

SPRING 2022

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ourhomes

BARRIE ORILLIA MIDLAND INNISFIL

Paint it
WHITE

COOL
CALM
& COLLECTED

COTTAGE
STATE OF MIND

A DESIGNER
at home

FRESH SPRING
RISOTTO

BERRY
COBBLER

lived-in **LUXURY**

STORY **KAREN BRIGGS** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NAT CARON**

WHEN KAITLYN AND HER PARTNER PURCHASED A DATED 1970s BUNGALOW IN BARRIE IN 2018, THEY HAD A CLEAR VISION OF WHAT THE HOUSE COULD BE.

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Vintage patinas and modern texture collide to create a space that feels timeless – a meeting of old-world charm and contemporary sophistication.



“THEY WERE INVOLVED FROM START TO FINISH IN CHOOSING WHAT THEY WANTED TO SURROUND THEMSELVES WITH IN THEIR HOME. IT FELT LIKE A GREAT COLLABORATION.” –Samantha Thomas

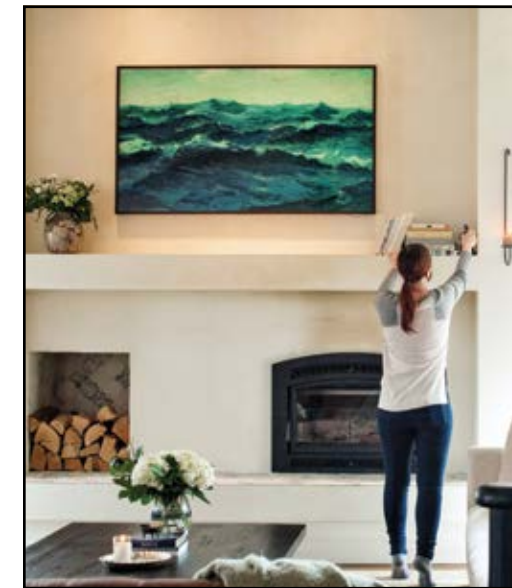


Their aim was a home that felt welcoming, lived-in and full of personal touches. The house had good bones, with large windows to let in natural light and a peaceful view to a forested ravine. What they needed was a designer to help them take their interior from dated to chic.

They found that designer in **Samantha Thomas** of **Inhabit Interiors and Design** in downtown Barrie. Residential projects with a modern or transitional flair are Samantha's specialty.

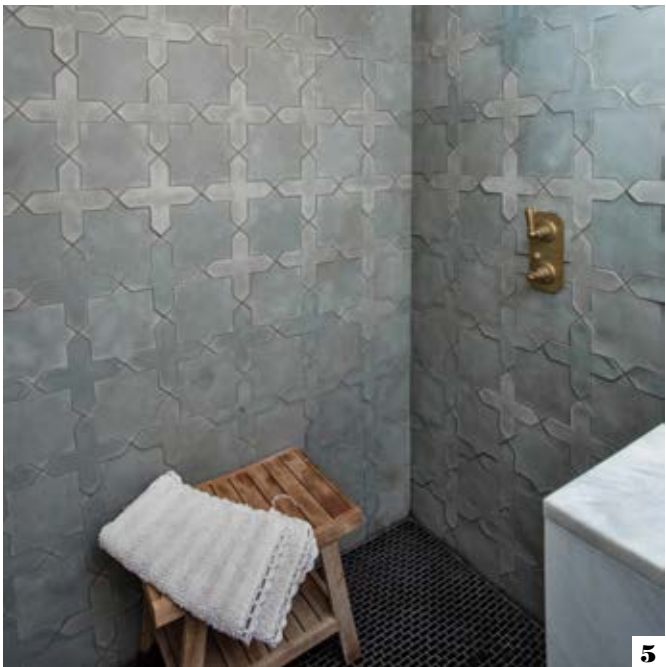
“We have done commercial spaces,” says Samantha, who established her business in 2013, “but we focus on the residential projects. There are a lot of designers out there and they each have their own twist on things. For me, it has to be the right fit. A shared aesthetic and a good relationship with the client is key.”

Samantha says this project, in particular, “was a joy because the clients had a clear vision and impeccable taste. They were involved from start to finish in choosing what they wanted to surround themselves with in their home. It felt like a great collaboration.” *Continued on page 41*



RIGHT: 1) Entryway cabinetry is painted Farrow & Ball London Stone. **2)** A main-floor powder room, painted in Belgian Wilderness by Pure Originals, replaces a second entrance. **3)** The fireplace hearth features Arto concrete tiles. **4)** The homeowners' music collection is displayed in a custom cabinet by Infinite Design & Interiors. **5)** Collected objects find their home in a glass-fronted cabinet. **6)** Iron sconces cast candlelight on the plaster surface of the hearth. **OPPOSITE:** The brick fireplace was plastered and painted with Pure & Original's Marrakesh Collection, also used on the kitchen hood vent. Rustic wood beams from Due North Wood Company add a rustic touch.





