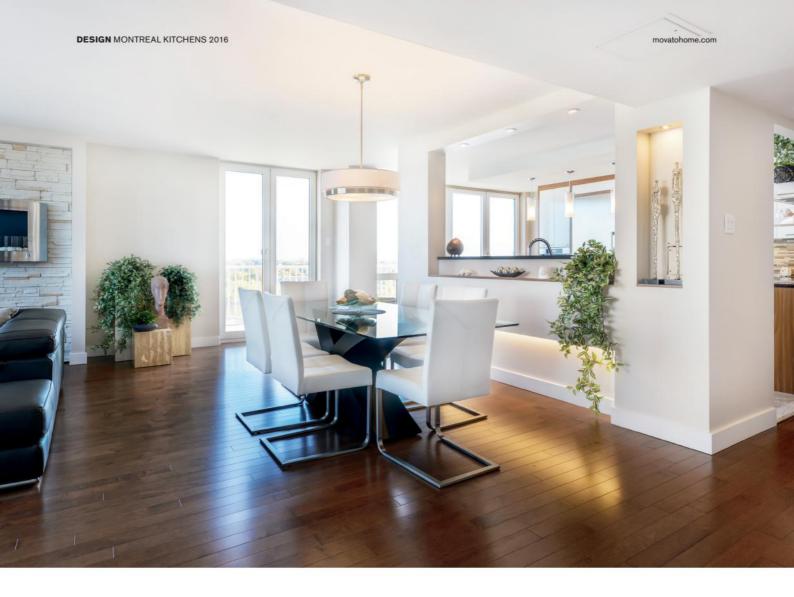
**LINE GOULET'S CLIENTS** were empty nesters who had sold a big house and done away with lawn-mowing and home maintenance. They'd just purchased a condo in Laval with small, dark rooms in serious need of an update.

"They wanted a simpler life in a sharp, modern new place," says Goulet, co-owner and vice-president of Centre Design Réalité, a kitchen-design and general-renovation company in Laval. "He travels a lot and she stays home. But the children are all gone."

Goulet and her firm were charged with renovating the entire condo to make it brighter, more contemporary and maintenance-free. The space already boasted large floor-to-ceiling windows and a French door leading to a balcony. Opening up the space would permit views of the outdoors from anywhere in the condo and welcome in natural light, the designers judged. So they removed a wall that separated the kitchen from the dining room. It was the kind of challenge the firm thrives on, Goulet says.

"To remove that wall, we needed to move plumbing and ventilation. And we needed to adhere to strict condo rules, which can create all kinds of complications in a project. You're not free to do whatever you like," she says. "In the end it was worth it, though: the whole place is now bathed in light. And it feels open and airy."

Goulet's designers sourced high-gloss polymer kitchen cabinets for a contemporary aesthetic that is easy to clean. They added walnut doors with beautiful grain to the lower



"It's these clean lines that give this condo its fresh and modern appeal." cabinetry for an infusion of natural warmth. For symmetry, the walnut was repeated in the molding that runs above the upper cabinets and is repeated in open shelving in the living room to create harmony between rooms.

They followed up the natural look of the wood with veined grey porcelain tiles on the floor from the Centre Design Réalité collection (colour: Polished Bone) and Antique Brown granite on the countertops.

For the sake of fluidity, all of the appliances – a large fridge, double wall ovens and an espresso maker—were all built into the same wall. "It's one streamlined row without protrusions," Goulet says. "It's these clean lines that give this condo its fresh and modern appeal."



"When I keep seeing the same faces coming back, I know we're where we need to be, and that makes me proud."

BROSSARD HAS ITS OWN LITTLE PATCH of Mediterranean seafront in Skara Estiatorio's terrace. Artificial palm trees, white tables and sea-blue umbrellas create a beach-like ambience. Indoors, tall columns, marble floors and walnut ceiling beams frame comfortable bench seating and flowing white drapery.

