MOVING TO A CONDO often requires downsizing, but for actor Sergio Di Zio (best known for his role as Spike Scarlatti on CTV’s *Flashpoint*) and Marc Husband, it was a chance to finally spread out. “We moved here three years ago from 600 square feet. I think it’s big,” says Marc, a teacher. The couple knew right away who should help them customize the brand-new corner unit in Toronto’s East End. Silvana D’Addazio, of Silvana D’Addazio Design, is Sergio’s cousin, and his sense of design comes entirely from her, he admits. “We grew up together.” She helped turn the second bedroom into Sergio’s dream library, to house the voracious reader’s extensive collection, and created a gourmet kitchen for Marc, the chef in the family. She also outfitted the living room with 12 feet of sofa, to help seat their large group of friends. “Everyone who comes here wants to sprawl out on the sofa,” says Sergio.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 915 SQUARE FEET
- 14 FULL-LENGTH WINDOWS
- 622 BOOKS
- 12 FEET OF SOFA

Homeowners Sergio Di Zio (left) and Marc Husband in their second bedroom-turned-library. A custom bookshelf displays Sergio’s books, while his guilty-pleasure comic books are placed behind the sofa to keep them out of sight. The library also has a small desk and a hidden closet (not pictured) that blends in with the wall and houses the vacuum cleaner. **Sofa**, Shelter Furniture; **rug**, gold head statue (middle shelf), Elle; **ottoman**, tray, Ribbehege & Azevedo; **bookshelves**, J&C Carpentry; **shelf colour**, Collingwood (OC-28), Benjamin Moore.
1. The Bianco Carrara marble backsplash and Caesarstone counters blend into the kitchen’s white walls, giving the room an airy, expansive feel.

2. With no room for a dining table, Silvana designed an extra-wide island that allows for seating on three sides, to create an unconventional eating area and add more counter space.

3. A coffee caddy was tucked into a side nook to keep the coffeemaker off the counter.

4. The front of the island features cupboards for added storage.

Pendant, RH Restoration Hardware; stools, Shelter Furniture; faucet, tea towel, Ginger’s; tray (on counter), Elte; bowl (on island), Found; vase, West Elm.

A single oversized light fixture adds drama and minimizes visual clutter.
“Our look is polished and put-together, but there’s still something very authentic and tactile about it. It just feels like home.”

SERGIO DI ZIO, HOMEOWNER

To maximize seating, the sofa wraps around this structural pillar.
“WE WENT WITH DARK WALLS IN THE BEDROOM TO KEEP THE SPACE COSY. IT’S BETTER FOR SLEEPING” — Sergio Di Zio

The grey feature wall adds a masculine touch to the otherwise bright condo, while the wooden liquor cabinet lends warmth and grounds the wall-mounted television. **Bar cabinet, tray,** Ribbehege & Azevedo; **chair,** Silvana D’Addazio Design; **ikat pillow,** Elte; **rug,** Y&Co; **wall colour,** Whale Gray (2134-40), Benjamin Moore.

**Bottom:** A long, low-backed sofa doesn’t interfere with the view, while a relatively small coffee table keeps the area from feeling crowded. It’s supported by additional side tables that can be moved over as needed. **Sofa,** Roen Furniture; **throw** (on sofa), **box** (on coffee table), Elte; **coffee table,** Shelter Furniture; **side tables,** Ribbehege & Azevedo; **woven tray** (on coffee table), **vase,** West Elm.

The king-size bed fills the bedroom — there’s just enough extra space for wall-mounted lights and floating bedside shelves. A customized walk-in closet (right) offers storage for clothes and linens. The dark, dramatic walls turn the bedroom into a warm cocoon — and by painting the closet door in the same hue as the walls, it seems to disappear, creating a cleaner look. **Headboard,** Roen Furniture; **pillows,** Ribbehege & Azevedo; **sconce,** Universal Lighting; **rug,** Y&Co; **bench,** BeReclaimed; **bedding,** **throw,** Elte; **wall colour,** Blue Note (2129-30), Benjamin Moore.
The Downsizers

JENNIFER AND DAVID WRIGHT GIVE THEIR HISTORIC HOME A MODERN MAKEOVER WITH A TRAD SPIRIT.

1. On the far wall, a leggy console houses the bar. “There’s one in every house we design,” says homeowner Jennifer Wright. “It gives the space a friendly and relaxed feel.”

