

A FRESHLY DESIGNED HOME
GETS A HOLIDAY TWIST.

Festive GREETINGS

STORY **CATALINA MARGULIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



They say anything worth doing, is worth doing well, and that was certainly the case for new homeowner Samantha Barone, when she took over her newly built condo in the coveted Forest Hill neighbourhood at Bathurst and Eglinton two years ago.

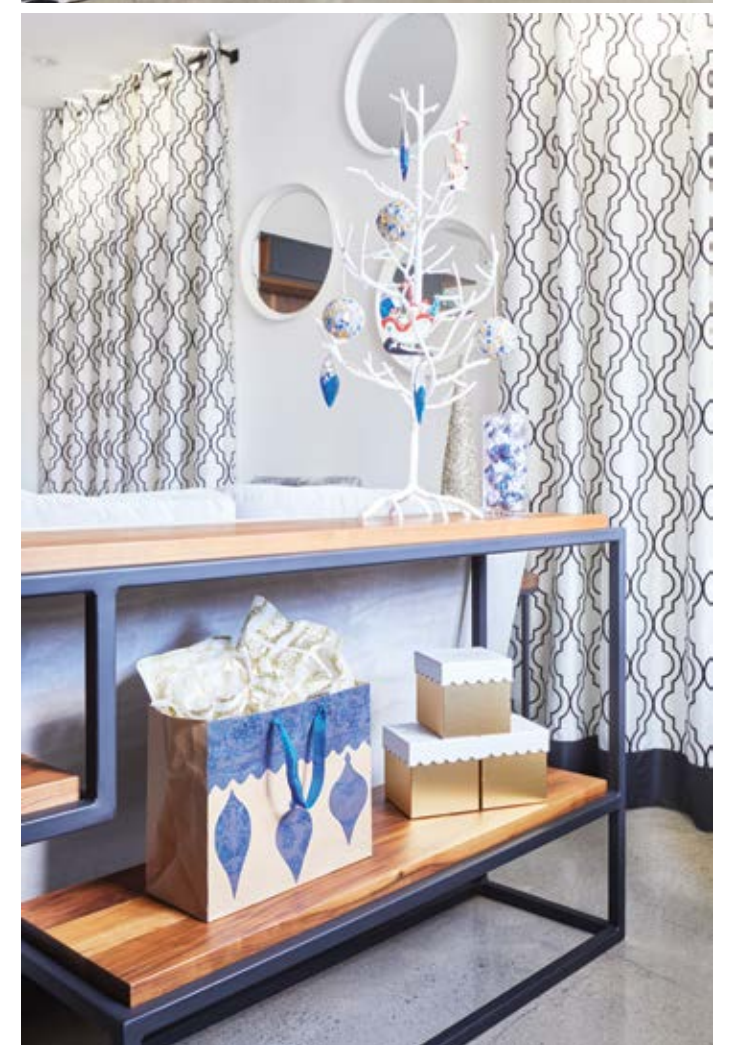
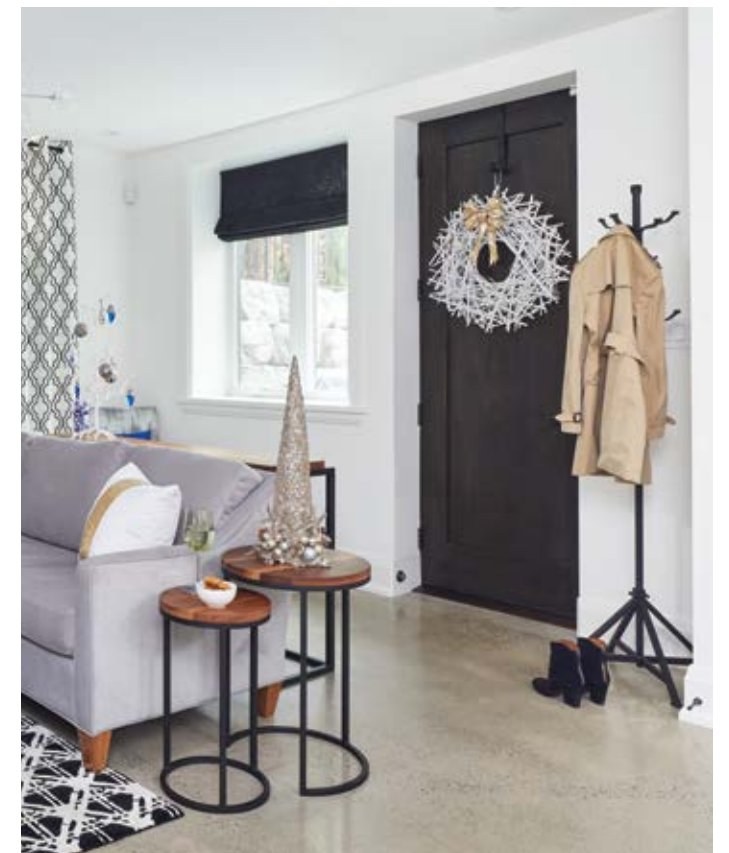
Enlisting the help of her designer and cousin, **Sonya Barbosa** of **Spaces by Sonya**, Barone decided to go the custom-built route when it came to furnishing her new space.

