

INSPIRING IDEAS

In need of a striking new design or a fabulous décor piece? Check out our pros for fresh ideas on all things home.



PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG

SHARON O'DOWD

Sharon O'Dowd
Custom Furniture

Specialty: Custom furniture makers, we design and build dining tables, chests, cabinets and more right in our workshop in the Castlefield Design District. We also repair and refinish much-loved pieces. In the antique business for over 25 years, we've developed a reputation for sympathetic restorations to time-worn pieces in need of TLC.

How do you work with clients to achieve their vision? We aim to make the entire process simple and stress free! We ask questions, flip through photos and go over all the finer details. We then create working drawings to establish what the client's dream piece will look like. We also welcome clients to get interactive with the process and visit the workshop while their piece is built and finished. Above all, client satisfaction is paramount.

Unique projects right now? We're currently working on a design for a beautiful custom dining table that will expand from 12 to 18 feet for a Muskoka cottage great room. We've also been commissioned to make a vanity, two custom armoires and a bookcase for a Grade II listed residence in London, England, which is quite exciting!

MARCO PECOTA & NICO PECOTA

Specialty: We design and manufacture industrial and vintage-style furniture ideal for loft living. We like to call our style "industrial elegance."

What makes your pieces unique? Our pieces are designed and made right here in Toronto. There is no welding involved, so the pieces can be shipped flat for clients outside of Toronto. Stylistically, it is a completely original design concept.

Can industrial-style pieces be worked into any space? Our pieces work well in any environment since they are not simply just industrial looking. They have a bit of flair and elegance. *Continued on page 58*





CATHERINE CARROLL
Black Rock Studio

Tell us about yourself: They say “It’s all about the artist.” I’m a well-known studio potter with a Master’s Degree in Fine Arts and over 20 years of experience as a studio potter. I’ve turned my focus to exquisite, hand-made tiles for the design industry for both commercial and residential projects. Come visit my Toronto studio and showroom.

What makes Black Rock Studio unique? I use old-world techniques and hands-on detail

from start to finish. My passion is to deliver beautiful, handmade tiles that will transform any residential or commercial space into an extraordinary dwelling.

What can tile bring to a space? Tiles are the fusion of design and art, and for me, the joy of making these tiles reveals itself when the client runs their eyes and hands over the finished surfaces.

SYLVIE DULGER & SÉBASTIEN WALKER
Gautier

What does Gautier offer? Polished and eloquent, as a brand, Gautier has one aim: to offer attractive, contemporary furniture that adapts to customers’ lifestyles. In addition to clean lines, we combine design and practicality. Our cleverly hidden storage units, extendable tables or wardrobes and modular bedroom sets make life easier and give your home interior character.

What makes you unique? A civic-minded and committed company, we place eco-design at the heart of our process. Creativity and quality mean more when a company is committed and sustainable. More than sales people, the Toronto team of designers holds great product knowledge. We offer many advantages, from 3D renderings to interior design tips.

What’s new or trending right now? Our new smart Murphy bed collection, Nocturne, has the wind in its sails! The simple bed, TV stand and dining table options are ideal for small spaces.

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SHELDON KATES

Kates & Company

Specialty: We manufacture compact, convertible sleep products, from sofas and chair-beds to day-beds, pouf-sleepers and condo Sleepers. We're the perfect destination for Condo dwellers, downsizing empty-nesters, growing families or those with a special need.

What's unique? Most products can be disassembled, so one doesn't have to compromise on quality or style when access is difficult. A wide range of coverings complement any décor. The Condo Sleeper One is a unique, versatile convertible, transforming from a sofa/daybed to chaise lounge, single bed, king size bed or two single beds, all in one. The model has evolved, but 40 years later, the original Condo Sleeper One is still shipped Canada-wide.

What's trending? Designs are primarily client-driven and people come to us looking for something specific. We don't move with trends, but rely only on our clientele for new product development.



DOLORES PIAN

SPACES Custom Interiors

How can clients help define their design style?

Prior to starting a project, we have our clients fill out a discovery questionnaire. We ask them about what they find uncomfortable about their space, and how working with us would impact their quality of life. We also ask clients to send us photos of interiors and products they absolutely love. This gives us a sense of their taste, style and expectations.

What's trending? Clients want a place for everything and everything in its place. We're designing custom solutions for kitchens, bathrooms, dressing areas – you name it. Storage and avoiding the stress of clutter seems to be uppermost in their minds.

Your favourite 'it' product right now? Large format eight-by-10-inch porcelain tiles for showers and bathrooms to avoid grout lines and having to clean those grout lines. **OH**