

room to GROW

With a baby comes a lot more than a little bundle of joy! Our associate home editor **Julia Black** shows us how she maximized space and style to make her 1,200-square-foot townhouse work for a family of three (plus a dog named Parker!)

BY VIRGINIE MARTOCQ PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERTO CARUSO



THE PALETTE



Place **big baskets** near the front door.

Entering your home (with or without a baby!), you've usually got your hands full. Julia made a resting station inside her foyer with a streamlined console table, two large baskets and a couple of coat hooks. That way there's somewhere to toss everyday essentials immediately, until there's a quieter moment to tidy them away. A large feather headress and modern sconces make a statement in the small space, while a glass railing on the stairs helps the room feel wider.

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Does that '80s power suit really project the image you want? If it's older than a decade, it might be **time to toss it.**

THE PALETTE



Mount cupboards on the wall.

By hanging glossy white cabinets on her walls, Julia created a floating credenza in her dining room and a minimalist entertainment unit in her den. These pieces hold all her household items and blend in seamlessly. She introduced pops of colour with artwork, textiles and vases.



Hang floor-to-ceiling drapes in small rooms.

Julia made her tiny window and tight space appear much larger and grander with oversized silk drapes. She took inspiration from the masculine leather sofa, keeping the colour scheme in her living room dark and dramatic.

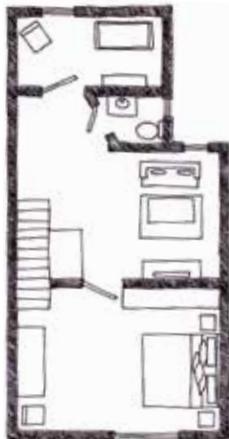


GET THIS LOOK | ABOVE LEFT (TOP & BOTTOM) | VINTAGE RULER, LOVETHEDESIGN.COM. SOFA, IKEA.CA. OTTOMAN, ELTE.COM. RUG, YCOCARPET.COM. ART, ARTINTERIORS.CA. STACKING BOOK BRACKET, DWR.COM. MEDIA HUTCH, CB2.COM. | ABOVE RIGHT | ART, LOVETHEDESIGN.COM. PURPLE VASE, ELTE.COM. CREDENZA, CB2.COM. CUSHION FABRIC, DESIGNERFABRICS.CA. | FACING PAGE | DRAPERY FABRIC, ROBERTALLENDESIGN.COM. MIRROR, SOFA, CAMILLAHOUSE.COM. CHAIR, FRONTIERSALES.CA. CHAIR FABRIC, DESIGNERFABRICS.CA. RUG, REZNICKCARPETS.COM. UPHOLSTERING, JVM INTERIORS, 905-475-7008.

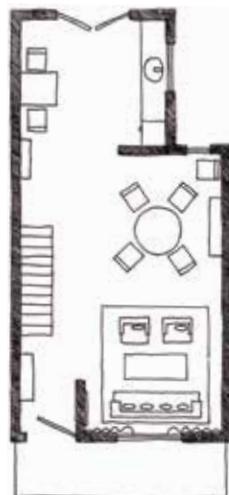


Take a walk in the park and focus on the green around you. Research shows nature boosts our mood and helps us concentrate.

UPSTAIRS



DOWNSTAIRS



Choose open shelves instead of upper cabinets.

To create a feeling of openness in her narrow 150-square-foot galley kitchen, Julia removed the cupboards along one wall and installed easy-access industrial shelves. A slim butcher block island underneath provides extra counter space, and a small table sits snugly against the wall, perfect for casual meals.



Combine your living areas to make a 'studio.'

On the open concept first floor, Julia created a loft-style feel by installing dark hardwood flooring throughout. A seamless transition between the dining and lounge areas allows the eye to travel uninterrupted, making the space feel larger and more contemporary.

GET THIS LOOK | ABOVE | WHITE ACCESSORIES, CERAMIC BERRY DISH, LOVETHEDESIGN.COM. PHOTOGRAPHS (LEANING) BY JOHN QUEENAN. | FACING PAGE | LAMP, LAMP CAGE.COM. WHITE PLATES, IKEA.CA. TEA LIGHTS, HOMESSENSE.CA. TABLE, CAMILLAHOUSE.COM. CHAIRS, ELTE.COM. CHAIR CUSHIONS, RESTORATIONHARDWARE.COM.



Pick two days a week to serve lighter eats: Think fish Fridays and meatless Mondays.

Make your headboard from reclaimed wood.

Julia's small master bedroom called for a headboard that would anchor the bed without overwhelming the space. Reclaimed wood painted with a semi-gloss version of the wall colour did the trick. Tiny wire swing-arm sconces and delicate tables on either side create the perfect balance.



THE PALETTE

PILLOW FABRIC

WALL COLOUR

CURTAIN FABRIC

Re-embrace a traditional dresser.

Living in an older house, Julia was faced with a lack of closet space. Instead of investing in expensive built-ins, she chose neutral free-standing pieces that will work in different rooms as her home and family evolve. In their bedroom a whitewashed wooden dresser holds her accessories, jewellery and makeup (and her husband's ties, too!), while rolling stackable crates in the nursery keep stuffed animals and onesies tidy and close to hand.



.com
 Julia's 10 tips to survive a reno
chatelaine.com/renotips



GET THIS LOOK | ABOVE LEFT | WALL PAINT, DREAMING IN CLOUDS, PARA.COM. DRESSER, WESTELM.COM. | ABOVE RIGHT | WALL PAINT, SHORELINE, PARA.COM. GLIDER, MOMSTOBEANDMORE.COM. | FACING PAGE | DRAPERY FABRIC, LROSDALE.COM. HEADBOARD, SMASH.TO. BEDDING, RESTORATIONHARDWARE.COM. BLANKET, HBC.CA. HIDE RUG, LOVETHEDESIGN.COM.

8 Quickly remove makeup with easy-to-use cleansing cloths. All you need now is a little moisturizer.