

CONDO LIVING

Time to refresh your surroundings



PAUL SEMKULEY
**LIVING IN
STYLE**

We've nested and cocooned for months now. 'April showers bring May flowers,' goes the saying, but I think most, if not all of us, in Toronto, just want to have the snow and cold be gone.

'Mother nature, please bring us sunshine and warm clear blue skies.' But Mother nature seems to have a mind of her own. So what better way to give ourselves a lift from the cold and grey skies than to brighten and lighten up your living spaces with lively fresh colours.

A recent client of our firm

wanted to do just this. Tired of a monochromatic colour scheme, the couple wanted to have a more tropical, colour-infused living room that sang out both of their personalities.

Our client had a few vintage colour lithographs as a reference point for direction on colour. The underlying statement was that it needed to be fun, energetic and stylish, practical and forgiving when entertaining their large family, while still feeling and knowing that they live in Toronto.

This is where most peo-

ple make a mistake. They literally take a tropical theme and make it exactly that. It's all about the ideas and infusing these ideas into décor that works in your surroundings and that includes the city and country that you live in. One must be selective in the use of pattern and texture to achieve the desired look and feel of the rooms.

With a paint colour deck in hand, we started to build on this colour adventure. What better way to brighten any space and bring sunshine all year long?

Using a soft lemon yellow on the walls ensured a lively yet calm space. Having a "neutral" as such gave us the opportunity to introduce many other tropical accent colours; turquoise, teal, citron and a big hit of pink in the artwork.

The custom-made sofa

was purposely upholstered in a darker slate linen fabric to take the worry about spills from younger family members, while providing a soft luxurious texture.

One challenge in this room (as it is wider than it is long with a centered gas fireplace) was to have enough seating for the large family get-togethers but not to fill the entire space with furniture.

A custom-made ottoman with wheels was made to measure. It needed to be flexible to move back and forth as additional seating during gatherings, but to also serve as a coffee table/ottoman for when the couple is at home watching TV. Additionally, two swivel chairs in a plush taupe micro-fiber flank the media unit with plenty of storage for their media and audio equipment. Injecting

this bit of mid-century modern with an industrial yellow metal "spool" stool gives some added personality to the room.

The dining room too needed to accommodate several people when dinner is served. Chairs can be difficult to find in a narrow width and having too many stacked and jammed together makes for awkward seating arrangements and difficulty getting in and out from the dining table.

There was also a stack in the corner that limited the number of chairs that could be placed around the table. A customized dining banquette overcame this obstacle and allowed the homeowners to seat more people with less furniture.

The chandelier's beads are reminiscent of tumbled glass, milky and smooth, like

one might find on a beach of an exotic location.

Spring is such a beautiful time of the year. It should be considered the New Year where shrubs, trees, plants and flowers begin to bud and grow, not to mention the days are getting longer with more sunshine.

Take this time of year to make something new of your nest. Spring is more than cleaning your windows; be inspired by the beauty of nature and refresh your home with new beginnings.

— Paul Semkuley is principal of *Re:Source Lifestyle*, a Toronto-based interior design firm that combines art, fashion and design to offer unique styling solutions. For more information, visit www.resourcelifestyles.com.



Using a soft lemon yellow on the walls ensures a lively yet calm space, and provides the opportunity to introduce many other tropical accent colours including turquoise, teal, citron and a big hit of pink in the main artwork.



One challenge in this room was to have enough seating for large family get-togethers but not fill the entire space with furniture.



A customized dining banquette allowed the homeowners to seat more people with less furniture.