

# HIGH STYLE

HOW ONE CONDO WENT FROM DATED TO DRAMATIC WITH COLOURFUL AND OPULENT FINISHES.



STORY **GINA MAKKAR** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Located in the heart of the Deer Park neighbourhood, Granite Place condos were developed in 1979 by Four Seasons President Isadore Sharp. With an unobstructed view of the Toronto skyline and the historic St. Michael's Cemetery, this condo is a tranquil oasis in midtown Toronto.

Though the owners had retired to their home in the country, the pulse of the city drew them back to urban living. "We knew we wanted to be in the city closer to our interests such as music and theatre," they say. "The natural setting of the country is beautiful, but you have long periods where you are very isolated by the winter weather."

On the same day that they sold their country home, they learned that a condo was available at Granite Place. Drawn to the larger footprint, generous rooms

and wide hallways, they viewed and purchased their condo within the hour.

In its original condition, the interior was in dire need of an update. The couple called upon **Jeremy Aykroyd of Jeremy Aykroyd Design** to take their new home from tired to tasteful. "It was a three-way collaboration," says the homeowner. "Jeremy's decisions were based on experience and vision, but we certainly had input."

From the moment guests step inside, they are enveloped by the rich colours and textures of the entrance hall. A 19th century hand-painted, Chinese demi lune cabinet is accented with a vibrant Persian wool runner. Sconces flank a black and white photograph of pre-war France. Antique glass door panels reflect light and help create the illusion of space. Intricate cast bronze door pulls add timeless elegance. *Continued on page 55*



Jeremy Aykroyd



Jeremy Aykroyd of Jeremy Aykroyd Design turned an unused corner of the room into an intimate dining space. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Shaded sconces and a Chinese demi lune cabinet grace the entry way. **BOTTOM:** Aykroyd incorporated the couple's must-have pieces from their art collection.



*“IT’S LOOKING AT IT AS A COHESIVE WHOLE, WHILE GIVING EACH SPACE ITS OWN IDENTITY.”*

**LEFT:** The oval Chinese drum tables are hand-painted originals. **BELOW:** The antique Empire arm chair is upholstered in a hand blocked cotton print by Fortuny. **OPPOSITE:** A blend of newer pieces and antiques create an eclectic living space.



In the living and dining areas, Aykroyd changed the existing floor plan to create better flow. Now, two smaller seating areas offer plenty of space for relaxing and entertaining. A custom sofa by Jeremy Aykroyd Design anchors the space. Wing chairs upholstered in rose velvet are accented with small metal tables customized with beautiful blue lapis from Afghanistan. Treasured photos of pre-war Europe adorn the walls. Several of the carpets throughout are from **Imperial Rug Galleries**.

The two distinct seating areas help diversify the space and create unity throughout. “It’s looking at it as a cohesive whole, while giving each space its own identity,” says Aykroyd. In front of the living room windows, an antique French Louis XVI settee in patterned velvet adds warmth and sophistication. A Venetian hand-painted glass pendant light glimmers above Chinese oval drum tables. A period French Empire armchair completes the seating area. *Continued on page 57*





**“JEREMY UNDERSTANDS WHO WE ARE AND HAS CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH REFLECTS OUR SENSIBILITY.”**

In the dining area, custom-built bookcases hold titles and treasures collected over time. Stitched-leather, oval-back chairs surround the custom, circular Italian marble table by **CB Marble Craft Ltd.** The parchment coloured walls were treated to a Venetian plaster finish for texture. The backs of the bookcases are painted a vibrant blue for contrast.