2. The dining table is hidden behind the sofa, where it doubles as a sofa table when not in use.

3. A pair of matching armchairs and a small-scale sofa sit in an intimate arrangement.

4. Compact side tables with drawers help cut any clutter.

Wall colour, Drawing Room Blue (253), Farrow & Ball; coffee table, Boo Boo & Lefty; box (on coffee table), Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,200 SQUARE FEET

8 PATTERNED FABRICS

7 PIECES OF EQUESTRIAN ART

1 INCREDIBLE CLOSET
AFTER SPENDING 25 YEARS in their family home in Toronto's Leaside area, decorator Jennifer Wright and her husband, David, a partner in a group benefits practice, were ready for a change. “It’s just the two of us now, so it was time to mix it up,” says Jennifer. There was a little street downtown near where her daughter, now 31, went to school that she’d always had her eye on. “I loved the rowhouses on the street, so when one came up for sale we bought it that same week,” she says. As co-owner of Twigs Antiques and Interiors, Jennifer saw the 1890 rowhouse as an intriguing project — but she needed the right team to bring it to life. Enter Bootstrap, a three-person enterprise whose owners label themselves “creative contractors.” “I had the vision, and they executed it,” she says. “They really did an amazing job.” That job included eliminating a third bedroom to enlarge the bathroom and build a dreamy walk-in closet. Now, the couple relishes their little city home, which they preferred to the idea of a condo, surrounded by friends in the neighbourhood and close to shopping and restaurants. “We love the location. We just walk everywhere,” says Jennifer.

TOP LEFT: Instead of a second bedroom upstairs, Jennifer and David use the space as a den-slash-home office. Preppy green carpet, warm woods and antique artwork lend an English countryside feeling to the space. Sofa, pillow, blanket, Boo Boo & Lefty; coffee table, antique artwork, Twigs Antiques and Interiors; wall colour, Cloud White (CC-40), Benjamin Moore.

LEFT: Sunday dinners for six are made possible by pulling the table away from its usual spot against the sofa, adding a leaf and fetching extra chairs. Jennifer didn’t shy away from bold wall colours anywhere in the home: “I was more concerned with creating an atmosphere.” Rug, Red Carpet & Rug; candlesticks, Boo Boo & Lefty.
LEFT: The kitchen is decidedly modern in comparison to the rest of the house. A Calacatta marble-clad island provides increased storage, houses a dishwasher and sink, and serves as the kitchen table — and its thick edge makes a serious style statement. Cupboards, island, backsplash, Bootstrap; stools, Boo Boo & Lefty; stone floor tiles, Wiarton Stone Quarry; faucet, Ginger’s.

BELOW: “I’ve always loved accessories,” confesses Jennifer, who had the original gas fireplace removed to make way for this custom wall unit. Closed cupboards at the bottom store dishes and glassware. The lacquered green coffee table plays off the lacquered walls, lending a luxe touch. Wall unit, Bootstrap; sofa, Robert Custom Upholstery; sofa fabric, Bilbrough & Co.; pillows, Boo Boo & Lefty; silver bowl (in wall unit), Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

Style Statement

“I like to describe my style as traditional with colour. As long as you keep the palette consistent, you can easily mix patterns.”

JENNIFER WRIGHT, HOMEOWNER

A deep recess makes it easy to tuck stools out of the way

Pull-out library shelves take the place of end tables
TOP LEFT: Three deep drawers in the vanity provide ample space for bathroom essentials. The thick marble of the countertop and tub surround is carried over from the kitchen, while a striking chinoiserie mirror offers an element of surprise against the blue and white trellis wallpaper. Tub, Ginger’s; vanity, Bootstrap; mirror, Boo Boo & Lefty; wallpaper, Tessella (BP 3604), Farrow & Ball.

TOP RIGHT: A unified palette keeps bold colour from becoming overwhelming, as seen in the living room, where the same rich blue shows up on the walls, sofa and even on a porcelain bowl. Embroidered trim on the drapery adds to the traditional flavour. Drapery by Windsor Smith, Kravet; armchair, Robert Custom Upholstery; table, accessories, Twigs Antiques and Interiors.

BOTTOM RIGHT: In the bedroom, a preppy kelly green colour scheme feels fresh and inviting. A huge walk-in closet is big enough to serve as a pop-up nursery for their grandson, Holden. Space-enhancing mirrored doors feel elevated, thanks to crisscross detailing. Closet, Bootstrap; bedding, Au Lit Fine Linens; headboard, ottoman, Robert Custom Upholstery; carpet, Red Carpet & Rug; throw pillow fabric, Kravet; wall colour, Cloud White (CC-40), Benjamin Moore.