

JANUARY 2012

Best Brisket +  
Skillet Mac & Cheese

# HOUSE & HOME

THE MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

## TRENDS 2012

YOUR PREVIEW OF THE  
YEAR'S HOTTEST LOOKS

*5 Foolproof  
Paint Palettes*

**MUST-HAVE** LIGHTING,  
FURNITURE, BEDDING,  
WALLPAPER AND MORE!

*Guess Who  
Designed  
This House?*

(Hint: It's one of your  
favourite TV sidekicks) ●

TRENDS  
2012 DOWN-TO-EARTH GLAMOUR

# Romantic Notions

CALGARY DESIGNER NAM DANG-MITCHELL TRANSFORMS A LONG-LOVED HOUSE FOR HER OWN HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

Text by BARBARA SGROI | Photography by COLIN WAY

RIGHT: Designer Nam Dang-Mitchell in her living room, which embodies the same quiet sophistication she's created all through her Calgary home. Gold accents (used in many of the rooms, and currently on every trendspotter's radar) instantly amp up the warmth. Another trend? Deco accents, like the bun feet on the velvet sectional. Pillow fabric: DWA Interior; artwork by Josef Schulz; Yossi Milo Gallery. OPPOSITE: Grasscloth wallpaper envelops the den, creating a cozy family space. A tufted, grey flannel ottoman, curved-oak daybed from the 1930s and stool clad in Mongolian lambskin add texture and feet-up comfort. Kravet grasscloth wallpaper, DWA Interior; daybed, Steven Scaroff; artwork by Sky Glabush.



Instead of the usual love seats, a pair of sleek, symmetrically arranged chairs and ottomans flank an unconventional coffee table knock the predictability out of the seating area surrounding the Empire-era marble fireplace in the living room. **Fireplace**, Marc Maison; **table**, Antique & Art Exchange; **artwork** by Ed Ruscha, Gagosian Gallery.

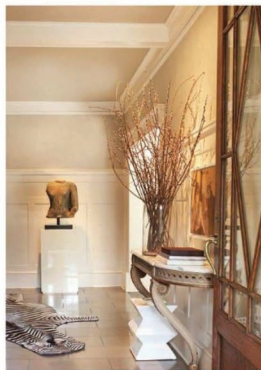


**TOP LEFT:** Glossy grey paneled walls, contemporary art, and a cowhide rug in a mod herringbone pattern are edgy foils to the more formal pieces in the dining room. **Console**, Gray Morell; **chairs**, 507 Antiques; **chair fabrics**, DWA Interior; **artwork** by Franco DeFrancesca, Newzones.

**TOP RIGHT:** Positioned as an eye-grabbing focal point and paired with graphic stripes and sleek shapes, an ancient Buddha fragment draws the eye into the foyer and sets the tone for the eclectic decor within. **Zebra rug**, The Evolution Store; **antique French console**, eBay; **artwork** by Leslie Wiegand; **Cortona Azul limestone flooring**, Stone Tile West.

**This is a love story** about a house and two people who fell for it long before they even met. Six years ago, when a realtor friend mentioned that a century-old, traditional home in a coveted Calgary neighbourhood might be going on the market, designer Nam Dang-Mitchell and her husband, real estate developer James Mitchell, looked at each other and both gasped, "I've always loved that house!" The ample, three-storey brick house had a fairy-tale turret, and also a fascinating history — previous owners included former Canadian prime minister R.B. Bennett, and most recently, the house had been in the hands of a single family for 50 years. That made it all the more attractive to Nam and James, whose two children were toddlers at the time — they were looking for more than just bricks and mortar. "We were attracted to the history of the house and to how strong and solid and weathered it looked," says Nam. "My husband and I both grew up in suburban houses that didn't have that sense of permanence. And we both moved a lot as children, often changing schools. So I suppose it makes sense that we were drawn to something that had survived so long."

As in most love affairs, they were willing to overlook any shortcomings in the object of their affection. "Having driven past so often, I had these romantic visions of a house that had been built at the beginning of the century and maybe renovated back in the 1920s or '30s," she recalls. Instead, inside they found an



impeccably preserved time capsule from the 1960s decked out in a seafoam and butter yellow colour scheme. "Wall-to-wall seafoam shag, drapes in sweeping silk swags, silk on the walls — it was very elegant and formal in a Lawrence Welk sort of way," says Nam. The kitchen still had all of its '60s-era appliances, and the original cabinets had been ripped out, replaced, and reinstalled in the garage for storage. Disappointed but not daunted, Nam set out to recreate the home the way she was hoping it would look when they first walked through the door.

