

FRESH APPROACH

Designer Stephanie Brown reveals how she brought the clean, simple aesthetic of Scandi style to this Canadian home

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY PHIL CROZIER

KITCHEN

The beauty of the oak island is enhanced by being wrapped in the white quartz worktop. Bespoke oak cabinetry, Smallbone. For Caesarstone quartz countertops, price on request, try Henderstone. Ambit pendants by Muuto, from £179, Made in Design



HOME TRUTHS

DESIGNER Stephanie Brown
HOUSE Detached home in Canada, built in 2002
WORK Complete redesign and basement extension

LANDING

Dead space was turned into a reading nook.

Try the Lacey armchair, £325, Next. Around coffee table by Muuto, £308, Made In Design

**DINING ROOM**

A bespoke cupboard provides open and closed storage.

A similar light fitting is the Black Rod glass globe chandelier, £129, Tekled

**WHAT'S YOUR DESIGN**

BACKGROUND? I've been in interior design for nearly 20 years and in 2012, shortly after moving from Alberta to Vancouver, I founded my own design firm Stephanie Brown Inc. Since then, my design team and I have been busy designing custom homes everywhere from Canada to The Bahamas.

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

I'd worked with the owners Jenneh and Paul for several years on projects connected to their landscaping firm and they asked for my help in renovating their home in Vancouver. After gutting it, replacing the windows and insulation and digging down to extend the basement, we carried out a complete redesign throughout, including kitchen and bathrooms, plus new furniture and decor.

TELL US, WHAT WERE THE HOMEOWNERS' MUST-HAVES?

They wanted to improve the functionality of the spaces to suit their young family and this included creating a more open-plan ground floor, as well as adding lots more built-in storage for all the toys and games. Their other main priority was to update the home, making it brighter and fresher throughout, with modern Scandinavian influences – the existing spaces were dark and tired so we needed to change everything from the finish of the property to the furnishings.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? Jenneh and I referenced lots of modern Scandinavian interiors for inspiration and agreed a palette of light wood, white cosy textures and soft pastel

SITTING ROOM

A medley of tables is more interesting than just one.

Interior design by Stephanie Brown Inc. Inga Sempé Ruché armchairs, £3,550 each, Ligne Roset





MAIN BEDROOM
A vignette of art over the table adds extra decoration.
 Trica Nest bed; Absolute bedside table, both price on request, Once a Tree. For chunky knitted wool blankets, £46, try Shop Green



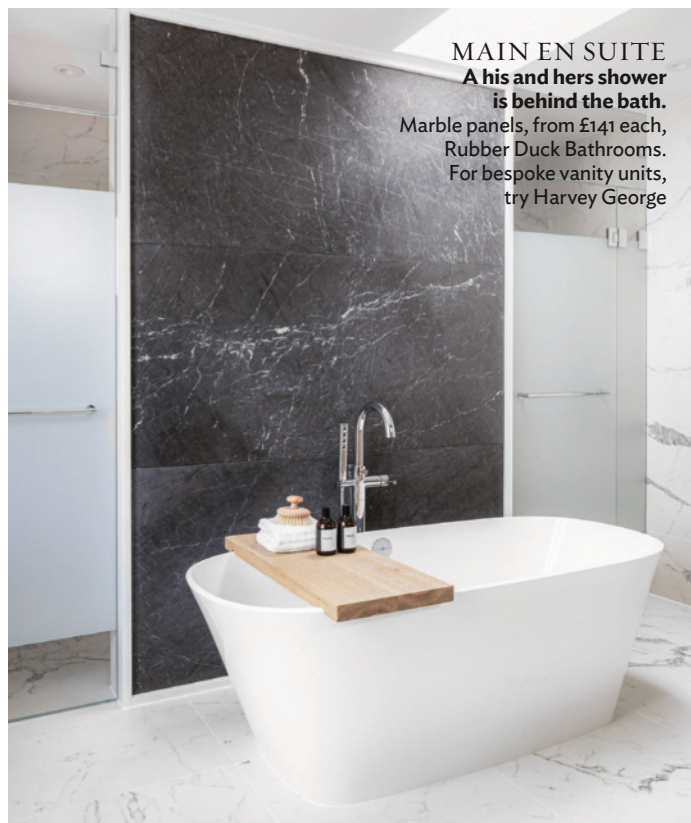
accent colours would feel modern, fresh and inviting. We also included soft green accents as a quiet nod to the clients' landscaping business.

IS THE HOUSE COORDINATED THROUGHOUT? Yes, the colour palette is consistent upstairs and downstairs – we used white walls and light oak wood everywhere. The bedrooms all feature light grey wool carpet, which is also consistent with grey tones in the furniture elsewhere.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT? It was great to work with clients who trusted our vision from start to finish. Some people get 'project fatigue' and decide to keep their old decor and furniture, which is disappointing as the design/environment of the home isn't fully realised.

AND WHAT DID JENNEH AND PAUL THINK OF THE FINAL SCHEME? They were thrilled with it and love their 'new' renovated home – they say the warm palette feels inviting and peaceful when they walk through the door. This is now a place to restore and relax, and somewhere the family can spend quality time together.

WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Use all the resources available, such as design magazines and Pinterest, to gather the inspiration and ideas you love, and then edit, edit, edit – you should only need about 10 key images that represent the style and palette of your home project. And the other thing is to have common threads in colours and material types, so different spaces still feel cohesive and unified. 25



MAIN EN SUITE
A his and hers shower is behind the bath.
 Marble panels, from £141 each, Rubber Duck Bathrooms. For bespoke vanity units, try Harvey George