

TOP RANK LIVING

Two townhomes in Collingwood's coveted Admiral's Gate get very different, yet inspirational, looks.



Details in the living room demand attention and are a testament to Louis's ability to successfully mix various periods of furniture, including the black hand-carved shield-back chair with a jester-patterned foot stool, next to a Charles Eames-inspired chair. Two wood columns flank the fireplace, refinished in heritage blue, to match the kitchen island.

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
FLOWERS **COLLINGWOOD FLOWERS AND HOME DECOR**
FOOD **GOLDSMITH'S ORCHARD MARKET**



The simple kitchen makeover included enlisting Cabneato to paint the cabinets and island, new stools and lots of fine, but practical, accessories. An ecclesiastical stand in the back corner now works perfectly for keeping cookbooks open to the right page. The bear, wolf and eagle painting is by Heather Cook found at Butter Gallery.



ICONIC DESIGN

LOUIS COTE has spent decades dressing clients from around the world in fur. A trusted stylist, Louis makes sure his clients stay warm, cosy and looking fabulous all winter long. Fashion and interior design go hand in hand. While working at Holt Renfrew and Hudson's Bay Company, Louis also studied interior design at The International Academy of Design. He has curated homes in Toronto, across Ontario and as far away as California. Louis's partner Jack Cantwell, an oil and gas executive, sold a Grand Victorian home in Petrolia, west of London, Ontario, and purchased a four-season weekend home at Admiral's Gate in Collingwood, giving Louis free reign on the interior design. Louis brought some of the best pieces from the Victorian estate to their townhome. He has created a timeless yet fun living space in one of Southern Georgian Bay's most coveted waterfront developments. *Continued on page 70*



TOP: Louis Cote stands in the dining room. Louis layered an iron candelabra over an antler chandelier. The large French mirror enhances the space. **FAR LEFT:** A tool and die mould sits atop a red garage cabinet in the front foyer. **LEFT:** An exquisite, antique roll-top desk, an onyx mantel clock and a period portrait take over a corner in the living room.

OUR HOMES: *What was it about this property that made you say “gotta have it?”*

LOUIS COTE: We call it “The Hamptons on Georgian Bay Complex.” Admiral’s Gate has a fabulous view of the bay, it’s close to downtown Collingwood and Thornbury, and all the great restaurants and shopping. We can enjoy every outdoor activity you can imagine in every season.



OH: *How did you approach the interior design of this townhouse? What was your vision and where did you start?*

LC: It started when Jack sold the Grand Victorian, which was full of large classical period furniture, which worked with the architecture here at Admiral’s Gate. I had fun with it, mixing modern furniture with grand classics, antique engravings, bronzes and heavy woods. I also threw in a little “Canadiana country.”



ABOVE: The lower level is for guests, and this bedroom has a seating area for relaxing after a busy day of shopping in Collingwood. A Sheila Fox beaver found a new spot hanging in front of a painting of birches. A coat tree holds a buffalo check jumpsuit and newsboy hat. **ABOVE RIGHT:** An oversize neo-classical bust sits on a wooden column at the bottom of the stairs to the lower level. **RIGHT:** Fur trappers’ hats hang from an antler hat rack in the hallway. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A black Schonbek crystal chandelier and an ethanol concrete block fireplace set the mood in the library. On the wall is an old Italian engraving from the 1800s called *La Via Appia*. **LEFT:** Louis topped a surgical cabinet with a live-edge wooden top. A favourite piece of Art Deco art by Tamara de Lempicka hangs above. **FAR LEFT:** The bedroom is decorated in iconic Hudson’s Bay Company bedding. The classical lamps were converted from gas. Jack’s twin sister died at an early age. In her memory, her silver cup sits on the bedside table.



OH: *What did you bring with you and what’s new?*

LC: The modern furniture is new but most of the furnishings are decorative finds from travel, antique hunts or Jack’s Victorian, including the black Schonbek chandelier, sconces, lantern and framed engravings from Italy in the library. We also have works by local artists, including **Sheila Fox** and **Heather Cook**.

OH: *What were the easy fixes and what were the challenges?*

LC: The original design choices and finishes worked, especially the classic millwork and original mouldings. I added contrast with paint, especially in the kitchen where we had the cabinets and island refinished by **Cabneato** in **Benjamin Moore**’s heritage colours. I also updated the fireplace and added new lighting.

OH: *How would you describe your personal design style?*

LC: My design style is eclectic and worldly. I make sure each space I work on has balance and proportion. Each room I design is crisp and fresh. This space has some heavy pieces so it’s important not to crowd the rooms. There is nothing wrong with some blank walls and empty corners. It’s important to never “gild the lily.” **OH** *Continued on page 72*