

HOUSE TOURS
OCT 11, 2022

A MAJOR REFRESH BY KEEPING A BIT OF OLD AND ADDING A COLOURFUL NEW EDGE

By: [Christy Wright](#)

Designer Luke Havekes reenergizes a once-tired character home with high-impact style.

It was well loved, but my goodness, it was boring,” says Montreal-based designer Luke Havekes. “Think tired taupe, no richness and no pizzazz.” The owners of the 4,500-square-foot abode – a 1920s, Tudor-style home in the city’s Westmount neighbourhood – agreed. As recent empty nesters, they purchased the home as a lively alternative to a condo but knew it needed invigorating. They enlisted Luke and gave him full design control. “I wanted a major refresh with a bit of old-meets-new edge,” he says. Tweaking floor plans and layering in a riveting mix of art, colour and fabric morphed his vision into reality. He says, “It still feels like an elegant, old home, but now it’s got some pep.”

ENERGY SOURCES

Mix-master patterns, tactile finishes and punchy colours shift the once-bland dining room into overdrive. The walls are finished with faux shagreen wallpaper, and exude a textured energy that’s furthered by the ombré-striped custom rug and dappled asymmetry of the hand-blown glass pendant lights. The angular sconces offer a neat contrast. Custom-made club chairs lend a comfy lounge feel, and the collection of mirrors imparts interest without detracting from the whimsical artwork.



Photography, Maxime Desbiens

DESIGN, Luke Havekes, Interior Design LHD.

ARTFUL CONTRASTS



Photography, Maxime Desbiens

The living room walls are embellished with textured faux silk wallpaper in a neutral tone that allows the art to pop. A painting of Amy Winehouse feels cool and graphic here, and hangs above a console table that designer Luke Havekes custom-designed for the space. The circular, handwoven rug informed the curves of the furniture, including the blue leather ottomans, which are easy to move around and do double duty as side tables and footstools.



Photography, Maxime Desbiens

Although the kitchen had previously been renovated with high-end Bulthaup finishes, it felt flat to Luke. To give it some personality, he topped the existing island with Arabescado marble in a waterfall application. “The kitchen, as it was, did a good job of balancing the warm wood tones with the cool grey ones, so I wanted to elevate that with some dramatic veined stone that felt organic,” says Luke. Swivel leather stools in a neutral shade bridge the warm-cool gap, while custom-made navy tweed chairs introduce colour and more texture. The airy pendant light echoes the shape of the range hood.

PRETTY TOUCHES



Photography, Maxime Desbiens

A brass-trimmed oval mirror introduces some curves to the angular attic, and the playful shape continues in the pendant light. “It’s a reproduction of a midcentury piece and it has these fun discs of glass that diffuse the light,” says Luke. “The compact shape allows it to be hung in a room without particularly high ceilings.” The pendant’s brass is picked up in the bedside tables, while the mix of textured linen bedding, soft upholstery and plush carpeting plays up the cozy vibe.

Dark **SIDE TABLE**, Sunpan

WFH CHIC



Photography, Maxime Desbiens

"Zoom calls need a beautiful background."

Luke created a dramatic backdrop for the home office/den. "Everyone is on video calls now and can see your office, so I wanted to create one that was unexpected and interesting," he says. "Dark colours usually yield amazing results and they really can be just as easy to live with as light or white shades, so go bold!" The moody hue also makes the art, an original Damien Hirst piece, more vibrant.