

Styled Spaces

Design Diary

Fall 2015



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Hello,
there.

How have you been, Anna? I've missed being in touch!

Since I last sent you a Design Diary issue, I've been transitioning into being a first-time Mom and now I'm transitioning back into Styled Spaces.

The journey both ways has been amazing!

Now that I'm back in the design saddle, part time for now, I've been working on 3 very interesting projects...

The first is home decor, exclusively using ready-made products (no custom made) and existing items in my client's home.

The second is a completely custom-product update - drapes, cushions, and upholstery.

Boy oh boy!

You know from reading previous *Design Diary* issues how much I love and enjoy my niece and nephew.

With the arrival of our little Davis, I can tell you I'm over the moon!

Ryan and I welcomed this sweet boy into our lives on June 17 last year, and we've been besotted parents ever since.

Davis has been an easy going baby since the get-go. He likes to make people laugh, he's a good sleeper, loves to cuddle, and he has the most expressive face!

At 16 months, his current joys are pets Lucy and Louis, hiding toys in our shoes, and settling in to listen to us read *Good Night Moon* - a favourite from my own childhood.

Who knew one small person could bring such huge happiness!



The third is a small-space renovation of a master ensuite plus walk-in closet.

Each of these, for their own reasons, are projects that I just love to do -- which makes my transition back into Styled Spaces just like coming 'home'.

Wishing you a beautiful Fall,

Vanessa



Before and after pictures from Styled Spaces client work appear on [my website](#). I hope you'll stop by!



[Fresh Ideas](#) - designer advice for your DIY projects: renovate with confidence.

Design Challenge | blending the new with well-loved

Personalizing a home with a blend of well-loved existing items and new, ready-made items can be tricky. This is one of the common challenges of downsizing.

What to keep? What to buy? How will these two opposites aesthetically work together?



These are just some of the questions a homeowner and I discuss during or after a move into a smaller space.

Key to the success is finding the right combination of new pieces that blend well with the existing pieces, plus working around pieces that cannot (for whatever reason) be changed or moved. This might include a beloved piece of furniture, or a prized possession that has a cherished a memory.

This conversation is done with care and with attention to the detail in the answers. My questions might include: Why is this piece special to you? Why should it be front and centre?

In the end, our mutual goal is a look that is cohesive and reflects the personality of the client.

One way existing items are made "new" is to bring them into a different area of the home and/or into a new relationship with another piece. For example, a piece of art that was a solo feature in the bedroom in the previous home may find its new place in the living room, grouped with or near a blend of other well-loved and perhaps new items.

Although of course it can be wonderful to work with a blank canvas and purchase ready-made items, care needs to be taken here as well: the home can end up looking like a design catalogue with none of the owner's personality reflected at all!

My Life | **Happy Cat**

Louis, our family cat, and "sibling" to Lucy the dog, seems to be a Happy Cat

Project | **Metchosin Ensuite**

Such an interesting project!

This client had a clear objective: transform the existing

since the arrival of Davis.

While hunting moths still seems to be his game of choice, he now offers his prize catch to Davis. (Male bonding perhaps?)



Louis also likes to be near Davis at naptime, and comes running when he cries. It will be interesting to see if this bro' time continues as Davis learns how to tug on tails and ears!

80's-something ensuite bathroom into a west-coast-feel room that took advantage of the space, the view *and* the already-purchased freestanding tub.



There were many things to consider in this luxury-on-a-budget makeover. We first had to get really clear on how the space would be used.

Luckily, my client had that vision. You can [read more](#) about this project, Anna, in Design Diary on line.

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