

**HOW TO DECORATE
LIKE A DESIGNER DIVA AND ENJOY
LIFE'S SIMPLE PLEASURES**

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DESIGNER DIVAS

ENTER THE
IMAGINATIONS OF
TARA SEAWRIGHT
AND THERESA CASEY,
WITH A SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTION FROM
CANADIAN DESIGN
ICON COBI LADNER.

"There is a fountain of youth: It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring in your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age."

— Sophia Loren

These inspiring designers continue to devote their talents and creativity to orchestrating beautiful spaces that mesmerize our minds. Passion for art and a heightened imagination often materialize at an early age. For Tara Seawright, Theresa Casey and Cobi Ladner, this passion has elevated each of them to incredible heights.

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DESIGNER DIVAS

Cobistyle is all about showing your true colours at home and making a comfortable, beautiful and happy place for the ones you love – it's as simple as that.

Written By Cobi Ladner

Spring is in the air! Why not use the new season as motivation to freshen things up around your house and add some personality and colour. Your home should be a joyful backdrop for daily life and reflect your own unique character – in short, it should make you happy when you walk through the door at the end of a long day.

Many of us have invested in neutrals over the past few years, which is not a bad thing. Neutral colours are a wise, safe choice for large items and spaces. Of course, too much of even a good thing can become – well I hate to say boring, but – definitely predictable. Plus it's tough to say much about who you are and what your life's about when you're working inside a beige box.

So now the fun part: You get to add the juice to the neutral environment you've so wisely built! It doesn't take much to turn bland into brilliant – one or two pieces of upholstered furniture in a vibrant velvet; new drapery in a lively, hip floral; a few toss cushions, throws and accessories in bright, happy colours. As a rule of thumb, I would suggest adding five things in one or two of your favourite colours, and you'll have a brand new room.

Now that's pretty easy, isn't it? Decorating should be an enjoyable process, not something daunting or stressful. Add some colour and character to your home this spring and watch it blossom before your eyes. ☺

www.cobistyle.com

Photos By ©Virginia Macdonald Photographer Inc.



TOP: Cobi Ladner, former editor of *House & Home* magazine, is surrounded by Cobistyle, her new product line of furniture, drapery, fabrics and accessories launching nationally this spring.

LEFT: Ladner draws inspiration from all kinds of quirky places, including Chinatown, Little India, flea markets and antique shops. She hopes to bring that sense of bazaar shopping to her line of products, and looks forward to adding colour and personality to Canadian interiors.



TOP: Today's tasteful yet neutral interiors will benefit from a little Cobistyle! All accessories, art, pillows and patterned fabrics are a part of the Cobistyle collection. **RIGHT:** It's easy to brighten a neutral dining room with Cobistyle's colourful accessories and beautiful drapery. **LEFT:** Pillows are a great way to add affect and pattern to any living space. One piece of colourful upholstery, such as an ottoman, also brightens things up without the huge commitment to colour.



DESIGNER DIVAS

BEST CASE SCENARIO: THERESA CASEY

Written By Madeline Stephenson

Attempting to describe Toronto interior designer Theresa Casey's style often results in a run-on sentence. The founder of Casey Design Planning Group Inc. has received accolades for her unique design applications that brush across a broad canvas of contemporary to traditional. "I don't have one thing that I do, so it's often driven by my clients, their interests, the architecture of the space we're working in and the functionality of what they're looking for," says Casey, who studied art history in Florence, Italy and has a degree in interior design from Toronto's Ryerson University.

It is this chameleonic quality that continues to engage new clients, whether it's restoring an existing residential home, designing a new addition or customizing a commercial interior. For Casey, functionality is equally as important as esthetic appeal. "I always say to clients, 'if you can only do one thing get a good floor plan,' because it doesn't matter what you do to the space, you can make it look any way but if it doesn't work it's never going to work," she says. As for finding that one item to perk up a room, Casey says it's more about finding a good mix that establishes harmony.

Creating spaces that convey her clients' personalities is not only her most distinguishable forte, it's also the genesis of her passion. "There's a wonderful exploration and development and transformation which is really exciting. It's wonderful to see people who really love being in their homes and appreciate the process of learning a bit about themselves; it's really an expression of them." ©

www.caseydesignplan.com



Photo By © Ted Yarwood



Photo By Tony Lantz

ABOVE: Theresa Casey, founder of Casey Design Planning Group Inc.
TOP LEFT: A princely handcrafted fridge armoire complements this great room kitchen addition.
TOP RIGHT: Casey Design lights up this Oakville, Ont master bedroom with a double-sided fireplace.



TOP: The neutral shades of this master ensuite addition create a calm, clean look.
LEFT: For this striking space, Casey Design Planning Group Inc. received the 2009 ARIDO Award for Residential Design.



DESIGNER DIVAS

SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF TARA SEAWRIGHT

Written By Madeline Stephenson

While recently dining at a restaurant in New York City, interior designer Tara Seawright was enticed by something other than her entree. “It was a very natural restaurant, very granola, but they had changed the décor and they had just put up these three pieces of huge canvas hung on hooks, not very well done, but they were just painted in stripes and they were overlapping – and for me that’s inspiring,” says the president of Manhattan design firm Tara Seawright Inc. Through her deepened aesthetic awareness, Seawright demonstrates the powerful influence of observation.

Her work is typified by an enhanced ability to transform metropolitan spaces into calm oases through the unabashed use of colour, antiques, vintages and character pieces. “Right now I’m really into grey and wallpapers with texture, but you know I love a little glamour, too. I love a little sparkle, whether that comes in the form of either a chandelier or silver leaf or some sort of reflection mirror; but I think it’s the combination that’s so exciting for me,” says Seawright, who particularly loves marrying materials like lucite, horn, cowhide and marble.

When it comes to 2011 wallpaper trends, Seawright points to distinct patterns and textures with personality. “The quality of wallpaper has really changed ... it’s very exciting to get a Venetian plaster finish that’s really fine and amazing and even goes beyond decorative paint finishes.” © www.taraseawright.com



ABOVE: Tara Seawright was cited as one of the “Top 50 NY Metro Designers 2010” by New York Spaces.

TOP: A porcelain zebra table plants itself between two cream antique chairs that exude poise yet beg to be sat in. This master bedroom exemplifies Tara Seawright’s love of tasteful antiques, unique fabrics and large mirrors.



TOP: Kartell’s Louis Ghost and Mademoiselle Chairs seem to float effortlessly through this sun-soaked dining space. Vibrant Missoni fabrics add extra warmth. **FAR LEFT:** Seawright’s ode to pattern, texture and reflections are seen from ceiling to floor in this elegant entrance foyer. **LEFT:** Wicker, teak and ceramic are a midsummer night’s dream on this wooden stage.



Photo By George Ross

