

'05

A cool yet cosy scheme
of **brown and blue** melds
contemporary with traditional.



Designed by **Lara Neal**,
Lara Neal Design

Featured in **June 2005**
Photography by **Ted Yarwood**

get the look WOODLAWN BLUE HC-147
(WALLS), HISTORICAL COLOUR COLLECTION;
CLOUD WHITE CC-40 (TRIM),
DESIGNER CLASSICS COLLECTION;
BENJAMIN MOORE



loves inspired the master bedroom's soothing design. Pale bluish grey walls, a quilted silk headboard and pinch-pleated dupioni silk drapes, luxurious as ball gowns, guide the eye to the room's greatest asset: the substantial bay window and its beautiful, ever-changing lakeside view.

"I love the transitions in this home," says Lara, referring to the seamless moves from indoors to outdoors, as well as the shifts from family to adult space. "With a young family, it's wonderful to have an environment that's kid friendly and sophisticated," she says. **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 186**

A range of low-contrast taupes create a soothing oasis in the Master ensuite, which has a luxurious marble countertop and floor. Despite the details – delicate toile fabric, voluptuous silk draperies (also used in the duvet border and the headboard) and cool colour scheme – the bedroom isn't overly feminine. "It's definitely a couple's room," says Lara.





DESIGN SOLUTIONS

ASK LARA NEAL

Q How do you infuse a kid-friendly space with high style and adult appeal?

A Choose the right materials. There's a range of modern fabrics that stand up to spilled juice and climbing feet, and often clean up with just a damp cloth: Ultrasuede, faux silk, leather. All of them can be used to create a look that's refined. When there are young ones around, it's best to **avoid delicate antiques**, at least in the family room, and to forgo hard-edged coffee tables – upholstered ottomans are a stylish and safer bet. Ideally, you could **designate one room grown-ups only** and let the kids have the run of the rest of the house. And remember that growing up around nice things is good for kids – it teaches them responsibility, that beautiful things are worth taking care of. But **don't treat your home like a museum** – after all, it should be livable.



"The artwork was a major inspiration, with its strong colours and modern influences"

but easy-care materials and fabrics that let the lake view take centre stage.

Beyond a sunny front vestibule, the main hallway organizes the home into formal areas in the front, and the kitchen and the sitting area at the back. The layout affords the luxury of designating one room – the living room – grown-ups only. Set off by a handsome Persian rug, subtle luxury reigns with '40s-style sofas and chairs upholstered in quilted silk and velvet. Directly behind the living room, the dining room's sun-washed walls and creamy silk drapery complement the rich tones of the walnut dining suite.

Down the hallway is another world, with an open-plan kitchen and family room designed for a busy clan. Fitted with professional appliances and luxe details, the kitchen features a centre island where the kids can eat breakfast or do homework. Or they can watch TV in a sitting area specially

designed for them and showcasing comfy seating covered in sturdy fabrics – Ultra-suede, washable silk and leather. Tall French windows, running along the back of the house, stay open all summer long so that everyone can enjoy the breeze off the lake.

Upstairs, a robin's-egg-and-taupe Brunschwig & Fils toile pattern that the wife

The living room is Lara's favourite because of the elegance and sophistication of the upholstery, and the soft lines of the furniture. The glass-top coffee table provides storage for books; the painting over the fireplace is by artist Paul Bélieau. In the dining room, latte-colour silk draperies frame the view, and rich sun-washed walls, painted Farrow & Ball's Blazer 212, bring out the warm tones of the heirloom walnut table. Other details, like textures and colours, create low-key elegance.



WRITTEN BY **MARTHA UNIACKE BREEN** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TED YARWOOD**

or years before it was built, the owners of this brand-new house dreamed of how it would look; so when they found the perfect location, with a spectacular vista overlooking Lake Ontario, their dreams allowed them to do virtually all the structural design themselves. But when it came to the interior, they quickly realized they couldn't go it alone. They turned to designer Lara Neal to help complete their vision.

"The family had a beautiful collection of fine antiques, and their art collection was quite modern and colourful," says Lara. "The new design needed to combine all those elements." There was another priority,

too: with three kids under five, the family needed a practical design that worked for them, as well. Lara's solution was to use a relaxed scheme of soft neutrals with rich accents, often in red tones, all with elegant

The Sitting area across from the kitchen has built-in shelves and tailored, durable seating – perfect for active kids. Benjamin Moore's Butter Cream CC-260 on the walls keeps the look soft and welcoming. Victoria ignores the striped bench, choosing the floor to sit on and get ready to head into the sunshine. The painting is by Quebec artist Pierre Turgeon.



family matters

One gorgeous home that's perfect for two generations



"With the exception of the living room,
every room is fair game for kids"

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