



When Cool is Hot

Usually, when young people leave for university, the last thing they believe about their parents' lifestyle is that it is cool (or hot). But when the students in this urban family returned home for Christmas 2012, they discovered that their parents are cooler than they'd ever imagined ... and that their newly renovated home is smokin'.

Between the start of the fall term and the December holiday, IN8 had implemented, with Equinox Development, the total renovation of the 1600 sf downtown condo in which the family had lived for 7 years. For the preceding six months, they'd been working with the owners on the design.

Having settled for "builder standard" while raising their family, the sophisticated couple wanted to satisfy their craving for an ultra-contemporary interior that would reflect their personal tastes and interests. Enthusiastic contemporary art collectors, devoted admirers of dramatic colour, aficionados of innovative modern furnishings and generous hosts, they told IN8 to treat their existing space as a blank canvas.

The designers' initial visioning / imaging work established the bold aesthetic; their detailed analysis revealed opportunities to rationalize and enhance the existing spaces, creating much better functionality including an astonishing volume of storage.

Making a bold statement

Dramatic colour blocking created yellow, grey and orange zones, while baltic birch plywood added an unusual texture and warmth. Layers of exquisitely detailed, yet starkly simple, millwork helped sculpt and delineate the rooms.

Adding whimsy and surprise

Inset illuminated art display vitrines, a new commissioned piece of glass art, and strikingly sculptural furnishings from some of the world's most innovative industrial designers, all enhanced by strategic lighting, provide delight and intrigue.

Establishing new functionality

Throughout the entire space, more than 80 custom cabinets were masterfully constructed and installed, carefully planned to support every storage need. Combined with relatively minor but highly effective changes to the plan, the addition of so much storage resulted in new orderliness and usefulness in every room.

The owners, a mining industry executive and a philanthropist / fashion industry mentor, were astonished by how stress-free the design and construction processes were, attributing the "extraordinary" – on time, on budget – results seen [here](#) to the IN8 characteristics they also share: talent, attention to detail and passion.