



Consider flow. The new family room/eating area/open concept kitchen shows great overall flow. Leaving 8 feet between the kitchen table and island provides great circulation, even when people are sitting at both.



Designer Karen Sealy, (above) combined the kitchen and family-room areas

# Room for all

Designer Karen Sealy shows how a cramped galley kitchen and family room was transformed into a spacious living hub

- 1 Make a space appear less cluttered and more open by using fewer, bigger pieces.
- 2 A round coffee table provides better circulation and is more child-friendly as there are no hard corners.
- 3 Use an area rug under a grouping of furniture to anchor a family room within a larger space.
- 4 Swivel chairs can face a conversation area or turn when it's time to watch TV.
- 5 Create a niche for the TV. This one was painted a dark colour so it blends in when the TV is turned off and doesn't distract from the fireplace.



As their family started growing with three active young daughters, the owners of a 1930s-era house in Bloor West Village found that their home was no longer adequate for their family's needs.

But instead of selling and moving, they opted to renovate their existing home to add space and improve functionality. The main-floor issues included a cramped front entry with very little storage, and the tiny galley kitchen was not efficient.

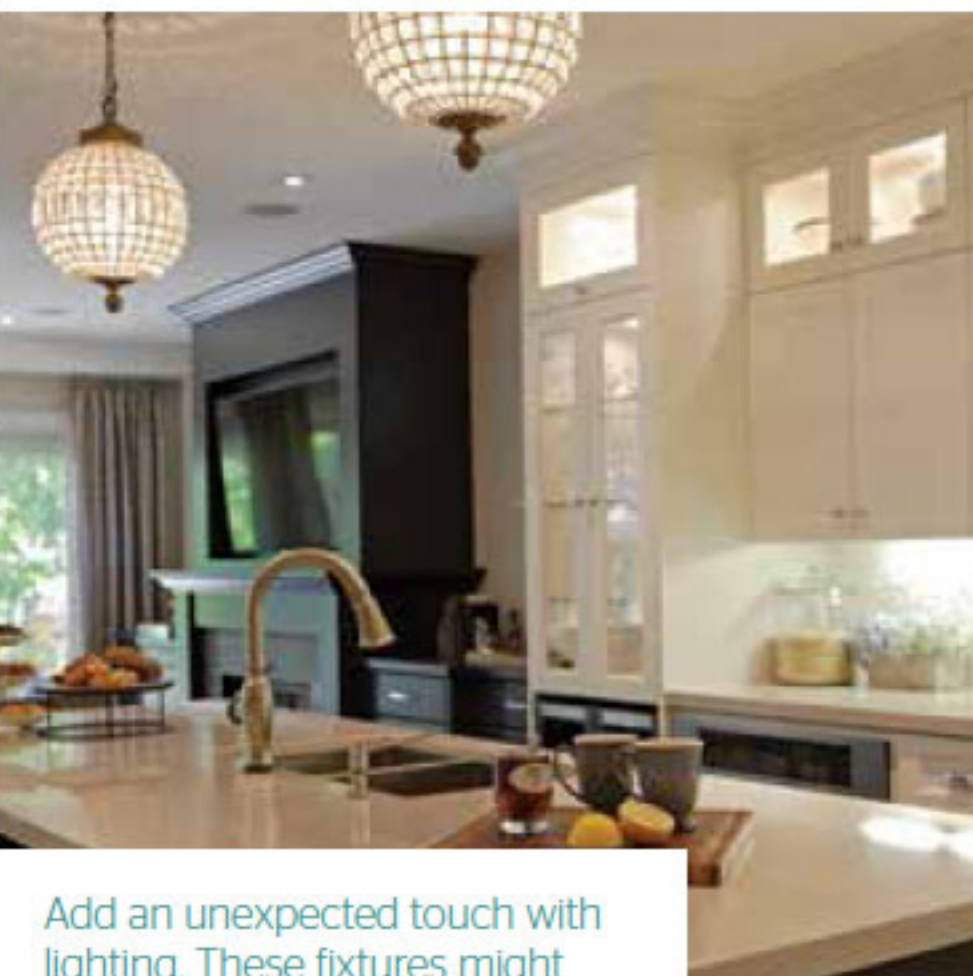
Karen Sealy, owner and lead designer of Sealy Design Inc. in Toronto, a design expert on the TV show *Cityline* and host and designer of HGTV's *Summer Home* guided the family through a transformation that created the home they needed.

A two-storey addition added 883 square feet to the original 2,028-square-foot residence, split between the basement, main floor and second floor.

See the accompanying photos for Ms. Sealy's tips on the design and decor elements she used in this project.

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Add an unexpected touch with lighting. These fixtures might not be what you'd expect in a kitchen, but they add a surprise element of old-world charm. They also reference the organic round shape of the family-room coffee table to soften the space. If you're putting lights in your glass cabinets, consider glass shelves so the light can shine throughout the cabinets.



- 1 When a window doesn't provide a view, sometimes a frosted film in an otherwise busy space is enough.
- 2 Use an outdoor fabric indoors. This fabric on the banquette repels liquids, is UV-safe and looks and feels like an indoor fabric. The colours served as the basis for the room's colour palette.
- 3 Have a table made of reclaimed wood custom-made to the exact dimensions you require. It's also a cool way to re-use and recycle.
- 4 Add a sense of playfulness - for this young family, Eiffel chairs add fun to the décor.
- 5 Baskets beneath a banquette add texture and are a great spot for art supplies and outdoor dishware.
- 6 Create a console to hide laptops and other items that are often out in the kitchen and family room. This one isn't too deep, so it doesn't impede getting in and out of the banquette.