"We had to wow people from the first moment," says John Pavlatos, owner of the upscale restaurant at Quartier Dix30. "We're the only place you can find palm trees in the winter. You can see them from far away."

Decor may lead the multi-sensory experience, but sound, smell, touch and taste evoke Greece, too. Music streams live from a Greek radio station. The aroma of freshly cooked fish, grilled lamb and homemade tzatziki permeates the air. Multiple flambéed saganaki cheese entrees appear at many tables. Fresh fish is displayed on ice.

"I bring fish in fresh, direct from fishermen," says Pavlatos. "We have New Zealand golden snapper, black bass, loup de mer, American red snapper, and fagri, etcetera from Greece, New Zealand and Florida."

Skara also stocks an extensive wine cellar with as many as 1,000 bottles of imported Greek wine. "You have to pair the wines properly with the food," Pavlatos says. "It takes several weeks of extensive training for new employees to learn the different wines, their origin and textures. The wine reps and sommeliers come in to train us. They always send someone to introduce new imports every couple of months and provide refresher courses."

Pavlatos says that such training enhances staff loyalty and ensures that his restaurant continually improves. He says that the majority of the staff have been with him from the day he opened in April 2013.

"Our servers acquire that special Mediterranean touch," he says. "When I keep seeing the same faces coming back, I know we're where we need to be, and that makes me proud."

Regular special events throughout the year – including Greek Night, Santorini Night and Black & White Masquerade Ball–also keep customers returning. An upcoming event on May 12 celebrates the restaurant's third anniversary and promises a spectacular celebration with live entertainment, music and dancing. Opal. \*



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Estiatorio Skara is a restaurant business whose operations primarily focus on offering a fine dining experience. Currently based out of a prime location in the Montreal area, the prestigious Quartier Dix 30 district, Estiatorio Skara provides lunch and dinner menus and offers a superior wine collection of premium imports that impress the most distinguished tastes and compliment its fine Wediterranean cuisine.





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## **NEW SOPHISTICATION**

A once-bland kitchen is redesigned to enhance and complement the surrounding spaces

BY SUSAN KELLY

**THE KITCHEN** that came with this 2003 stone house in Hudson was not a functional or practical space for avid cooks. When the owners bought the house 10 years ago, they found the kitchen outdated and cramped. In addition, it had a tiny, awkward, two-tier island and it lacked a sense of connection to the living room into which the kitchen opens.

The homeowners turned to designer Rebecca Mitchell of Rebecca Mitchell Interiors, who handled an update of the space, along with the rest of the house.

Her kitchen design called for creating a focal point, a stylish new island set farther back than the original, measuring an imposing 7.5 by 6.5 feet. Topped with Carrara-look quartz, the island's wood cabinetry was given a mediumbrown stain that harmonizes with the birchtopped harvest table in the breakfast nook. And both the colour and transitional style echo the living room's built-in bookcases, to get the two areas to "talk to each other," the designer says. The island also houses two refrigerator drawers, the dishwasher and ample storage.

Crisp white custom cabinetry takes on new elegance when treated to a touch of bling. Distinctive jewel-like crystal knobs from Top Knobs add ample sparkle and coordinate beautifully with showstopper pendant lights by Elk Lighting.

"And once we settled on the mother-of-pearl tiles for the backsplash, we had our direction."





# "It's a very practical layout for a home cook."

A view of the kitchen from the breakfast area, with the butler's pantry leading to the dining room beyond. The imposing island houses a sink, a dishwasher (Miele) and ample storage. All custom cabinetry by Armoires Promina, Pointe Claire.

The kitchen's cream colour scheme was banished, with white entering as the main hue. Mitchell added just enough bling for a touch of glamour without going over the top. "And once we settled on the mother-of-pearl tiles for the backsplash, we had our direction," she says. Besides being a hot trend for 2016, this type of tile, made from the hard shells of sea molluscs, is a natural option. The shimmering finish adds a sophisticated sheen. For added bling, the cabinets are adorned with lead crystal knobs and brushed nickel hardware, materials also used in the crystal pendant lights suspended over the island.

