





holiday style

all things blue

Homeowners Craig Nattress and partner Elizabeth jumped at friend Sarah Richardson's offer to decorate for Christmas after she completed a reno of their Toronto semi (which you can see in an upcoming episode of Sarah's show, *Design Inc.*). Usually the couple go trad – "a tree, big glass balls, handmade decorations," Elizabeth says – but this time, Sarah surprised them with an imaginative, icy look they loved. Here's a sneak peek with the designer. WRITTEN BY HELEN RACANELLI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

Sarah, what can you divulge about this project?

A This is Elizabeth and Craig's first home as a couple – they both had homes of their own but sold them to move in together. She wanted sleek and modern; he wanted country cosy. So we tackled the project as a one-hour holiday special for *Design Inc.*, handling everything from the reno to the decorating and tree trimming. It was a total holiday package for

them. The entire *Design Inc.* team pitched in to make sure everything was done in four weeks – no small task! ▷

LEFT "I wanted to maintain the house's tradition but make it modern at the same time," Elizabeth says. A chandelier, and the clean-lined sofa, wing chairs and ottomans do the trick – and also satisfy Craig's desire for cosy furniture. Feather wreaths are simple and sexy.



Ball ornaments always look fresh. "They're my single most favourite element for the season," says Sarah. "You can dress the tree, create clusters, put them in bowls, hang them – they're a low-cost, high-impact solution."

LEFT A Christopher Roberts painting above the vintage chairs is perfect with the palette designer Sarah Richardson chose for the first floor. Hollywood-glam boas and ball ornaments adorn the banister. "We got the boas from a sewing supply store," says Sarah. Buy new balls or scour flea markets. Vintage is hot – "like those old-fashioned striped ornaments in acid colours," she says. BELOW Midnight blue for the dining room walls was an unusual, dramatic choice. It looks rich paired with the silvery sparkle of votive holders, balls and candlesticks. OPPOSITE Sarah mixed upscale and affordable with brio: the Parsons chairs and dining table are from UpCountry, the ornaments from The Bay and the mirror from The Home Depot; the banquette was custom-built.

Why this colour palette, and how do the decorations relate?

A We feel blue is underused these days, and we thought it would provide both the cool, sleek palette Elizabeth wanted and a sense of the country elements Craig wanted. Highlighting the dark blue with light oyster and creams creates something that's both dramatic and easy to live with. I've never been a real fan of the traditional red and green scheme. Pink and orange seem to have been overdone. I felt that cool and icy was a nice take on a country modern approach. Amazingly, stores were really well stocked in all things blue, so it worked out perfectly!



Take cues from existing decor. "Select a single tone from your decor," suggests Sarah, "then highlight with either white, gold or silver for a simple monochromatic palette."



What renovations were done, and what were the furniture choices to achieve this look?

A We ripped out and replaced the kitchen, created a pass-through from the kitchen to the living area, installed double doors in the back wall, replaced all the knob-and-tube wiring, did plaster repairs, installed a stone floor in the kitchen, and painted throughout. We used mostly pieces from my furniture collection for the living room, plus a pair of vintage chairs. The dining table and chairs are from UpCountry, and the custom banquette was made by our carpenter and trimmed in tongue-and-groove to match the kitchen panelling. Throughout, we highlighted the blue palette and kept it light and sparkly by adding hits of chrome. ▷

plan ahead

The day before a party or dinner, set out the tray of champagne flutes and stack of chargers, and even set the dining table.



We see traditional decorations – and feathers! Why that mix?

AI love the look of glass ball ornaments but wanted to lighten them up with a whimsical touch. Feather boas provided a soft, light and lasting alternative to garlands of greenery, which are expensive, messy and temporary. Silver mirrored dishes, balls, charger plates and accents were chosen for the way they reflect light and create sparkle; using gold would make it traditional. Feather wreaths in the living room are a playful interpretation of pinecone wreaths yet add softness.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 194



Go for abundance. “Buy what’s in your budget, and buy lots of it,” says Sarah. “Good holiday decor is about the wow factor, so I don’t buy expensive, precious ornaments – I buy tons of one colour at a good price.”



OPPOSITE Instead of being replaced, the fridge was spray-painted the same colour as the cabinetry and panelling to match the decor. A three- by eight-foot Bianco Carrara marble slab was chosen for the island in a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thickness, as opposed to a full 1½ inches, which saved money. **ABOVE** Stack plates, display teapots and add simple silver candlesticks for a charming vignette made festive with the addition of a feather boa. **LEFT** Champagne flutes stand at the ready for a seasonal soirée. The *Design Inc.* team created a signature drink to celebrate the completion of the home, and it even complemented the decor – white grape juice, sparkling water and blueberries.

CC-220 and Putnam Ivory HC-39 (striped walls), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898 for retailers; benjaminmoore.ca. **Refinishing** (antique chair): Kinnettes Interiors (see above). **Print:** through designers, Somerset Studios (see above). **BEDROOM Paint:** Marble White OC-34, Benjamin Moore (see above). **Lampshade, clock:** HomeSense (see above). **Sheets, bedskirt, bedspread, pillow covers:** Elte, 888-276-3583; Toronto, 416-785-7885; elte.com.

