



A taxidermy Chinese pheasant was a wedding gift to the couple

WHO: Drake General Store cofounder Carlo Colacci and his wife Laura
WHAT: A triplex converted to a family home
WHERE: Toronto
STYLE: Vintage eclectic

An old storefront-turned-triplex-turned-single-family dwelling, this downtown Toronto home has lots of history — perfect for vintage devotees Carlo and Laura Colacci. Carlo hunts down unique furniture for the Drake Hotel and is a cofounder of the Drake General Store. Inspired by his work, the home's look is bold but not too serious. "We're trying to be grown-ups in our new house," he says. "But we also love to have a sense of humour." The couple strives for balance, offsetting quirky art, unexpected accents and wild patterns with a muted palette and beautiful but quiet vintage pieces. The overall effect is eclectic, but well-edited. "It's about taking the best of the last hundred years and making it work in one space," he explains.

HISTORY LESSON

Retailer Carlo Colacci mixes vintage finds from different eras for a thoroughly personal look.

Text by **STACY LEE KONG** | Photography by **MICHAEL GRAYDON**



Carlo and Laura Colacci in the entry of their Toronto home (here, she was pregnant with the couple's twins). A six-month renovation in 2013 was mostly cosmetic, but they did make a few structural changes. The most impactful was in the entry: the staircase was originally hidden behind a wall, which they replaced with a mod, metal railing that helps the space feel more expansive. **Railing construction, Anvil & Co.**

PERSONAL STYLE

√ Add personal touches with DIY art

An exposed section of brick wall gives a deliberately undone air to the entry. A bentwood chair with canework by Josef Hoffmann fits right in with the light walls and floor, while a vintage dentist's table is repurposed as a gift to stash keys and mail. The artwork was a gift for Laura; Carlo gold-leafed the quote, a song lyric by Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, onto an old window and had it framed.



SIGNATURE STYLE

In the kitchen, both the backsplash and the floor are tiled in a playful geometric pattern, a daring choice for this utilitarian space.



^ Step outside your comfort zone

Unlike the rest of the house, which is bright and airy, the family room feels like an impeccably styled cave, thanks to a coat of deep blue paint. Furniture from a mix of eras gives a collected feel — a 1920s chair sits beside a '70s lacquered-goatskin coffee table and a great piece of oversized art, photographer Slim Aarons' *Poolside Glamour*. **Wall colour**, Indigo Action (PF70), Para Paints; **chair reupholstery, sofa**, Alta Moda Furniture; **glass objects** (on coffee table), Bungalow.

< Be bold in small spaces

The galley kitchen's tiny size didn't keep Carlo and Laura from creating an eye-catching space with standout tile. They opted for quartzite countertops over marble for beauty and practicality. **Cabinetry**, Perola Kitchens & Interiors; **Smeg appliances**, Drake General Store; **quartzite counter**, Crystal Tile & Marble; **pot**, West Elm.



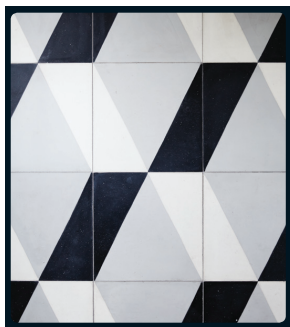
▲ Make space for luxe lounging

In the dining room, a vintage Mission-style settee is a perfect spot to relax after dinner. A 1920s dental cabinet has been reimagined as a bar cart, housing pretty glassware and a few favourite bottles. Throughout the main level, the old flooring was ripped out in favour of wide-plank oak from Spain. **Flooring**, Stone Tile; **artwork**, Drake General Store.

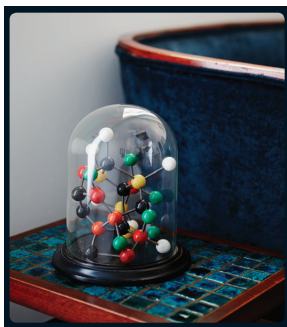
< Know when to choose vintage — and when to buy new

“Lighting is the toughest thing to source vintage,” Carlo says. “It’s a nightmare to get it rewired and certified.” That’s why they went with a new chandelier over the dining table. The giant mirror and 150-year-old recessed ceiling moulding are antique finds that speak to the home’s history, while the table and mix of chairs by Paul McCobb have a modernizing effect. **Wall colour**, Ultra White (CC-10), Benjamin Moore; **chandelier**, West Elm; **carpet tiles**, Flor.

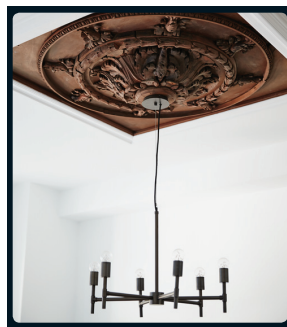
ELEMENTS OF THE LOOK



PATTERN PLAY The couple went with statement tile in both the kitchen (above) and bathroom, but a neutral palette keeps the busy patterns from overwhelming the overall look.



ECCENTRIC ACCENTS A molecular model is a quirky, unexpected addition in the dining room. Carlo set this colourful example under a glass cloche, instantly elevating it.



FINE DETAILS Carlo loves highlighting architectural elements. When he installed the vintage ceiling moulding, he chose not to paint it so its wood tones would make it stand out.



^ Aim for complementary surfaces, not matching ones

The new second-floor principal bathroom is all about the hard surfaces. Crisp black accents lend a stylized look to the room and are a graphic contrast to the warm tones of the Grigio Fior di Bosco marble countertop, which Carlo says reminds him of something out of an astronomy book. **Vanity**, Anvil & Co.; **faucets** by Jason Wu, Brizo; **marble**, Crystal Tile & Marble; **floor tiles**, Metro Source; **plant pot**, Dynasty; **towels**, Hudson's Bay; **resin tray**, Ginger's; **soaps**, West Elm.

> Turn the bedroom into a calming escape

In the principal bedroom, an exposed brick chimney breast is a source of warmth and texture in a mostly white space. A brightly tiled firebox brings colour and playfulness to the room, but overall, it's serene and relaxing. Carlo added the appropriately ornate picture rail, which makes a pretty headboard for the simple bed. **Wall colour**, Ultra White (CC-10), Benjamin Moore; **fireplace tile**, Olympia Tile; **bed**, Alta Moda Furniture; **duvet**, West Elm; **throw**, Brahm's Mount; **dreamcatcher** by Victoria Rumi, Drake General Store.



< Use beautiful belongings in place of art

Previously, a second living area on the upper level went mostly unused, until the couple converted the space into a principal bathroom and this walk-in closet. The fun dressing room is complete with rolling racks and a chic brass tri-fold mirror. A vintage Singer sewing chair and weathered rug add a hit of colour to the space.

SIGNATURE STYLE

The couple maintained key architectural details, like this brick uncovered during the renovation.

