

SHOWROOM FRESH

BY LISE LAROCQUE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDIE HEWSON



THE PLACE: After a short leave of absence from the Westboro scene, Polanco Home Decor & Design Studio has returned, this time at a new location offering clients a large two-level showroom. After having to relinquish their previous location in the neighbourhood for a condominium development, owners Mandy and Steve Renfrew say they are happy to be back. While their downtown location continues to offer leather furniture, Steve says this location specializes in furniture and accessories that have a modern-day eclectic feel. "There is a bit of everything and we try to show a wide range of

style and colour," he says. "I think it's a fresh look for most people and they get pretty excited when they walk in."

THE STYLE: Transitional-contemporary furniture in lush, rich tones – most of it Canadian-made. Solid wood tables and chairs, sofas covered in luxurious fabrics and beautiful accessories finish off any space. Mandy says the focus is on offering styles that are longer lasting and that fit with pieces people choose over time. "It's nice to be able to put contemporary with traditional or modern; you don't have to have it all the same," she says. "What makes your

home a home is the fact that it has different pieces. If you go and buy everything in one look, you might feel like you are going into a modern day showroom as opposed to a home."

WHAT'S HOT: Colour and texture. Soft plush fabrics in silver grey tones accessorized with hints of black and purple. Apple green and fuschia also continue to be popular choices. Steve and Mandy say they like to challenge people's imaginations by ordering vibrant coloured pieces. "So many people are visual; they need to see what it can look like before they will order it," says Steve.

FAVOURITES: Steve and Mandy estimate 90 per cent of their items are manufactured in Canada. "We let people know what is and what isn't Canadian," says Mandy. Also, for those needing a bit of help with styling their home, the store provides an in-home consultation service.

WHERE: 177 Richmond Rd., Ottawa (Westboro) 613.761.8690 www.polancohomedecor.com OH

