

# FRESH AND TIMELESS

STORY **GINA MAKKAR**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **VALERIE WILCOX**

When an older Toronto home got a stylish update, the kitchen went from drab and dated to fresh and functional.

The homeowner loved the layout, but the space was overshadowed by beige melamine cabinetry and a California ceiling. A refresh was long overdue.

“I’ve always been attracted to clean lines and a mix of interesting colours, shapes, patterns and textures,” says the homeowner. “While doing some research, I was drawn towards white kitchens, or those mixing black, white and natural wood, but most of them felt too cookie-cutter to me. I couldn’t figure out the best way to add colour and some unique features to better suit my personal tastes.”

The homeowner called on **Toronto Interior Design Group (TIDG)** to infuse the space with style and functionality. “I came into this project with an open mind,” the homeowner says. “Once I communicated my likes, dislikes and must-haves, I let the

TIDG team work its magic. The final result was above and beyond what I had envisioned, while reflecting my personality and aesthetic sensibilities.”

An avid cook, the homeowner’s list of must-haves included plenty of storage, a functional layout, more counter space, a breakfast area and a feeling of timelessness that would still resonate 15 to 20 years down the road.

“Working with the TIDG team was a blast,” says the homeowner. “They have impeccable taste, are extremely organized and detail-oriented and are fantastic project managers. Thanks to their expertise and savoir-faire, they made the whole experience as painless and stress-free as possible.”

Yanic Simard



*“I’ve always been attracted to clean lines and a mix of interesting colours, shapes, patterns and textures.”*

✂ Torn down to the studs, the renovation started from scratch. The kitchen is a blend of old and new, dreamed up by Yanic Simard, Principal Designer of TIDG. Timeless elements, like the wood trim and leaded glass found throughout the home, were replicated to add continuity.

A window adorned with a custom leaded-glass band unifies the kitchen with the rest of the main floor. Brushed nickel and adjustable arm sconces above the trim-less window frame direct light where it’s needed. *Continued on page 50*

*Inspired by the homeowner’s love of colour, custom cabinetry is painted Florida Keys, a heady, tropical blue by Benjamin Moore.*



« A custom island with a honed Carrara marble top and black powder-coated base sits on casters for easy movement. Tucked against the wall, it also serves as a breakfast table, and leaves an unfettered pathway through the kitchen. Bentwood stools add a layer of personality. "I think every space needs one mid-century piece," says Simard. "It connects the old and the new together really well. It's a very beautiful, transitional period."

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« It's all about the function. The stove, fridge and sink were left in their original places. "We thought it was a beautiful triangle, and it worked well, so we didn't move it," explains Simard. Upper cabinetry extends to the ceiling and deep pot drawers were added for additional storage. A combination of cup pulls and knobs in stainless steel add a metallic sheen.

*Not your typical stainless steel, the sleek, modern, black stainless-steel fridge and gas range from Samsung add wow factor.*

« "We wanted to bring in the classical side of the house, so we anchored it with penny black and white tile," says Simard. "Colour is nice, and it has its place, but there's a lot of cabinetry so we thought we needed to bring it back with something to anchor the space with a bit more familiarity."

» An artisan in Spain was commissioned to create a custom wall covering as vibrant as the homeowner. Whimsical parrots add a splash of colour to the bold, impactful floral. "It brings a lot of personality," says Simard. "It had to match her personality, which is bigger than life."



» Open shelves display treasures and a cookbook collection. A deep, stainless-steel apron sink is positioned perfectly. "There's nothing more beautiful than having a sink right where the window is so you can look outside," says Simard. New, innovative sintered stone countertops are durable, hygienic and low maintenance.

*Replicas of art deco, schoolhouse light fixtures were commissioned to blend seamlessly with the vintage lighting pieces preserved throughout the home.*



« Tucked away but still easily accessible, a little-used alcove by the back door was transformed into a pantry. The nook extends the kitchen space with a microwave, wine fridge, counter and additional cabinetry. A favourite place to lounge, charming kitty quarters were also fashioned for the family feline. With access to the back deck, the family uses the spot to lay platters and drinks for summer entertaining. **OH**

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