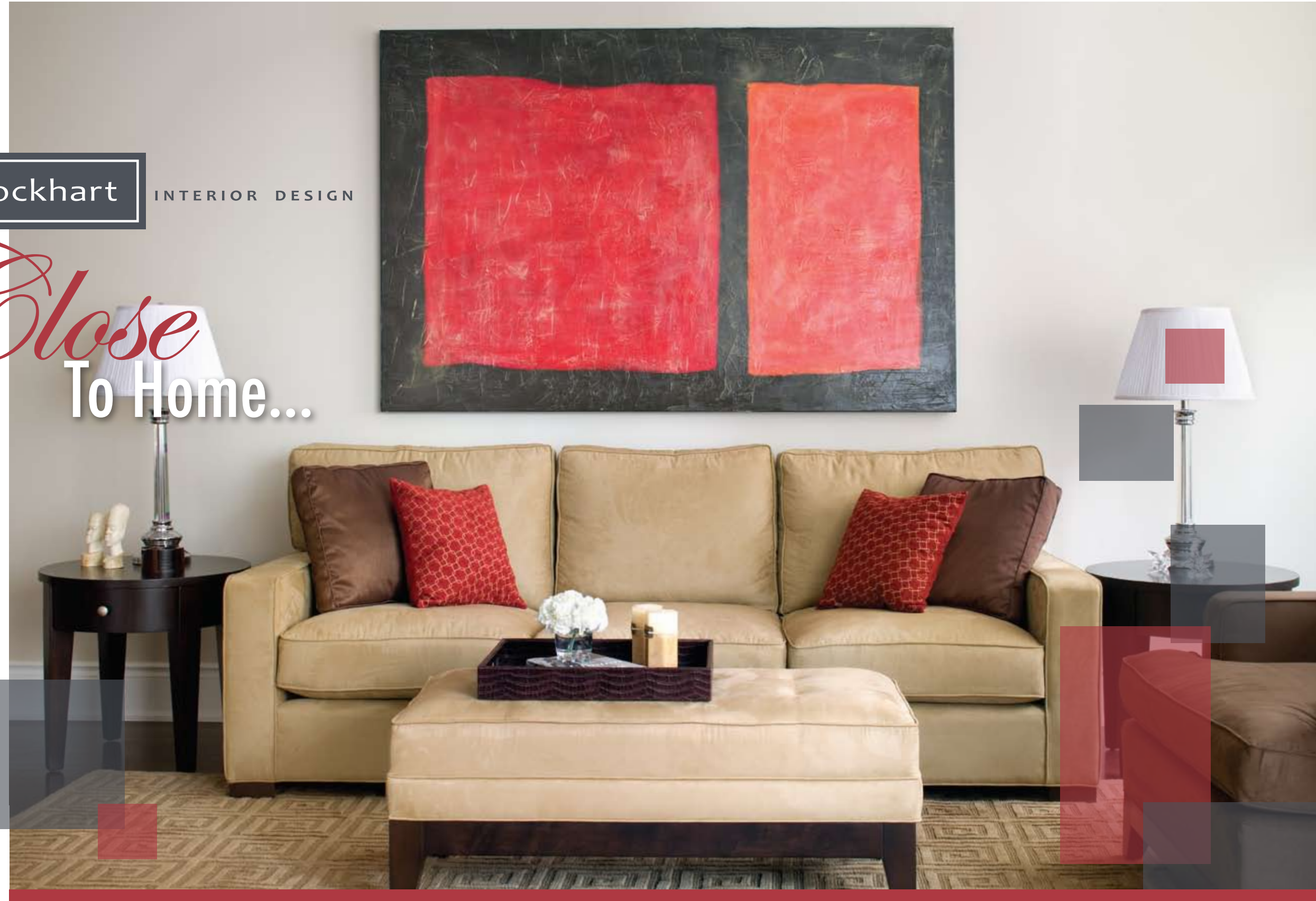




jane lockhart INTERIOR DESIGN

Close To Home...



By Jane Lockhart

Jane Lockhart B.A.A.I.D, Intern, A.R.I.D.O. is principal Interior Designer with Jane Lockhart Interior Design in Toronto and host of Colour Confidential on W Network.

