



Mixing it up

A CENTURY-OLD TWO-UNIT BUILDING TRANSFORMS INTO A SINGLE HOME FIT FOR A MODERN FAMILY

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PICK A WOOD, PICK A MOOD

The striking floor-to-ceiling bookcase in the living room is made from walnut and holds the couple's impressive book collection. "The dark, rich colour and the grain of the walnut are meant to capture something of the warmth and age of historic libraries," says architect Wanda Ely. *Vintage chair*, atomicdesign.ca. *Sofa*, stylegarage.com. *Throw blanket*, cambiedesign.com. *Chandelier*, vintage. *Millwork*, coletechinc.com.

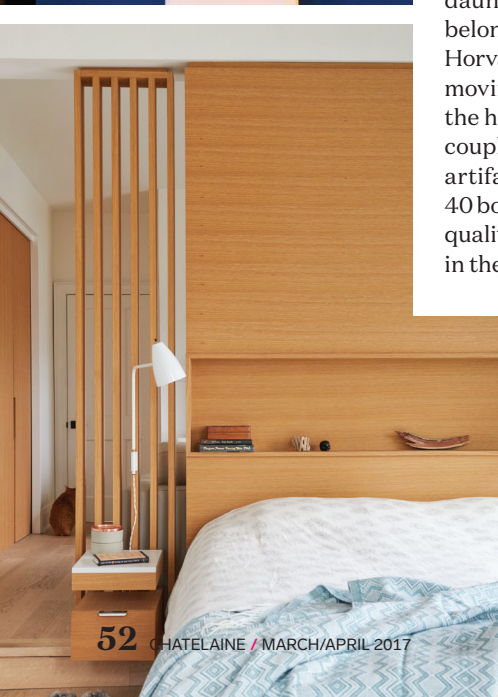


Shawn Winsor and Jennifer Horvath have lived on the same tree-lined street in west-end Toronto for over 15 years—only for the majority of that time, they didn’t actually live under the same roof. He lived in a semi-detached on a corner lot, built in the 1880s and purchased by Winsor in 2001; she lived down the street with her two kids, Sharazade and Rostine, now 17 and 14. They met on a cold winter day in 2007, when Winsor helped push her car out of a snowbank.

For the first five years of their relationship, the couple jumped between the two houses, until they decided to bring their families together. Winsor’s home, which he shared with his now 23-year-old daughter, Hannah, and a renter in a separate apartment, ticked off more of their design criteria: high ceilings, big windows and a sense of character. The first step? Convert the two-unit building back into a single-family home for the five of them.

The couple had a list of things they wanted in their revamped home—an office, lots of storage for their books and a functional kitchen that had visual interest—which they handed over to architect Wanda Ely. Their goal, and Ely’s challenge, was to keep the home’s 100-year-old history and charm intact while making it feel updated and modern. Original elements of the home were preserved (the tall lattice windows in the living room, the beautiful tin ceiling in the kitchen and the staircase), while contemporary texture was layered in. There are bold turquoise tiles that resemble overdyeed rugs in the upstairs bathroom and many kinds of wood throughout the house.

When it was time to move in last April, the couple had the daunting task of merging two households bursting with belongings into one home. “We got rid of a lot of stuff,” says Horvath. “If you ever want to aspire to a minimalist lifestyle, moving three times in nine months is good training.” Now the home is an eclectic mix of the items that matter to the couple most—beautiful art, an impressive vinyl collection, artifacts from their travels and enough books to have filled 40 boxes. “As you get older, you focus on things that are high quality and that you really like,” says Winsor. “What you see in the house are the things that met that test for us.”



PICK YOUR FOCAL POINT

The former kitchen's original tin ceiling was preserved during the renovation and painted black to hide some of its minor imperfections; the colour also connects it to some kitchen elements, like the cabinets, light fixtures and appliances. “It’s a bold gesture that helps to define the dining area within the open kitchen area at the back of the home,” says Ely. **Ceiling lamp**, thebay.com. **Dining chairs**, amazon.ca. **Dining table legs**, mydesignrepublic.myshopify.com. **Painting**, christianmcleod.com.



USE STRIKING BACKDROPS TO SEPARATE YOUR SPACE

Ornate floor-to-ceiling tiles help distinguish the side-entrance mud room from the kitchen. "The beauty of the layout is that the mud room is contained on one side of the kitchen island, while the functional cooking space is restricted to another side," says Ely. **Cushions**, cambiedesign.com. **Stools**, structube.com. **Tile**, mettro.ca.