

DESIGN

# DOUBLE TAKE

A SLEEK CALGARY HOME IS REIMAGINED AS A WARM RETREAT FOR TWO EMPTY-NESTERS.



Text by SIMONE OLIVEIRO | Photography by GARY CAMPBELL



**I**N SOME HOMES, it's the framed family portraits that tell a story, but at the Calgary home of physicians Jacinthe Kossak and André Perland, it was the scuffed-up walls and worn-out hardwood that said it all. After raising two boys and sending them off to university and college, the couple's contemporary home was showing signs of wear and tear.

The newly minted empty-nesters turned to longtime friend and designer James McIntyre of McIntyre Hill to create a refreshed, adult space to suit their new lifestyle. "We weren't the same people as when the house was first built," says Jacinthe. "It had been more than 30 years since we moved in, and the boys weren't at home anymore. We wanted something both lovely and functional."

The couple have relied on James' design expertise in various homes since 1991. ("Jacinthe doesn't even buy towels without calling me!" he jokes.) Located in one of Calgary's older neighborhoods, this home was originally designed in 2004 for Jacinthe and André by McIntyre Hill, with DeJong Design Associates.

"The home's architecture was inspired by the De Stijl movement, specifically the works of Dutch architect J.J.P. Oud," says Ronald Hill, James' design partner of McIntyre Hill. The aesthetic, which emphasized a palette of black and white

with pops of primary colours and a focus on vertical and horizontal lines, announced itself in the home's double-height industrial windows and a dramatic steel-and-glass staircase that stood through the main floor. "The house was '90s-style contemporary, with high-contrast black, white and steel," says James. "With the kids gone, Jacinthe and André were ready for something warmer and more eclectic, with pieces that felt like stylish collectibles."

The refresh included an update of the main dining area on the first floor, the principal bedroom upstairs and a total overhaul of the ensuite. To soften the open-concept living room's soaring 22-foot-high windows and streamlined staircase, James selected pieces in a curvilinear board palette and a mixture of textures — fur-covered ottomans, a velvet sofa and leather and suede armchairs — to add much-needed warmth.

Designed by Ronald Hill, an opulent art-style table set in copper, teal and yellow provides a bit of colour. The centerpiece of the room is an angular Holly Hunt table, which influenced the decorative elements and custom furnishings throughout the home. "Holly Hunt has been a mentor and an inspiration to me for many years," says James. "When we had to live with her new coffee table, it wasn't difficult to let it inspire the angles and finishes in the home."

The home has never had a formal dining room, Jacinthe knew it wouldn't be used very often. Instead, they regularly dine at the bar-height table, which doubles as a

**ABOVE** Designer James McIntyre selected a warm palette with lots of earth tones and natural fibre to play off the white gallery-like walls in the main living area. **CHERRY SEEDS** by Cleo de Riegels; **Design Within Reach, pendant, Lambert & Fils, custom table, floorlight, stool, chair, table, study chair**. **OPPOSITE** Homeowner Jacinthe Kossak in the multipurpose room off the kitchen.

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couch behind the sofa. "We spend a lot of time at the bar table, chatting or watching the news," says Jacinthe.

Updates in the principal suite, James echoed Jacinthe's love of updated design with a smoky bronze mirror feature wall. A sculptural, 75W-inspired ceramic lamp, wood flooring and built-in orange bins on the linen warm up the room even more.

A room off the kitchen was also made over to suit Jacinthe and André's new lifestyle. Opening to the outdoor terrace, the former office was home to a sticky desk and an onslaught of printer machines and stationary files. James repurposed the area, moving the gym equipment downstairs and jetmanning the desk, and added a round table with a pop-up charging station. Now an elegant enclave, the room is an ideal place to polish off work or host the occasional dinner party.

Jacinthe's Studio is next to a small sitting area, a quiet where André likes to listen to her play. "Sometimes, with her busy schedule, Jacinthe finds time to take piano lessons," says James. "Now they have a cozy yet grown-up space to play, entertain and really embrace this new stage in their lives." ■



**ABOVE** All of the kitchen's appliances — except the full-height fridge — are contained within the two large islands. With no upper cabinets, the room boasts an unobstructed view of the city through a wall of windows. **Red circle artwork** by Steve Linnos. **Seaside sculpture** (on wall) by Jeremy Thomas. **Reyn Contemporary Art**. **LEFT** In the open-plan home office, a multifunctional table is great for dinner parties and can double as a workspace. "Our son now travels home to study for the MCAT and spend all his free working at this table," says Jacinthe. A gold-leaf feature wall elevates the space and makes it feel more "adult." **Gold leaf wall, table design, McIntyre Hill, table fabrication, attractive Woodstock chairs, Red Light Workshop light, Lambert & Fils artwork** by Carl Weiss. **Christine Krasner Gallery**.



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**ABOVE** Deep linen drapery filters light and adds texture in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows. "The drapery is multi-task and creates a real sense of texture while still adding that cozy element," says James. "They're one of the first things people remark on when they come into the house," adds Jacinthe. **Drapery fabric, fabric, drapery sewing, DraperyWorks**.



The original staircase was refurbished with wood treads and re-upholstered with the updated fabric.



An airy breakfast nook is too good to let the kitchen's mirrors on facing walls reflect light and give the illusion of depth. **Reyn Contemporary, Red Light WorkShop, pendant, Hilde Shapiro**.

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