

Meet the DESIGN PANEL

Brian Gluckstein

DESIGNER, AUTHOR, HOMEWARES DESIGNER, TORONTO WHAT IN YOUR HOME MOST REFLECTS YOU? My library and all the biography books it holds. I have such an interest in people. YOUR BRAVEST DESIGN MOVE? A red-lacquered kitchen island in a project in Aspen. It was either going to be a hit or a miss. It was a big hit! BEST DESIGN ADVICE? Design your home to please you and no one else.





Alexandre Blazys

DESIGNER, CO-FOUNDER OF BLAZYSGÉRARD, MONTREAL

FAVOURITE ROOM EVER? The piano bar at Le Meurice in Paris. YOUR BRAVEST DESIGN MOVE? Dandy restaurant in Montreal. It's the first time BlazysGérard used such bold colours in masses. It's edgy yet on point. WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION? Nature walks help ground me, so I can tap into all the beauty that lies within. LITTLE-KNOWN TALENT: Making jam.



Arren Williams

DESIGNER, STYLIST, CO-OWNER OF HOMEWARES COMPANY CASA CUBISTA, TORONTO

YOUR BRAVEST DESIGN MOVE? An insanely fun floral sofa for our living room. Sadly, it didn't survive our dogs. CURRENT OBSESSION: Fruit-forward craft beer sours from Halo. FAVOURITE ROOM EVER? The secret living room upstairs at Maison Assouline on Piccadilly in London. LITTLE-KNOWN TALENT: Sewing. I majored in fashion design in school and can craft a shirt from scratch.



Nam Dang-Mitchell

DESIGNER, H&H'S 2018 DESIGNER OF THE YEAR, CALGARY

LAST PIECE YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOUSE? A \$10

flea-market nude sketch from 1969. I custom-framed it and now it looks like a Matisse! ULTIMATE LUXURY: The feeling of belonging. Create a home that cultivates that. CURRENT OBSESSION: Plaster. Plaster walls, plaster

Plaster. Plaster walls, plaster hood fans, plaster light fixtures! It's such a subtle, rich texture that brings so much soul to a room.



Ali Yaphe

CO-FOUNDER OF FABRIC AND RUG RETAILER Y&CO., TORONTO

BEST DESIGN ADVICE? It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to feel perfect to you. WHAT IN YOUR HOME MOST REFLECTS YOU? My vintage fabrics and handwoven carpets are really most reflective of me and my design philosophy. Anything handwoven brings warmth and soul to a home. ULTIMATE LUXURY? Time to chill out at home.

10 BEST LIVING ROOMS

DESIGN PANEL DEBATE: WHAT MAKES A GREAT LIVING ROOM?

"A not too precious space where everyone can be comfortable, including the dogs. Oh, and good lighting is essential, all on dimmers, of course!"

— Arren Williams

"Drama. A living room should be like a stage set. There has to be at least one grand gesture — it can be about scale, glamour or even humour, but it has to be there" — Tommy Smythe

"Comfort, great lighting and beautiful art"





THE LOOK: Dynamic Drama

THE DESIGNERS: Denise Zidel, Stephanie Lees

WHAT MAKES IT WORK: A dramatic painting by Canadian modernist William Perehudoff contrasts the quieter elements in this modern living room to create a layered, collected feel.

TO SELECT THE VERY BEST, WE TURNED TO OUR DESIGN PANEL. THESE ROOMS WERE CHOSEN FOR THEIR CRAFTSMANSHIP, BEAUTY AND THAT HARD-TODEFINE "WOW" FACTOR. DRUMROLL, PLEASE....

BEST OF

*In no particular order!



"Any room with a tree in it gets my vote! And walls made of windows. I'd never leave this room"

THE LOOK: Airy Romantic

THE DESIGNER:

Brian Gluckstein

BOLD STATEMENT:

Brian's interiors for the annual Princess Margaret Showhome are always fodder for our wildest design daydreams, and this room is no exception. The bright, airy conservatory is wrapped in sky-high windows, floored in tidy herringbone tile and planted with a towering ficus tree. It's like having a glamorous summer resort in your own home, year-round.





THE LOOK:

Radical Retrofit

THE DESIGNERS:

Mazen El-Abdallah, Anthony Fieldman, Ali Yaphe

WHY IT WORKS:

Built inside a converted church, this living room, which once belonged to design panel member Ali Yaphe, is innately dramatic with a soaring ceiling and wall of windows. The design team chose furniture and accents with scale in mind: Mazen designed a simple but monolithic fireplace, a 13-foot ficus fills one corner with life and colour, and an expansive silk rug anchors the space. Even the coffee table, sofa and chairs are substantial but they're also inviting, creating that "kick-yourshoes-off" atmosphere Ali craved.