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Contact Information

Vanessa Stone, CID

250-213-5384

StyledSpaces@shaw.ca

www.StyledSpaces.ca



Styled Spaces by *Vanessa Stone*



Fall 2009 Newsletter



Full Time Design

It's been awhile. And it's my pleasure to write to you again.

When I sent you my previous newsletter, I had just launched Styled Spaces while working part time at Mattonella Tile.

As of last November my commitment to Styled Spaces expanded to full time. I'm now the proud owner of my own business. Here's what I've been up to...

It's fun, it's mine, and it's growing!

What a whirlwind! It's hard to believe that since starting Styled Spaces on a part-time basis and growing it to full-time, I'm now celebrating two years!

It's been a full, rich experience: lots of wonderful clients, interesting jobs and lots of learning.

Helping people through the renovation process—from start to finish—is incredibly rewarding. To arrive at the final moment and know that I have helped to create something so special for my clients is satisfying to me beyond words.

But it's not all about big, and from start to finish. Some of the small projects, like a bathroom makeover, have turned out to be real gems.

Staging too turned out to be a great pleasure for me. I love the challenge of taking a home that speaks volumes about the family who lives there and creating a house that whispers "buy me."

What's ahead? As I start my third year, I'm focusing on growth. I want to continue to deepen my industry knowledge, build and foster great relationships, and become an efficient business person — there's so much paperwork!

I hope we have an opportunity to work together. It's going to be an exciting year.

Special thanks to...

... all of you.

There have been so many of you who have chosen Styled Spaces for your design, renovation and staging projects.

I very much appreciate your support during these past two years. Because of you, my confidence and business have grown. Thanks!



Ryan Miller
my husband as of October 3rd

Introducing you to Ryan

It's not only my business life that has been going well. My personal life has too.

This October, I'm marrying a wonderful man named Ryan Miller. Although we met briefly when I was 15, we came together again by chance when I returned from BCIT in Vancouver.

I've had so much fun getting to know him and his family. I can't wait to be married to him. We have bought our first home (a duplex in Colwood), have adopted Lucy from the SPCA, and Ryan has fulfilled his lifelong career goal to be a police officer.

Life couldn't be better! And no... Children will not be happening any time soon!

Great Finds

You just never know what you are going to find when you shop in a second hand store, or consignment store, or garage sale. And look at the great added benefit of being environmentally friendly by re-using.

This month's great find are quaint little quails—a white ceramic treasure I discovered in the Salvation Army store. In the right setting, they'll be a perfect small décor touch.

I wonder where their new home will be?

Design Tip

There's an art to selecting furniture that is the right "scale"—neither too big nor too small—for your room. Small furniture in a large space can make it feel empty and cold; conversely, large furniture in a small space can make the space feel cramped.

Choose your pieces with the size and shape of your space in mind, and consider the feeling you hope to create in the room.

I'd love to hear from you.

Thanks for reading my newsletter!

If you enjoyed this issue, I'd be happy to send a copy to your friend or colleague.

If you'd prefer not to receive future issues, I respect your wishes.

Have a design question you'd like me to answer?

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Challenge and Solution

My customer's home had a main floor with a well-lived-in, 1980's décor that was in need of a refreshing facelift.

She also had, and has, a very busy life. She needed someone to help manage the trades, plus she wanted a designer to help guide her choices of colour, materials, and placement.

I was thrilled to help out!

Together we did some important space planning, found ways to play up the rooms' existing features, chose colours that she really connected with and enjoyed, and select the right finishes

for a busy lifestyle that includes two active teens and a dog.

Over the next five months, it was my pleasure to work with the contractor and various trades—painter, tile worker, cabinetry, hardwood floor installer—to ensure that her vision was brought to life.

Did the project have any challenges? Of course it did—no project gets away hassle-free. But I was happy to be there to help her keep them to a minimum.

Until next time,

Vanessa