

STYLE at HOME

CANADA'S DECORATING MAGAZINE

our favourite
new trends

easy ways to update
your look

how to choose your
dream
condo

last-minute holiday
ideas

warm character

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONNA GRIFFITH

WHAT'S HOT

- multipurpose spaces and furniture, like a credenza that doubles as extra seating
- a few big, important pieces, like wall-to-wall millwork and an oversize headboard
- sandblasted glass, a fabric scrim or a slatted wooden screen allows for privacy but lets in light and enhances an open-concept plan
- a minimalist aesthetic that incorporates neutral finishes used consistently to achieve an indoor/outdoor effect

A table lamp on the custom side table introduces a touch of metal consistent with the drawer pulls. The oversize upholstered-linen headboard gives the bedroom a focal point. Millwork provides plenty of storage for a clutter-free modernist look. "It's a very boutique-hotel concept," says designer Adriana Urtasun of UW: Design Group, praising the efficiency of the small guest rooms in boutique hotels, where custom millwork helps put every square inch of space to good use. The living-area floor is fake

cherry hardwood. Here, 18-inch-high millwork maximizes the window exposure and includes a credenza that doubles as seating. Simple perforated vinyl roller shades cover the windows. Stainless-steel fittings and a central maple storage unit with frosted-glass doors keep the kitchen looking clean and chromatically neutral. For the dining area, UW: Design Group created a clean-lined walnut dining table, and painted the acrylic-on-canvas artwork, which along with the vases, adds a splash of colour.

Adriana Urtasun of Toronto's UW: Design Group favours a modernist look. As evidence, she cites her design firm's recent condo project in Queen's Quay, the landmark business, shopping, entertainment and residential complex that architect Eb Zeidler recycled from an old industrial warehouse by the city's lakeshore decades before loft-condo conversions became trendy.

The 1,200-square-foot unit was totally free of ornament or architectural details. Adriana and her partner, Karen Williams, transformed it with a mix of sleek, neutral finishes like stainless steel, walnut and cherry, for a warm, serene, informal environment that doesn't upstage the lake view. Throughout the apartment, walls are painted pale neutrals, and there are simple baseboards and no crown mouldings, which would only clutter the spare environment.

To add character to the living room and bedroom, the designers added custom millwork, which also provides the extra storage space that's often lacking in condos. In the bedroom, they designed an oversize headboard for "a dramatic focal point that helps enlarge the space," says Adriana. She adds, "Most condos have no character at all, and people tend to just drop in furniture. Millwork helps create character and ambience where space is at a premium." ■

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CONDO CULTURE

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1,200 SQ.FT.



"Use a neutral palette, with a few punches of colour here and there"