Today, a sophisticated palette of cream, grey and brown drifts from room to room like smoke rings and martini glasses at a Noël Coward cocktail party. The capacious spaces are thoughtfully furnished with just a few striking pieces that toe the line between tailored and glam, with a variety of textures mixed in to keep the monochromatic look lively. The kitchen has the utilitarian feel of the old British kitchens and sculleries that inspired it, with limestone counters scarred and pitted from daily use, a high ceiling and marble-tiled archedway. And throughout the interior, giant contemporary art startles like unexpected punctuation marks.

Like many romances, this one had a defining moment. Setting the tone for the design of the entire house, says Nam, is the elegant Empire-period white marble fireplace in the living room that she had shipped from Paris and has paired

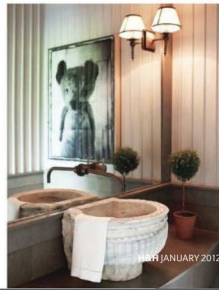
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OPPOSITE AND TOP RIGHT: In the kitchen, bare hardwood floors, Carrara Azul limestone counters, an apron sink and an arched wall lined with Carrara marble subway tiles speak of the utilitarian mood and architecture of old British kitchens and sculleries. Cabinet design, Nam Dung Mitchell Design; cabinet fabrication, Tank Design Studio; hardware, Restoration Hardware; limestone, Pacific Stone Fabrication; stools, Crate & Barrel; ladder, Chintz & Company; tile, Stone Tile West.  
TOP LEFT: Like the rest of the house, the kitchen is planned for family life: a leather-covered settee and marble-topped bistro table provide a comfortable, kid-proof spot for everyday meals

with Hunter (left) and Tao. Pillows, Crate & Barrel; plates, HomeSense; napkins, Indigo; pitcher, Pottery Barn; art by Graham Gillmore, Newzones.  
RIGHT CENTRE: Blurring the lines between interior and exterior, the brick- and sandstone-lined entry features formal furniture and simple topiaries. A limestone-topped table and modern carriage lantern reflect the room's architectural gravitas. Chair, 507 Antiques; bronze lantern, Carrington Lighting; crystal, The Crystal Image.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: A 300-year-old Greek marble basin with the look of an architectural relic is the focal point in the faux-panelled powder room. Sconce, Robinson Lighting; artwork by James Holroyd, Newzones; topiary, The Home Depot.



**1. Art Deco Echoes**

It's not full-on Deco, but it adds a new undertone of glamour and languor.

**2. Indoor-Outdoor**

Style Classic garden architecture and ornament move inside.

**3. Industrial-Light**

Kitchens A warmer, sleeker take on the old British scullery.

**4. Big, Bold Art** Super-sized contemporary pieces add drama.

**5. Dramatic Flowers**

Giant, casual bunches of branches or blooms look fresh, not formal.



TOP: In the principal bedroom, an iconic double-arm Serge Mouille sconce functions as both lighting and art. A sleek upholstered bed is a low-key backdrop for graphic black and white patterns. The Deco-style cabinet holds books and a TV. **Sconce:** Bombast Interiors; **table lamp,** Circa Lighting; **zebra pillow,** Oly Studio.

BOTTOM LEFT: Formal millwork and mirrored walls reflect '30s-era elegance in the principal bath. Both counters and floor are finished in cool grey limestone. **Faucets,** Restoration Hardware; **doorknob,** Emtek. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Handmade Mexican bark paper applied in a grid adds depth and texture to the principal bedroom walls. A daybed tucked in the turret is a quiet reading spot. **Spot:** Murano chandelier, Bernstein & Gold Interiors; **paper installation,** Heritage Decorating.



SEE SOURCE GUIDE



A departure from more standard little girl colours and details, 9-year-old Hunter's room is outfitted with a tailored canopy bed upholstered in a print sophisticated enough for a principal suite. **Fabric** for bed and drapes, DWA Interior; **canopy fabrication,** Global Shades; **bedding,** Restoration Hardware; **chandelier,** The Home Depot; **wall colour,** Columbine (31-22), Pratt & Lambert.