

CANADIAN

DECEMBER 2022

HOUSE & HOME

Celebrate!

**DESIGNER
of the YEAR**

THEA-LIST

15⁺

**FABULOUS
BAR CARTS**

**VERSAILLES
IN THE SKY:
OEEDEE TAYLOR
HANNAH'S
TOUR DE FORCE**

*The elegant style of
Brian Gluckstein —
it's about time!*

**THE VOTES ARE
IN FOR HOME OF
THE YEAR!**

**CITY COLUMN:
COOL COPENHAGEN**

**PLUS: J-C POIRIER'S
ULTIMATE TOURTIÈRE**

Display until December 11 \$7.99

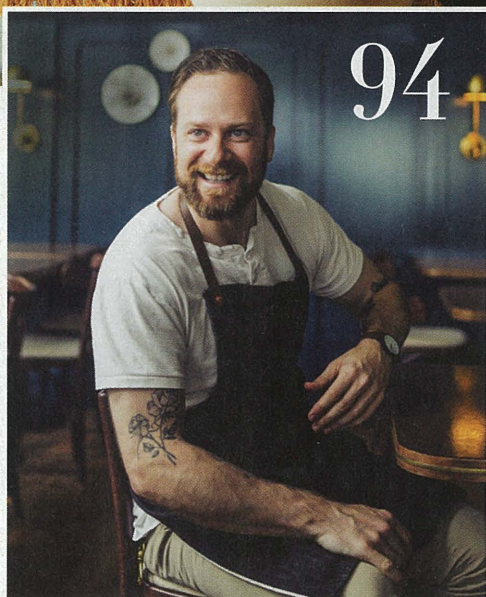


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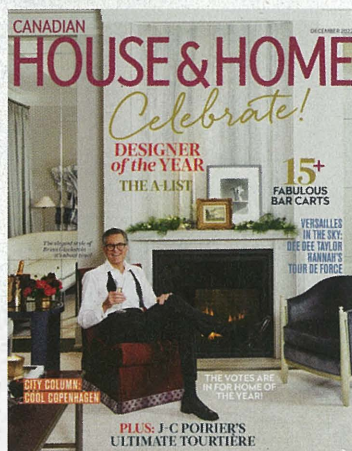
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Brian Gluckstein, fireside. Story, page 58.
Photography by Stacey Brandford.



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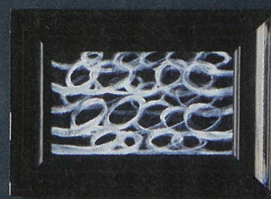
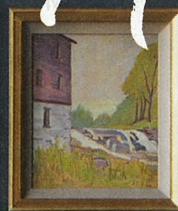
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Business Affire

Design GILLIAN GILLIES

Photography VIRGINIA MACDONALD

Text EMILY EVANS



Groovy greens, punchy pattern and a boardroom swing dress Gillian Gillies' new studio in high style.



"THE STUDIO IS VERY REPRESENTATIVE OF MY PERSONAL TASTE AND DESIGN PREFERENCES. IT FEELS AUTHENTICALLY ME"



It's

hard to picture Gillian Gillies' studio once being an industrial concrete and drywall box with nothing but two fluorescent lights and one big electrical panel. The 1,100-square-foot space in Toronto's Leaside neighbourhood did have a few things going for it, though: 18-foot-high ceilings, plenty of parking and walls of windows that let sunshine stream in from both the east and west.

Prior to taking possession of the space in the fall of 2019, Gillian and her team of six were working out of the designer's own house. "Most of my home was my studio, and it was getting ridiculous. My dining room was our warehouse, and my husband was losing the will to deal with our constant tech-support questions," says Gillian, laughing.

