

t o r o n t o
INTERIOR DESIGN
g r o u p

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A FRESH TAKE ON DESIGN

Yanic Simard & Toronto Interior Design Group Share Design Philosophy

Toronto Interior Design Group established in 2002 by Yanic Simard, Principal designer, is based on a philosophy that believes a balanced design creates a balanced lifestyle. The company strives to create timeless and harmonious interiors, working closely with clients to evaluate needs and interpret requirements in developing the perfect space.

For the Geranium Cardinal Point Model Homes in Stouffville, Toronto Interior Design Group transformed a house into a home with the combination of old and new elements. A 1950's vintage tanker desk, a Philippe Starck La Marie acrylic chair, a 1955 George Nelson coconut chair and inexpensive picture frame patterned wall paper designed by Paul Rowan added character to a study. This design concept blends old with new and high with low elements, an approach Toronto Interior Design Group has incorporated into residential renovations in Toronto, Montreal and Miami.

Maximizing space played an important role in the Toronto Interior Design Group's design concept for a 511 square foot downtown Toronto condo. Reversing the location of the dining and living room created more functionality of the two rooms and a better sense of flow in this open concept space. In the dining room, the use of a round Saarinen table created an easy flow of traffic while four clear acrylic chairs from Ikea gave the illusion of more space. Other design details included metal bins placed on floating shelves to create additional storage, a new countertop with added overhang in the kitchen to allow for extra seating and a custom built headboard proportioned to the size of the bedroom.

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The company is currently designing a retirement home called Manoir Des Îles located in Montreal. Toronto Interior Design Group designers draw inspirations from the impressive view of the Outaouais River and the natural beauty of the rural and city landscapes, incorporating contrasting dark wood with stark creamy whites to offer a boutique hotel feel and look with a European flair. Contemporary yet comfortable furniture fill the Manoir Des Îles, along with many warm and trendy finishes including a 3D stone quartzite faux brick wall, a gas fireplace flanked between decorative wood logs, dark espresso wood furniture and hardwood flooring in common areas. Ceiling lighting fixtures are dressed with large cream linen drum shades, while light paper shades dress satin chrome sconces. Keeping up with the contrasting colour scheme, light sheer drapery frames windows that look out to the stunning view of the river. The doors of Manoir Des Îles retirement home are scheduled to open November 2009.

The designs of Toronto Interior Design Group range from minimalist modern to elaborate traditional. Practicality and functionality play a significant role in the development of projects, which is carried through with a cost-effective approach to achieve the end result.

Toronto Interior Design Group Design Tricks

Small Spaces:

- Trick the eye – use large mirrors, lucite or acrylic furniture, a monochromatic scheme throughout the space, and artwork and accessories to give the appearance of a larger space
- Develop a good storage system – use ottomans, under-the-bed compartments, and baskets on shelves to reduce clutter and hide personal items
- Limit furniture – use small scale and sleek furniture necessary in the space, as well as dual purpose furnishings that can easily be moved around

Tight Budgets:

- Paint is inexpensive and easy to work with
- Shop around at discount stores, trades, bartering outlets, garage sales, as well as garbage hunt
- Refurbish old and existing furniture to give them a new look

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Distinction:

- Don't settle for the mainstream market, visit trendy independent stores, search design blogs, and look in overseas magazines to find unusual accessories to give space character

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