



from HOUSE to CONDO

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PHOTOS BY LARRY ARNAL PHOTOGRAPHY



Evelyn Eshun has almost 2 decades of residential design and planning experience, from concept to final build. An accomplished and award winning designer with a successful history in providing both stylish and functional solutions tailored to achieve the stated objectives and budget. www.evelyneshun.com

Downsizing is the new normal for many people who want to simplify life and enjoy a lifestyle free of tedious chores, such as mowing the lawn and shoveling snow. It's often a big move, and the transition can be easier with the help of condo design expertise.

When I was approached to participate in the transformation of this client's lifestyle from a traditional home to a snazzy contemporary condo, I was delighted to embark on this journey with them. Naturally, they anticipated



missing the home they were very comfortable in. However, I was sure that my custom-created design suited to their needs would leave them wondering why they did not do it sooner.

The first step in an interior design project is the interview, where I gather all the needs, wishes and budgetary concerns of my clients. I wasn't surprised that their main concern was storage, because they were coming to

the condo from a larger house. Dishes, glasses and platters for entertaining, books, home office, and clothing needed to be hidden away, yet easily accessible. Built-ins are not the most budget-friendly solution when renovating, but are the best way to solve storage issues. In this case, I designed the main wall in the living room to house a new contemporary fireplace, floating shelves and cabinetry with touch-latch door mechanisms for a clean look.



The client's second request was to make their new condo home feel like a hotel suite. This set the tone and inspiration for the type of furniture, colour scheme and design style I would adopt for this project.

Entertaining regularly, these clients needed a sideboard with lined drawers for their prized silver cutlery as well as to serve as an area for hotplates and drinks. A Cambria countertop was specified for this area so that there would be no concern of wear and tear on the beautiful deco-inspired piece. Mirrors reflect the windows on the opposite wall to expand the area visually.

Off the entry hall a pocket door was installed into the tiny room to create an area for the home office. A built-in unit was designed for a desk, TV area, filing storage, and speakers. Our favorite feature in this room is a secret door disguised within the shelving to open into a small storage room behind the built-in.

Though there was a walk in closet in the master bedroom, a carefully crafted built-in closet was designed for the lady of the condo with storage for purses, accessories and clothing. This unit was designed to blend into the existing architecture with crown mouldings and millwork details to appear as though it was always there. This condominium in uptown Toronto is a perfect example of downsizing without compromise.



TIPS

- 1 Create extra storage by incorporating deep drawers, pull-outs and roll out drawers
- 2 Create atmosphere in your condo with multiple lighting options such as under-cabinet lighting, pot lights in newly built bulkheads and floor lamps.
- 3 Utilize furniture which has double duty such as a credenza in the living room which can house your platters, plates and glasses.
- 4 A monochromatic colour scheme will create flow and unity making your condo feel larger and more like a hotel suite.

