


NEW HOMES & CONDOS

What's so green about the green room?



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CONFIDENTIAL**

As the red carpet is rolled up and the lights go down on TIFF 2016 let's take one last moment to get up close and personal with Festival Style Magazine's Gala Green Room at Roy Thomson Hall.

This large space is where the A-list celebs spent their time after walking the red carpet to wait for the screening of their film. The green room was also the gathering spot for the chi-chi crowd associated with the festival.

So what's so green about the green room? Originating in the theatre, the purpose of the space was to create a relaxing area to quell performers' nerves prior to going on stage.

But with the success of television in the 1960s and the burgeoning genres of talk and variety shows such as *Ed Sullivan*, the green room took hold in television production as well.

Now it's a universal term that most people understand to be a relaxing space 'behind the scenes' for whatever pro-

duction or event may be taking place.

Personally, after more than 20 years not only as a designer, but also as a performer, host and presenter I have never actually been in a green room that was, well, green.

The concept in colour psychology is that green is the most relaxing colour in the spectrum, allowing the eye to settle and focus, making concentration and study easier. Suffice it to say, most people didn't get the memo.

The lack of green in this year's Green Room certainly made no difference as our concept was to design a space with cool furniture, special surfaces, unique art, colourful carpets and modern decor all with a Canadian story.

I was fortunate to be able to partner with premiere companies to attain this lofty goal.

Although there were many restrictions on placement of furniture, brand names, fire codes, security, bar locations, etc. the vision came together beautifully.



'Green rooms' are seldom ever green but any colour used must be relaxing.

To serve the stars their bubbly, Cambria provided unique bars and cruiser tables made from a variety of quartz patterns. If you don't know Cambria (www.cambriacanada.com), they are worth a visit to their exquisitely appointed showroom on Parliament at the King Street design district.

Their countertop material is great for counter tops as it's impervious to scratches, germs, damage and heat. And just in case you want to feel like a star at home, they have lots of counters with sparkle!

Soft furniture was selected from the incredibly modern and creative collection from Augustus Jones (www.augustusjones.com).



With trendy colours, crisp shapes and surprising forms, these pieces are statements.

With trendy colour, crisp shapes and surprising forms these pieces are statements. Like art, they are not only wonderful to look at but they are very comfortable too! I'm betting an A-lister wanted to take all the furniture home.

One of my favourite stores, Union Lighting and Furnishings (www.unionlightingandfurnishings.com) contributed a host of tables and lighting.

Matte black and gold (yes gold is back!) was present in the decor pieces, mixed with walnut and even a touch of rose gold! All three of these metallic finishes are trending so look for more of them this fall.

Nunavut art was a major component of the design. Dorset Fine Arts Art (www.dorsetfinearts.com) contributed the bold and engaging contemporary works of art. The colour, nature and forms depicted are reflective of life in our north.

We couldn't ignore the

opportunity to add works of art to the floor and Weavers Art (www.weaversart.com) contributed many luxurious pieces that enhanced the seating vignettes throughout the space.

In spite of the limited amount of green in the room I think this green room told our Canadian story very well and

showed off our resourceful, modern and colourful side. A room to be envied.

— Award-winning designer, TV personality, author and spokesperson Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design and colour. Visit www.janelockhart.com.



Originating in the theatre, the purpose of the green room is to create a relaxing area to quell a performer's nerves.



Many luxurious pieces are used to create inviting seating vignettes throughout the space.



Uniquely-designed tables are made from a variety of quartz patterns. Photos by Larry Arnal.