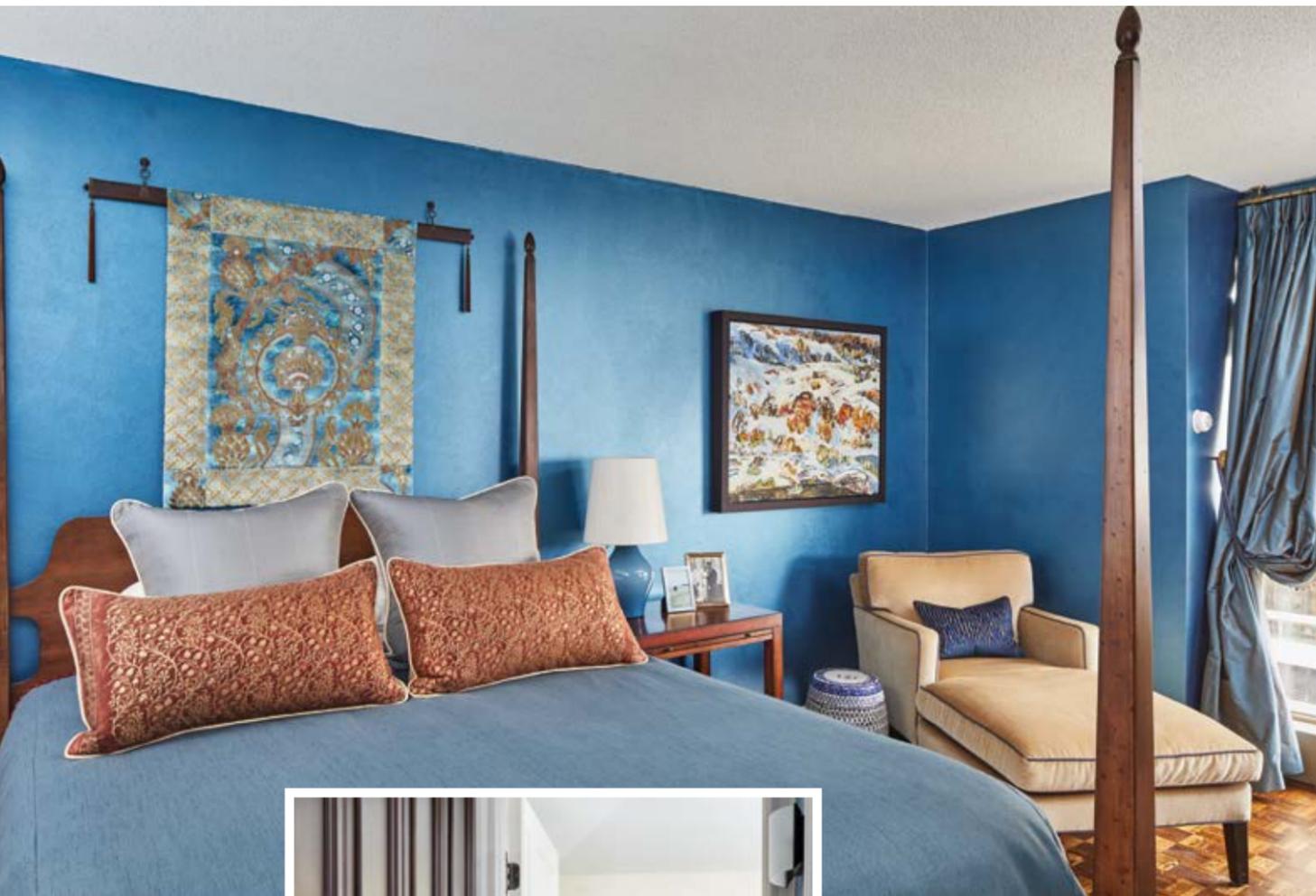
In the summer, the balcony is an outdoor oasis where the couple enjoy their plants and the view of the city with friends. In the kitchen, cabinetry by **DCL Woodworking Ltd.** is painted a beautiful neutral called Japanese Paper by Pratt & Lambert. Sri Lankan granite counters and backsplash are from CB Marble Craft Ltd. Two sunburst light fixtures by Suzanne Kasler add charisma. *Continued on page 58*

**RIGHT:** Gold accents were added for warmth in the guest bathroom.

**OPPOSITE:** The kitchen was given a total refresh with custom cabinetry, granite and new appliances.

*Mosaic marble floors add pattern and texture.* →





**ABOVE:** Bold hues were used to incorporate the couple's love for colour and spaces with character. **RIGHT:** Custom cabinetry makes clever use of the hallway connecting the master bedroom to the en suite.



In the master bedroom, a velvet wall hanging from Fortuny ties in beautifully with the metallic blue wall colour by Ralph Lauren. A mohair upholstered chaise with blue grosgrain piping invites a cosy afternoon of reading. The en suite was finished in a similar design to the powder room for continuity with antique Italian brass hardware and onyx mosaic tile flooring.

*Continued on page 60*

**“TO MY MIND, COLOUR HAS ENERGY. LIVING IN AN ALL-WHITE AND GREY SPACE WOULD DRIVE ME OVER THE EDGE, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FEED YOU. COLOUR IS NURTURING.”**

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**FAR LEFT:** A variety of shapes and textures add interest. **LEFT:** The antique, hand-painted Chinese cabinet helped inspire the study's aesthetic. **BELOW:** A wall unit helps create space for the couple's much-loved book collection.



The study is a place to read and relax. A vibrant red Indonesian side table sits against a rich, green corduroy velvet sofa. Grasscloth wallpaper and painted red millwork add warmth. A leather-covered coffee table adorned with nail head trim adds interest.

It's easy to see that the couple enjoy a colourful space. The condo is full of life and movement, a great departure from the trend of cool greys and whites. "To my mind, colour has energy," says the homeowner. "Living in an all-white and grey space would drive me over the edge, because it doesn't feed you. Colour is nurturing."

"Jeremy understands who we are and has created an environment which reflects our sensibility," says the homeowner. "He has created a home which is beautiful as well as gracious and complements our city lifestyle." **OH**



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