

MY FAVOURITE ROOM

Yasmin Zeitler's kitchen

When designer and stylist Yasmin Zeitler bought her Victorian semi in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood eight years ago, it was because her photographer husband, Lorne Bridgman, refused to look at another property: He had found what he liked. "It is our first house and the only house my husband looked at. He decided that this was our house," she says, adding: "The wood-burning fireplace and background jazz playing at the open house sold him on it." Dating to 1885, the house did need some TLC, which Zeitler, a partner in the Toronto interior design firm Marion Melbourne, was only too happy to dispense. The rear of the house had a sunroom curiously devoid of sunlight, so, with the help of her friend Jim Campbell, an architect with Rockside Campbell Design, she tore down a rear wall to take full advantage of the home's southern exposure. Zeitler then created an oversized kitchen, her now-favourite room in the house. This light-filled space keeps her happy – even when it's -30 C on the other side of the sliding-glass door.

**1. THE LIGHTING**

"We added an eight-foot light box that houses some of my husband's photos. It not only looks great, but is also great for mood lighting. Just that and a few candles on the table and you would never think that you were dining in a kitchen."

2. THE DINING TABLE

"The dining table is a custom piece [composed of] a 10-foot slab of cedar and raw steel legs forming an angled C shape that lines up with the same shape on the bench. The cedar slab is 2½ inches thick and solid. It took four guys to carry it in. The bench is covered with cushions made of old carpets found in a souk in Essaouira, Morocco."

3. THE RUG

"The kilim under the table makes the space feel less like a kitchen. Since this was to be our dining room as well, I wanted to make it look more like a multipurpose room."

4. THE VIEW

"One of my very favourite things about this kitchen is that we can see the moon at night as we eat dinner at the dining table, thanks mostly to our 12-foot ceilings."

5. THE CABINERY

"The cabinets are made of Douglas fir, which keeps getting warmer in hue as it ages. It works really well tonally with the red cedar table. The cutouts in the cabinetry are used to display some of our favourite things. The As were found in a dumpster by my husband on a road trip across America."

6. THE COUNTERTOPS AND BACKSPLASH

"We were going to go with stainless-steel countertops until we saw a huge slab of red quartz at a tile store and couldn't stop thinking about it. And so it became our countertop and backsplash. It has little silver sparkles in it that shine at night."

— DEIRDRE KELLY

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