



Bringing Home  
**Mid-Century**  
MODERN DESIGN



## Mid-Century Modern:

A period which began in the mid 1940s and continued to the mid 1960s, was all about simplicity, clean organic lines and of course quality construction. It was design ahead of its time and remains classic to this day.



WHEN GRIMSBY COUPLE PATRICIA AND FRANK CAME TO OUR FIRM, they asked us to design the front den of their home to become a multifunctional getaway where the family of five could relax and hang out, and also use as a makeshift office area when working from home. They wanted it to be calm and relaxing, yet still have a sophisticated edge to it. I knew right away that this space would host an eclectic mix of furnishings, including those inspired by the mid-century modern era.

When my firm Toronto Interior Design Group first came in, the white walls were bare and there was little furniture in the room. The possibilities were endless, as the clients allowed us to really let our imagination run wild with this project and trusted us completely with whatever we wanted to do. The first task was determining the floor plan and flow of the space. After trying several different configurations on paper, we decided to incorporate a small sofa, desk and two lounge chairs, which could be used for either working at the desk area or moved toward the sofa for a conversation area – perfect for the purpose they wanted the room to serve. After the homeowners fell in love with the floorplan, it was time to create a design they would fall in love with, too.

Our starting point in terms of the design was painting the walls in Benjamin Moore's OC-23 Classic Gray (my go-to shade) and then coming up with this unique feature wall which is a combination of alternating mirror slabs and grass cloth wallpaper installed on MDF – this adds instant drama to the room while still remaining quite subtle. We then moved on to sourcing the furniture; we decided to go with a custom

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sofa, floating glass top desk and two of my favourite beautiful mid-century inspired Brno chairs, which we re-covered in a luxurious velvet for a more personalized look. The small space room was really beginning to take shape.

Fast forwarding to the finishing touches, we brought in a mix of chrome and brass, which really balanced out the entire look, while also adding the edge and sophistication that Patricia and Frank longed for. For a hint of exotic, a natural brown cowhide rug hugs the floor, while extremely textural horse sculptures linger in the background near the retro looking walnut lamp. But the element that we all felt really brought life to the room was this amazing art piece by world photographer Tony Koukos.

#### CREATING THE ICONIC MID-CENTURY LOOK:

1. Incorporate a sunburst – weather in a mirror or clock, this design is a staple for this period.
2. The use of a neutral wall colour – to let the splendor of the furniture speak for itself.
3. Mixing of materials such as glass, wood and metal.

#### INFLUENTIAL DESIGNERS OF THE MID CENTURY PERIOD:

Henry Miller  
Ray and Charles Eames  
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

#### SHOP FOR MID-CENTURY FURNITURE:

Fullhouse in Vancouver.  
[FULLHOUSECONSIGN.COM](http://FULLHOUSECONSIGN.COM)  
MachineAge Modern in Toronto.  
[MACHINEAGEMODERN.COM](http://MACHINEAGEMODERN.COM)  
Atomic in Toronto.  
[ATOMICDESIGN.CA](http://ATOMICDESIGN.CA)

However the real key component that tied this space together takes me back to the beginning of this article – the mid-century items. The beauty of them, which you can notice from looking at this space, is that they would work well in any setting effortlessly, while always remaining timeless. These pieces are such a great way to connect the old world with the new and in adding a touch of elegance to any interior.

My job at this Grimsby residence was done when the homeowners told me they absolutely loved their new den and that they have been using the space every day – another happy client, which keeps me motivated to continue doing what I'm doing.



#### YANIC SIMARD

is the principal designer of the Toronto Interior Design Group. Specializing in residential and commercial projects, Simard often applies his signature high/low and old/new combination design techniques in developing unique designs. Simard has created designs for clients in Toronto, Montreal and Miami, and has appeared as a regular guest expert on Citytv's *CityLine*. For more information visit [tidg.ca](http://tidg.ca).