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**Dvira  
Ovadia**

*Live Your Life By Design*

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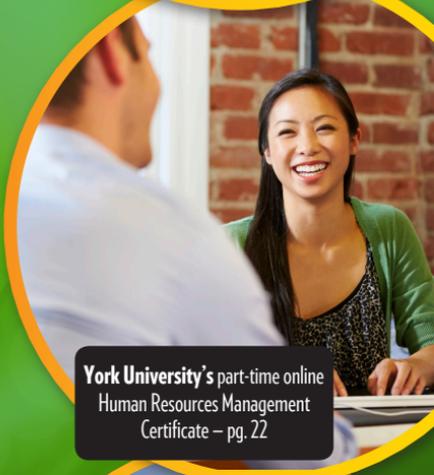
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# LIVE YOUR LIFE BY DESIGN

*with Dvira Ovadia*

So it's time to finally tackle that dated kitchen. You have one idea and maybe your partner has another, how to find a middle ground? How to choose the right finishes that will give you the true bang for your buck while ensuring that you make the right decisions in maintaining your property value and keeping things stylish for years to come.



foreign or even upscale to some people. But just like psychologists, lawyers, and accountants, designers are vital professionals with skills to take on the role of assisting their clients and guiding them through an industry that may seem daunting to them. The role of the designer is to save their clients time, money and aggravation while making educated decisions and providing a proper design direction and collaborations throughout the entire process of the project.

With my years of experience working on shows like HGTV's *Income Property*, I have learned about what finishes and materials are worthwhile investing in to ensure that your property maintains its value! It's important that your designer is able to give you design advice while recognizing your neighbourhood and its potential resale value.

The process of working with a designer may appear

My design firm specifically caters our services to tackle each and every individual project whether we are taking on a small renovation, a large overhaul or simply a single room makeover. With our firm having a background in Architecture and Interior Design, we are able to provide a one stop shop, providing our clients everything from permit drawings, material and finish selections, custom millwork and cabinetry designs, as



well as custom furnishings. Sometimes we even pull in our realtor colleagues to give our clients an understanding for the resale value ahead of their renovated property.

Interior Design is a creative process, and while some clients have a really keen eye for design, the designer's role is to take the client through the process many steps beyond their imagination, ensuring all the details, coordination and integrity of the design

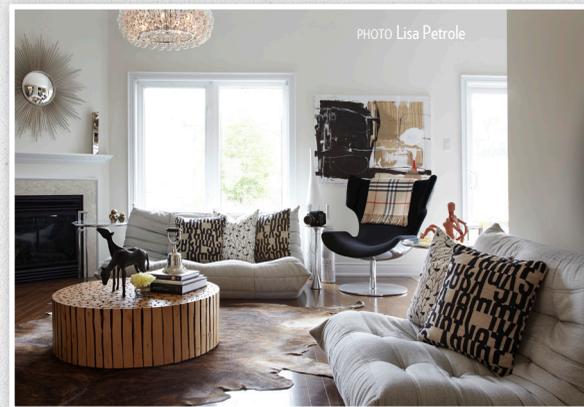


PHOTO Lisa Petrole

is maintained throughout the project. From sourcing products, making the right selections and the execution process, renovations can be a scary territory for many, and there is no doubt that this process is tolling. By working with a designer their responsibility is to consider the countless details that must be synchronised to perfectly choreograph that dreamy magazine look. It's kind of like playing Jenga; you make one wrong move and your whole tower can collapse.

Design and renovation mistakes can be far more

costly to do over than simply hiring a designer. More so, an experienced designer will prepare you for the process and will introduce you to the right trades for your specific project. When it comes to custom furniture, cabinetry, fabrics and drapery, most designers will have sources, wholesalers and discounts that the general public may not have access to or knowledge about.

Lastly, it is important to stress that design is personal, and the design plans, finishes and recommendations must reflect you and your family and how you truly want to live. When designing a space, I always want to ensure that while the spaces are aesthetically pleasing, they are comfortable, homey and truly enhance your lifestyle for everyday living. That is truly what good design is all about!



PHOTOS Stephani Buchman



Highly-recognized Toronto designer **DVIRA OVADIA** is known for her clever design work on such successful shows as *Income Property* and *The Unsellables*. Now heading into its eleventh year, her firm is known for meticulous design that's smart and sophisticated, and for approachable spaces that balance beauty and comfort. Dvira began her career with a degree in Architecture at the University of Toronto and a Masters in Interior Design from the renowned Pratt Institute in New York. From there, she worked at prestigious design firms before making her mark on Debbie Travis' *From the Ground Up*. A vivacious designer who is constantly inspired by influences from around the world, her endless energy fuels a fascinating and unique design aesthetic.

Catch her designs on HGTV's *Income Property* with Scott McGillivray: [www.hgtv.ca/incomeproperty](http://www.hgtv.ca/incomeproperty)

For more on Dvira, visit her online at [www.dvira.com](http://www.dvira.com) and @DVIRAdesigner.