





IF THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS, then Tim Lam would happily take on that label. While the finance professional, decorator and blogger waited nearly four years for the Kitchener, Ont., condo he shares with his partner, Chris Gabriel, to be ready, he didn't waste a single moment devising the best ways to maximize and upgrade every inch of the space. In fact, anyone buying a preconstruction unit could take a page out of Tim's playbook — especially in the kitchen.

"We customized the layout with specific electrical areas — one in the corner for the microwave and two on the right wall for sconces — and maintained the original water supply line and range location," says Tim. He chose a standard cabinet style and colour, but took the uppers to the ceiling and added a floating shelf for decorative display. Then, he topped an existing dining table with quartz to tie in with the kitchen counters and

backsplash. "The sight line looks so much better with a stylish dining area instead of an island," he says.

Tim took the large space that was meant to be the principal bedroom and turned it into a multifunctional den, office and guest bedroom instead. "It was Chris's request and it almost gave me a heart attack," admits Tim. To remedy any resale risks down the road, the pair ensured it could be transformed back into a bedroom: the Ikea Pax built-ins can become a closet, the desk can function as a vanity and a full-size bed can take the place of the daybed.

A sea of harmonious beige, taupe and cream furniture and wallpapers make the modest home feel boundless — and visitors are greige with envy. "People love the airiness of the condo and appreciate the custom elements versus the builder's original plan," says Tim. "Neighbours often can't believe their unit is fundamentally the same, but ours feels different with a much better flow and use of space."



### HOME TRUTHS

WHAT AREA DO YOU GRAVITATE TO IN YOUR HOME? "I love the

living room-kitchen the best. It's such a bright and open space."

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST PLUS TO SMALL-SPACE LIVING? "There's much less to clean, and I can focus on

investing in quality items."

IF YOU COULD ADD ONE THING TO YOUR SPACE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"A fabulous dressing room for Chris's clothes and my home accessories."

#### HOW DO YOU KEEP CLUTTER AT BAY?

"We try not to bring in new items almost impossible for me — and other items head to Goodwill."









TOP LEFT: A narrow nook off the entry is the perfect spot for a console, mirror and pendant. DIY art hides the electrical box. Mirror, EQ3; console, West Elm; bench, Jordan Poirier Furniture. TOP RIGHT: A wallpaper remnant adds texture behind the powder room mirror. Tim made sure the backsplash was taller than the faucet. Mirror, HomeSense; faucet, Moen; art, Bettencourt Manor. CENTRE RIGHT: Large-scale shower tile has a luxe stone look, with fewer grout lines to clean. Wall tile, Ciot; niche tile, Creekside Tile Company; shower fixtures, DXV. BOTTOM RIGHT: The floating white oak vanity in the principal bathroom was custom made with two deep drawers. Sconces, Illuminate Vintage; mirror, HomeSense; vanity millwork, Bendt Kitchens & Millwork. OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: A full-width headboard makes the principal bedroom feel wider, and pendants free up space on the nightstands. Custom headboard, Kornhauser Upholstery; storage bed, Ikea. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** Tim had a local carpenter customize two Ikea Pax wardrobes with drawers and shelves in between. Ceiling fixture, Black Rooster Decor; rug, Lulu and Georgia.



## Source Guide

PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS

Appliance Canada, appliancecanada.com Arteriors, 1-877-488-8866 or arteriorshome.com AT Build, (416) 561-7384

or alexandertencate.com

Atelier Arking, (289) 981-9535 or arking.ca Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898

or benjaminmoore.ca

Caesarstone, caesarstone.ca Canadian Drapery Workroom,

(905) 662-9995

CB2, cb2.ca Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca Design Within Reach, dwr.com Drop It Modern, dropitmodern.com **Dundas Specialty Windows & Doors,** (416) 534-4593 or experiencedundas.com Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com Hollis+Morris, (647) 970-9716, 1-833-890-3305 or hollismorris.com If Only Home, ifonlyhome.com LD Shoppe, ldshoppe.com Luminaire Authentik, (514) 662-0352 or luminaireauthentik.com Mettro Source, (416) 913-1722 or mettro.ca Minted, minted.com

