MODERN
RESIDENTIAL
DESIGN

Toronto Interiors

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GILLIAN GILLIES INTERIORS

GILLIAN GILLIES'S JOURNEY into the world of interior design began in her hometown of Edinburgh, Scotland, where she honed her skills before relocating to Canada in 2002. Her design philosophy is rooted in the belief that a home must be more than just a beautiful space; it must be a sanctuary that cradles its inhabitants. She designs with a keen awareness of how her clients live, ensuring that every room is both functional and inviting, not merely a showpiece. Her work is soulful, layered, and a touch eclectic. Pets, children, and the everyday bustle of life are all considered, leading to spaces that are not just seen but fully lived in. Colour, for Gillies, is a language of its own. She eschews the monotony of "greige"—an anti-colour that was all the rage when she first moved to Toronto. Her studio's projects are rife with pattern and rich, saturated hues that soothe and nurture—a welcome departure from the stark, impersonal spaces that often dominate modern interiors. Lovers of European and British design (and design magazines) will see why her work is sought after here in Canada. While residential design remains her primary focus, with a particular expertise in substantial renovation and new construction, Gillies is expanding into boutique hospitality and commercial spaces.

A warm mix of textural details defines this Lawrence Park home.

Lawrence Park

Unapologetically bold, this interior renovation was born from the client's love of colour and trust in the artistic process. With surprises at every turn, the home unfolds, revealing both moments of quiet and artistic flair. Though compact, the entryway delivers a striking first impression with its unexpected ceiling wallpaper, setting a daring tone. The kitchen, subtly neutral, leads to a family room vibrant in a bold green wallpaper. Gillies likes to start each design with a textile and then work back to the practicalities. Each room layers comfort with beauty. In the principal suite, botanical wallpaper and a unique pendant fixture with arms reminiscent of branches are nods to the garden outside.

From the ceilings to the upholstery to the walls and floors, Gillies applies pattern and colour to animate every space.

Kingsway

This Kingsway condominium underwent a transformative renovation, tailored to provide enduring comfort for the client. With a design centred on a harmonious open-concept plan suitable for social gatherings, the condo feels like a larger house. Walls between the kitchen and dining area were removed, making way for an elegant archway and ample storage. A once-cramped laundry room was expanded by taking over the old powder room, making it easier and more enjoyable for the owner to use. Lighting played a pivotal role, with carefully selected fixtures adding warmth and character throughout. To preserve sightlines, a hidden downdraft fan was incorporated into the kitchen. Gillies designed unique custom furnishings, often rounded, to further ease traffic flow. The art-filled living room is a perfect spot to curl up and relax, with a TV discreetly tucked away at one end.

A condominium that feels like a house thanks to beautiful and functional transition zones and interior detailing.

This Kingsway condominium was completely overhauled to highlight the owner's art collection.

Summerhill

Long-time clients wished to renovate their city residence into a fresh, modern, yet familiar space. The principal bathroom became a masterpiece, with custom cherry-blossom wallpaper by British studio de Gournay. The design was originally hand-sketched by the studio, with branches elegantly radiating from a central ceiling light. Colours from the wallpaper flow seamlessly into the room, complementing the Italian lace curtains and luxurious Japanese soaking tub, complete with a heated backrest and hydrotherapy jets. In the shower, multiple jets and colour therapy offer an immersive experience. A stunning wall sconce, resembling a delicate earring, adds a touch of glamour, while the studio's unique "bracelet chair" is designed to wrap around the user like a beautiful cuff.

Beautiful custom wallpaper and Italian lace curtains in the principal suite are unabashedly feminine.