Mitchell chose a simple and transitional Shaker style for the custom cabinetry. Crafted locally of solid wood, it was painted white (Benjamin Moore's Oxford White) to take the kitchen's style in a modern direction while still respecting some of the home's traditional features. Glass panels on the topmost cabinets add to the sense of lightness.

Down below, solid drawers conceal dishes and cookware-everything essential to making this a cook's kitchen. Drawers for such practical conveniences as recycling and garbage were installed in the island.





Custom shelves for cookbooks are a hint that this kitchen is designed to be used. Also among the amenities: the pot filler installed over the Wolf cooktop, a practical convenience made luxurious when played against mother-of-pearl tiles.

For a bold statement, black quartz counters run on each side of the central gas cooktop. Mitchell says it was important to create contrast with the white cabinetry. The black also helps to visually integrate the black and stainless steel cooktop with the adjacent built-in appliances: a microwave on one side and a coffeemaker on the other. Strategically placed touches of black in accessories in other parts of the main floor also serve as unifying design elements.

The update meshes the home's design elements to complement rather than compete, Mitchell says, and ensures that the kitchen layout capitalizes on what is arguably the home's greatest asset: a spectacular view of the Lake of Two Mountains. While there are luxurious details in the kitchen, its design does not detract from the view.

"And it's a very practical layout for a home cook," says Mitchell. "It's a lovely place for the family to spend time, and the view is a nice bonus." >









**DESIGN** movatohome.com



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"The wide-plank wooden floor was selected to bring some warmth into the space and to echo the trees outside the windows."

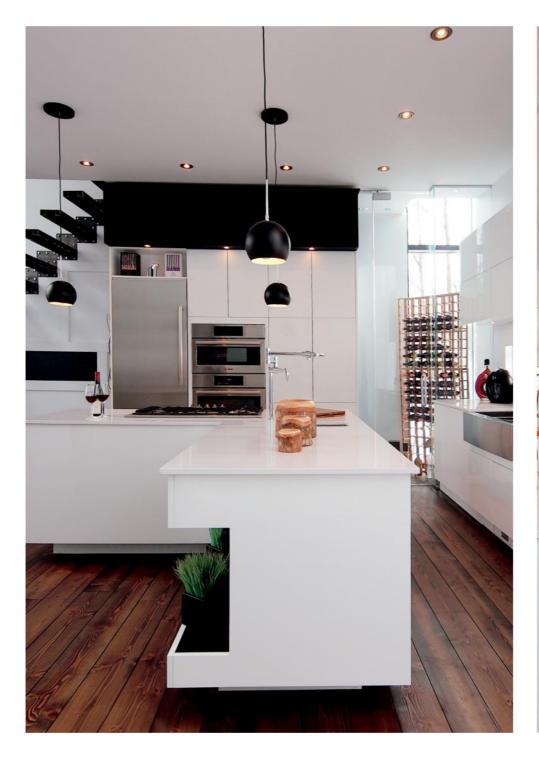
**DESIGNER JULIE GAUTHIER'S** no-nonsense attitude of efficiency and focus enabled her to create a refined, contemporary-style kitchen with warmth and functionality for a bachelor client.

To set up the space, Gauthier divided it into modular units, taking care to allow for clear passage between the patio door, six defined workspaces, and the staircase.

White counters, white lacquer cabinets, and a white lacquer L-shaped island create a modern welcoming ambience for winding down alone or with friends. Stainless steel appliances, a black leather alcove in the island, three pendant lamps and black dividers between the windows contrast against the gleaming white.

Club Cuisine BCBG supplied the cabinets, but the owner chose the lighting, faucets, sinks, stove and fridge based on Gauthier's design. "The goal was to have as clean a look as possible," says Gauthier. "To keep everything looking really refined, cupboards have touch latches, so there are no edges or handles."

