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ourhomes

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STORY **JOYCE GIONET**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



CHANCES ARE YOU'VE MADE A FEW UPDATES TO HOME SWEET HOME DURING THE PANDEMIC. FOR MANY OF US, HOME NOW SERVES AS AN OFFICE, CLASSROOM AND GYM. Continued on page 36

Wallpaper makes a statement backdrop for deep aubergine and mixed metal accents. Incorporating texture in the drapery and rug adds warmth.
ABOVE: Standing: Luisa Maringola and Marisa Lupo, seated: Evelyn Solis and Cindy Grande.

Staring at the same four walls has sent us into a frenzy of redecorating, renovating and in some cases, completely re-imagining our spaces to accommodate the new normal. It's worth stating that including a designer in the reno process can save you time, money and even disappointment when you realize you're not a Joanna Gaines, Nate Berkus or Bobby Berk. Homeowner Christina Liu is inclined to agree.

"In my previous home I did the decorating myself and even though I spent a lot of time on it, the final result was not what I envisioned or hoped for," Christina says. "Updating this house, I decided to trust the professionals." Acting on a friend's referral, Christina hired **Marisa Lupo** of **Lumar Interiors**. "Marisa has much more experience coordinating colours and styles," says Christina. "She was able to incorporate some of my old furnishings into the new look." At the start of the process, Marisa and senior designer **Cindy Grande** asked



plenty of questions to learn what the homeowner liked. "The pair presented me with a number of options based on my thoughts and input. This was amazing and so much easier!" Lumar is a one-stop furnishings and décor shop for its clients. With 20 years in business, Marisa and business partner **Luisa Maringola** have developed an extensive network of high-end suppliers.

There's little they can't access or customize. All upholstery is made in Canada and protected with Crypton, an antimicrobial, stain-resistant technology, bonded for the life of the fabric. This home redo involved one major structural change. A wall was taken down between the kitchen and family room to create a main-level great room. Little changed in the kitchen, but the limestone floor was the inspiration behind a new limestone fireplace mantel. The elegant floral carvings are a nod to old Europe. They accentuate the home's luxury vibe.

In the great room, the double windows are an architectural standout. Lots of light makes it a welcoming space for get-togethers. Wood elements work well with the limestone. For the walls, the team chose **Benjamin Moore's** Natural Cream. A cooler pick might have been too harsh in this room.

Christina and her husband love luxury touches. They also lean toward formal furnishings in soft, subdued colours that promote a sense of calm. However, Marisa's choice of deep aubergine as the accent colour was a huge hit. Alongside the metallics, it's a knockout. Gold colours were introduced in the vestibule and carried into every room. The ladies at Lumar aren't shy about mixing their metals or metal textures – they've got it down to an art. The great room's foil wallpaper in mauve-grey tones makes a sensational feature wall. *Continued on page 38*

DESIGN TIP!

The reflective properties of metallic wallpaper can help lighten a darker room or windowless space, like a powder room.



LEFT: A sofa table helps delineate the space. **ABOVE:** A larger kitchen dining area is a bright, cheery space for eating and entertaining. **RIGHT:** Hints of gold are found throughout the redesign.

OPPOSITE, LEFT: The corners are not forgotten. Here, a chair and side table create additional seating. **TOP RIGHT:** Neutral hues in the furnishings create a blank canvas for a myriad of colour accents. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Details in the fireplace mantel add timeless formality.



DESIGN TIP!

Working with creams and off-whites is trickier than you think. Unless you're a pro, get colour advice.

RIGHT: This room is a perfect blend of old meets new with antique gold, a hand carved table and elegant, understated furnishings. **BELOW:** A German silver sideboard in the dining room is a showstopper that adds architectural interest.



An eclectic mix of old and new conveys a chic ambience. In the formal living room, the underside of the console's glass top is painted in chinoiserie, a whimsical western style of decorative art inspired by Chinese motifs and techniques. It dates to the 17th century. On top of the console, textured ceramic vases are paired with an antiqued gold mirror. The standout here is the hand-carved Christopher Guy cocktail table called Matisse. Its lovely curves, looped detail and Renaissance gold-leaf and black lacquer finish are a terrific addition to a transitional space. Bright white painted wainscoting wraps the room in delicate old-world-meets-modern charm.

In the dining room, a German silver sideboard is a mod addition. It strays from formality just enough to be

interesting, without appearing out of place. Deep aubergine makes a cameo appearance via accessories. Christina brought the dining room chairs from her previous house and Marisa had them reupholstered. Lighting accents the main level in warm burnished silvers and golds. Marisa quirkily refers to them as the "room jewelry."

The pandemic has sparked a resurgence in our desire for houseplants. It's a trend that's happening around the world. Perhaps we're trying to reduce our stress levels or maybe we just want to see things growing and thriving while we continue our love affair with sourdough starters and banana bread. Whatever's behind the trend, Marisa and Cindy are incorporating this welcome revival of "live" and "green" into their own designs.

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