ALL THINGS BLUE

Pages 146 to 151

Design: Sarah Richardson Design, Toronto, 416-925-3338; sarahrichardsondesign.com. **Paint:** Clunch 2009 (living room walls, dining room ceiling), Slipper Satin 2004 (living room and kitchen ceilings), Tallow 203 (kitchen walls), Pointing 2003 (trim), Farrow & Ball, 877-363-1040 or farrow-ball.com for retailers. **LIVING ROOM Sofa, wing chairs, ottomans:** Sarah Richardson Design (see above). **Drapery hardware, fabric** (drapery, pillows, vintage chairs): Designer Fabrics, Toronto, 416-531-2810; designerfabrics.ca. **Feather wreaths, boas, mirrored bowls, pillow fabric:** BB Bargoons, Concord, Ont., 905-761-7799 for stores; bbbargoons.com. **Floor lamp:** Hardware, Toronto, 416-462-3099; hardwareinteriors.com. **Rug:** Merit Decorating Centre, Toronto, 416-534-6337. **End tables:** Pier 1 Imports, 800-245-4595 for stores; pier1.com. **Sconces:** Elte, 888-276-3583; Toronto, 416-785-7885; elte.com. **Artwork** by Christopher Roberts: christopherroberts.net. **DINING ROOM Chairs, table:** UpCountry, Toronto, 416-777-1700; Vaughan, Ont., 905-760-8108; Burlington, Ont., 905-631-1100; upcountry.com. **Wineglasses:** Riedel, riedel.com for retailers. **Mirror, sconces:** The Home Depot, 800-628-0525 for stores; homedepot.ca. **Christmas tree:** Sheridan Nurseries, 888-676-2020 for stores (Ontario); Toronto, 416-798-7970; sheridannurseries.com. **Decorations:** The Bay, select stores only; hbc.com. **KITCHEN Stools:** Sarah

Richardson Design (see above). **Sink, trim, pendant lights, French doors, Mill's Pride cabinetry:** The Home Depot (see above). **Island countertop:** Caledonia Marble, Toronto, 416-256-0251. **Backsplash tile, Bianco Carrara floor tile:** Saltillo Imports, Toronto, 416-441-2224; saltillo-tiles.com.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Pages 152 to 157

Floral design: Michelle Bignell Designs, Erin, Ont., 519-833-1143. **Snow Real! Instant Decorative Snow:** JRM Chemical, 800-962-4010 or soilmoist.com to order.

more glamour

FROM PAGE 158



A lush square boxwood wreath with orange accents suits the shape of the front door. Ribbons were knotted at the corners; hypericum berries, pinecones, bittersweet and banksia nuts add a festive touch. ARRANGEMENT, FLOWERS AND MARGOT, 888-810-7507; TORONTO, 416-696-0694; FLOWERSANDMARGOT.COM.

QUIET GLAMOUR

Pages 158 to 165

Floral arrangements: Flowers and Margot, 888-810-7507; Toronto, 416-696-0694; flowersandmargot.com. **Paint:** Cloud White CC-40 (trim), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898 for retailers; benjaminmoore.ca. **HALLWAY Christmas Street ornaments:** The Bay, select stores only; hbc.com. **Waterford crystal ornaments:** Waterford Wedgwood, 800-668-7585 for retailers; wedgwood.com. **LIVING ROOM Coffee table:** Trianon, Toronto, 416-363-9851; trianon-online.com. **Sofas:** Ridpath's Fine Furniture, Toronto, 416-920-4441. **DINING ROOM Antique girandole mirror:** HorseFeathersHome, Toronto, 416-486-4555; horsefeathershome.com. **Fanfare crystal goblets, Chaine d'ancre china and placemats:** Hermès, Montreal, 514-842-3387; Toronto, 416-968-8626; Vancouver, 604-681-9965. **LIBRARY Canvas** (on armchairs): Gwartzman's Canvas and Art Supplies, Toronto, 416-922-5429; gwartzmans.com. **Orange shawl:** Hermès (see above). **Rug:** Elte, 888-276-3583; Toronto, 416-785-7885; elte.com. **BEDROOM Fuchsia shawl:** Hermès (see above). **Lamps** (converted candlesticks): Absolutely, Toronto, 416-324-8351. **DRESSING ROOM Rectangular mirror:** Hermès (see above).

WINDOW SHOPPING

Page 216

AT Design Group: Toronto, 416-323-0323, atdesignhome.com; Aromafloria, 800-424-0034 for retailers, aromafloria.com. **The Bay:** select stores only; hbc.com. **D.L. & Co.:** Los Angeles, 213-624-9777 for retailers; dlcompany.com. **Esteban:** 866-578-3226 for retailers; esteban.fr. **Harvest Spa:** 888-722-8122; Toronto, 416-485-2644; Oakville, Ont., 905-337-0398; harvestspa.com; diptyqueparis.com. **Holt Renfrew:** select stores only; holtrenfrew.com. **IKEA:** 800-661-9807 or ikea.com for stores. **Lumière Candle Co.:** 877-235-0710