

country chic

An idyllic rural setting is the perfect backdrop for sophisticated interiors

BY EVELYN ESHUN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY ARNAL

Living in the country with all the conveniences of the city is a lifestyle that many of us, including me, dream of. We recently completed a home like this for two people who are living the dream on a secluded and peaceful 25-acre property just north of the city.

Using sophisticated finishes, such as antiqued granite, exotic wood veneers and modern fixtures, we created a delicate balance between the comfort of cottage living and the fashion-forward boldness of an urban environment.



FOYER

A customized sideboard, made with a dual finish of maple and textured veneer for the drawers, provides ample storage in a sophisticated package. The tall mirror hanging above the sideboard is crisscrossed with random dark- wood lines, providing a sculptural and artistic expression while remaining functional for that quick touch-up before heading out the door.

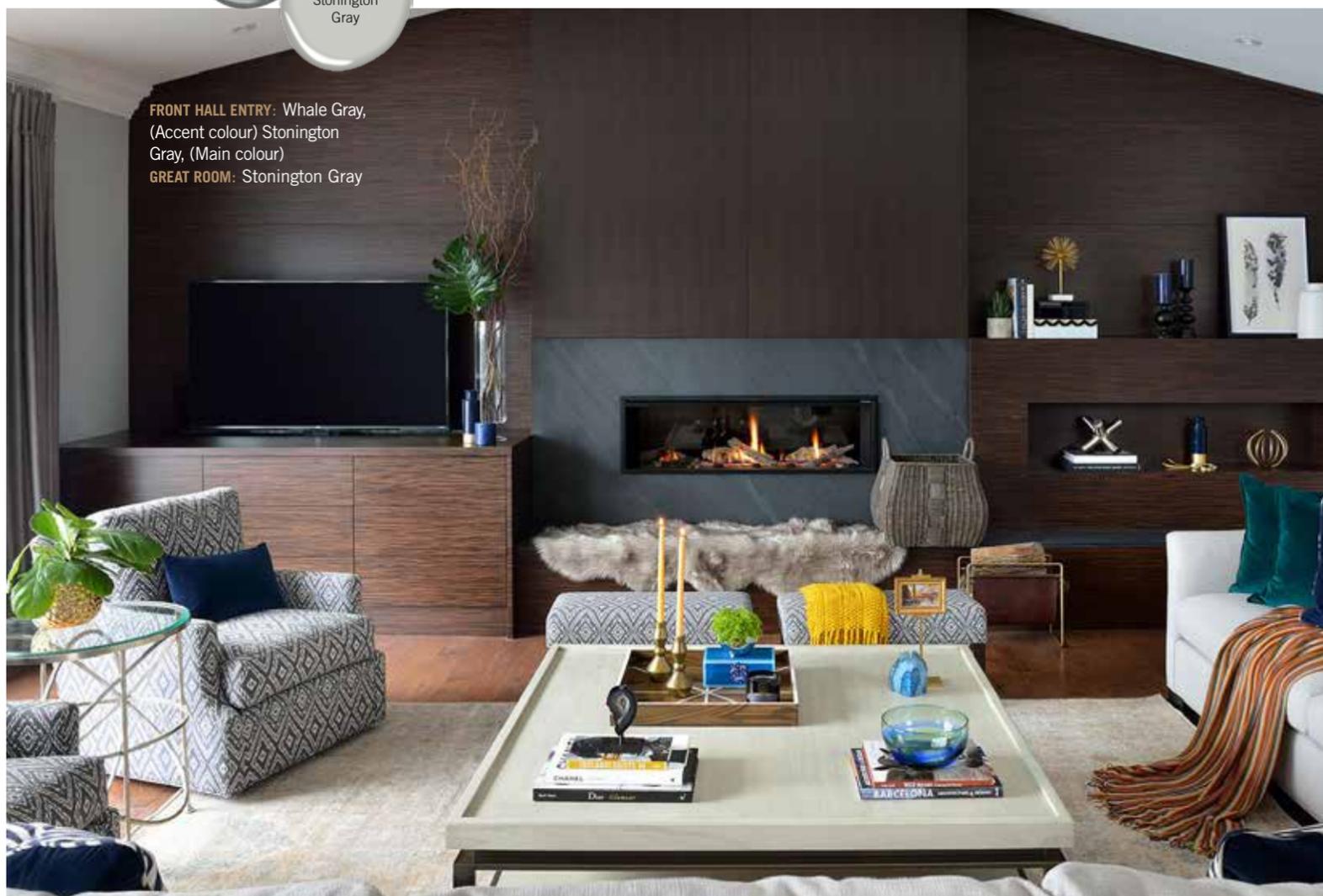
Lucite and polished-nickel sconces are shown bare without shades and installed on a dimmer in order to create the look of candle-light when desired.



GREAT ROOM

The linear nature of the exotic wood, mixed with walnut and slate in a very simple, contemporary design, is the focal point in the great room. A television drops into the cabinet at the touch of a button and can appear and disappear as needed.

A 52-inch linear fireplace was installed for functionality as well for its contemporary, urban look. The fireplace, designed purposely without a mantle, discourages the collection of clutter and maintains a sleek and minimal look. The addition of a bench along the length of the built-in allows for additional seating during family gatherings.



