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LOOK IN
RURAL
ALBERTA

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DECORATING:

Inside the
Homes of
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INEQUAL

Measure

Text by EMILY EVANS

Photography by VIRGINIA MACDONALD

Personality and practicality are the key ingredients in designer Gillian Gillies' layered and inviting space.

WOW FACTOR:
A brass wall sculpture by Martha Sturdy

THE BIG MOVES: EMBRACE YOUR OWN AESTHETIC

Gillian wanted her kitchen to work with the other rooms in her home, something she encourages all renovators to consider. "It's about knowing and owning your own personal style," she says. "Ours had to be inviting and relaxing, with touches of quintessential British eclecticism." **Ceiling pendants** by Thomas O'Brien, Visual Comfort; **runner**, Dash & Albert; **oven**, Fisher & Paykel; **knife block**, Mjolk; **ceiling colour**, Shaded White (201), **vent hood colour**, Slipper Satin (2004), Farrow & Ball.

THE BACKSTORY

Kitchen renovations can be a long time coming — even for the pros. Just ask designer and Edinburgh expat Gillian Gillies, who admits the kitchen was the last room she renovated in her Toronto home. "My husband, Dean, is one of six kids, and true confession, I think I was holding off doing the kitchen to avoid hosting massive family dinners," she says with a laugh. Now that the renovation — during which the kitchen nearly doubled in size to 215 square feet — is complete, the space is ready to host as many family members and friends as Gillian can handle. Dual zones on either side of the grey enamelled cast-iron sink give Gillian and Dean plenty of room for meal prep while warm personal touches, like the antique table shipped from Scotland, make the kitchen sing. **Faucet** by Rubinet, Roman Bath Centre; **sink** by Kohler, Atlantis Bath Centre; **curb backsplash, countertop**, Cambria.



THE BIG MOVES:

MAXIMIZE EVERY INCH

The alcove that used to house the fridge now functions as a pantry. "Our pantry is like the Tardis in *Doctor Who*," says Gillian. "It holds everything!" **Wall sculptures**, Pimlico Design Gallery; **basket**, HomeSense; **flooring** by Preverco, Woodchuck Flooring.



THE DETAILS

- 1 THE DESIGNER:** Gillian Gillies, H&H's "One to Watch" Designer for 2019
- 2 THE OWNERS:** Gillian and her husband, Dean Einarson
- 3 THE LOCATION:** A century-old home on a leafy street in north Toronto
- 4 THE CHALLENGE:** Create a functional kitchen that's warm and eclectic

THE BIG MOVES: DECORATE WITH DRAPERY

In a room with so many hard surfaces, soft touches like patterned linen drapery — hung from custom iron rods — are key. **Drapery fabric** by Schumacher, Billbrough & Co.; **drapery sewing**, Q. Design; custom **drapery rods**, Northern Iron; **wall colour**, Mole's Breath (276), Farrow & Ball; vintage **stool**, The Door Store.



WOW FACTOR:

Whimsical koi wallpaper
Wallpaper by Osborne & Little, Primavera.



THE BIG MOVES:

CONSIDER SIGHT LINES

This wall is visible from Gillian's front door, so it was important that it looked up to snuff with integrated appliances. Kickplate detailing conceals the refrigerator and HVAC vents, and makes the unit look like a piece of furniture. Roomy cabinetry houses glasses, oversized baking dishes and small appliances, and drawers below store tableware and Gillian's beloved kitchen linens.

"I have a thing for napkins!" she says. **Hardware**, Armac Martin; **fridge with freezer drawers** by Liebherr, Tasco Appliances; **cabinetry colour**, Escarpment (CC-518), Benjamin Moore.



THE BIG MOVES:

CREATE VIGNETTES

Even hardworking kitchens need a few pretty moments, like this corner with its sunny print and pot of fresh rosemary. A low quartz backsplash adds visual interest. **Artwork**, Etsy; **round cutting board**, Pimlico Design Gallery; **large cutting board**, Elte Mkt; **horn bowl**, Hopson Grace.



THE BIG MOVES: MAKE ROOM FOR TWO

When Gillian and Dean's large family isn't over, a small dining nook off the kitchen is perfect for two. "Everyone loves a window seat so, during the renovation, we pushed out the window and created one," says Gillian. The antique pine drop-leaf table was shipped over from Edinburgh. **Blind fabric**, Kobe Interior Products; **blind sewing**, Q. Design; **chandelier**, Lamp Cage; **white bowl**, Elte.

ELEMENTS OF THE LOOK



1. Woven basket in Brown. 23" h. x 15½" diam. \$195. At Pimlico Design Gallery.

2. Yellow Flower Vase framed giclée print by Rob Blackard. 16½" h. x 14½" w. Approx. \$124. Through Artfully Walls.



3. Disc Metal wall art with Oxidized Antique Brass Finish. 2½" h. x 26¾" diam. \$299. At Crate & Barrel.

4. Semi-flush light in Bronze by Hudson Valley Lighting. 10" h. x 9" diam. \$265. At Norburn Lighting.



5. Melville wallpaper by Cole & Son. 27" w. x 33' l. Approx. \$249/roll. Through Lee Jofa or Kravet Canada (to the trade).