"Samantha bought it from the builder, and it was her first place," Barbosa recalls. "She had nothing going into it, and it had to be completely furnished. Samantha had never bought furniture before, and asked me to help. She had done some research, and knew she wanted quality pieces."

Growing up in the business, Barbosa was thrilled to help her cousin customize furniture for her space. "When I went in, they were still building," she says. "I came in probably a few months before they were going to finish, so I did a floor plan for her and then designed all of the furniture that went into the space."

With Barone's blessing, Barbosa chose to have almost all the furniture custom built for Barone's 1,200 sq. ft., two-bedroom-plus-den condo. "Samantha wanted to invest in good quality pieces that were going to last," she says. *Continued on page 26*

LEFT: The use of walnut throughout blends with the striking graphics. **TOP RIGHT:** A coat rack by Northern Iron adds distinctiveness and functionality. **RIGHT:** Sonya created an entrance with impact by placing a sleek console behind the sofa.



Key for Barbosa was that everything be made locally. “I come from a family business,” she says. “We manufacture furniture. I’m very much about supporting locally made, Canadian pieces – I really believe in that. It’s something I have a passion for. It’s more expensive, but I believe it’s a responsibility we have. And I love designing furniture.”

For the entrance, Barbosa’s family-owned business, **Northern Iron**, created a console from walnut and black iron, and placed it behind the sofa to create an entryway. “Upon entering the condo from the front door, you walk right into the living area, so furniture placement was important to create a partial division,” she says.

For the living room, Barbosa designed a media unit made of walnut and made to appear as a built-in. “We painted the front in black for a pop, and did an art-deco feel with that piece,” says Barbosa. Barone wanted a funky vibe to the space, so the ottomans were upholstered in electric blue.

“The sofa was done by a Canadian company, **itk**, in Toronto, and we picked the fabric we wanted,” says Barbosa, who chose nesting tables made by Northern Iron to complete the look.

Since they wanted to tie the living room to the kitchen, Barbosa had the island stools upholstered in the same fabric as an armchair but added a beautiful leather to the stool seats for durability.

“For the dining table, Samantha wanted a piece of art, so I designed the base. It’s like two slanted boxes, covered in a walnut veneer, with a glass top,” says Barbosa, who adds that the chairs were imported from Italy. Custom drapes from **The Drapery King** add softness, while custom black roman shades from **National Drapery** add dimension to smaller windows. *Continued on page 28*

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Lanterns above the island were crafted by Northern Iron. Graphic fabric on the barstools adds visual interest to the bright, white kitchen, and custom artwork ties the kitchen and family room together.

feature

Lighting goes funky with a globe starburst that lights both the living and dining rooms. A graphic black and white area rug from [Minster Interiors Inc.](#) in the living room gives the space another funky pop.

Interestingly, the art was purchased from Etsy. “It was commissioned, so Samantha got to choose the colours she wanted in them and it was made for her. She pulled in the electric blue and some green and some purple,” says Barbosa.

“I wanted comfort and a modern/contemporary space,” says Barone. “It all turned out better than expected – different than what I pictured, but in a good way.” **OH**

BELOW: Pretty pink accents help deck the halls in style in the en suite. **RIGHT:** The master bedroom is a vision of love with soft, romantic hues. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The home is well-appointed, with finishes like oversize doors, hexagon tiles and a floating vanity in this bathroom.



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