

comfort zone



HIDDEN TREASURES

BY TERESA BAERG // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

THE PLACE: Trading Places Home Decor is a one-stop consignment shop for the discerning home decorator looking for something unique to add a special touch to a room. Owner Cathy Boytos offers a range of products, from sofas and dining sets to drapes and custom upholstery in her 4,000 sq. ft. showroom. She

also offers a decorating service with free in-store consultations and online virtual room design, ideal for those who don't want to hire a designer but need help getting started. Cathy created a niche in 2003 when she was unable to find a variety of affordable, quality gently-used pieces for her home in one place. *Continued on page 32*



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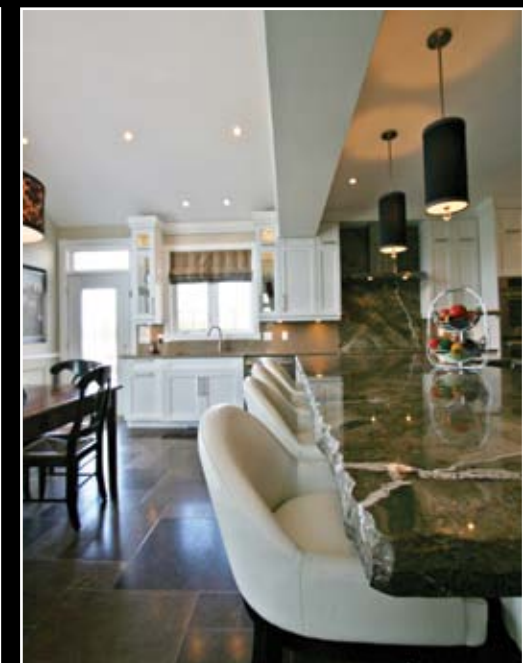
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THE STYLE: New items arrive regularly, and clients visit often to see what's new. Cathy accepts fresh, current, quality pieces with no repairs required. "What you sold five years ago is not what you sell today," Cathy says. She carries well-made brand-name products, including Henredon, Ralph Lauren and Thomasville.

WHAT'S HOT: Cathy sees a move from contemporary decorating to a more traditional style. She suggests adding a funky piece to a more traditional room, creating a mix-and-match feel. Recover a favourite piece in a new fabric or repurpose it by placing it in a different room. Accessories are also a great place to start. "People are curious about how to accessorize. It's one of the hardest things to do," she says. If you're looking for a perfect gift or need a little retail therapy, there's a good chance Trading Places will have an interesting vase or wall hanging. "It will be unique and it will be affordable," Cathy promises.

FAVOURITES: Cathy's favourite piece, just recently sold, is a rustic reclaimed wood workbench. The versatile piece can be used as a kitchen island, a Tuscan-style wine tasting table or a functional garden work space. Repurposing is the essence of Trading Places and the possibilities are endless. Whether you want to recover a cosy chair or pass on some much-loved pieces when downsizing, Trading Places can help.

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