

AN ARTFUL EYE

A TORONTO COUPLE CALL UPON JAN SHOWERS TO CREATE



INTERIOR DESIGN BY JAN SHOWERS ARCHITECTURE BY WAYNE SWADRON LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY TINA McMULLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE PRODUCED BY RICH MICHELS WRITTEN BY FRANCES SCHULTZ

A SERENE SETTING FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF ART.



DESIGNER JAN SHOWERS'S SOPHISTICATED **SENSIBILITY** APPEALED



TO THE OWNERS, AS DID HER FLAIR FOR DRAMA AND SCALE.



The soaring main salon equally accommodates large parties and intimate gatherings. Chairs and wood table, Jan Showers Collection. Vintage Barovier & Toso chandelier. Flooring, Caesarstone. Walls, Benjamin Moore Regal Select in Oxford White. **OPPOSITE:** Demilune tables, Jan Showers Collection. Custom mirrors. Vintage Murano lamps. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Sofas and lamps, Jan Showers Collection. Vintage coffee tables, René Drouet. Rugs, Kyle Bunting. Art, Jason Salavon. Sculpture, Robert Bradshaw.



The serene gallery space easily converts to host musical performances or seated dinners for 60. Benches in Joseph Noble fabric, Ian Showers Collection. Art. Peter Kolisnyk.



IN THE UNIVERSE'S WAY OF SAYING "HA," A TORONTO BACHELOR

WAS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF BUILDING HIS DREAM HOME WHEN HE MET HIS FUTURE WIFE. "WE'D BEEN INTRODUCED BY A FRIEND WHO FELT OUR SHARED PASSION FOR ART WOULD BE A GOOD START," RECALLS

Cecily Bradshaw of her now-husband, Robert. That, and perhaps that they are both extraordinarily accomplished. A trained pharmacist and former hospital executive with a master's in business administration, Cecily is also a skilled equestrian and musician. Robert is a former fighter pilot, now a businessman and artist. Keeping his two-bedroom place as their primary residence, they bought the lot next door and began plans for a more accommodating second house.

Toronto architect Wayne Swadron created a luminous ode to 1930s Art Moderne style, with its rectilinear rigor and subtle Art Deco motifs throughout. French doors and large windows beckon to the sculpture-filled gardens beyond.

While guest rooms and entertaining venues were design priorities, the Bradshaw residence is a gallery as much as it is a house, and as such, had particular criteria. There was a call for comfort and elegance, but also for discipline and restraint.

THERE WAS A CALL FOR **DISCIPLINE** AND RESTRAINT. THE



INTERIORS SHOULD WHISPER SO THE ART CAN SING.



A streamlined canopy of Jim Thompson silk accentuates the lofty proportions of a guest room. Headboard and side tables, Jan Showers Collection. Walls, Benjamin Moore Regal Select in Inukshuk. OPPOSITE: Throw, Holland & Sherry. Kitchen cabinets, Poliform. Fittings, Dombracht. Art, Ross Blockner.



French doors connect the sun-drenched master bedroom to the garden. Coffee table, Jan Showers Collection. Custom headboard in Jim Thompson silk. Linens and throw (on bed), Ann Gish. Sofa, Baker. Throw (on sofa), Holland & Sherry. Walls, Benjamin Moore Regal Select in Collingwood.



The interiors should whisper so the art can sing. Dallas designer Jan Showers has such a voice, and Cecily knew it the minute she read Showers's book *Glamorous Rooms*, published in 2009, the year the Bradshaws began construction.

Showers's sophisticated, contemporary sensibility, combining clean lines with luxe fabrics and textures, appealed to the Bradshaws, as did her flair for drama and scale. In a bold stroke, Showers suggested painting the entry hall black. "It sets off the glossy white of the rooms on either side," she says, and is a powerful visual cue to the staircase down the hall.

Elsewhere on the ground floor, Showers lets the art take center stage. As a collector herself, she says, "When you have good art, that's what you honor. I thought the pair of banquettes in the main salon would be nice and simple, and Cecily wanted to be able to have small dinners in front of the fireplace." Cowhide rugs and Murano lamps further define the seating areas without distracting from the strong echoing squares of a pair of prints by Jason Salavon that hang above them.

Art is not the only star in this meticulously curated environment. The Bradshaws are voracious readers, and Cecily organized their library-worthy collection of books somewhat by room. The "ladies' bedroom," for example, contains fashion monographs and fiction by female authors. The master bedroom's biblio-focus is on gardens, as it overlooks the formal plantings below.

When the house was finished, the Bradshaws gave a party to thank everyone who had contributed to the project. Mike Paulini, the painter also responsible for the splendid lacquerwork, asked if he might give the couple something in return. Robert recalls, "He then performed the most beautiful violin solo. We were all so moved, and that moment spoke volumes about our intent for this house—that it be filled with friends, art, music, and love." □

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