Multiple storage drawers and cabinets with touch latches provide plenty of storage space, preventing counter clutter.







The island's gas stove-top, prep sink and faucet ensure serving convenience, particularly during a party. Plenty of space on all sides allows for easy mingling.

On the window wall, a counter with inset dishwasher and double sink is ideal for food preparation and clean-up. Two sets of fulldepth upper cabinets and a white-painted backsplash highlight four narrow windows that frame the outdoors like artwork.

The oak floor and table serve as strong

counterpoints to the white furniture. The two-storey home is set in a forest, and "The wide-plank wooden floor was selected to bring some warmth into the space and to echo the trees outside the windows," says Gauthier.

Unique visual elements abound. The leather alcoves at the front of the L-shaped island, the arc faucet, the pot-filler faucet and the custom-built corner wine rack are focal points against the expanse of white to make the space feel bright and contemporary.

The backsplash, walls and ceiling were painted a brilliant white to emphasize the forest beyond the windows. The island features a Canadian-made Rubinet H2O solid-brass pot-filler faucet that swivels between the prep sink and the gas stove top.





# THE OUTDOORS UNDERFOOT

The look of wood and stone is available in easy-care concrete

**INTERIOR DESIGN** has kept us occupied all winter, but spring is on its way, and it's time to start thinking about exterior design. What's new in outdoor products for hardscaping?

One answer is wood that's not wood. Like porcelain tiles indoors that mimic wood so well that it's difficult to tell what's real and what's ersatz, concrete slabs can now reproduce the look of wood.

"It's wood without the splinters, maintenance and hassle," says Jessica Ciccarello, director of marketing strategy and branding for Techo-Bloc. "There's no sanding or treating required, ever."

Techo-Bloc offers a choice of two sizes of concrete decking planks in its Borealis line. Long and slender planks of five inches by 30 inches provide a refined, sleek look. For a more rustic look, planks of 10 inches by 30 inches do the trick.

The concrete "wood" is also made to look like railway ties, useful for steps, walls and garden edges. Like the planks, these items are available in three colours: Sauvignon Oak, a golden shade; Hazelnut Brandy, a light-brown shade, and Smoked Pine, a deeper brown.

Sometimes stone slabs or pavers are the more appropriate choice—for paths, patios or pool decking, for example. Techo-Bloc's granite look-alikes provide a low-maintenance alternative to natural stone. Like their stone counterparts, the concrete slabs and pavers can have a textured finish (Galaxy) or a smooth surface (Polished), and they come in a range of colours. They're available in various sizes of rectangles and squares that allow creativity in layouts.





Stone walls add visual interest in the garden. Graphix is a Techo-Bloc product that resembles a slim brick in size and shape but is offered in both smooth and chiselled surfaces, finished on all exterior faces.

"Graphix uses contrast in depth, form and texture to create a three-dimensional effect," says Ciccarello. "With its mix of smooth and chiselled textures, it's stone with movement."

Graphix is suitable for such outdoor elements as retaining walls, blade walls, and planters as well as firepits, water features, and outdoor kitchens.

Those outdoor kitchens are increasingly popular, and cooking alfresco should be treated as seriously as culinary endeavours indoors. Backyard cooks deserve the same kitchen elements, such as counter space, that they might find inside the home.

"People are starting to embrace the outdoor kitchen with the same kind of comfort level they expect indoors," Ciccarello says. Thus Techo-Bloc offers the Brandon wall block, which has a textured surface on both sides. It's suitable for vertical elements, such as counter bases, pizza ovens and firepits. Its double-sided texture makes it easy to build free-standing vertical elements—bars, for instance—with a natural stone look. For more substantial projects, the Brandon masonry brick coordinates well.

Outdoor design is as important as interior design. Concrete planks, pavers, slabs and blocks offer the look of natural wood and stone with a minimum of fuss. What could be better for carefree outdoor living?