The first order of business in the new open-concept studio was to define the space with custom millwork and split it into three functional zones: one for working, one to store samples and host client presentations, and one for the kitchen and library. Of course, there had to be plenty of bold

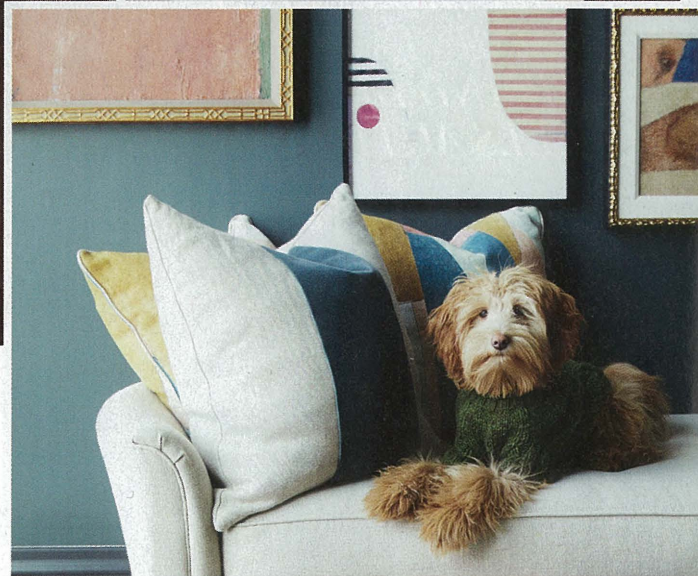
TOP LEFT: Principal designer Gillian Gillies at her Toronto studio.

TOP RIGHT: "So much happens at this table: we source, design, present and have team lunches and meetings," says Gillian.

Ceiling fixture, Apparatus Studio; **table,** Robert James Collection; **patterned chair upholstery fabric** by GP&J Baker; Kravet Canada.

BOTTOM LEFT: The olive green design library holds Gillian's books and magazines, and visually anchors the office. **Marble,** Ciot; **baskets,** West Elm.





TOP LEFT: Gillian's walnut desk is placed in the middle of the studio. "It's right where I like to be," she says. **Wallpaper** by Celerie Kemble, Schumacher; desk, Gillian Gillies Interiors.

TOP RIGHT: A tray of favourite samples and a carnelian stone for creativity. **Stone**, The Rock Store.

RIGHT: Gillian's goldendoodle, Reba, on her "throne." **Daybed**, Gillian Gillies Interiors; **wall colour**, Studio Green (93), Farrow & Ball.

colour like Bancha by Farrow & Ball (Gillian's favourite shade of green for walls and her wardrobe), a plethora of punchy wallpapers, an impressive multihead fixture to illuminate the team's oak meeting table - and there's even a funky fringed swing. "This space offers incentive for clients to use saturated colours and bold wallpapers," says Gillian. "And I wanted my team to have a bright and happy space to work in and to signal to my clients that they were in good hands."

Clients often request that she write down the studio's signature essential oil blend of wild orange, vetiver and lavender that wafts from three diffusers all day long. "I'm a big believer in the transformative power of smell, so we diffuse natural essential oils to help us with focus, creativity and clarity," says Gillian. "Our space is a melting pot of different designs and textures, but it's all very

harmonious, comforting and cocooning - plus, it always smells great around here." Music helps set the mood, too. Whoever arrives first in the morning picks the playlist and, most days, it's soundtracks from the '80s that reign supreme. "Good design should envelop all of our senses, and my studio does just that."

When the team's not working on projects, it focuses on a new venture: Studio Shop on the Gillian Gillies Interiors website, which features the firm's own custom-designed blankets made in Scotland, locally woven tea towels and throw pillows created from fabric remnants that would otherwise end up in the landfill. "We take offcuts from different projects and make pillows out of them, and 100 per cent of the profits go to local charities," says Gillian. In this workspace, design doesn't just look, smell and sound good - it does good, too.



TOP LEFT: Graphic wallpaper is a lively backdrop for a gallery wall. **Wallpaper** by Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks, Kravet Canada; **art** (top left) by Charles Pachter, Oeno Gallery.

TOP RIGHT: "Clients can be nervous about using marble in a kitchen; I wanted to show them what was possible," says Gillian. **Wallpaper** by GP&J Baker, Kravet Canada.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Fabrics are stored by colour in pullout baskets. **Baskets**, Ikea.

BOTTOM CENTRE: The powder room features an avocado-hued marble vanity. **Wallpaper** (on ceiling), Farrow & Ball; **wallpaper** (on walls) by Nina Campbell for Osborne & Little, Primavera Interior Furnishings.

BOTTOM LEFT: Not many boardrooms include a playful fringed swing secured to the studio's lofty ceiling. **Swing**, Gillian Gillies Interiors.

WEB

To see another designer's fashionable office, visit houseandhome.com/dec2022