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If designer style doesn't come naturally to you, the next best thing is to hire a pro. But one better than that is when said pro is your sibling. This Vancouver home's modern eclectic look is a testament to the power of a sister act.

# BIRDS of A FEATHER



In the dining area, an antique zinc-topped table from a French flea market pairs well with mismatched Eames chairs. "We thought the different hues of the dining chairs would be quirky and fun," says homeowner Anna Wright. The birdcage pendant light adds another unexpected dose of colour and whimsy.

**DESIGN**, Sophie Burke Design, [sophieburkedesign.com](http://sophieburkedesign.com); **CONTRACTING**, PGC Enterprises; **EAMES DINING CHAIRS**, Inform Interiors; **La Volière Two-Tier PENDANT LIGHT**, The Conran Shop.



**LEFT** The zinc top on the antique dining table can take plenty of wear and tear from everyday family meals; the stark white modern dishware strikes a pleasing contrast against the patinated surface.

**CASSEROLES, NAPKINS**, The Cross Decor & Design; **TEAPOT**, West Elm Market; **CUPS, SAUCERS**, Chintz & Company.

**BOTTOM** A desk area in the kitchen serves as the family workspace and offers plenty of storage for the kids' paperwork and school supplies. Inspirational photos and small pieces of art bring personality to the nook.

*Untitled (White)* | **ARTWORK** (in white frame), Olivia Bull; *What Can I Do/Something You Like* | **ARTWORK, RUNNER**, Örling & Wu.



**N**ow that the dust has settled on their massive whole-house renovation, homeowners Anna Wright and Alistair Sale — both busy professionals and parents of Lewis, 10, Freddie, 8, and George, 6 — each have their favourite features of the new interior. For Alistair, the cook of the family, the kitchen is the (long-awaited) best part. Anna is most excited about the ensuite bathroom she doesn't have to share with the kids. And for the boys, it's their bigger playroom in the finished basement.

The Vancouver family lived in the 3,700-square-foot 1920s home for five years before embarking on the huge overhaul. "I'm so glad we lived in the house for a while first and figured out what we wanted," says Anna. "If we'd done the renovation right away, we would have done things very differently, and those decisions probably wouldn't work for us now."

When planning the new layout, the family was in good hands. One of Anna's sisters is talented designer Sophie Burke, principal at Sophie Burke Design. "It was great to work with my sister," says Sophie (who collaborated with senior designer Jennifer Millar on the project). "I know her so well and really understand her needs and tastes."

The biggest — and best — decision they made was to remove a wall between the old closed-off kitchen and



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**ABOVE** Expanding the existing skylight and adding more windows above the sink brought loads of natural light into the kitchen. Homeowner Alistair Sale greatly appreciates the bigger sink, but extra counter space, double wall ovens and a gas cooktop were at the top of his must-have list.

Pavilion Gray 242 **CABINETRY PAINT**, Farrow & Ball; **SINK, FAUCET**, Robinson Lighting & Bath Centre.

**LEFT** French doors lead out to a newly enlarged wrap-around deck off the open kitchen/dining area, making the backyard much more accessible. The peninsula is perfect for casual breakfasts and homework time.

**RUG**, DwellStudio; *Dinner Dance in Gastown, Little Bird Sing Me a Song, Watching the Moon* **ART-WORK**, Arleigh Wood.



A contemporary pale orange sofa pops against the white panelling and dark grey walls. The Mid-Century Modern desk was a lucky find at an antiques store a few years back, as was the Tolix chair.

Custom **SOFA**, Montauk Sofa; vintage **DESK**, Metropolitan Home; Muuto **SIDE TABLES**, Jieldé **FLOOR LAMP**, Mint; **RUG**, West Elm; grey **TOSS CUSHION**, Provide.



## SAVE VS. SPLURGE

DESIGNER SOPHIE BURKE SHARES HER BIGGEST HIGH AND LOW FINDS.



**SAVE**

### ARMCHAIR

Going vintage is often more economical than buying brand new, says Sophie.



### MIRRORS

The matching mirrors in the master ensuite are a glitzy big-box score.



**SPLURGE**

### LIGHT FIXTURE

The designer pendant light was a pricey find from London, England.



### FLOOR TILES

The tiles themselves weren't very expensive, but shipping them from California was.



**FAR LEFT** The crisp white brick fireplace surround, built-ins and original wood panelling set off the dark grey on the upper walls of the den. Leaded-glass cabinetry doors are another original feature. The antique chandelier was picked up at a London flea market.

Grey **JUG**, Mint; grey **TOSS CUSHION**, Provide; **BASKET**, Pottery Barn.

**LEFT & BELOW** The new master ensuite is Anna's retreat from hectic work and family life. Grey and white cement floor tiles provide ornate pattern in the otherwise serene white room.

**SINKS, FAUCETS**, Cantu Bathrooms & Hardware; **CAFÉ CURTAINS**, The Natural Textile Company; **FLOOR TILES**, Granada Tile; **SCONCES**, Robinson Lighting & Bath Centre.

a “bizarre, random bedroom,” as Sophie calls it, on the main floor that they’d been using as a playroom. The renovation allowed for a great room with open kitchen and dining areas connected to the family room, where the clan now spends most of their time. The increased floor and cabinet space means the kitchen functions more efficiently for the family of five.

The rest of the main floor, including the formal living and dining rooms, as well as authentic features like panelled wainscoting, wide trim and hardwood floors in the den, was left largely intact. “It was important for us to preserve as much of the home’s original character as possible,” says Sophie. “And we tried to respect its history when updating spaces, too.” In the den, badly stained panelling was painted white. “It would’ve been labour-intensive to refinish it,” explains Anna. “But the dose of white paint freshened everything up.”

When furnishing the house, Sophie and Anna strove for a mix of contemporary and antique. “Anna always has an eye out for something a little unusual,” says Sophie. The pale orange sofa in the den injects a shot of fun colour, while an antique chandelier brings an old-world sensibility. When searching for a light fixture to hang over the kitchen dining table, the sisters were looking for a large standout statement piece. Sophie found the whimsical birdcage pendant light and thought its playful, airy vibe would be perfect. For Anna, it was love at first sight, and it’s one of her favourite things in her home. Call it sisterly intuition.

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