



# LOOKING GOOD

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

**THE PLACE:** Cherché House of Design in Thornbury is known for its sophisticated, casual style. Owners Mary Norris and Colleen Wittlin, qualified designers both, offer in-home design consultations and help homeowners with their decorating dilemmas. Norris and Wittlin offer wise advice and help clients

uncover their own personal style. The two met while working in another shop and decided to open their own design space. Both enjoy their partnership. Together, they have created a comfortable family atmosphere, which is apparent to everyone who walks through the doors of Cherché. *Continued on page 80*

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# comfort zone

**THE STYLE:** Cherché's style is beautiful, eclectic and transitional. "People are getting away from doing homes in a single, particular style," says Wittlin. "People are opting for what I call, 'laid-back elegance.'" Norris elaborates, "These days people are mixing the city and the country look. So we cater to those retirees and younger people looking for that comfortable combination of styles." Their accessible approach is seen in the shop's selection of exceptional furniture, fabrics, wallpaper, lighting, accessories, prints and paintings.

**WHAT'S HOT:** Grey is a hot colour right now and Cherché highlights the current trend, which also includes silver and gold. The designers suggest clients begin with a neutral palette and select a soft-toned upholstery fabric. They have plenty of samples. This design philosophy makes it easier for homeowners to add a punch of colour with cushions and other accessories. "If people begin with a neutral palette they can be selective about the mementos they discover on their holidays abroad," Norris says.

**SEASONAL:** "People look for our tree in the window, which is decorated differently every year, according to the latest trends,"

Norris says. Wittlin emphasizes the festive atmosphere the co-owners strive to create all year long. "We genuinely enjoy meeting and working with people," she says. "No matter the time of year, we want clients to know that we enjoy what we're doing. We still love to share in the excitement and joy they get when they first see a new piece that's perfect for their home."

**FAVOURITES:** Clients love everything in the store. The partners attribute their success to the joy both find in meeting customers' design needs, be they big or small. In Wittlin's words, "We still enjoy each other. We're still laughing! That's a good sign." They acknowledge that store manager Gillian Penketh and their supportive husbands are wonderful assets, allowing Norris and Wittlin more time to work on design projects that will enhance their customers' homes. "When people come to our shop, they're given time and space to browse, and they like that," Norris says. "You can see them relax the longer they stay because of our casual approach."

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