

VAUGHAN

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THE ART OF DESIGN

*INTERIOR DESIGNER
LINDA MAZUR TACKLED
A PROJECT IN REVERSE
— WITH STUNNING
RESULTS*

BY **SUE KANHAI**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

When it comes to interior design, usually the space comes first, followed by the art and furniture. But that order of operations was switched up recently for Newmarket-based interior designer Linda Mazur.

These particular clients travel often to Europe for business and had also spent time living abroad. With all of that travel, the couple had amassed a number of paintings by such up-and-coming Ukrainian artists as Alexander Roitburd and Anatoliy Kryvolap. They bought a mid-century Vaughan home with the hope it would highlight their acquisitions.

"It's not something you get to do all the time, so when you have the opportunity, it's great," Mazur says. "It does pose its own challenges, though. In a way, it's reverse design, because you're working with the accessories first."





But the house itself helped ease that challenge. Mazur has an affinity for mid-century modern, as do her clients, who already owned a few pieces of furniture that suit the era. Add that the house is both a side- and back-split, with five levels in total — a configuration that lends itself well to showcasing larger pieces of art — and the project became a dream come true for Mazur.

“It was a house that kind of spoke to me,” she says. She immediately saw the potential, despite some questionable panelling and the fact that the house looked as if it hadn’t been touched since the 1960s. “It was just gnarly when we walked in.”

The setting was also ideal — a gorgeous ravine lot with mature trees and landscaping. In fact, there was so much privacy there was no need for window treatments.

The home’s greatest feature, however, is the art, though accommodating some pieces also proved a bit of a challenge. In her plan, Mazur had strategically designed many of the rooms around the art. A couple of walls needed to be taken down, and art placement dictated the positioning of the lighting, including a skylight upstairs. “With a house like this,” she says, “you just want tons of light coming in.”

The couple entertains a lot and wanted a chef’s kitchen. Unlike most clients who ask to open everything up, they preferred to shut the space off visually, to be able to sit down to dinner with their guests and not see the kitchen. Repositioning a few doorways did the trick.

Although her business, Linda Mazur Design Group, does work all over York Region and beyond, Mazur admits she has a soft spot for this particular house. “It’s exceptional,” she says, “and so conducive to entertaining. It has a lot to offer.”

Top: “This was a find. It was upstairs in the hallway and we just repurposed it,” Linda Mazur says of the *étagère*. It was also the catalyst for bringing in a hand-wired bronze metallic finish.

Left: The full pantry wall accommodates a lot. The island seats three or four and contains valuable hidden storage space. “There are a lot of ways you can really adapt a kitchen,” Mazur says, “minimizing the volume of upper cabinets that you use [for example]. It opens it up beautifully and allows you to do things like have large picture windows. You just have to rethink your space a little bit.”



Top: On the other side of the two-sided fireplace is a stylish home office, featuring a rose chaise lounge and walkout to the backyard. Above: To add more dimension and interest, Mazur used three finishes of the same door: cream gloss, wood grain and a hand-wired burnished bronze metallic. Simple slab cabinet doors without heavy mouldings makes them typical of the era.





Top Left: A few steps down from the kitchen is a huge sunken family room, featuring a two-sided fireplace, a cream suede sectional and two big, brassy gold canvases, around which the room was built. "The different shades of gold, patterns and textures — it's got an elegance, but it's still casual at the same time," Mazur says. "I love that tone-on-tone, monochromatic look."

Above: The homeowners' daughter is away at school in England, but has this gorgeous bedroom to return to. "You get some pattern play in there and there's a bit of texture," Mazur says. "It has a nice funky casualness to it." The purple accent wall makes a great statement. Bottom left: The sleek bathroom features a floating vanity that brings in a grounding touch of wood.

