

home decor & renovations

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WHEN TO
SAVE, WHEN
TO SPLURGE

BACK TO SCHOOL,
DECOR 101

SECRETS *from the*
DESIGN WORLD

Secrets from the DESIGN WORLD

by Elisa Krovblit

Good design looks effortless and enticing. It makes a statement as soon as you see it. It's stunning, compelling and enjoyable. Whether it's casual or formal, indoors or out, it feels complete and comfortable, like the space anticipates your every need. It offers the perfect place to sit, to work, to put your glass down. The colours and patterns work. Everything has purpose, without trying too hard.

Don't you wish you could do that in every room in your home?

Great design is a talent, a skill and a challenge. Designers have to educate themselves on an extensive list of techniques and styles. While some of us imagine it would be a lot of fun to shop and decorate, it's actually a lot of work and effort. As fashions change and trends evolve, it's a designer's job to know what trends are coming, what styles will work and where to find everything needed to make a space come alive with the visions that their clients request. They need to know

quality, availability, trades, suppliers, fabrics, textiles and materials for every surface.

Their knowledge is vast and their resources are seemingly never-ending.

When you hire a designer, you don't just pay them to put pretty things in all the right places. You hire them for this vast knowledge - for their ability to coordinate the hardwood flooring installer who needs a week, the supplier who needs six weeks to order your sofa, the relationship with the stone company who is going to cut, deliver and install a five-figure slab of marble in your kitchen - all while knowing where to go for the right linens, toss cushions and table lamps. Never mind the hours of consideration, the drafts and drawings - and the good ones, they still make it look easy!

But there are a few things to be learned from a designer, so HD&R has gone to the source. We've interviewed some of our favourite Canadian talent and they've graciously shared some of their secrets - from managing projects to favourite places to shop.

Now you know!

YANIC'S 3 FAVOURITE SHOPS:

1. CARROCEL ANTIQUES – TORONTO CARROCEL.COM

They have everything from fine art to vintage accessories, including lighting and mirrors to large scale upholstery like sofas and armchairs, and their showroom is 20,000 square feet!

2. CB2 – CB2.COM I am a little obsessed with cb2, I have to say! They are so easy to work with, they have multiple locations, they have affordable price points (which I love because anyone can shop there) and they are very on trend.

3. JALAN JALAN – MIAMI JALANMIAMI.COM

One of my favourite places to shop when I'm in my other hometown of Miami, Florida, their items are so unique and exotic. They carry lively materials from bone inlay to teak and petrified wood. Many of their influences come from Morocco and Africa.

Decor tip: 1.You can't go wrong with a white backdrop - it is the perfect blank canvas. 2.Anchor any scheme with black. 3.Never compromise on quality.

Golden rule: Work with what the space has to give you, not against it ...And if you think it's expensive to hire a professional, wait until you hire an amateur!



YANIC SIMARD

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photos by Brandon Barre