FRONT HALL ENTRY: Whale Gray, (Accent colour) Stonington Gray, (Main colour)
GREAT ROOM: Stonington Gray

POWDER ROOM

Wrapping the walls in a navy-blue grass cloth creates warmth in this small space yet remains utterly sophisticated. The floating vanity, made out of exotic Macassar ebony-wood veneer, is topped off with a stone vessel sink and black faucet to bring in some natural texture and drama. To accentuate the height of the room, you'll notice that the tall mirror reaches the crown moulding. To balance the urban expression, a slate counter with a wonderful texture adds a casual feel to the room.



MASTER ENSUITE

White marble, quartz finishes and a calm water-like wall colour bring that much-desired spa feeling to this room. A large, frameless glass shower designed with a curbless entry is not only contemporary but also practical for the homeowners as they age; the flat surface will make it easier to enter the shower, preventing slips and falls.

MASTER BEDROOM

A monochromatic colour scheme of soft greys and cool whites is the perfect backdrop with the contrast of the navy blue bench and accent pillows. The result is a master bedroom that feels like a luxury hotel suite.

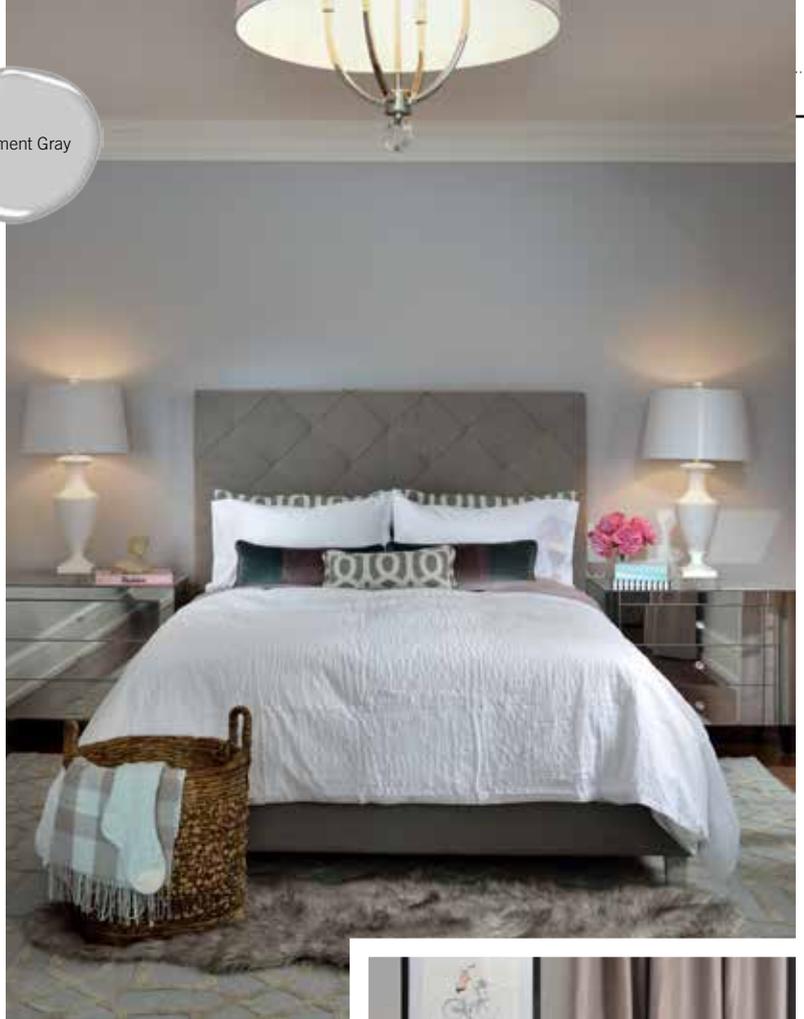
The accent wall, with its neutral-coloured geometric wallpaper, adds warmth and personality to this large room. Silk draperies with blackout lining allow the room to be completely blocked visually from the outdoors while bringing softness and luxury to the room.



Stonington Gray



Cement Gray



KITCHEN

The kitchen island provides the cook with adequate prep space, and allows guests to gather for entertainment. Acrylic pendants hang over the island and add a touch of city glamour to this country kitchen. The addition of dimmers makes it easy to set the mood for entertaining or simply lounging.

Since the kitchen is adjacent to the dining room, the height of the chairs around the island are similar to the height of the dining room chairs offering extra seating should there be a large gathering.

Antique glass doors bring sparkle to the kitchen, reflecting light and shapes while visually blocking the items stored inside.

GUEST BEDROOM

A pastel palette of greys, mauves and blues will keep the overnight guests happy and coming back for more. Two urn-shaped lamps with high-gloss white shades are a nod to the traditional table lamp design yet they provide a minimal and contemporary look, with a touch of sparkle and glamour too. Sitting atop a pair of mirrored dressers, this is unquestionably the focal point of the room.

A side chair with down-filled seat and back is as comfortable as any traditional wing chair, but the dark-wood slim legs give this chair a more city feel with country comfort. The generously sized area rug, with a geometric pattern adds texture and warmth to the room. It also helps to define the bed and sitting area in this large room. ♦



SOURCES

ALL PAINT COLOURS:

benjaminmoore.com

SIDEBOARD AND BEDROOM

FURNITURE: geovin.com

BED: elte.com

UPHOLSTERED FURNISHINGS:

greshamhousefurniture.com

MIRROR IN ENTRY: renwil.com

LIGHT FIXTURES:

unionlightingandfurnishings.com

WALLPAPER: crownwallpaper.com

Evelyn Eshun is a Toronto-based, award-winning interior designer with more than 15 years experience creating custom design projects for the residential market. Follow her @evelyndesigner. or visit her website for more information. evelyneshun.com

