

DESIGNER SHOPPING TIPS & **TOP SHOPS**

2012

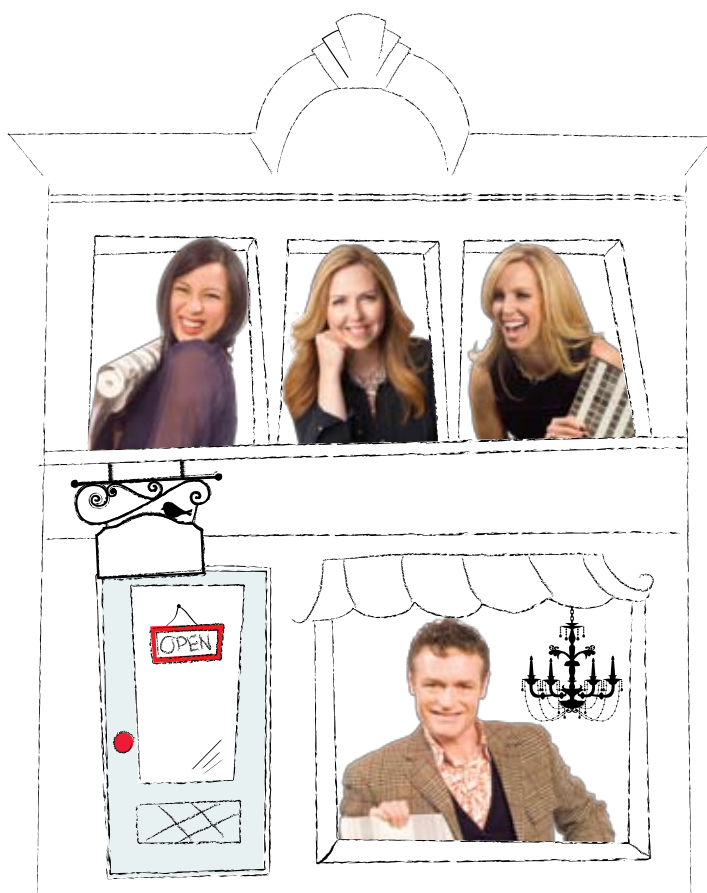
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Photographed on location at BoConcept

Make-up by Evgeny Loukianenkov, evgenycosmetics.com

Shopping – it’s a time-honoured tradition; a pastime for a couple of pals doing some light browsing or some serious damage; it’s an art; it’s a sport. Four design and décor experts offer their essential shopping tips for all things home, from basic colour to the final finishing touches, and their top shops in the GTA to get it all.





GLEN PELOSO, PRINCIPAL DESIGNER
Glen Peloso Interiors
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GLEN PELOSO ACCESSORIZES...

1 Think of the accessories of a room as you would the accessories of an outfit. They can change an outfit from a strict business suit to something a little gentler, simply by adding a ruffle or a soft scarf. The same is true of the accessories of a room. Based on the layout and feel of your furniture and fabrics, you can decide if you want the room to feel masculine or more feminine. There is no right or wrong, it is really a matter of preference. I always think it is best to decide on a direction for the accessories before you set out to shop. There are a variety of directions, but in general you can divide into “shiny” which would be glass, chrome, mirror and high gloss, “natural” which would be reclaimed woods, leather, ceramics and hand-made items, “antique” which is self explanatory, or “eclectic” which would contain a selection of all of the above. Again no direction is wrong for a room, however it will change the way the room feels.

2 Ensure accessories “pull the room together” in a feel and colour scheme you like. When you look at the throw pillows of a well-coordinated room you will see that colours from the drapery have been repeated in the cushions, or colours or fabrics from the sofa have been used to repeat the colour in another area of the room.

3 Remember that “art” isn’t considered an “accessory” but is its own category. The art doesn’t have to match anything in the room. A very modern piece would be very happy in a very traditional room. The only requirement of the art is that you like it. The frame may want to complement the room but even that isn’t essential. I rarely – if ever – advise clients on the selection, but have opinions when it comes to size and placement in the room.

4 Before you set foot in a store, know what areas of the room you want to accessorize. All too often people shop on the “isn’t that cute” rule, however, and the items selected end up being the wrong proportions or they don’t coordinate with each other. Go with specifics. Know that you are looking for something that is eight inches high, 14 inches across, for example, and that you would like it to be something “natural” in style or colour. To assist you in making that determination, one good way to think about it is in triangles. Accessories tend to look best when they create a triangle either with the peak being far to the right or left or in the centre, so think “group of three.”

5 Accessories are the one element of a room that can be changed seasonally or every couple of years. They tend to be the least expensive part of the decor, so changing them from time to time won’t break the bank – but may deposit some big smiles when you are relaxing in the room and enjoying the finished product.

