Architecture by **DAVID SMALL DESIGNS**
Design by **LINDSAY MENS CRAIG**
Text by **IRIS BENAROIA**
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OPEN MINDED

Rich colours and mixed materials turn up the volume in a Georgian-style home.

Produced by Stacy Begg

The painted-black dining table is a contemporary counterpoint to the opulent chandelier. *Nuvolette* ***wallpaper,*** *Cole & Son;* ***dining table,*** *Carrocel;* ***dining chairs,*** *Sarah Richardson Design.* **OPPOSITE:** Zigzag marble floors and plum walls enliven the front entrance. ***Tile,*** *Saltillo Imports;* ***console****, Cristina's Antiques.*

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LEFT: High windows bring sunlight into the living room, where juicy teal fabrics offset the neutral furniture. ***Sofa,*** *Montauk Sofa;* *custom* ***ottoman,*** *Cabinet;* ***teal armchair,*** *Lee Jofa.*

Designer Lindsay Mens Craig.

WHO SAYS TRADITIONAL DESIGN is stuck in the past? Not Toronto designer Lindsay Mens Craig. In this gracious house for a family of three, the foyer is a piquant shade of beet. The black and white marble floors, laid out in a striking zigzag pattern, command attention. And just beyond, wallpaper in a stormy cloud motif sweeps across the dining room walls.

"The house has classic elements, in terms of the trim profiles and moulding details," says Lindsay, a partner at TOM Interior Design Studio, who designed the space for her former firm, Sarah Richardson Design, with assistance from Kelsey Eurig. "But I wanted to strike that balance between classic and contemporary." She met the homeowners, Shannon Curé and Frank Ieraci — she's in fashion, he's in finance — five years ago. "They're young and fun, so I didn't want the house to feel serious," she says of the couple, who are in their early 40s and have a seven-year-old daughter, Victoria. "Shannon is quite stylish; I didn't want the inside to be too stuffy."

At the time, the family felt squeezed out of their 1,200-square-foot house. A hunt for new digs led them to Etobicoke, in Toronto's west end, where they tore down a tired side-split to make room for a new house. Tucked deep into the lot beneath towering trees, the 5,000-square-foot brick home is classic Georgian, but cheeky details like the soaring windows look fresh.

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Lindsay planned for plenty of built-ins to show off the owners' collection of family heirlooms. *Grey* ***armchairs,*** *Sarah Richardson Design;* ***art*** *(above fireplace) by Yangyang Pan, Canvas Gallery.*

Breakfast is eaten at the 10-foot-long island, where durable outdoor fabric covers the stools. ***Cabinets,*** *Marana;* ***pendants,*** *Elte;* ***stools,*** *Sarah Richardson Design.*

"I WANTED TO STRIKE THAT BALANCE BETWEEN CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY" — Lindsay Mens Craig, designer

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TOP LEFT: The wallpaper was a splurge in Victoria's budget-friendly bedroom, but the side tables were inexpensive vintage finds painted blue. ***Wallpaper,*** *Primavera Interior Furnishings;* ***bed frame,*** *Sarah Richardson Design.*
TOP RIGHT: Small- and large-scale tile gives Victoria's bathroom a push-pull energy. ***Vanity,*** *Marana;* ***tile,*** *Saltillo Imports;* ***sconces,*** *Union Lighting and Furnishings;* ***mirror,*** *Decorum Decorative Finds.*
BOTTOM RIGHT: In Frank's office, linen botanical-print drapery is a kicky contrast to grey millwork. ***Desk,*** *RH;* ***chair,*** *Sarah Richardson Design;* ***ceiling fixture,*** *Victorian Revival.*

Such drama required a special eye, which is why Lindsay was on the scene from almost day one, devising the layout, plotting the electrical plan and making overall decorating choices to ensure the house felt lived-in and inviting. "It's a dream to be involved from the beginning because sometimes designers think differently than architects and contractors," says Lindsay of the roughly year-long project. "Designers think of the day-to-day things, like where an electrical plug is handy for a hair dryer."

"It seems a lot easier to put a design together than what's actually involved," adds Shannon. "But it takes an eye like Lindsay's to pull rooms together so beautifully. Her skill of mixing old with new is something I've admired from the beginning."

In the living room, lively teal velvet and wool coexist with more neutral fabrics, and elegant millwork adds character throughout the house. The traditional, divided-room layout creates lots of empty spaces that needed to be filled, so panelled walls line the principal bedroom for warmth and splashy art adds punch. You'd never suspect the antique painting on the landing was a steal from a vintage shop.

"The millwork makes the house feel cosy and complete," says Lindsay. "And Shannon loves accessories and layers, and she makes it look effortless. As a traditional home, it makes sense stylistically."

"This house has life," adds Shannon. And there's nothing outdated about that. H&H

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Wall panelling gives the principal bedroom texture and cosiness. "We painted it out in one colour, so it doesn't feel busy," says Lindsay. ***Headboard, armchair,*** *Sarah Richardson Design;* ***nightstand,*** *Peaks & Rafters;* ***rug,*** *Elte Mkt;* ***art,*** *Canvas Gallery.*

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Light-filtering linen drapery and an antique rug soften the principal bathroom. ***Tub,*** *Taps Bath Centre;* ***drapery fabric,*** *Tonic Living;* ***rug,*** *Woven Treasures Persian Rug Gallery.*
OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: The retro still life on the landing complements the home's overall colour palette. "It had the blacks, charcoals and plums, and that amazing gold frame," says Lindsay. ***Settee,*** *Of Things Past;* ***sconce,*** *Residential Lighting Studio;* ***art,*** *Smash.*
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: Antique glass sconces and an oversized mirror amplify the light in this airy bathroom. ***Vanity,*** *Marana; custom* ***mirror,*** *Elgin Picture & Frame;* ***sconces,*** *Residential Lighting Studio.*