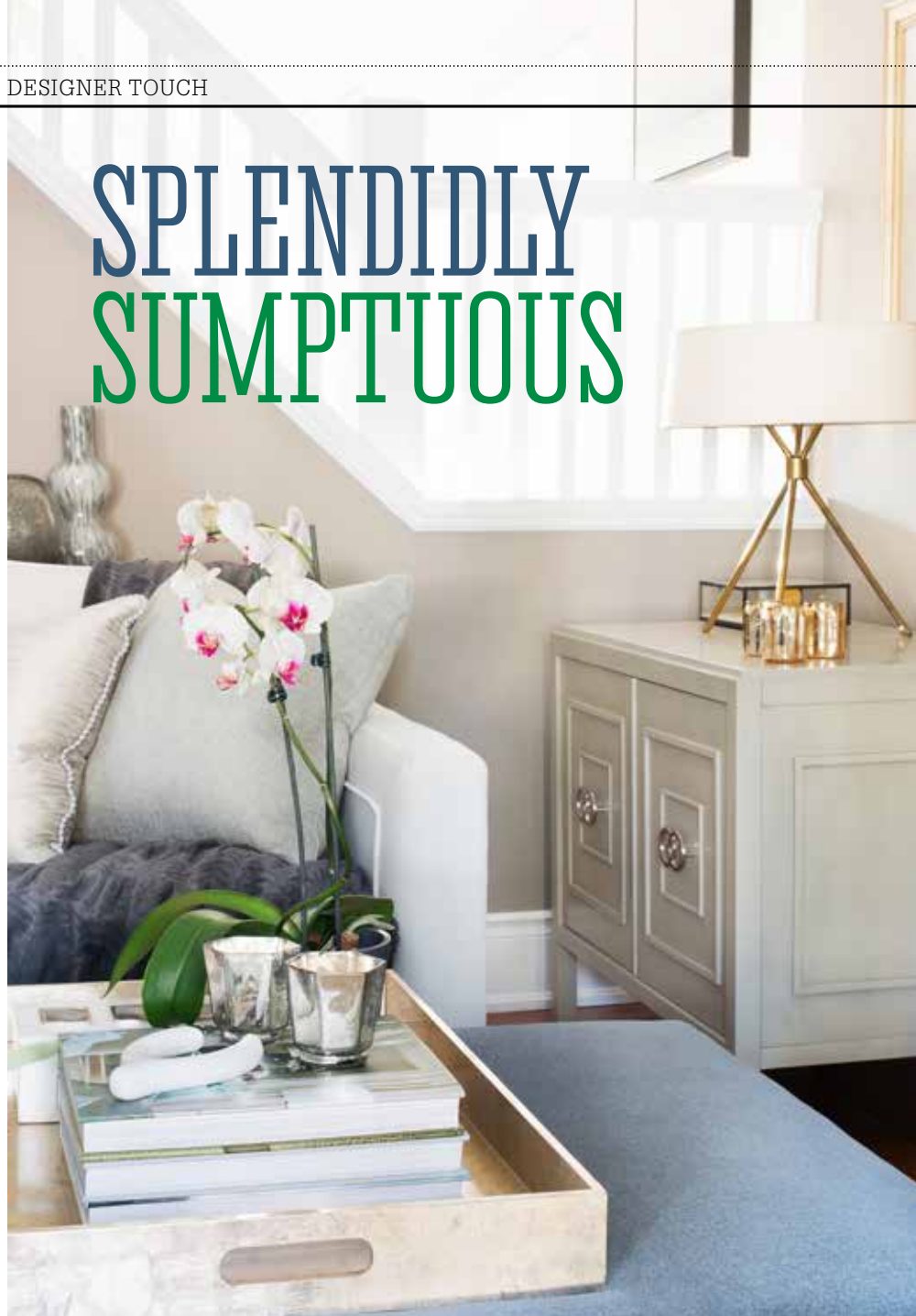


SPLENDIDLY SUMPTUOUS



A neutral palette and lush textures upgrade an older home's living room to its full potential

BY **KATIE CAMPBELL**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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A neutral palette was used to create a sense of calm and comfort. Ivory velvet sofas are accented by soft blues and greys in the drapery panels and accent chair. The showstopper is a large dark mohair ottoman that brings necessary contrast to the colour story. Although the homeowner wanted everything to be light, we went with a slightly moodier taupe wall to really accentuate the sofas. This key to balance is creating a neutral space that does not feel ho-hum.