Interior Design and Story by Jane Lockhart | Jane Lockhart Interior Design
www.janelockhart.com | info@janelockhart.com
Photography by Brandon Barré

Every great room is not just a product of its layout or colour; its style rests in the furniture and how these pieces function daily. Living and family rooms really put their upholstered pieces to the test as they are always in heavy use. Sofas and chairs, especially, need to last when they are used constantly.

Up to approximately 25 years ago, fabric-covered sofas and chairs were still largely made in North America and it was assumed that the quality was good. But with globalization came pressure on local manufacturers to take furniture making off shore in search of cheaper labour and materials. Today, we have paid the price for this practice as consumers are less educated about what makes a quality sofa and why it's important to purchase key pieces from Canadian manufacturers.



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≡ **Title Page:** Jane has been designing furniture with Canadian manufacturers for her Jane Lockhart Interior Design clients for over 19 years. Jane's new Manchester sofa is shown here.

≡ **To Left:** Jane's new 100-per-cent Canadian, sustainable furniture collection — the Jane Lockhart Platinum Series — is available to designers across Canada through Gresham House in Mississauga (greshamhousefurniture.com) and Stewart Drummond Studios in Calgary (stewartdrummondstudios.com). The Manchester sofa and Heath swivel chair are shown here.

transportation and duty costs, and sometimes more money goes toward shipping the item than to the actual materials put into it. A piece made in North America means more money is spent specifically on materials and labour directly affecting the quality of the piece. This way, you are getting more furniture for your money.



Also, furniture made here supports Canadians and keeps our economy running. We may pay more for goods produced here, but in the long run it comes back to us as workers in the forestry and timber businesses — largely in British Columbia, Ontario and Québec — see their materials sold to a local market rather than solely overseas. In addition, the practice of making furniture on home soil draws on the expertise of our craftspeople and involves the retail sector. While some furniture components may come from other parts of the world, assembling the finished products here keeps Canadians employed.

≡ **To Left:** The Clooney club lounge chair from the Jane Lockhart Platinum Series shown here in leather with studded detailing.

As it turns out, Canadian wood is excellent for producing not only goods like tables and bed frames, but it is also amazingly strong for building the interior structure of upholstered pieces. In addition, the craftsmanship and knowledge of furniture builders here is substantial. The use of corner blocks (added for strength), dovetail joints and hardwood frames is commonplace in the production of quality Canadian-made furniture. These are very important to the long-term stability of upholstered pieces that are used regularly.

≡ **Below:** The Robson sofa from the Jane Lockhart Platinum Series features a classic finished wood base and demi-arm styling.



So how do you know if a sofa is good quality? There are several key things to look for. A solid hardwood frame construction is paramount to the strength of a sofa or chair; particleboard is not hardwood. High-grade foam is really important to the long-term shape and spring of seat cushions. Padding added to the sides of the arms and to the back of the sofa to fill it out also helps with its look and overall comfort. A cheap sofa, on the other hand, doesn't have this; it feels like cardboard when you knock the side of the sofa. Webbing and springs also make a difference to how well a sofa will wear.

When we purchase products made in Canada, we have more choice of sizes and materials and we often get better quality furniture than items imported at a lower cost. Although it may seem like you're paying less money for a specific piece, the item has incurred

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» To Right: Gresham House, the Canadian manufacturer of the Jane Lockhart Platinum Series, builds all of their frames from kiln-dried FSC Canadian hardwood and offers unlimited customization in style, upholstery and cushions — all made from sustainable material.



Decorate your personal space with quality, Canadian-made furniture!

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Our designs, styles and materials are often desired by other nations around the globe. Somehow we seem to think that if it's made here at home, it's just not as good as pieces made elsewhere. Although we don't have a long history of furniture design, building and production like England, France or Italy, many of the people who work in these fields carry the knowledge of previous generations who have immigrated here. By buying Canadian furniture, we're getting high-quality furniture that will stand the test of time — and reducing our carbon footprint while we're at it. 

» Below: The Heath chair with optional swivel base from the Jane Lockhart Platinum Series is a clever style with tapered arms and full seat designed for ultimate comfort.



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