

5 WAYS TO WOW

in a small space

Toronto designer Jessica Kelly fell in love with this 1,500-square-foot Victorian duplex because of its charm and character. But its narrow, compact rooms made it a challenge to decorate. That's good for us, though, because she's willing to share the lessons she's learned.

TEXT BETHANY LITTLE
PHOTOGRAPHY VALERIE WILCOX

DRAPES, Kravet; LAMPS, Rug, HomeSense; PILLOWS FABRIC, Schumacher; ARM-CHAIRS, FRAME and UPHOLSTERY, Gresham House; FABRIC, Kravet; TREE, Veronneau. PAINT, Farrow & Ball, Ammonite 274.



IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SIZE,
IT'S ABOUT THE STYLE.



1 Homeowner, Know Thyself

"Accept that you just can't have everything," says Jessica. "Then focus on the area of the home that means most to you." In Jessica's case, priority-one was the kitchen. So, rather than try to save space, she made room for a full-size island where four could sit comfortably. She also went for big impact with the floor, choosing super-sized glossy diamond-shape tiles. To keep the tiny adjacent dining area feeling open, she left the floors bare. To optimize the cozy (aka: very small!) living room, she created a deliberately intimate seating arrangement.

◀ **TABLE**, Rove Concepts;
CHAIRS, reupholstered in Schumacher Iconic Leopard Ink, RH;
MIRROR, Decorum Decorative Finds; **LAMPS**, HomeSense;
SIDEBOARD, Custom by Jessica Kelly Design.

▲ **FLOOR TILES**, Olympia Tile;
ISLAND, Construction, Colonial Contracting; **FAUCET**, Roman Bath Centre.



2 *Shy Not From Shine*

"Whether it's on the floor or on the walls, sheen is your friend," Jessica says. "When light bounces from surface to surface, it keeps the room dynamic, both day and night." Jessica's shine items include a living room rug with metallic accents, dining-room wall art fashioned from gleaming repurposed sterling silver banquet domes, and sparkling mirrored bedside tables. Over the island, she hung a wall of antiqued mirror.

ROUND KNOBS, Gingers; **END TABLES, MIRRORED TABLE**, Pier 1 Imports; **VASE**, Value Village; **DUVET COVER, RH; SHEETS**, Hudson's Bay; **MIRROR OVER BED**, Vintage Fine Objects; **PAINTING ON WALL**, Artist unknown through Murray Duncan Art.



3

Build In Calm

"Splurge on built-in storage, and save your pennies elsewhere," Jessica declares. The bedroom features built-in closets with a display niche. In the dining room, barware is tucked away inside a custom side-board fashioned from barn boards from Jessica's parents' farm. The kitchen's oak-like cabinetry is packed with clever storage solutions. "There are lots of drawers, slide-outs for spices and tuck-aways for small appliances," says Jessica. "I even designed a pull-out trash and microwave space in the island!"

4

Embrace Great Shapes

"Small spaces benefit from a neutral palette, including navy blue, but to keep rooms lively and fresh, include interesting sculptural shapes," says Jessica. She hung a glorious starburst mirror in the dining area, and placed a set of white antlers behind the sofa. A ladder draped with Moroccan blankets lends vertical interest. In the kitchen, brass strapping was used to emphasize the lines of the range hood. She also added oversized circular knobs to the bedroom closet. In the den, a regal crest reigns over the sofa, and, to make the dining room playful, she brought in baroque dining chairs with leopard-print upholstery.



PILLOWS, Black and White Satin Old from Caban, Black and White Check, Ikea; **OTTOMAN**, Frame and Upholstery, Quality Upholstery; **ALL WALL ART, BLACK FRAMED HORSES**, Vintage Fine Objects.



5

Loud and Clear

"A collection of compact rooms can quickly get busy. So, include a large statement element in each room," says Jessica, who enhanced her living room window with a dynamic duo of attention grabbing drapes and lamp. In both the bedroom and the den, she painted bold navy blue feature walls. The den also offers the luxury of a velvet sofa with black satin pillows; on the walls are old-world vintage horse prints and a painting by Jessica's grandfather. The bedroom has a grand headboard repurposed from an antique daybed.