



The lounge boasts a beautiful photo wall, which features the couple's own photos of places they have travelled. **ABOVE** RIGHT: Louise and Marc enjoy their stylish space.



# Doh fa fa IN ORLEANS

STORY **MORGAN BARNES**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JESSICA DEEKS**

“I was thinking...” Marc Bergeron knows that when his wife, Louise Champigny, says these three words, it means a home renovation project is about to begin and he’ll soon be busy preparing one of his architectural drawings.

Before they met 15 years ago, the couple had their separate government and commercial projects featured in the same issue of *Canadian Architect* magazine: Louise for her project leadership role on an innovative office design demonstration project for Public Works and Government Services Canada in Hull, and Marc for his oversight role for a Nortel campus project in Montreal.

Eight years ago, the couple decided to sell their two-storey home and purchase a bungalow in a new **Monarch Homes** development in Orleans. They’ve been investing time with renovation projects to adapt the house, their eventual retirement home, exactly to their needs. “For me, it’s all about function,” says Louise. “It’s rare that you use rooms as they are originally designed, so if it’s not working for you, redesign it.”

The home is a testament to Louise’s stylish project leadership skills and Marc’s

architectural and planning expertise. Despite differing styles – Louise is modern/classic, while Marc is more traditional – the couple blends tastes for a unified look that exudes both of their personalities.

The bungalow’s front room, painted Benjamin Moore’s Creamy White, is Louise’s favourite place. With its sun-soaked windows, it doubles as her grandson’s nap room and as a creative space for her painting and sewing projects. A heavenly daybed from Restoration Hardware floats comfortably against the wall, beautifully covered with wallpaper from **Decorator’s Choice Paint Store**. Armoires from IKEA bookend the daybed perfectly, while a soft rug from HomeSense warms the space. Above, a golden swan chandelier from **Bombay Company** is a plucky choice.

The welcoming foyer boasts a handsome console table from **The Upper Room Home Furnishings** and is illuminated by lighting

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**BELOW:** The entranceway shines with a drop zone and a stained-glass transom window. **RIGHT:** The doors lead from the entranceway in a stunning space complete with a rose ball. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room is set with glasses collected by Louise's son and gifted to her. The archway leads to the kitchen creating a separate, yet open space.



sconces from **Living Lighting** and ceiling lanterns by Union Lighting of Montreal. Beyond the double french doors, your eyes are drawn to the statement-making rose ball and urn from another Montreal décor store, Flore.

It's here you are struck by the warm hardwood by **Barwood Flooring** throughout and the Monarch home's dramatic open-concept design with 12-foot and 16-foot ceilings. To the right, a formal dining room table and buffet from The Upper Room Home Furnishing exquisitely occupies the space as a traditional crystal chandelier from Living Lighting reflects ample light from the windows. Iridescent curtains from **C&M Textiles** take full advantage of the room's loftiness. Glittering pieces of glassware with gold-trim, from **McIntosh Factory Store**, were given to Louise by her son over the years. They are Louise's cherished possessions.

As an interior stylist who draws on many sources of inspiration for her work in both commercial and residential design, Louise admits



that styling your own space is sometimes more challenging. "Louise is always improving her nest," says Marc. It's an appropriate metaphor since Louise also started her own interior styling company, appropriately called **Nesting**.

Marc credits Louise's soft approach to working with contractors and clients and involving them in the process that makes her projects so successful, beautiful and unique. "With her clients, Louise has no predetermined ideas of what their style is," Marc says. "She learns their habits, what textures they like, and really gives them confidence in their own vision."

One of her favourite designers is *CityLine* regular, Brian Gluckstein. A few years ago, Marc surprised Louise with a trip to Toronto where she met Brian on television and received his expert advice for her living room. The designer was so impressed, he had little instruction to give, except to add a couple more rows of their travel pictures above their buttery **Luxe Home Interiors Ottawa** sectional. With cathedral ceilings and large windows, the space beautifully shows off creative choices, like the exotic Bombay

*Continued on page 50*





feature

Company end tables, Caprese glass lamps from Pottery Barn and a striking Pier 1 Imports console table.

Dark charcoal-stained cherrywood cabinets with a grey glaze by **Deslaurier Custom Cabinets**, fine granite countertops from **Mountain Granite** and stainless steel appliances from The Bay imply that Louise and Marc are passionate master chefs in the kitchen. The truth is, due to Louise’s food allergies, the kitchen design came more out of necessity and functionality since the couple often find it easier to dine at home. A ceiling light fixture also ordered through Restoration Hardware brings an industrialized look to the modern kitchen.

Continuing Louise’s eclectic love for all things beautiful, the master bedroom is a study in bringing seemingly uncommon elements together with intention. Dark Caribbean-inspired blinds from Home Depot, a modern Mobilia bed frame, and shimmering crystal chandelier from **Zone Maison**, conjure Hollywood film-star allure. An accomplished do-it-yourself aficionado, Louise refinished the Randall’s night stands and dresser with an attractive stain. Completing the room is a vintage dressing table purchased at an auction and matched perfectly with an airy chair from Bowring.

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The breakfast area creates a space for the couple to enjoy their garden views. **OPPOSITE:** The kitchen is slightly sectioned off from the rest of the floor, however the walls are low and one side opens up into the breakfast area and part of the lounge creating a unique style.





The en suite bath is luxurious with silver and crystal accents, set against glistening white porcelain, glass and marble. The detailed marble and stone tiles are from Ciot Habitat in Montreal and **Euro Tile & Stone** in Ottawa. A soaker tub and faucet selections and glass shower door from **Mondeau Bathroom & Kitchen** are stylish choices that complement the detailed marble-and-stone tiles from Euro Tile & Stone. The space is a rejuvenating retreat after a long day. It's hard to believe that the bathroom was reduced in size at Louise's request to make room for a larger walk-in closet, but it reveals her determination to maximize the home's best features. *Continued on page 56*

**TOP RIGHT:** The master bedroom offers a relaxing space on the main floor. **TOP LEFT & LEFT:** The en suite bathroom is fresh and stylish like the rest of the home. **BELOW:** Little touches are Louise's forte.



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feature

This stylish space doubles as a nursery for the couple's grandchild and a creative space for Louise.



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The footprint of the bungalow grew to 3,700 square feet when the couple took on their biggest project – finishing the lower level with a theatre room, wet bar, play area, and guest room. The two-month renovation project was completed on schedule between October and December 2011, with a couple of days to spare to receive guests in time for Christmas. Working with contractors, Louise says it's important to establish a good rapport. After that, it's up to you to be hands-on with your renovation. "Be organized, keep a schedule, and do follow-up calls to confirm everyone knows the plan and time they are to be there," says Louise. "It's also important to know exactly what you want so you can bring them along on your vision."

"Her vision is my mission," Marc says with a laugh. **OH**

The colourful playroom in the basement is next to the entertaining area, complete with a large pool table and TV room.



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