

KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

FRENCH CONNECTION

A posh European appliance shapes the design direction of this chic kitchen.

Design by EMILY GRIFFIN | Text by EMILY EVANS
Photography by SIAN RICHARDS



THE DESIGNER:
Emily Griffin, Emily Griffin Design, Toronto

THE LOOK:
French bistro style in a graceful city house

DESIGN BRIEF:
Bring charming European flair to this Toronto home while taking full advantage of a generous footprint

SQ. FT.:
460

A pair of vintage milk glass pendants and a wall of subway tile strike just the right bistro note in this midtown Toronto kitchen. **Contracting**, Three 60 Renovations; **stools**, RH; **millwork**, Sdao's Carpentry; **pendants**, The Door Store; **vase**, Elte; **bowl** (by range), Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; **countertops**, Quartex Surfaces; **pulls**, Upper Canada Specialty Hardware; **backsplash tile**, Ciot.



In the kitchen's adjacent sitting area, Emily removed the "pedestrian" fireplace mantel and replaced it with a custom design. **Art** by Vicki Smith, Bau-Xi Gallery; **chair**, ottoman, mantel design, Emily Griffin Design; **fireplace tile**, Metro Source; **sofa**, RH; **jute rug**, Wayfair Canada; **Kazak rug**, Imperial Carpet and Home; **throw pillow fabric**, Memo Showroom; **throw**, Elte; **brass bowl** (by chair), candlesticks, Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

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Art by Ted Godwin; vase, Hallace Cluny; napkins, plates, tray, pitcher, Hopson Grace; table, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; chairs, art light, RH; all cushion fabric, Memo Showroom; baskets, Pimlico Design Gallery; crystal glasses, bowls, Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

HOUSE & HOME: What was your jumping-off point for this kitchen?

EMILY GRIFFIN: The stunning Lacanche range and custom vent hood we designed to pair with it. Lacanche has been making ranges in a small village in Burgundy since the late 18th century, and it inspired us to create a classic French bistro-style kitchen. We chose a beaded

Shaker-style panel with face frame construction for the cabinets and brought in other classic elements, such as white subway tile, patinated shelf brackets, an apron-front sink, and traditional faucets and hardware. **H&H:** How do you mix multiple metals in a single space?

EG: Most people think you pick one hardware style for an

entire kitchen, but sometimes "one size fits all" doesn't work—especially in a two-tone kitchen. I chose four different finishes for the hardware but stuck to styles from the same series for continuity. **H&H:** What makes the seating area so inviting?

EG: The layered rugs and antique-looking patterned tile are meant to evoke the

feeling of a lived-in European home. Some people wouldn't pair a Moroccan ottoman with a busy Kazak rug layered on top of a jute rug but, to me, layers are what make a room feel cosy and inviting. **H&H:** What's your secret to creating a timeless kitchen?

H&H: Did you or the homeowners have any nonnegotiables?

EG: I felt very strongly about hiding the television in the island rather than mounting it above the fireplace. It would have killed the whole vibe of the room. My clients hung a stunning painting by Canadian artist Vicki Smith over the fireplace instead.



THE DETAILS

1. Floating shelves mounted on a wall of subway tile offer pleasing display space. **Shelves**, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; **brackets**, The Door Store. 2. One of the storage units in the dining area houses a fully stocked bar, and the other serves as a pantry and coffee station. **Decanter, ice bucket, cocktail shaker**, Hopson Grace. 3. The kitchen cabinets were made by a boutique millworker and hand painted in **shaker**, Hopson Grace. 4. Emily decided against upper cabinets on this wall so as not to distract from the dramatic matte black and brushed brass vent hood. **Range**, The French Barn; **vent hood design**, Emily Griffin Design; **vent hood fabrication**, Custom Range Hoods.

ELEMENTS OF THE LOOK

Large Sculptural Glass Geo pendant. \$237. At West Elm.

Bilbao Linen tea towel in Natural by Linen Way. \$50/pair.

Smeg 2 Slice toaster in Cream. \$230. At Hudson's Bay.

Jack Stripe fabric in Peacock by Ferrick Mason. \$273/yd. At Memo Showroom.

Cluny range by Lacanche. From \$14,200. At The French Barn.