TECHO-BLOC www.techo-bloc.com 1-877-832-4625 The weighty cabinetry was placed directly on the counter surfaces to prevent the creation of a shadowy effect and to respect its detailed craftsmanship. A brick marble tile covers the backsplash areas and complements the marble floor tiles. A Thermador gas stove is at home with the substantial woodwork.





# CHATEAU SHOWPIECE

A kitchen is renovated to be as timelessly elegant as the rest of the house.

BY JULIE GEDEON . STYLING: KARINE GRAVEL

A COUPLE WITH THEIR PRIMARY RESIDENCE outside Montreal wanted a chateau look for their renovated kitchen to complement the well-crafted traditional furniture that defines their home.

"Our designer, Christian Béland, seized the opportunity to incorporate finely sculpted corbels, pilasters with a Greek column flavour, as well as intricate crown and foot moldings to achieve the desired look," says kitchen design specialist Karine Gravel at Les Armoires Créabec.

The custom kitchen cabinetry is made of birch with a hazelnut stain. "Birch is one of the best woods to stain because it absorbs colour so much more evenly than, say, a maple wood does," Gravel says.

Several of the units sit directly on the counter to prevent the heaviness that would exist if the ornate cabinets had been placed in a standard upper-and-lower arrangement. "We made very sure, however, never to disturb the flow of the counter spaces," Gravel adds. "And the units are big and solid enough to discreetly store a microwave or television—basically anything the homeowners don't want on display."

Each of the columns alongside the gas stove is actually a pull-out drawer that offers hidden space to store oils and spices. "Our designer, Christian Béland, seized the opportunity to incorporate finely sculpted corbels, pilasters with a Greek column flavour, as well as intricate crown and foot moldings to achieve the desired look."

Creamy-coloured granite was chosen for the countertops because of the nutty brown features within its natural grain. The backsplashes are composed of porous marble fashioned into a brick pattern to stand up to the cabinetry in apparent weight or substance and yet provide a necessary brightness. They also go perfectly with the marble floor tiles.

"The marble tiles delineate the kitchen area from the dining room with its dark wooden floors, but we made sure these different materials were perfectly level so that no one has to fear tripping from one surface to the other," Gravel adds.

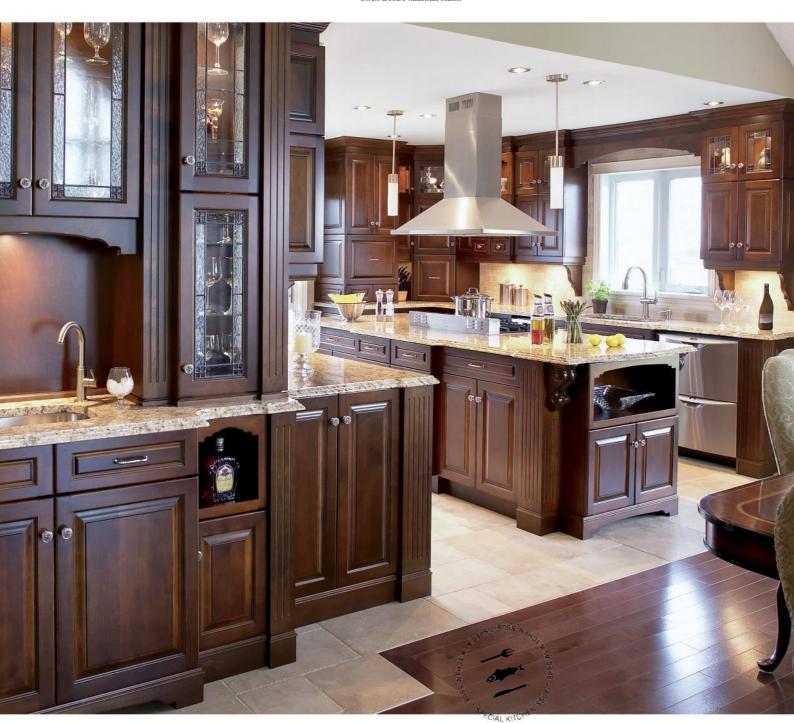
Armoires Créabec dropped the kitchen ceiling to eight feet to accommodate recessed and pendant lighting and to once again differentiate the space from the main living area's cathedral roof.