Paper Collective, papercollective.com Rejuvenation, rejuvenation.com RH, Restoration Hardware, rh.com Roman Bath Centre, (416) 787-1219

or romanbathcentre.com

Stone Tile, 1-866-669-1103 or stone-tile.com Stylegarage, (416) 534-4343

or stylegarage.com

Tonic Living, (416) 699-9879 or tonicliving.ca Topss, topss.ca

Urban Mode, (416) 591-8834

or urbanmode.com

West Elm, westelm.ca

General contractor, flooring, AT Build; stonework fabrication and installation, Topss; white paint colour, White Dove (OC-17), black door and accent wall colour, Raccoon Fur (2126-20), Benjamin Moore. Page 74: Sectional, throw pillows (excluding green pillows), vases, Elte; coffee table, Atelier Arking; art by Nina Bruun, Paper Collective; window frames by Ostaco, Dundas Specialty Windows & Doors; green throw pillows, drapery fabric, Tonic Living; drapery sewing, Canadian Drapery Workroom. Page 75: Right: Sconce, Elte. Page 76: Left: Mirror, Crate and Barrel; bench, Design Within Reach; tile, Stone Tile. Right: Black flush-mount ceiling fixtures, Luminaire Authentik; dining table by Ethnicraft, Stylegarage; dining chairs and ottoman by Blu Dot, Urban Mode; armchairs (background), Design Within Reach; rug, CB2; art (above fireplace), Minted. Page 77: Laminam counters and island, Stone Tile; faucet by Brizo, Roman Bath Centre; linear ceiling fixture, Hollis+Morris; range by Bosch, Appliance Canada. Page 78: Ceiling fixture, Luminaire Authentik; wallpaper mural, Drop It Modern; bed frame, throw, RH; table lamp, Arteriors; duvet, If Only Home; lumbar pillow, West Elm; drapery fabric, Tonic Living; drapery sewing, Canadian Drapery Workroom; nightstand, Crate and Barrel; rug, LD Shoppe. Page 79: Left: Mirror, Rejuvenation; faucets by Aquabrass, sinks, Roman Bath Centre; counter, Caesarstone; stool by Sori Yanagi, Design Within Reach; wall tile, Stone Tile; floor tile, Mettro Source. Right: Bed frame by Blu Dot, Urban Mode; nightstand, table lamp, LD Shoppe; bedding, RH; art, Minted.



THE RIGHT FIT Pages 80 to 85 Design, Tim Lam, Design Maze, designmaze.com; design assistance, Tiffany Piotrowski, Tiffany Leigh Design, tiffanyleighdesign.com.

PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS

Alanna Cavanagh, (647) 391-3939 or alannacavanagh.com American Standard, 1-800-442-1902 or americanstandard.ca

Anony, (416) 944-9617 or anony.ca Artemide, (416) 628-6718 or artemide.ca

Avenue Road, (416) 548-7788

or avenue-road.com

Bendt Kitchens & Millwork, bendt.ca Bettencourt Manor, (416) 319-4191

or bettencourtmanor.com

Black Rooster Decor, (416) 465-7778

Calico Corners, calicocorners.com

or blackroosterdecor.com

Blanco, 1-877-425-2626 or blancocanada.com Blueprint Lighting, blueprintlighting.com

CB2, cb2.ca

Ciot, ciot.com

Couristan, couristan.com

Creekside Tile Company, (416) 256-3800 or creeksidetile.com

Crown Surface Solutions, (416) 245-2900

or crownsurfacesolutions.com

DXV, dxv.com

Eagleview Construction, (226) 646-3390

or eagleviewconstruction.com

Emtek, 1-800-356-2741 or emtek.com

EQ3, (416) 533-9090 or eq3.com

Etsy, etsy.com

Gus\* Modern, (416) 534-0773

or gusmodern.com

H&M Home, hm.com

HanStone Quartz, hanstone.ca HomeSense, 1-800-646-9466 or homesense.ca Hudson Valley Lighting. hudsonvalleylighting.com Ikea, 1-866-866-IKEA or ikea.ca Illuminate Vintage, illuminatevintage.com Jill Rosenwald Studio, jillrosenwald.com Jordan Poirier Furniture, jordanpoirierfurniture.com Kornhauser Upholstery, (519) 716-5676 Loloi, loloirugs.con Lulu and Georgia, luluandgeorgia.com Moen, moen.ca Original BTC, originalbtc.com PDR Custom Framing, pdrcustomframing.com Ridgely Studio Works, (416) 548-9238 or ridgelystudioworks.com Silva Custom Furniture (to the trade), (416) 638-9595 or silva4home.com SWD Studio, swdstudio.ca Tonic Living, (416) 699-9879 or tonicliving.ca Wesley Seto Design, (416) 538-3223 West Elm, westelm.ca York Wallcoverings, yorkwallcoverings.com

