

NOT JUST FOR WINDOWS, **DRAPERY** GETS PUT TO WORK HIDING CLUTTER, DIVIDING ROOMS AND SOFTENING STARK SPACES.

Produced by Cameron MacNeil

Text by Kimberley Brown Photography by Tracy Skumate

If walls are covered, display art on easels



"My job, in part, is to shop all the time," jokes Arren Williams, a stylist whose clients include *House & Home*, *Flare*, *Wish* and *CityLine*. So you might be forgiven for thinking his first house, a 1900s-era two-storey in Toronto's east end that he and his partner, David Pimentel, purchased a few years ago, would be bursting with all the latest and greatest pieces from exclusive shops and studios. Not so: their 1,200-square-foot space is in fact a perfect example of how to achieve unlimited style on a limited budget. Major components, like the flooring and the kitchen cabinetry (installed during a six-month reno) are from The Home Depot. Most of the furniture is vintage, with the occasional inexpensive staple thrown in. High-end textiles are used sparingly, for maximum impact. Accessories include souvenirs from Las Vegas and Hong Kong but also finds from Zellers and Value Village. "We wanted to restore the charm to the house, because almost everything interesting had been ripped out during an '80s renovation by a previous owner," says Arren. "Now we have a fabulous house we love that reflects both our styles."

LET THERE BE LIGHT

"Bad light can make any room look bad and even make you look older — never good!" says Arren. Though the space isn't huge, he added five recessed lights in the living area and two in the dining room, plus there are four lamps and three ceiling fixtures. "Everything is on dimmers so you can create different moods — a subtle glow for dinner parties, or bright clean light for working from home." As part of the "charm restoration," deep baseboards and dentil crown mouldings, in keeping with the period of the house, were installed. Echoing the ceiling and walls, these elements were also painted shades of white to unify and brighten the space and provide a clean backdrop for the rich brown

tones of the vintage furniture, including a teak chair found in the garbage. Credenza, Machine Age Modern; cocktail table, Casana; tangle toy, Zig Zag; rug, Bev Hisey; Lee Jofa fabric on club chair; Kravet; chair upholstered by Mieda Design; hardware, Robert Allen drapery fabric, Levolor blind, all through The Home Depot.

BEFORE



BEFORE



Homeowners Arren Williams (left) and David Pimentel.

USE EVERY INCH

To streamline the wooden staircase, a wobbly banister was removed (a sleek steel handrail is in the works), and the stairs were treated to the same white paint as the trim. Now the under-stair area is an ideal place to tuck a vintage teak sofa and cube side tables that do double-duty as storage for David's 200-plus records. Sofa, Zig Zag; Lee Jofa sofa fabric, Kravet; sofa upholstered by Mieda Design; lamp, Era.

Text by Bonnie Schiedel
Photography by Angus Fergusson

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PAUL KOSKINEN