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INTERIORS

Modern Frontier

CONFIDENT HOME BOASTS SINGULAR STYLE

THE MAGICAL METALWORK OF OLEG SHYSHKIN | SHOPPER-FRIENDLY RESOURCE DIRECTORY
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REGINA STURROCK USES BOLD GESTURES IN
A CONFIDENT AND CHARISMATIC AREA HOME

Photography by Roy Timm





“From the very first meeting we knew this project had exceptional potential. Our clients, who had just purchased the house, had a very specific vision; as a test they asked us what our concept would be if given carte blanche. The interior decor at that time was overtly thematic: terra cotta tiles, desert murals, a cactus water feature. We suggested removing all extraneous detail to allow the underlying organic architectural features breathing space, then creating key focal points using unique materials, artisan details and judicious interjections of brilliant colour to guide the eye through open-concept spaces. Our ideas dovetailed with the clients’ vision: they wanted their home to be unique and eclectic without destroying its architectural integrity.

The clients, who have travelled extensively through eastern Asia and Bali, wanted their home to be a welcoming sanctuary that would feed the soul, enliven the senses, encourage reflection and, most importantly, foster the happiness and well-being of their four children. We took inspiration from the many images from their travels, knowing that the clean lines and serene aesthetic of Eastern tradition would marry well with the organic forms and simple masses of the architecture. Many of the key features that we created reflect this Eastern influence; specifically the stepped stone and copper water feature sep-

ABOVE Original artwork by Nicolas Ruel in the great room exemplifies rustic contemporary tension. The works, photographic images of Eastern landscapes presented on stainless steel canvases, become animated when hit with natural light, seeming to dance on the metal surface. **LEFT** A copper patina-ed vaulted ceiling provides a striking backdrop for artisan lighting. **RIGHT** Care was taken to ensure that all of the home’s design elements and furnishings were scaled accordingly.











arating the foyer from the dining area, the towering metal and limestone fireplace in the great room, the curved Plexiglas wall between the kitchen and great room with its sandwiched reeds and copper framing, and of course the massive, custom designed pivot door that serves as a gateway to the master suite.

Our approach in this case was to offer an artful, unexpected interpretation of the home's architectural traditions. Both exterior and interior had all the hallmarks of Southwest architecture with its sweeping sculptural mass, rounded corners, vaulted ceilings, stuccoed walls, rough-hewn trusses and beams and grille work. The simple forms and earthy materials offered a beautiful canvas on which to layer other clean-lined elements of a more eclectic nature.

Since these massive elements play such a pivotal role, both structurally and texturally, we had to ensure that all the design elements and furnishings were scaled accordingly – nothing too fine in texture or delicate in pattern was going to work. We also introduced large scale rustic Asian antiques and more sculpted contemporary pieces to balance architectural scale.

The kitchen was the most complete transformation of the entire renovation. In keeping with the rest of the home, we maintained the rustic envelope – beamed ceiling, stuccoed walls and limestone floors – but introduced clean lines and profiles in the millwork that allowed the unique materials to take centre stage. We chose simple slab-style cabinet doors so as not to interrupt the striking vertical grain of the exotic *goncalo alves* (tiger wood). The island cabinetry is made of Burmese teak, a much more simply grained wood that doesn't distract from the semi-precious slab of petrified wood on top. We continued the contemporary vibe with a seamless 96" long stainless steel countertop underneath the window, complete

with integrated sinks, drain boards and touch-free faucets. Sleek cabinet hardware and back-painted glass accent doors in the upper cabinets provide further counterpoint to the organic elements. The network of custom, handcrafted glass pendants over the dinette are functional works of art and the pagoda-inspired custom copper range hood is a subtle Eastern reference.

The blending of the rustic and contemporary elements strikes a perfect yin-yang chord – one without the other would be too intense in either direction. We achieved this balance by giving each style equal representation in proportion and scale – the fireplace described above is a case in point. Balance was also achieved by the pairing of rustic/rough textures with contemporary/smooth to create an interesting tension: rough stone and wood with smooth metal, glossy accents and furnishings against textured walls.

This is a favourite project of mine. We developed a wonderful relationship with the clients and their children during the eleven months it took to complete. I think the outcome was so successful because they allowed us the freedom to push ourselves artistically to create the unique and highly personal home they had envisioned." – Condensed from an *Interiors* Q&A with Regina Sturrock; visit hamiltonmagazine.com for an extended take **HI**

OPPOSITE The homeowners wanted to have their design based on a spiritual platform. Their home was to be a welcoming sanctuary that would feed the soul, enliven the senses and encourage reflection. Many key features reflect this Eastern influence. **ABOVE** The kitchen renovation incorporates exotic materials alongside discreetly crafted cabinetry and sleek state-of-the-art amenities. Care and attention was also devoted to the design of the many unseen details pertaining to function and storage of the "inner workings"; the integrated cutting board and stainless steel drip tray installed in the beverage centre counter, for example, involved the co-ordination of three different trades