

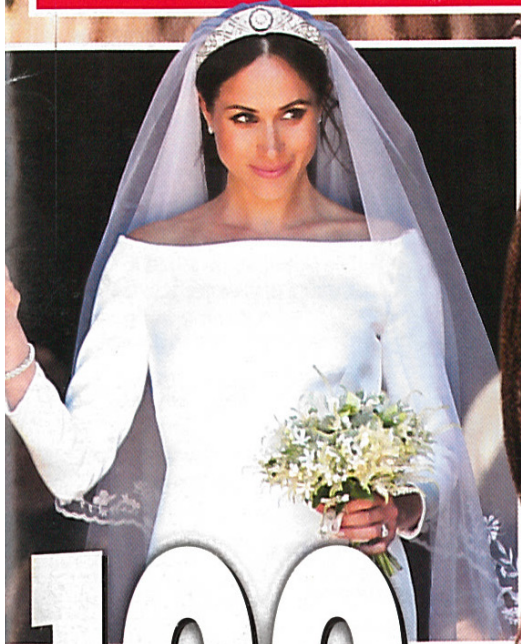
HELLO!

CANADA

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EXCLUSIVE

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really
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ONE-ON-ONE WITH...

BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN

As he unveils a lavish new book, Canada's beloved interior design star chats with *Hello!* about family, inspiration – and reading in the bath! **By Shinan Govani**



BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN
the art of home



"Is it comfortable?" Does it make it make everyday life a little smoother? Does it have soul?" So asks one of Canada's most celebrated interior designers in his new book, *Brian Gluckstein: The Art of Home*, talking about the intersection of function and feeling. A mainstay in the realm of home – Brian has his own product line at Hudson's Bay and is a fixture on TV's *Cityline* (right, with host Tracy Moore and guest

Jessica Mulroney) – he's always a delight.



HOME-SCHOOLED

The house I grew up in went through a number of iterations. My mother had a professional designer who did the house in quite a traditional style with beautiful, rich colours like apple green and eggplant. Then it went through a more modern period where it was all neutrals and classics.

HEIRLOOM FROM DAD

My father had a period French desk with bronze mounts that I always loved and he later gave it to me. It's a piece I really treasure.

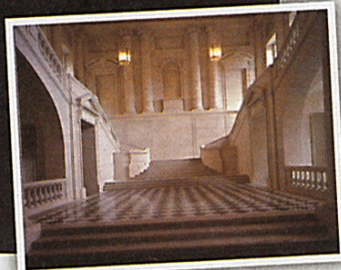
CUES FROM THE PAST

The house, or space, that I particularly covet is the apartment in *Auntie Mame*. There were a few iterations of that apartment that I just love. It's a favourite film of mine but I could watch it just for the sets.



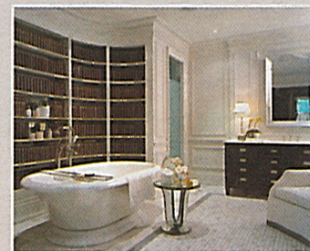
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME STAIRCASE

The staircase at Versailles, as captured by Robert Polidori in the piece that I have hanging in the Gluckstein Design office.



COLOUR 101

I think any colour can be used in the right context and right environment. There are colours that work well in retail or hospitality that wouldn't work in a house. There are graphic colours that are wonderful when used in certain applications but



BOOK NOOK

An image that definitely pops in *Brian Gluckstein: The Art of Home* is that of the designer's own bookcase-lined bathroom. It is quite the wonderful conceit! "Most people are quite overwhelmed and wowed when they see it," Brian tells *Hello!*. "Of course, I don't bring a lot of people into my bathroom. But when guests want to see it, as soon as they walk in they don't want to leave the room. Guests end up sitting on the terry cloth-covered chairs, or they perch on the tub, and we'll have the fire going. [People] really do like to congregate in there!" The book lover explains: "I love to take a bath and read... I have bookcases all over my house!"



not necessarily as a wall colour. It's really about different colours for different applications.

HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

A monochromatic space only works when there is some subtle variation through texture and contrast. You want to layer a few different rich textures throughout the space. More importantly, you need pops of contrast – whether through glossy dark wood floors, art in black frames, warm gold accents or a mix of furniture styles.

IT'S TRUE...

I don't really celebrate my birthdays! **H**



STORAGE WARS

It is a cliché, but it's true: half the work of being a successful interior designer involves being a psychologist of sorts, particularly in the way you sometimes have to negotiate the wants and needs, style-wise, of multiple people involved in a commission.

So does the same principle apply at home? Asked if he and his long-time partner, Gary, ever disagree on design,

the style meister tells me: "Gary shares my esthetic, but the one thing he always wants is a lot of storage. He likes everything to be put away and kept very neat."

"So that's where I'm sometimes challenged when we've renovated a space, whether it's in Toronto, Palm Beach or New York. When Gary sees a wall, he wants a cabinet!"