The whole house was dated. “The biggest alterations we made were in the living and dining rooms, which were separate, closed-in spaces,” Samantha says. “We wanted to extend the cathedral ceiling from the living room, so we opened it right up to make a combined living-dining space.”

MacNeil Construction did the heavy lifting to transform the space. “Otherwise, we mostly worked with the existing footprint,” says Samantha. “The home only had one bathroom, so we built a powder room on the main floor where there used to be a second entrance to a mudroom.”

The original bathroom was made into a true en suite for the primary bedroom. “We added a transom window and a double vanity, as well as a beautiful shower with stunning handmade tiles from Creekside Tile Company Ltd.,” she says. “They are made of concrete, from a company called Arto in the U.S.” The highly textured blue-gray tiles give a Moroccan feel to the shower echoed in the powder room wall finish, which is from Pure Originals’ Marrakesh collection.

The home’s living room already boasted a fireplace, which had been converted to gas. Samantha converted it back to wood-burning with a new insert and covered the red brick surface with a warm plaster finish. The concrete tiles on the hearth are also Arto. Work on the ceiling beams and central support post in the living space was completed by **Due North Wood Company**.

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TOP RIGHT: An antique dining table contrasts metal and cane chairs from Inhabit Interiors & Design.
RIGHT: Walls are painted White Dove and interior doors are Willow, both by Benjamin Moore. CB Painting Services completed painting throughout.
OPPOSITE: 1) Wood beams in the primary bedroom echo those in the living space. 2) Bedside sconces create a warm ambience. 3) Bianco Giola marble is an elegant countertop surface, paired with brass wall-mounted taps. 4) A double vanity has plenty of storage. 5) Handmade concrete tiles are one-of-a-kind.





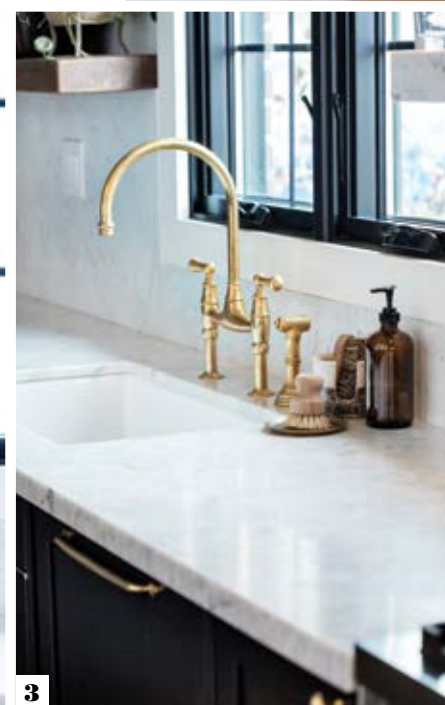
LEFT: Kayla pictured with her beloved dog. The house is designed with durable, dog-friendly surfaces. **RIGHT:** Appliances in black or with custom panels blend into the cabinetry for a seamless look. **BELOW: 1)** Kitchen cabinetry is painted Benjamin Moore Black Iron. **2)** Vintage objects and kitchen tools are artfully displayed. **3)** Perimeter counters are Bianco Gioia marble.



1



2



3

Infinite Design & Interiors created custom cabinetry throughout the home, including a large piece to house the clients' extensive music collection. The new European wide-plank flooring, used throughout the main floor, came from **Neue Floors** and was selected, like many of the finishes, to hide scuffs and wear from the couple's dog and acquire a soft, lived-in look over time.

Many of the home's furnishings came from antique-hunting trips the clients took to the United States. "There is a huge, twice-a-year antique fair in Texas, in a town called Round Top," Samantha says. "They were armed with measurements and a rough idea of the kind of pieces we were looking for. They would send me pictures of what they'd found

at the fair and we made our selections from there." Among the unique finds is an old store counter, dating from around 1912, which became the home's kitchen island.

"We repurposed it, replacing the top with soapstone which, like a lot of the surfaces chosen for the home, will acquire a lovely patina with time and use," Samantha says.

Suspended over the island are two porcelain pendant lights, which were custom-made by **Dotti Potts Pottery Studio & Gallery** based on light fixtures the couple had fallen in love with in a restaurant during their travels. "They're very elegant in the space, and because they're handmade, each is slightly different," Samantha says.

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Porcelain pendant lights from Dotti Potts Pottery Studio & Gallery illuminate the soapstone island. Sconces are from Visual Comfort Lighting.

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A leather banquette is a casual spot to gather just off the kitchen. European wide-plank flooring is used throughout the home. All rugs are vintage.



Among the other antique pieces in the home are a spacious dining room table, paired with 10 metal and cane chairs sourced through Inhabit Interiors & Design, a bedroom wardrobe and a large glass-fronted cabinet in the living room, which houses some of the couple's favourite collected objects. The sink in the powder room is also a 100-year-old original, fitted with unfinished brass taps. The rugs throughout the home are vintage, as are a pair of substantial leather chairs in the living room.

These one-of-a-kind objects, spanning decades and travelling across borders, have come together in a home with an old-world feel that will only become more welcoming, and more beautiful, with time. **OH**



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