

# HOME decor

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# Get inspired

BY DESIGNER **DVIRA OVADIA'S** STYLISH HOME



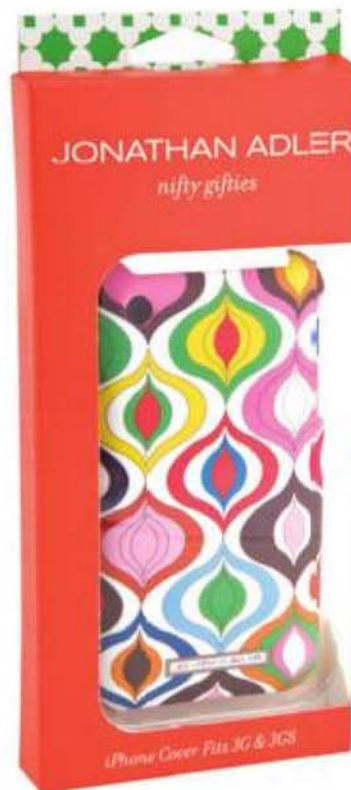
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Cover photo by  
Lisa Petrole

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# Modern culture

At home with **DVIRA OVADIA**

By **Laura Malloy**  
Photos by **Lisa Petrole**

Interior designer *Dvira Ovadia* recently took Home Décor and Renovations on a tour of her worldly and sophisticated Toronto home. This TV personality, known for her lead designer and art director role with Scott McGillivray on four seasons of *Income Property*, opened up about her passion: all things design.





"The inspiration for my home comes from having grown up in Brussels. I always remember going to friends' homes and seeing how they all lived in these gorgeous, Art Nouveau-style homes, with interiors converted into modern marvels while preserving the beautiful architectural features. Everyone I knew always had designer pieces of furniture, just like my Roche Bobois sofas, that my mom brought back from Belgium. This was just a basic standard of living: designer furniture, unique pieces and lots of art! I always felt a strong sense of culture, even within a minimalist space."

Dvira's home exudes style and beauty. From the playful décor in her son's room, and the sharp lines in the dining room, to the luxurious master suite, and the unique items in the living room, each space is cosy and contemporary. "My style always starts off with a clean-lined architectural approach. With this as a base, I am able to merge an unprecedented combination of bold elements, fun colours and a worldly esthetic. I find that if you have a well thought-out, solid and neutral base, you can always interchange colours and objects to keep the home feeling lively and fresh over the years."





MERGING EVERYTHING THAT I LOVE IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE! BEING A DESIGNER, I SEE THINGS I LOVE DAILY, FROM FRENCH COUNTRY, ETHNIC TO MINIMALIST.





The neutral walls offer a clean slate for incredible décor pieces, while the striking wallpapered walls are conversation pieces, especially the Fornasetti in the powder room. "The style of my home is fairly minimalist with a worldly approach. I have left colour to a minimum, but I'm still working on that! I like to merge unexpected objects and try to fit them all together."

To find those "unexpected objects," Dvira frequents high-end furniture shops such as Snob, Hollace Cluny, AT, Horsefeathers and Kiosk, and also enjoys hunting for bargains at HomeSense and the Queen St. W. antique district. "Merging everything that I love is always a challenge! Being a designer, I see things I love daily, from French country, ethnic to minimalist. I always struggle to include all of these into my space."

Dvira lives and breathes design. As a child she always loved it: fashion, architecture and even preparing food or an outfit to wear. She studied design education at the University of Toronto, and has since obtained several more diplomas in the technical design sector as well as completed a master's degree in Interior Design at Pratt Institute, New York. She rose up to beat out 9,000 contestants on *From the Ground Up with Debbie Travis* and became Travis' chief designer. Dvira designed 10 Debbie Travis model homes for her brand in collaboration with Tribute Communities. Being able to turn around designs overnight and under intense pressure has made Dvira realize that nothing is impossible and everything is attainable. "After having worked as a designer on a variety of television shows, including *Income Property*, *The Unsellables* and *Downright Domestic*, I have had to sharpen my design skills based on a new approach to design quickly, efficiently and on a budget!"

It's hard to balance family, work and try to keep your house in order too. Dvira's made it her mission to teach others about innovative design and how they can tackle one room at a time as a weekend project on a budget. Her next mission is to reach out to a wider audience. You can read her tips and advice on Yahoo's Lifestyle blog where she contributes weekly at [ca.lifestyle.yahoo.com/home-garden/blog/dviraovadia](http://ca.lifestyle.yahoo.com/home-garden/blog/dviraovadia)

**@ Log on to [homeanddecor.ca](http://homeanddecor.ca) to see where Dvira found her stylish swag and how you can get her look.**

**Dvira Ovadia** is a designer and an expert in residential and commercial design. In addition to her interior designer title, Dvira is also a prop stylist, a style editor, a trend specialist and everything in between. She has also managed to trot the globe on a mission to discover the world in the context of design and architecture. [dvira.com](http://dvira.com)