

CANADA'S HOME DÉCOR & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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Aria

Luxurious Space



I am often asked what I think is a truly luxurious space. There are many that I have been to; however the true meaning of luxury is something that is completely bespoke. There are few people that are able to have every item that is part of the house made specifically for them. For the vast majority of people we find the luxurious in the various offerings of suppliers. Putting it all together can be difficult so finding sources of inspiration is a fantastic thing.

One of the best places to look for inspiration is travel and the fine hotels you stay in throughout the world. Because the competition for hotel guests is so intense, some of the most forward thinking designs are being executed in those hotels both boutique and larger buildings. On a recent trip to Las Vegas for the international

Kitchen and Bath conference, I had the pleasure of staying with the Aria Hotel and toured the building and facilities.

The integration of technological innovations into the design seemed to create a kind of magic around the space. As you walk into the room, as if signalled by the swing of the door, the lights dim up to greet you, the music system engages to make you feel more welcome and at home, while at the same time, the automated curtain and sheers open to reveal a spectacular view from the window. There is a remote that is part of the system but also a key pad beside the bed that allows you to make adjustments to everything from the temperature in the room, to organizing a room service visit. If you feel tech savvy enough you can download an app to your phone that will allow you to



Glen Peloso of Restaurant Makeover

control your room's functions from a remote location. Being able to create a custom day-to-day plan for heating and lighting in your own home would not only have convenience implications but also ecological implications.

The building also has received a gold standard for LEEDS. LEEDS is a point system measurement, granted to new construction for the eco friendly aspects built into the design and construction. While this building has received the highest honours, we are certainly not aware of any of these elements affecting the comfort or luxury of the units. The integration of design and technology will only become more prevalent as time marches forward, so seeing those elements functioning can only offer inspiration to your own renovation and keep eco friendly renovations at the forefront of your mind.

The penthouse suite was truly extraordinary. Not only were the hallways from the elevator carpeted in wool and silk but the carpets in the suite were also exceptionally beautiful and specifically created for the suite. The real selling feature of the unit was the breath-taking view, and the design team did everything to enhance that feature. The living room furniture, a sectional sofa,

faces a large two-storey marble wall, with fireplace and large television but also focuses on the panoramic view of the city from the top floor. As you walk by the two bedrooms, the ensuite laundry, kitchen and personal gym, you note the bathroom was covered floor to ceiling in a marble specifically selected for the design. The builders had to buy the quarry in order to ensure suitable quantities for this project. The use of a heavily patterned marble in combination with glass, mirror and stainless, leaves the marble as the feature of the space. All of this integrated with the technology of audio-visual systems make visiting this unit on two floors a pretty extraordinary stay.

Looking carefully at the design elements of a new hotel can be a wonderful inspiration to your next renovation. Not only do you get to see the ideas but you also get to see them executed and functioning so that you can evaluate how they will work in your home. The cost per night of the hotel also includes the design inspiration, so make sure you take advantage of it all! - Text by *Celebrity Designer Glen Peloso of Glen Peloso Interiors*

Design trends present in the new Aria hotel (City Centre Complex)

1. Organic shapes like curves found in staircases, walls, artwork, showers
2. Reclaimed woods in restaurants and entrances
3. Tiled walls and floors for a bathroom
4. LED lighting throughout spaces providing eco impact
5. Water conservation in shower heads, toilets, faucets and bath faucets providing eco impact
6. Combination of metals including stainless steel, brass, copper and chrome
7. Technology integrated into the design of each suite with "one point of control" for all systems (lighting, entertainment, temperature, etc.)
8. Mixed textures in monochromatic colours in upholstery i.e. satin, velvet, weaves and leather
9. Mixed stones creating pattern and geometry in flooring
10. Textured accent walls in vibrant colours (red, azure, gold)



Working With *Designers And Contractors*



The process of renovation can either be a pleasure or it can be what seems like a never-ending nightmare. The idea of hiring a good design firm and an effective contractor that work well together helps to ensure that it is the former as opposed to the latter. At my studio we do everything possible to make sure the process is completely painless to the homeowner, short of the mess that renovations create. There is an effective process to making sure it all goes well.”



products are possible with your project, so that they are not presenting a Porsche when really you are more able to afford a Nova. Make sure that you stick to the budget well or the renovation you hoped would improve your life will only mean that you can no longer have a life until you finish paying for what you have done to the house. If you find something that you really want but it is out of the budget, then leave it on your bucket list. Budgets get out of control in one hundred dollar increments until you are way over what you intended to spend.

4. Reserve about ten percent of the budget for the “oh crap” list. Those are the things that neither your contractor nor designer could foresee until the demolition had begun to discover faulty wiring or rotted floor boards. That is when everyone says “oh crap”. That ten percent will hopefully cover the cost of that repair. In any change to the plan be sure that you have those costs put in writing as an addendum to your contract with those teams so you know exactly what you are in for and can approve. Those little requests to the contractor will end up adding to the overall cost, so be sure you also ask what it will cost along with “do you suppose that you could...”?

5. When you are hiring a contractor ask for references and then actually call them and ask them their opinion. It is wise to also ask if there was anything that disappointed them about the contractor. Generally people will tell you they were very pleased with the result but... Listen to the ‘but’ and know what to expect and decide if you can live with that or not. Get a couple of quotes on that job based on the design and specs created by the design firm. Each quote will be comparing apples to apples.

6. Plan for the fact that there is going to be a mess for some time. Hopefully both the contractor and the design firm will be able to tell you how long that is going to last. It will mean that there will be meals out, mornings getting ready at the gym and perhaps the need to live out of the house for a while. Budget for that reality and be prepared for the inconvenience and the mess for the short term.

7. Enjoy the new space and the new living arrangements.
- Text by Celebrity Designer Glen Peloso of Glen Peloso Interiors

1. The first step is to plan effectively for the renovation. As I have pointed out to many of my clients, planning is half the job. Taking the time to plan what is going to happen from the removal of walls to the last tile border, appliance and faucet ensures that the process is going to go as well as possible. The design team is there to make sure that you have planned all of the elements that you are going to require and to make sure those elements arrive at the job site on time.

2. When you are working with the design team, try to be clear about what you want to achieve in the renovation and why it is going to improve your life. Start to peruse design magazines, like Canadian Home Trends, and clip pictures that appeal to you and place a note on the image about what you find appealing. It could be a colour or a piece of furniture or just a general feel. Presenting these to your designers can help them understand what is in your mind and to be able to direct you to what will work and what will not.

3. Create a realistic budget with both your designer and the contractor. I always think it is wise to do a little homework and figure out pricing in general. In doing so you can determine if you have a suitable budget to execute the renovation you are looking for. A budget will also help the design company to know what kind of

Moving to your last home:

1. Live all on one floor to eliminate the need for stairs
2. Space the furniture in the room so that it is easy to navigate
3. Reduce the amount of accessories that have to be cleaned on tables
4. Get a king sized bed to allow both people to sleep well while the other gets up more often
5. Buy furniture with arms to ensure the ease of getting in and out
6. Plan on a stool for the shower to make it easier to wash
7. Have great lighting with dimmers to assist with reading and with romantic dinners

If you are helping a friend, remember that older eyes see things more yellow so try to compensate for that as you select wall colours, etc.