Ornate customized glasswork makes the bar a worthy dining room showpiece. "The clients wanted something that defined the bar as classic furniture, rather than merely an extension of the kitchen cabinetry," Gravel says. "Along with a convenient secondary sink, it has ample space to store wine and liquor bottles, as well as glassware."

Every aspect earned artisanal focus. The cabinet knobs from Art.Moire were each handmade using a stainless steel base and silver finish along with an individually molded epoxy. "They really are the little jewels that provide the finishing touch to this kitchen," Gravel says. \*



Chateau-style cabinetry with ornate glasswork makes the bar a welcome addition of classic furniture in the dining area. The creamy granite counter was chosen for its natural brown specks that echo the birch wood's hazelnut stain.



**DESIGN** movatohome.com

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# "It's good for me if it's good for the client."



**IF IT'S FRIDAY**, a customer's probably rushing into Planchers VIP looking for tiles or strip flooring that has to be delivered before Monday morning. And often, the customer wants something that isn't in stock.

"People want everything last minute," says Eric Timms. "I have a million dollars in inventory, but people want whatever we don't have."

Timms can joke about such regular occurrences because he and his 12-person team fulfill most of them. After nine years in business, they've built an operation with a diverse selection of products-including tiles, wood, ceramic and vinyl-at good prices. "It's good for me if it's good for the client," says Timms. "My pricing is good and I give good service."

Budget shoppers are drawn to Planchers VIP's liquidation centre, which sits within an 11,000-square-foot warehouse on Aimé-Vincent St. in Vaudreuil-Dorion, north of Highway 40. The new space nicely complements the original 3,300-square-foot showroom on Cité des Jeunes Blvd., which displays changing styles in flooring. "The trends that are in right now are wood effects in tiles," says Timms. "The marble look is also coming back very strongly and cement-effect tiles are coming back too. Vinyl is picking up much more of the market than laminate these days, primarily because there are no issues with water. We have 200 types of vinyl."

Most of Timms's clients are do-it-yourselfers, but contractors now account for between 25 and 30 per cent of his business.

Contractors take longer to attract, but they purchase in large volumes, so Timms's team has developed a service-oriented approach to encourage the segment to grow. "I have more than one truck, so if there's an emergency, I can help resolve it," he says. "When you do a project, there are always surprising events. My customers know that if they're at the end of a job and they run out of material, we'll go out of our way to deliver more."







EXOTIC, FRIENDLY, MYSTICAL, LUXURIOUS. These are some of the words I use to describe Thailand following my 10-day visit there last year that has left me longing to return. The silks and scents, the tastes and temples, the experiences and beaches. I love everything about this country of 66 million people in Southeast Asia.

For decades, Thailand has been a favorite place among North Americans seeking an off-the-beaten-path vacation destination that is rich with history, culture, warm weather, glorious beaches and luxurious accommodation.

I began my Thailand adventure in Bangkok, which has been the capital city for more than 200 years. Built around the Chao Phraya River, it's a study of fascinating juxtapositions. Here, traditional businesses and historic Buddhist shrines that adorn street corners exist next to cutting-edge contemporary architecture and trendy stores. Bangkok is a bustling, vibrant and colourful city with its temples, palaces and markets.

It also boasts opulent hotels - from the splendor of the Oriental, Bangkok's oldest hotel, founded in 1865, to the riverfront Peninsula and Shangri La and the high-rise Sukhumvit beside the contemporary Metropolitan.