GLEN'S TOP SHOPS

SUN-BRITE DRAPERY
7695 Jane St., Unit 11, Concord
416.741.9430
sunbriedrapery.com

CRATE & BARREL
crateandbarrel.ca
Visit the website for a location near you

HOMESENSE
homesense.ca
Visit the website for a location near you

JULIEN ARMAND
416.534.5665
julienarmand.ca

SMASH
2880 Dundas St. W., Toronto
416.762.3113
smash.to

JANE'S TOP SHOPS

CRATE & BARREL
crateandbarrel.ca
Visit the website for a location near you

CB2
651 Queen St. W., Toronto
cb2.com

ELTE
80 Ronald Ave., Toronto
416.785.7885 elte.com

WINDERGARDEN
664 Annette St., Toronto
416.766.1960 windergarden.com

UNION LIGHTING & FURNISHINGS
1491 Castlefield Ave., Toronto
unionlightingandfurnishings.com

SPEERS ROAD BROADLOOM
400 Speers Rd., Oakville
905.844.0712
speersroadbroadloom.com

Though not a common item on your shopping list, colour is the most basic décor essential. A room’s colour sets the tone for the look and feel of the space, and it affects all the other rooms that surround it. Most importantly, colour is a reflection of your personal style. Shopping for colour can be daunting, so colour expert Jane Lockhart offers her expert tips on how to choose the right hue.

JANE LOCKHART TALKS COLOUR...

1 Consult an expert. Interior designers and decorators are worth their weight in gold and can save you a lot of stress, anxiety and money by using their vast experience to help you choose the perfect palette.

2 Infuse some personality and function. A colour can speak volumes in a room and directly influence the ambiance and personality of the space.

Choose colours based on how you want the room to feel and work. Light affects colour, so be aware of how light moves through your house.

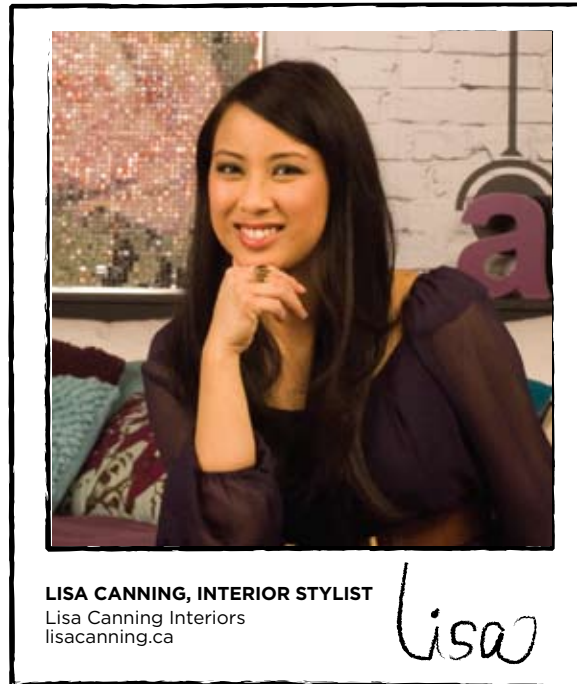
3 Consider your furnishings. Draw inspiration for a colour scheme from your existing furnishings – an upholstered sofa, an oriental rug or favorite piece of art. It’s easier to match a colour to something you love than to find something to complement a new wall colour!

4 Get inspired. Peruse glossy décor magazines and designers’ websites for ideas. Pay attention to furniture styles, colour schemes and architectural elements. Your colour choices should enhance and complement your style and period elements. Make note of the featured brand and colour number, or take a photo, clip a magazine article or bring a piece of fabric to a reputable paint store to have it professionally colour matched to any brand.

5 Choose the right finish. Typically, home interior paint comes in satin finish, semi-gloss, high gloss and flat finishes. Semi-gloss and high gloss paints are more durable and easier to clean, making them ideal finishes for mouldings and kitchen and baths. Flat and satin finishes lend a soft, elegant look to living rooms, bedrooms and family rooms.

JANE LOCKHART, INTERIOR DESIGNER
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LISA CANNING, INTERIOR STYLIST
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LISA CANNING ON SMALL SPACES...

1 | Plan. Big or small, a well-designed space begins with a good plan. Measure your space, taking note of electrical outlets, light fixtures and structural obstructions like bulkheads and columns. Take these measurements and input them into an online planning tool like Icovia (icovia.com). This tool allows you to insert furnishings, change their sizes and generate a shopping list with exact measurements. Keep proportions in mind when planning the layout of your furniture and don't be shy to take painter's tape to the floor to visually block out how your furniture will fit.

2 | **Furniture with function.** In a booming condo market innovative retailers have understood the need for multi-functional pieces to help small-space dwellers lead more functional and stylish lives. Available through VNO Designs, the Lacuna table begins as a customizable piece of wall art and drops down to reveal a functional dining table for five. At BoConcept, a sleek coffee table reveals hidden compartments with functional storage. Crate & Barrel's Willow Twin Sleeper Sofa is a compact overstuffed chair that unfolds for your unexpected overnight guest. These double duty pieces not only work hard for you but look great too.

