

A bright, airy dining room with a white table, dark chairs, and a large window. The room features a white table with a blue and white striped runner, dark wooden chairs with white cushions, and a large window with a white frame. A dark lantern hangs from the ceiling. The floor is light-colored wood. The text "almost FAMOUS" is overlaid on the image.

almost FAMOUS

TEXT LAURA MUIR

PHOTOGRAPHY MONIC RICHARD

STYLING NICOLA MARC



The new oak herringbone floors, installed by one of the homeowners, add warmth and architectural impact to the kitchen (as well as the living and dining rooms).

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BELOW Two wingback chairs create a cozy sitting area on the veranda. "They're the proper height and size to be used at the table if the family has guests over," says designer Jean Stéphane Beauchamp.

MIRROR, Moutarde Décor; **SCONCE**, Style Labo; **LUMBAR CUSHIONS**, Qui Dort Dine.

the scrupulous transformation of this fresh and inviting Montreal house has garnered a bit of celebrity status, at least among family and friends. "Every time someone comes over, the very first thing they ask is, 'Okay, what's new? What's been added?'" says Sarah, who shares the home with her husband, Hugo, and their two children, Henri-Louis, 11, and Léo-Paul, 6. "We have a following!"

It all started six years ago, when the couple purchased this 3,000-square-foot Arts-and-Crafts-style house in the family-oriented Cartier-ville neighbourhood of Montreal. They knew they would renovate at some point, but unexpected grade and foundation problems that caused leakage in the basement took them by surprise. "The whole basement had to be redone," says Sarah. "That wasn't part of the original plan."


Once they dealt with the structural issues both indoors and out, the fun part began about two years ago, when the couple enlisted designer Jean Stéphane Beauchamp to help with the decor. Sarah had spotted Jean Stéphane's charming Victorian triplex in a 2008 issue of *Canadian Home & Country* (previously a sister magazine of *Style at Home*) and was struck by his eclectic style and penchant for mixing patterns.

While working on the interior, which Sarah dubbed "the Kingdom of Stucco," Jean Stéphane needed to address its unfocused aesthetic. "It was pulling you in every direction," he says. "For example, there were large brick arches, tricoloured slate floors and almost Spanish Colonial wrought-iron handrails. In one room there was a traditional coffered ceiling and in another there were rustic wood beams. The house had a bit of everything – but it had really interesting bones."

Creating a cohesive, uniform look meant updating some architectural features (they painted an exposed brick wall in the living room and stripped or painted the dark wood elements); replacing others (the



The extension at the side of the house doubled the size of the kitchen, allowing for a brighter, more functional space. Jean Stéphane wanted the island to look like a piece of furniture, so he raised it off the floor by incorporating simple legs. A bank of cabinetry houses the wall ovens, panelled fridge, pantry and computer.

 SOURCES





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT An industrial-style console solved the problem of a below-counter-height window in the kitchen; a pretty pink flower arrangement adorns the dining table; the dining room's sideboard was built using leftover pieces from the veranda's hemlock spruce floor to give it a "found" look; the Edison-style chandelier doesn't block sightlines throughout the large dining room; citrine and cobalt accents pop in the neutral living room; a narrow kitchen drawer neatly stows tea towels; the kitchen console provides extra display and storage space; the sink, panelled dishwasher and cabinets for dishes are conveniently located along one wall for easier cleanup.

CONSOLE, Restoration Hardware; **CUTTING BOARD**, Arthur Quentin; **UTENSILS**, Les Toulleux; Collingwood OC-28 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **END CHAIRS**, Table Lamp, Celadon Collection; **CHANDELIER**, Ma Mobilier Actual; **TABLECLOTH**, **TABLE RUNNER**, **THROW**, **TEA TOWELS**, **DISH SOAP**, Qui Dort Dine; butterfly **ARTWORK**, Item; **FAUCET**, Kohler; **SCONCE**, Lambert & Fils.



*SAH
organizing
idea*

This pullout towel hanger makes good use of otherwise neglected space.





Citrine and cobalt accents pop in the neutral living room.





An industrial-style console solved the problem of a below-counter-height window in the kitchen.
CONSOLE, Restoration Hardware; **CUTTING BOARD**, Arthur Quentin; **UTENSILS**, Les Touilleurs.





A pretty pink flower arrangement adorns the dining table.





The dining room's sideboard was built using leftover pieces from the veranda's hemlock spruce floor to give it a "found" look.





The sink, panelled dishwasher and cabinets for dishes are conveniently located along one wall for easier cleanup.

FAUCET, Kohler; **SCONCE**, Lambert & Fils; **DISH SOAP**, Qui Dort Dîne.





The Edison-style chandelier doesn't block sightlines throughout the large dining room.

Collingwood OC-28 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **END CHAIRS**, **TABLE LAMP**, Celadon Collection; **CHANDELIER**, Ma Mobilier Actuel; **TABLECLOTH**, **TABLE RUNNER**, **THROW**, Qui Dort Dîne; butterfly **ARTWORK**, Item.





The kitchen console provides extra display and storage space.





A narrow kitchen drawer neatly stows tea towels.

TEA TOWELS, Qui Dort Dîne.





busy, cold slate floors were supplanted with a stunning oak herringbone design); injecting a neutral palette of greys and creams with touches of black; and incorporating Jean Stéphane's sophisticated, comfortable style, which was also practical for a family of four. Says the designer: "Sarah once said to me, 'I want something that looks fresh and fabulous if we have a party, but where I'm not scared if the kids run around.' And I think we definitely achieved that."

With the smaller projects turning out so well, Sarah and Hugo were ready to embark on a more substantial renovation with Jean Stéphane: tackling the kitchen addition. The extension (which also included a mud room in the basement and a single-car garage) allowed them to double the size of their dark, cramped kitchen and create a bright, family-friendly space. The homeowners and designer worked closely together on the plans and had a vision of something highly functional

that suited the look of the rest of the house.

Recess-panelled cabinetry, quartzite countertops and streamlined pulls offer a classic vibe, while the square ceramic-tiled backsplash with grey grout lends a French bistro flair. The hammered-metal pendant lights anchor the space. "Because there are so many beautiful things to look at in the kitchen, I thought we needed a focal point," says Jean Stéphane, "and that we should do it over the island."

With the kitchen overhaul complete (it took almost a year from the planning stage), you'd think Hugo and Sarah would be ready to take a much-needed breather; however, they recently added a wine cellar in the basement. So what can fans look forward to from this reno-happy couple? "We eventually want to tackle the upstairs," says Sarah.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ABOVE The coffered ceiling was updated with creamy white and pale blue paint for an inviting look in the living room. Sheer linen Roman shades allow the windows' natural wood trim to shine. The coffee table was made by one of the homeowners from an old reclaimed door.

Collingwood OC-28 **WALL PAINT**, Horizon OC-53 **CEILING PAINT**, Acadia White OC-38 **TRIM PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **ARMCHAIRS**, Maison Corbell; round blue **SIDE TABLE**, agate **ARTWORK**, cream **TRAY**, blue **VASE**, horse **SCULPTURE**, Celadon Collection; **DRAPERY**, Roman Shade & Toss **CUSHION SEWING**, Qui Dort Dîne; **RUG**, Tapis H. Lalonde & Frère.