

DESIGN LESSON

TRUE COLOURS

DESIGNER EMILY GRIFFIN ENERGIZES A VICTORIAN HOME WITH A MIX OF COLOUR, PATTERN AND TEXTURE.

PICK A STATEMENT PIECE AND BUILD UP

"It was the yellow velvet sofa that started the whole eclectic, fun and happy vibe in this house," says Emily Griffin. From there, the designer invited in elements including a second life rug with muted motifs, a collection of baskets that doubles as wall art and throw pillows in zingy, saturated hues. **Sofa design**, Emily Griffin Design; **sofa fabrication**, Silva Custom Furniture; **coffee table**, Pavilion; **rug**, Elte Mkt; **floor lamp**, Kravet Canada; **chair**, Design Within Reach; **brass accent table**, **marble-topped side table**, West Elm; **plant**, Sheridan Nurseries; **candleholders** (on mantel), Elte; **baskets** (on wall), Snob.



Design by EMILY GRIFFIN
Text by HARLEEN SIDHU
Photography by SIAN RICHARDS



MIX UNEXPECTED PATTERNS FOR WOW FACTOR

When Emily's go-to installer called her in a panic saying the entryway's sunny wallpaper didn't match with the graphic black and white flooring, she confidently assured him to wait and watch as the magic unfolded. "We knew we wanted the chevron floor tile, and when I found the wallpaper, it looked and felt great," says Emily. "So much of this is just feel; there are no hard-set rules." **Floor tile**, Ciot; **Haikou wallpaper** by Pierre Frey, Primavera Interior Furnishings.



Designer Emily Griffin.

LIVENING A HOME with the perfect amount of joie de vivre is no easy feat. So, when designer Emily Griffin was tasked with breathing new life into a 1,540-square-foot home belonging to a family of four, she dove in with an aesthetic that injected just enough colour, down-to-earth texture and whimsical pattern to make the space sing. "I used the line 'We want to avoid the circus' many times," says Emily, with a laugh. "That was the last thing we wanted." Having lived in the semidetached Toronto home for 16 years, the homeowners were ready to give it a facelift. Gutting everything but the staircase, baseboards, a few walls and the trim and cornice mouldings on the first floor, the designer rosied up rooms by swapping out old furniture for eclectic finds and incorporating splashes of colour (think brilliant blues, pretty pinks and zesty yellows). Here's how Emily created the cosy yet energizing ambience that puts the happy in this home.



ADD TEXTURE WITH WARM WOODS

While the kitchen is too compact for a permanent island, a movable trolley adds an organic touch and functions as a prep station, spot to store casserole dishes and perch where the homeowners' teenaged kids eat breakfast. Custom-stained oak flooring extends from the kitchen into the sitting area, keeping the hub of the home light and bright. **Art** (left) by Shauna Roe, **art framing** (throughout), Dimensions Custom Framing & Gallery.

MAKE IT HARDWORKING

Emily designed and upholstered the ottoman in the new nine- by 11-foot addition off the kitchen in a colourful textile that complements the vintage camel-toned leather sofa. "It can withstand spills, you can put your feet up on it, and it pulls in a lot of colours from the rest of the house," says Emily. Dark-trimmed doors offering generous garden views add visual punch while flooding the space with natural light.

Stool, Snob; rug, HomeSense; sconce, Union Lighting and Furnishings; art, West Elm; pink patterned throw pillow, Design Within Reach; blue patterned throw pillow, Elte Mkt.



EMBRACE A COLOUR WITH DIMENSION

To give her clients the black kitchen they envisioned while considering the harmony of the rest of the home, Emily painted the cabinets in Farrow & Ball's Off-Black. "It's black but it reads blue in many lights," says Emily. "It's the best of both worlds." The wallpaper's floral, fern and rhubarb motifs add a joyful exuberance to the space and keep the blue-black cabinets from feeling too heavy. **Cabinet and trolley design, Emily Griffin Design; cabinet and trolley fabrication by David Benson, Grown Design; stone countertop, Ciot; hardware, Upper Canada Specialty Hardware; faucet, Roman Bath Centre; Rabarber wallpaper by Borästapeter, Primetime Paint & Paper.**

PILE ON LAYERS TO INJECT SOUL

In the dining room, reclaimed teak dining chairs with woven seats, a gilt mirror and a sisal rug layered under a striped wool rug combine to create an inviting, soulful vibe. Painting the lower portion of the walls in a deep blue delivers a dose of drama. "I added many textures and styles in this room to make it feel collected," says Emily.

Dining table, Lamp Cage; **dining chairs,** Safavieh; **striped rug,** Ikea; **sisal rug,** HomeSense; **chandelier,** Stray Dog Designs; **console,** CB2; **mirror,** Anthropologie; **placemats,** Crate & Barrel; **napkins,** Elite; **salt and pepper shakers,** Hopson Grace; **lower wall colour,** Naval (SW 6244), Sherwin-Williams.



REPEAT HUES FOR A COHESIVE FEEL

Swathing every wall in a creamy shade provides a calm backdrop and allows audacious injections of colour to pop. Off the entryway, a pair of rope stools tuck under a steel blue console while a lamp with a playful dragonfly-patterned shade picks up on the blue and yellow tones in the home. **Console,** Bungalow 5; **stools,** mirror, Elite Mkt; **lamp base,** CB2; **custom lamp shade,** Emily Griffin Design; **wall and trim colour** (throughout), Wimborne White (239), Farrow & Ball.

CREATE VISUAL INTEREST WITH ONE ELEMENT

Emily designed the principal bathroom's vanity and countertop to blend into each other seamlessly, allowing the Moroccan-inspired blue and white tile to stand out. "I approached the room as if there was only one hero," says Emily. "Everything else is a secondary character." **Wall tile,** Metro Source; **vanity fabrication** by David Benson, Grown Design; **hardware,** Upper Canada Specialty Hardware; **sink, faucet,** Roman Bath Centre; **mirror,** CB2; **wall sconce,** Wayfair Canada.