Construction, Eagleview Construction; upholstering, Kornhauser Upholstery; drapery sewing, Wesley Seto Design. Pages 80 and 81: Sofa and chaise longue by Sarah Richardson Design, Silva Custom Furniture; credenza, Gus\* Modern; wall sculpture (far left), Ridgely Studio Works; ceiling fixture, Blueprint Lighting; floor lamp, Hudson Valley Lighting; chaise longue upholstery fabric, Calico Corners; drapery fabric, Tonic Living; rug, Loloi. Page 82: Black sconces, Anony; dining chairs, Avenue Road; counter, backsplash, tabletop, HanStone Quartz; faucet, sink, Blanco; utensil holder, Jill Rosenwald Studio; table (excluding tabletop), accessories, coffee machine, HomeSense; rug, Couristan. Page 83: Daybed, Ikea; daybed upholstery fabric, throw pillows, drapery fabric, Tonic Living; wallpaper, York Wallcoverings; millwork, Bendt Kitchens & Millwork; scissor illustration by Alanna Cavanagh; custom framing by PDR Custom Framing; chair, Avenue Road; rug, CB2. Page 84: Right: Custom headboard, Kornhauser Upholstery; storage bed, nightstand, Ikea; grasscloth, York Wallcoverings; cabinet millwork, Bendt Kitchens & Millwork; headboard upholstery fabric, Calico Corners; pendant, Original BTC: black and white accent pillows. Etsy; lumbar pillow, SWD Studio; nightstand knob, Emtek. Left: Ceiling fixture, Black Rooster Decor; rug, Lulu and Georgia; drapery fabric, Tonic Living: throw pillow (on chair) SWD Studio: throw, H&M Home. Page 85: Left: Mirror, EQ3; console, West Elm; bench, Jordan Poirier Furniture; pendant, Artemide. Top right: Mirror, HomeSense: faucet, Moen: CONTINUED

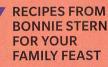
## In the Next Issue

FABULOUS FALL DECORATING

Spectacular homes, plus new looks in kitchen design!

A MOD TOWNHOUSE IN BROOKLYN, N.Y. V









MARIAM ABOUTAAM

**DESIGNS A SHOWHOME** THAT PACKS A PUNCH

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 5

# Source Guide

art, Bettencourt Manor; door handle, Emtek. Centre right: Wall tile, Ciot; niche tile, Creekside Tile Company: shower fixtures, DXV; toilet, American Standard. Bottom right: Sconces, Illuminate Vintage; mirror, HomeSense: vanity millwork, Bendt Kitchens & Millwork; vinyl wallpaper, Crown Surface Solutions; counter, HanStone Quartz; faucet, American Standard.



PURE & SIMPLE Pages 86 to 89 Design, Stephanie Houghton, Griffin Houghton, (416) 995-6323 or griffinhoughton.com.

#### PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS

Caesarstone, caesarstone.ca Cercan Tile, (416) 413-9008 or cercantile.com Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca Dawson Cabinetworks, (905) 951-0101 or cabinetworksinc.ca

Design Within Reach, dwr.com eCarpetGallery, ecarpetgallery.com Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com EQ3, (416) 533-9090 or eq3.com KWA Appliances, (416) 651-0075 or kwaappliances.com

Monte Clark Gallery, monteclarkgallery.com

Pamaro Stone, (416) 922-6531 RH, Restoration Hardware, rh.com

Roll & Hill, rollandhill.com Roman Bath Centre, (416) 787-1219

or romanbathcentre.com

Stone Tile, 1-866-669-1103 or stone-tile.com Taps, (416) 785-0224 or tapsbath.com Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com

Millwork, Dawson Cabinetworks. Page 86: Art by Graham Gillmore, Monte Clark Gallery. Page 87: Sofa, Crate and Barrel; stools, throw pillows, rug, Elte; floor lamp, Roll & Hill; bookcase, Design Within Reach. Page 88: Bottom: Backsplash, Stone Tile; counters, Caesarstone; counter fabrication, Pamaro Stone; faucet by Blanco, Taps; appliances, KWA Appliances; photographic art (background) by Greg Girard, Monte Clark Gallery; bench (background), Design Within Reach. Page 89: Top: Storage bed, EQ3; art (left) by Scott MacFarland, Monte Clark Gallery; bed linens, Wills & Prior; table lamp, Design Within Reach, side table, EQ3; rug,

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