My choice was the Siam Bangkok, one of the newest and most luxurious hotels in the old quarter. The opulent Art Deco-inspired Siam sits on three acres of riverfront land on the Bangkok side of the Chao Praya River in the historic Dusit district. With its shoreline lawn and roof garden, it has the ambience of an urban resort. Each of the Siam's 38 suites and villas has an internal garden, roof terrace, pool, butler services, and a private boat shuttle. I was content to relax in the comfort and luxury of my suite, but for those who want more, the hotel offers Thai boxing classes, cooking classes, yoga, tai chi and meditation programs. 🕼

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"The silks and scents, the tastes and temples, the experiences and beaches. I love everything about this country of 66 million people in Southeast Asia."

One of my favourite memories of my stay in Bangkok is of a cooking class. We headed out in the morning to a local market and bought fresh vegetables, spices, fish and meat before going back to the kitchen to pound the lemongrass, galangal, chilies and kaffir lime leaves into a paste for the green curry. I'm ashamed to admit how quickly my arms ached when I was using a mortar and pestle (there was no food processor) but the fun of the experience will stay with me forever. The lesson concluded with a feast of Thai green curry, Pad Thai, lamb massaman, and papaya salad, finished off with fresh mango, sticky coconut rice and coconut milk.

After three days spent exploring the chaos of busy Bangkok, I headed to northern Thailand to visit its ancient cities and jungles. Chiang Mai has been northern Thailand's main city since the 13th century. I fell in love with its temples and markets, especially its vivid night market. It is the main city of the Golden Triangle and the influences of neighbouring Laos and Myanmar are noticeable everywhere—in arts, crafts and architecture.

I took a half-day trip outside the city to visit a tiny village where the lives of the hill tribes haven't changed in centuries. This is an area of deep jungles, remote valleys and TRAVEL MONTREAL KITCHENS 2016 movatohome.com

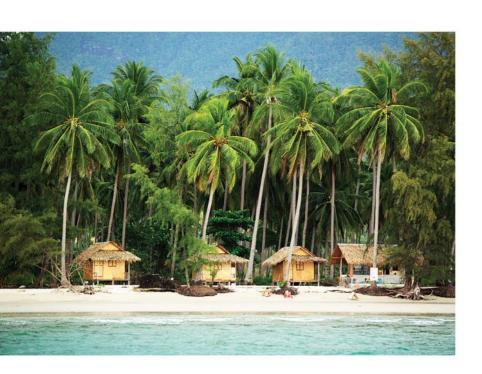
silent waterways. It was here where I rode a well-trained elephant on a terrifying but exhilarating trek through lush surroundings.

I stayed at the Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai, located in the Mae Rim Valley of northern Thailand. The resort boasts spacious accommodations, including pavilions, villas and private residences, all with polished teak floors, rich Thai decor and large overhead fans. One of my favourite ways to relax is in a hot bath, so I made good use of the deep soaker tub, which opened to a private secluded garden. The Spa at the Four Seasons Chiang Mai won Condé Nast's Best Spa In the World award in 2007. The resort's restaurant, Menus, offers delicious fusion cuisine (I often crave the lemongrass soup) and has a breathtaking view overlooking the valley's rice paddies.

The last stop on my trip was at the island of Koh Samui, which has changed dramatically in the past Io years from a backpackers' destination to one that caters to stylish, well-heeled travelers who prefer the privacy of villas with butler service and spa treatments to all-night partying. The change began in 2007 when the Four Seasons opened a resort on the site of a former coconut plantation. It was the first property on the island with access to a private beach and has 74 hillside villas designed in



"Thailand stimulates all the senses at once."



Thai style, each with its own infinity pool. In the past few years, a swath of high-end hotels has opened on Koh Samui, including Le Méridien, the W Retreat and Conrad Koh Samui. The island, once known for cheap bars and run-down hostels on Chaweng Beach, has moved into the luxury zone.

My goal on Koh Samui was to unwind before heading home. So I chose to stay at the Six Senses Samui, which is hidden in the middle of 20 acres of tropical forest on the northern tip of the island, overlooking the Gulf of Siam. The resort has 66 villas, all open to the trees and air but secluded behind lush foliage. Each villa has an infinity-edge pool, private butler and luxury amenities, including iPod docks, wireless Internet service and deep bathtubs with panoramic views. I was in heaven. There was no need for me to leave the resort; it had everything: two bars, two restaurants,

Despite the arrival of luxury tourism in Thailand, cheap beach bungalows are still available.