3 | Don't be afraid of pattern. I am often asked if a small space can handle a bold wallpaper – and my answer is a vehement “yes!” A patterned wallpaper in a small space can lend itself to a cosy, intimate

atmosphere. But do watch scale. A wallpaper with an oversized print may feel too overpowering in a small space. To keep the look cohesive, draw your colour palette from the wallpaper. Add throw pillows in a coordinating colour or paint adjacent walls to complement.

4 | The 70-5-25 rule. A challenge with small spaces is that you can often see the entire room at first glance. This means that creating harmony and balance is important to ensure the room does not feel disjointed or cluttered. I find an easy principle to employ to achieve this is a rule of 70-25-5: 70 per cent of a main colour, 25 per cent of a secondary colour and five per cent of a “surprise” colour. For example, light grey walls and a dark grey sofa could be the dominant colour, a black coffee table as the secondary colour, and throw pillows in a punch of lime green as the pop of colour. I find using this principle allows me to achieve big impact, especially in small spaces.

5 | Three things not to forget. If you are looking to start somewhere, begin with these three elements: paint, light fixtures and window treatments. Even if you have great furniture in a space, I find a home doesn't feel “lived in” until these items are in place. I often recommend that clients tackle these often-neglected areas before they buy furniture so they do not get put on the decorating back-burner.

LISA'S TOP SHOPS

BOCONCEPT FURNITURE
230 Adelaide St. E., Toronto
boconcept.com

DESIGN REPUBLIC
639 Queen St. W., Toronto
mydesignrepublic.com

ELTE 2ND FLOOR
80 Ronald Ave., Toronto
elte.com

INVU DRAPERY CO.
2784 Yonge St., Toronto
invudraperyco.com

WEST ELM
109 Atlantic Ave., Toronto
westelm.com

HEATHER'S TOP SHOPS

ZILLI HOME
672 Chrislea Rd., Woodbridge
289.268.0020, zillihome.com

PRIMA LIGHTING
255 Bass Pro Mills Dr., Thornhill
905.851.1188, primalighting.com

AU LIT FINE LINENS
2045 Yonge St., Toronto
416.489.7010, aulitfinelinens.com

HOME COUTURE BY MARIA AND BABY DÉCOR
2104 Hwy. 7 West, Unit 19, Concord
905.738.1575, babydecor.ca

TEATRO VERDE
98 Yorkville, Toronto
416.966.2227, teatroverde.com

RESTORATION HARDWARE
2901 Bayview Ave., North York
416.223.2055, restorationhardware.com

HEATHER SEGRETI SIZES IT UP...

1 | **A floor plan drawn to scale is always the best way to ensure proper placement.** With that being said, putting the pieces of furniture on a plan will only work if you know what the standard guidelines for placement are. Yes, there are standard and – more importantly – minimum clearances that will facilitate optimal traffic flow through your space. The best resource for this information would be Wiley's Publication - Architectural Graphic Standards - Interior Graphic Standards edition. After 75 years of continuous publication, Architectural Graphic Standards is one of the most trusted and relied-upon architectural references in the design and construction industries.

2 | **Get out the masking tape.** You can use low-tack painters or masking tape to essentially draw the footprint of your desired purchase on the floor. For example if the sofa you are considering purchasing is 72 inches long and 40 inches deep, then use your measuring tape to locate this rectangular shape on the floor and then outline the shape with your tape. This is a great way to visualize the piece and see its proportions

in relation to your existing pieces of furniture. This technique also works for artwork and large mirrors. For example if you are looking to create a feature wall with multiple frames in all different sizes, you can tape these shapes on the wall accordingly, record the sizes and feel confident when you purchase.

3 | **The tablet trend. Have your iPad on hand.** A digital camera is a given, but the new trend in tablets has taken shopping to a new level. Pre-shoot the spaces in your home and literally bring your room with you to every retailer you visit. The advantage of the large screen and lightweight tablet is easy access. I have used this technique when purchasing carpets for client spaces, and it also works wonderfully when purchasing artwork and accessories. This really allows you to envision the showroom item in your home and make a decision on the spot.

4 | **Don't be overwhelmed by a brilliant display in a showroom, this may not have the same effect in your space.** Try not to stray from your original design style. Just because it looks great in the showroom doesn't mean it will look great in your space. Remember, all retail stores are set up to catch your eye and get you to buy! Impulse is a great business for retailers, so stick to your design style.

5 | **If you question the purchase more than once, it's not for you!** If you really want to be certain take a photo, walk away and then see if you are drawn back. Go home and measure, tape and look at the photo in your own space. Instinct can be your greatest ally!

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