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DECORATING

The floating shelves bring a modern look to the living room, which is more informed by classical features like the fireplace and high casement windows. The space is accented with delightfully distinctive pieces: A chunky wooden side table is a sophisticated nod to the Canadian wilderness. Curvy bergere chairs are an opulent antique counterpoint. And the pencil drawing — of homeowner Lisa Rogers' children — has a personal tone. Portrait by Olympia Bermann.





While contemporary elements like a modern white leather chair, curvy glass coffee table and patchwork calfskin rug create an über-stylish atmosphere in the living room's TV area, the look is tempered by quirky accessories like a 1970s-style lamp and nest-like bowl. An abundance of black gives the space a masculine presence that contrasts the feminine mood in the other side of the room. Floral arrangements (throughout), Lloyd Ralphs Design coffee table, South Hill Home.

IT'S PRETTY BLACK & WHITE

A CONTRASTING TWO-TONED PALETTE IS THE CLEAR CHOICE FOR THIS LAKEFRONT HOUSE'S GLAMOROUS AESTHETIC.

Text by Katie Hayden Photographs by James Te

On a cloudy winter morning,

the view from Lisa Rogers and John Zanini's townhouse evokes a fog-cloaked Cape Cod shoreline. On the other hand, on a sparkling summer day with boats from the local yacht club dotting the bay and a flock of wild swans taking up residence, it might as well be on the sea in Miami or Los Angeles. Little reveals the actual location: Etobicoke, a quiet neighbourhood in Toronto's west end. "It's 15 minutes to

downtown or the airport," says Lisa, a former model and now a design consultant, and a fashion, design, and health and beauty expert on *CityLine* television. "And it's right on the water — I could throw a fishing line in!"

Like so many buildings in seaside locales, the townhouse is focused on dramatic vistas of the water and incorporates an expansive and meticulously appointed outdoor living space. Indeed, the deck was inspired by an infinity pool, a

The well-appointed kitchen is open to the dining room to allow Lisa (opposite) and her partner, John Zanini, to easily entertain. Lisa's collection of copper pots — and even the wooden spoons — provide a warm, soft counterpoint to the abundance of dark wood cabinetry. Kitchen design, Lloyd Rabohs Design; vase, stools, South Hill Home.

OPPOSITE: In the dining area, feminine grace notes, including a curvaceous glass chandelier and coral-shaped candelabras, and hits of graphic pattern in the artwork and zebra-print rug bring personality to the otherwise austere design. Zebra-print area rug, Elte; chandelier, L'Atelier; dining chairs, South Hill Home.





In the kids' bathroom, a generous helping of rainbow-hued Missoni towels and pillows paint the airy white space in colour. "We like to focus the use of colour and make that a statement," say designers Christine Ralphs and Michelle Lloyd Bermann. A built-in bench and cupboards are functional additions to the room. Missoni towels and toss pillows, HorseFeathersHome; towel rack, Restoration Hardware.



ABOVE: With its ample wraparound windows, white Parsons desk and sculptural clear guest chairs, Lisa's second-floor home office has a breezy presence. The light look is grounded by an artful picture wall hung from floor to ceiling. "Artwork is such an important part of the statement in a house," Lisa says. The palm leaf artwork and red vase subtly warm the palette. Parsons desk, Lloyd Ralphs Design; desk chair, Philippe Starck chairs, Plan b Office.

centerpiece of many luxe resorts, and the edge of the deck appears to drop right off into the water.

An equally intriguing guise defines the interior of the 3,300-square-foot, three-bedroom home. With its 10-1/2-foot ceilings, high classic mouldings, extra-tall doorways and French-style casement windows, the house has the regal air of a Georgian dwelling. In fact, the whole eight-unit townhouse enclave was built just three years ago by John's company, Dunpar Developments. Its carefully considered architectural character doesn't come at the expense of modern amenities — like a sauna, wine cellar and cedar storage closet — or well-planned spaces. Nor does it restrict the home to a traditional interior design. Lisa and John, working in concert with designers Christine Ralphs and Michelle Lloyd Bermann of Lloyd Ralphs Design, have endowed this home, which the couple shares with Lisa's son Taylor, 18, and her daughter Chanel, 21, with a thoroughly contemporary and glamorous look. (The designers actually consulted on aspects of the entire development, including paint colours, kitchen and bathroom designs, built-ins, fireplaces, and finishes and fixtures.) While

OPPOSITE, TOP: The 625-square-foot deck overlooking Lake Ontario (enjoyed here by Lisa's poodle, Lucy) is luxuriously appointed with beachy raffia-look furniture, resort-style umbrellas and curtains (hiding another sitting area), and potted palms and ferns. "The look all started when I got one big palm plant," says Lisa, who brings the plants inside for the winter. Dedon sofa, coffee table, side tables, chaise longue, Studio b Home; lanterns, Constantine; silver platter (on coffee table); Pottery Barn; tropical plants, Summerhill Nursery; towel (on chaise longue), Au Lit Fine Linens; deck floor colour, Litchfield Gray (HC-78), Benjamin Moore.



the designers strove to create a look that remained faithful to the house's defining characteristics — spaciousness, light and lake views — the interior has all the signatures of a Lloyd Ralphs home: a stylishly reserved black and white palette, sleek furnishings, a dollop of glamour and a dash of quirky one-of-a-kind pieces for a personal look. "The black and white palette is especially suitable here because it lets the architecture and the lake stand out," says Ralphs.

A deftly edited collection of personal accessories, many already owned by Lisa, is a key part of the recipe for making the potentially austere two-tone palette livable. Hits of colour also make the look work. "Black and white need to be grounded by something warmer," says Ralphs. In part, that's achieved by the wood floors. "Their taupe tone has a softness to it. It's a wonderful foil to the many black elements throughout." On a smaller scale, Lisa's primitive wooden side table is a warm punctuation mark in the living room, as are vibrant Missoni towels and pillows in the bathroom. In the most striking yet simple flourish, her beloved copper pot collection paints the moody grey-black

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Modern teak furniture and feathery exotic plants give the back deck's dining area a distinctly tropical air. The furniture and accessories are in sync with the home's interior both in their clean lines and black and white palette. The colours also blend in with the lakescape.