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#### IF YOU GO ...



**GETTING THERE:** Fifteen airlines fly from Vancouver to Bangkok, albeit not directly. They include Air Canada, Cathay Pacific, JAL, China Airlines, Air China, Korean Air, British Airways, KLM, Air France and Philippine Airlines. Most fly with only one stop. The flying time varies from 18 to 21 hours depending on the airline. Economy return fares range in price from \$750 to \$1,000, depending on the airline and travel date.

**GROUND TRAYEL:** Various ground transportation options exist in Thailand, from Bangkok's modern Skytrain system to tuktuks (three-wheeled automobile rickshaws). While the traffic in Bangkok can be difficult to negotiate, rural areas offer good roads with very little traffic. I recommend not renting a vehicle; inexpensive taxi service is easily available all over the country. Distances overland can be extensive. If you plan to visit various regions, consider a domestic flight, which is a reliable and inexpensive (less than \$100) way to travel within the country.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Staying in Thailand is relatively inexpensive compared with other luxury beach destinations around the world. Five-star hotels in Bangkok cost as little as CAD \$100 per night (trivago.ca), and private, fully staffed villas on Koh Samui start at USD \$400 per night plus food costs (luxuryretreats.com).

Southern Thailand is famous for its wooden long-tail boats, also called Ruea Hang Yao. They're still used to taxi people and goods among Thailand's many islands.

The meaning inherent in each statue of the Buddha is evident in its pose and hand gestures. Each pose conveys an important event in the life – or past lives – of the Buddha. a full-service spa, a Pilates and yoga center, art gallery, laundry service and a water sports centre. Nevertheless, I wanted to explore the island. So the staff planned a five-hour tour for me, a highlight of which was a snake show complete with snake charmer and king cobras. I was even persuaded to place a massive python around my neck for a photograph. All my senses were engaged in Thailand: from meeting people who are untouched by

technology, and grinding spices into a fragrant paste, to running my fingers across silk at a market, relaxing in a tub to the songs of exotic birds, and holding the world's longest venomous snake. These are the experiences that have left an indelible impression on me. Thailand stimulates all the senses at once, from the moment we step out of Suvarnabhumi Airport into the exotic kingdom that is simultaneously alive, energetic, colourful and peaceful. >>>

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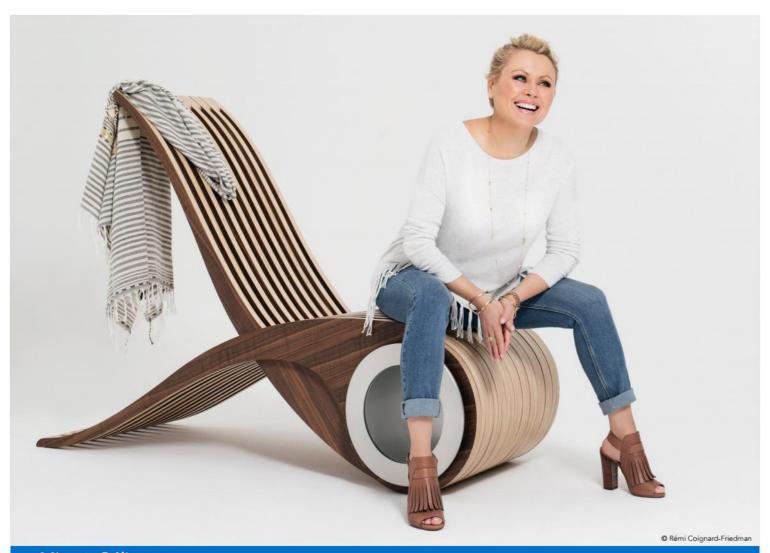
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