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'TIS THE SEASON

*Reimagining the traditional
holiday palette*

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LIVING GALLERY

*Canadian design duo **Burdifilek** envisioned a Toronto home that doubles as a captivating art space*

Words by LAURA CHERRIE BEANEY

Art and culture pulse through this impressive address. A home where one family's philanthropic pursuits fuse with their personal world, Diego Burdi, the co-founder of Burdifilek interior design studio, traces the evolution of the home into a multifunctional space destined to host a roster of cultural events.

Inviting nature in: the room provides unfettered access to the greenery outside

IMAGES COURTESY OF BURDIFILEK

Nestled amid a sleepy Toronto neighbourhood known for its meandering pathways and ancient trees, a sprawling 25,000-square-foot structure has been recast as a multifunctional space that emits bold contemporary expression. The inhabitants, a family of Canadian philanthropists, required a home where they might readily entertain. They sought a space to host charitable events, evening concerts and dinner parties against the backdrop of their significant modern and contemporary art collection. "It is easy to book or rent a space for an event, but when you deeply believe in the philanthropic causes that you support, and you allow people into your home, you want them to feel welcome and experience your personal style," suggests Diego. "There's nothing more intimate than a private invitation into one's personal home."

Of primary concern was the need to establish a dialogue between public and private realms. The residence is structured so that private spaces are incorporated into every floor, from the indoor lap pool to the dedicated family room — the epitome of laid-back luxury clad in brushed and black-stained Baltic pine panels. The principal bedroom with walls coated in a calming French blue, features thoughtful details that facilitate 'me time'. There are dedicated his and hers dressing rooms and a small cubby area, carved out so dwellers may brew their morning coffee away from other inhabitants.

The design team sought to establish a limited palette, made up of natural woods, quarried stone, milky hues and soft textures, that would morph into each room seamlessly. "These understated tones are countered with dramatic sightlines that lead toward particular works of art," says Diego. Eye-popping artworks that cross multiple movements by the likes of Yves Klein, Rita Ackermann, Larry Poons, and Jean Arp, stir the senses. ►



Clockwise from left: A seamless flow is maintained between rooms using connecting elements, which also visually guide visitors through the home; Seating area awash with natural light; Dining room featuring cast-glass doors; Gold accents bring vibrancy to organic tones in the space



Calming shades create a relaxing atmosphere in the library area



Textural nuance within the artwork renders a dramatic effect



Entertainment is a core value of the home and the journey of the guests has been evaluated at every step. Visitors emerge from a vast fourteen-foot portal doorway into the grand room. “It’s a space intended for sophisticated entertaining yet any undue formality is loosened with grounding touches such as stacks of wooden logs beside the hearth and glass doors that open to groupings of casual outdoor living spaces,” explains Diego.

The dining room offers up two impressive views. The first is a set of cast-glass doors that, when closed by night, create a lantern effect and provide a theatrical moment when rolled to the side to signal the start of dinner. The second is an impressive hand-carved stone staircase that spirals between three floors. Its sinuous curves are countered by the dangling cast-glass pendant light, suspended from 30 feet in the air. ➤



Subtle tones invite understated elegance

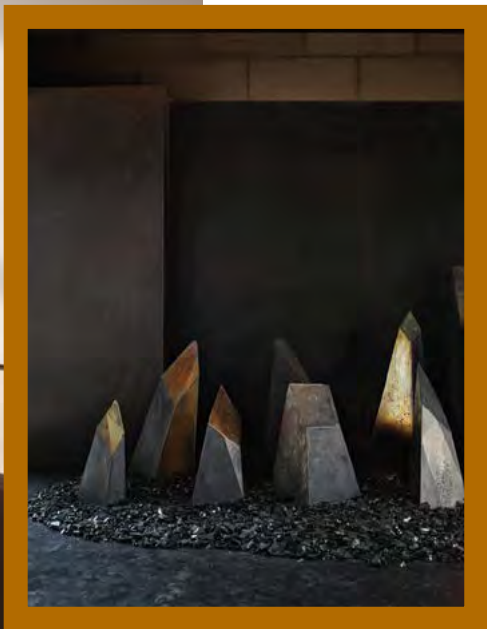


The hand-carved stone staircase spirals between three floors

“ EACH ROOM OFFERS
UP ITS OWN POWERFUL
VISUAL STATEMENT ”



Clockwise from left: Dramatic sightlines lead toward particular works of art; Statement pieces across ample simplified space draw attention to design details; A minimal palette including natural wood is integral to the concept



The Burdifilek team bonded with the homeowners during visits to galleries and exhibitions in London, Paris and New York. “We wanted to expand our understanding of contemporary art and design in a meaningful way,” notes Diego. Art and the opportunity for artful living were essentials for the homeowners and the solarium is where these prerequisites are most pronounced.

The all-glass room is the seating area for arriving guests, an exceptional space set to enchant those that spend time there. Here, a rare collection of limited-edition furnishings come into dialogue with major works of art by the likes of American minimalist Donald Judd and French designer Vincent Dubourg. “Each room offers up its own powerful visual statement,” expresses Diego, “but the solarium is among the most artistically expressive settings in the home.” ■ [burdifilek.com](https://www.burdifilek.com)



The residence is masterfully crafted to elevate entertaining endeavours