An easygoing homeowner is the final balance needed here: ivory sofas are not for everyone and a "shake it off" attitude is required...spills happen!

Functional drapery panels give a feeling of grandeur, and the black hardware really draws your eye up. A secondary window blind treatment is used for ultimate light control and privacy. The custom panel fabric is a linen base with a beautiful embroidered medallion pattern that takes it up a notch.

Velvet and mohair are pure luxury, and they are also extremely durable. In a neutral space, texture is key to providing warmth and interest. Silk, a cotton weave, and linen are used in toss cushions that make the sofas feel very inviting. Sculptural table lamps in soft antique brass balance smooth and straight surfaces, like the marble side table and wood chests.

A mixture of metals was used throughout to give the room timeless appeal. When combined, soft brass, oxidized nickel, oil-rubbed bronze, soft silver and champagne hues elevate the design and give it soul. More personality was added through accessories and artwork passed down from family that were given new life.

Subtle repetition of a square motif was used on the cabinetry detail,



YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE
TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION



When you enter a home, the first room you see really sets the tone for the entire interaction. Although it is sometimes difficult to analyze, you get a feeling that is influenced by the home's overall design and that feeling really informs your experience. As a homeowner, it can even impact your overall quality of life.

In this home, there is a small foyer that immediately opens up into the living room. To guests this living room is the "welcome to our home" handshake, creating a lingering feeling of comfortable sophistication that has been achieved through plush fabrics, long drapery, luxurious upholstery, and a soft colour story.

But this room was not always so bright and cosy. The empty nesters that bought this home in Old Oakville fell in love with the potential this room had, however, there were a number of concerns that needed to be addressed to allow this room to project a confident first impression.

The front porch overhang outside of the living room window made the space feel quite dark. Given the age of the home, there are standard eight-foot ceilings, yet it was important to give the room a light, airy and open feeling.

The key to this room is its strategic balance of colours, materials and scale, and balance in the furniture layout. The result is a room that is confident and sophisticated, while remaining humble, bright and warm.



custom sofa piping and custom chair welt to unify the space and give masculine appeal, while a soft curve in the sofa brings femininity and aids in the flow of the room.

This is not a huge room and scale was very important. Too often, smaller pieces are chosen for a smaller room, but by pushing the boundaries and bringing in appropriately larger-scaled items you find the room actually seems bigger.

Two sofas are used to create a symmetrical plan focused on the fireplace, which draws the eye to the end of the room. The symmetrical furniture placement and exquisite long drapery add a hint of formality to the room, juxtaposed by the

plush toss cushions, cosy fabrics and bold artwork.

Because the homeowners entertain a lot, adequate seating and a conversational furniture plan was required. A distinct point of view was integral; one that acknowledges the age of the home and also incorporates the homeowners' lifestyle. The main goal was to create a room that was comfortable and warm, while remaining luxurious and refined; a room that would take the owner from Friday nights, chatting with friends, to Sunday mornings, reading the paper by the fire.

The result is a room that surrounds you in beauty without being too precious. ♦

SOURCES

Sofas, Chair, Ottoman, Drapery, Toss Cushions: Custom designed by Katie Campbell Interiors & Design **Brass Lamps, Side Table, Chests, Grey Console Table:** cocoofurnishings.ca **Gold Console Table:** elte.com **Accessories:** westelm.com, homesense.ca, chapters.indigo.ca, cocoofurnishings.ca

Katie Campbell Interiors & Design is a full-service residential design firm located in Oakville, Ontario, serving the Greater Toronto Area. "We make it beautiful. We make it function. We make it you! Live Life Beautifully." katiecampbellinteriors.com

