

masters of good taste

TEXT LAURA MUIR | PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD | STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

Designer Tara Fingold artfully mixes an array of lush textures and soft hues to create a soothing master suite for a busy couple.

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, it's a designer's role to gently nudge a homeowner out of his or her comfort zone. But in the case of the owner of this distinctive master suite, no prodding was necessary. "The client embraces colour, texture and non-conventional pieces," says designer Tara Fingold. "It was amazing how open she was, and how she kept pushing for something interesting."

It was about a year ago when the homeowner and her husband purchased this 1920s Georgian abode in a well-established Toronto neighbourhood and collaborated with Tara on a top-to-bottom renovation. "With very precise planning at the beginning, we were able to finish in six months," says Tara. "The house has beautiful bones, so we just needed to give it an update."

OPPOSITE The bathroom's high-gloss lavender vanity is outfitted with a marble counter-top and brass faucets and pulls. The vintage resin-framed mirrors and crystal and brass sconces lend a dose of character and balance out the vanity's contemporary straight lines.

DESIGN, Tara Fingold Interiors, tarafingold.com; custom **VANITY & DRAPERY**, Tara Fingold Interiors; custom **SCONCES**, Universal Lamp; gold mirrored **TRAY**, Elte; **SOAP DISPENSER, SOAP DISHES**, Ginger's; **HAND TOWELS, SOAPS**, Putti Fine Furnishings.





The dressing room boasts a built-in makeup desk and a bank of drawers, which serves as both a dresser for extra storage and a window seat.

Custom **MILLWORK**, Tara Fingold Interiors; **SHUTTERS**, Millenium Shutters & Blinds; Lucite **PULLS**, Antique Door & Hardware; **SCONCES**, Universal Lamp; **HAND TOWELS**, boxed **CANDLE, ROOM FRAGRANCE, PERFUME**, Putti Fine Furnishings; gold **BOWLS**, Elite.

For the busy homeowners (a professional couple with three small children), the overhaul included creating a 600-square-foot restful retreat that now comprises the master bedroom, ensuite bathroom, a dressing room for her and a walk-in closet for him.

This portion of the gut job entailed relocating the balcony to allow for better furniture placement in the master bedroom and annexing another bedroom for the dressing room. The demolition also uncovered a happy surprise. "One day the contractor called me and said, 'Wait until you see what we found,'" says Tara. A small window had been hidden behind a medicine cabinet in the bathroom, and the discovery led to a slight reworking of the original plans. "We were initially going to place the vanity where the bathtub is," says Tara. "But we were lucky to find that hidden window, which brings in natural light we weren't expecting to have, so

TOP LEFT The dressing room's beautiful brass chandelier, adorned with crystal doves, is a whimsical touch. "The doves look like they're dancing around the perimeter," says designer Tara Fingold.

CHANDELIER, Universal Lamp.

MIDDLE, LEFT The glass paneling and Calacatta marble tiling in the shower are light and airy elements that enhance the bathroom's serene vibe. "I like marble's natural characteristics," says Tara. "I could not get that random pattern and elegance without using marble."

MIDDLE, RIGHT Recessed brass pulls complement the vanity's sleek look, lend warmth and pay homage to the home's heritage. "We incorporated brass hardware throughout the whole house because we wanted to respect what was originally there," says Tara.

Recessed brass **PULLS**, Antique Door & Hardware.

BOTTOM, RIGHT Toronto-based designer Tara Fingold.





we moved the tub there and added some blush-toned drapes.”

Those luxurious drapes complement the soft, pretty palette that defines this whole suite. The soothing scheme of mauves, lilacs, lavenders and whites is based on the homeowner’s favourite hues – pinks and purples – and her propensity for the unpredictable. “It all started with the lilac grasscloth wallpaper in the master bedroom,” says Tara. “We used that as our jumping-off point and continued the scheme throughout the suite.” While each room in the rest of the house has its own colour story and style, the designer wanted to create cohesion here. In the bathroom, among the whites and greys of the rich herringbone marble flooring, marble-tiled shower and soaker tub, is an unexpected punctuation of lavender via the high-gloss lacquered vanity. And shades of lilac appear on the built-in closet, makeup desk and storage drawers in the dressing room.

Clean-lined shapes temper the space’s femininity – the look is sophisticated, not girly or frou-frou – and a layered effect enhances the warm and inviting feel. The master bedroom, with its combination of textures that includes the grasscloth wallpaper, velvet headboard, wool rug and silk drapery, is especially lush. “I wanted to create a delicious mood when you walk into the room,” says Tara. Indeed, what she designed is a delectable master suite that reflects the homeowners’ intrepid good taste.

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ABOVE A mix of Calacatta and Thassos marble forms the herringbone pattern on the floor, which continues into the dressing room. “That’s where the homeowner gets dressed and puts on her makeup, so it’s much more durable than carpet,” says Tara. “But it’s heated, so it’s just as cozy.”
Oval **BENCH**, Elte.

RIGHT Tara used a pale lilac quilted fabric to upholster the dressing room closet doors, adding a bit of softness and texture to the space. Lucite pulls are quiet yet sophisticated.

Beacon Hill Garlyn **CLOSET DOOR FABRIC** in Lilac, Robert Allen.



Soothing mauves and pinks, and a layering of textures (the grasscloth wallpaper, chevron-patterned silk drapery, inlaid nightstand and strié wool rug) create a sumptuous, inviting look in the master bedroom. The strié velvet channel-tufted headboard turns the bed into a show-stopping focal point.

Custom **HEADBOARD & DRAPERY**, Tara Fingold Interiors; Phillip Jeffries Bermuda Hemp grasscloth **WALLPAPER** in Lavender, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **BEDDING, COVERLET, NIGHTSTAND, BENCH, RUG, TABLE LAMP, BOOKS**, Elte.