

MAGAZINE

salon

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the style report

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Cozy Charm

The comforts of home with a flair for French provincial sets the tone for fashionable coifs

By Colette Wright

Just a few steps down Scollard Street in Bloor-Yorkville, Toronto's most-celebrated neighbourhood of style and culture, you'll find colourist and salon owner Oskar Varela of Oskar on Scollard. As a finalist in the Contessa 21 Salon Interior Design category, Varela says he knew one day he'd own a salon, but didn't want to use the typically trendy white, metallic and industrial type designs.

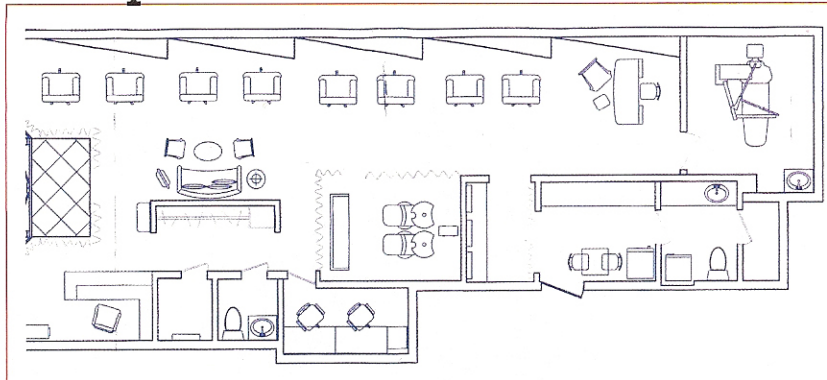
Together with his wife, professional chef Tanya Da Silva, buying the property was simple because the space prior to owning it was a salon. With its plumbing and electrical circuitry in tact, Varela also saved a bundle by keeping the laminate hardwood floor. And, to create the image of a home away from home, interior designer Dvira Ovadia came aboard. Recognized for her talent in condominium/nightclub designs, but having never really worked on a salon, she took Da Silva to auctions and home designer haunts to find classic pieces of furniture. Da Silva laughs, "it's amazing what other items you can find on Craigslist."

The furniture in the lounge has been repainted and reupholstered giving it a romantic feel. Rather than track lighting, chandeliers hang over the cutting stations providing lots of light and giving a feminine touch that the majority of clients—professional women—love.

Soothing and textured teal coloured wallpaper makes it easy to wipe off spills or stains, while lavish gold coloured drapes that hang from ceiling to floor keep the design open concept. Varela says, "we can pull the drapes across a ceiling track between the shampoo and cutting area if a client desires privacy."

The stylist stations were built with comfort and functionality in mind. At each station the wall juts out and in behind are glass shelves to hold (and hide) tools and equipment. Also unique is that two chairs are situated per station allowing twice the amount of space between staff and an extra seat if a client brings someone with them. In keeping with the homey feel of the salon, each station has an old-fashioned table with two deep drawers to hold stylists' belongings and minimize clutter. Varela sums it up best: "I wanted the salon to feel like a home; a warm place where one could forget their daily stress and relax." **S**

Blueprint



About us

Info:	Oskar on Scollard Hair Studio, 68 Scollard Street, Lower West, Toronto, ON, 647.346.3306, oskaronscollard.com
Owner:	Oskar Varela
Opened:	April 28, 2009
Salon Breakdown:	1300 sq. ft., eight staff, ten cut/colour stations
Designer:	Dvira Ovadia
Furniture & Equipment:	Takara Belmont/Bethel International
Retail Hair Product Lines:	Kevin.Murphy, Schwarzkopf Professional, Moroccanoil
Software:	Milano Software

