

Our new home décor columnist

Karl Lohnes: Let me help you create a well-decorated home



KARL LOHNES
CREATING
SPACES

My name is Karl Lohnes. For more than 25 years my job has been helping people make their homes function better and look amazing. I've been talking about decorating and home design on television, on the radio, at home shows and in magazines, newspapers

and online publications. I am thrilled to be your new home décor columnist and I'm here to say: Watch This Space!

My mission in this brand new weekly column is to bring you tried and true designer tips, home solutions and great products that are accessible to everyone.

I like to think of it as helping you design a tiny part of your home each Saturday. I'll even source out the best design products so you don't have to do the shopping.

Think of me as your Toronto Sun design friend, someone who never stops thinking of home decor and ideas for you!

I can't wait to bring you trends and solutions that will make your home more stylish and reflective of the way you live. Whether you rent or own, I want to empower you and give you the knowledge you need to create a home you love.

After so many years in the design and decor business, I have a pretty good idea of what your design dilemmas might be. Choosing paint colours, mixing patterns, getting the right-sized furnishings and hanging your artwork are common challenges. I'll be addressing all of those (and many more) for you right here in this space.

Next week I'll tackle the front door; how to make it attractive, safe and welcoming as we journey into the summer months.

Got a design question? Want to stump the decorator?



Karl's favourite room.

Need a qualified opinion? I am only a click away and I would love to hear from you. Let's talk!

— **Karl Lohnes has worked as a home decor expert and product designer for over 25 years and his goal is to ensure everyone has the knowledge and tools to create a comfortable and stylish home. Find Karl on Facebook or Instagram.**



Karl loves to mix the old with the new.

A little more about your new design friend

My personal décor style: 60 percent traditional, 30 percent modern, 10 percent hoarder (but it's "quality" hoarding...at least that's what I keep telling myself). Anyone else with me on that 10 percent?

Decorating pet peeve: Artwork that's almost always hung too high. There are décor rules for that...they're coming soon!

My favourite room: The guestroom in my city townhouse. It's decorated like a casual East-coast cabin. Whenever I see it, I'm transported from city life.

Do you have a decor dilemma or want to give feedback? You can contact Karl on Facebook or Instagram at Karl Lohnes Designer.

Soaking in style

Designer makes a splash in her own beautiful bathroom

KAREN SEALY

Special to Postmedia Network

The challenge of renovating as an interior designer and a renovation expert is you can see all the possibilities.

What's the best layout for me? My family? My guests? This doesn't even factor in the cost. The first task is to rule out the versions that won't work.

Depending how long you plan to be in the home you may also want to consider resale value. The confusion comes when all these goals don't align. This was the case for me.

When I ripped all walls out of the bedroom level I debated to go either; option one, two bedrooms and two three piece washrooms; or option two, three bedrooms and one a large four piece washroom.

I was leaning toward option one for my needs but when I factored in the time I'd be here and

resale value I realized it made more sense to go the other way.

The benefits of option two, it allowed me to still have an ensuite (a door from the master bedroom to the washroom) and now I had a tub and a shower. As with any of my designs, the goal is aesthetically stunning and functionally perfect.

The finishes all share a hint of glamour with low contrast. The palette is a soft chalky blue-grey that adds the ethereal feeling of the space.

The architectural ceiling details are accentuated by cladding the 12' high shower wall in a delicate glass tile inspired by the sea. Your eye is drawn up by the natural light cascading across the wall from the ventilating skylight above.

The surface mounted Victoria + Albert shower faucet in brushed nickel blends well with the wall but its strong industrial style feels mascu-



The tub was positioned in such a way that the window is centred above it and wall mounted faucets are easy to reach.

line against the watery tile.

This juxtaposition between masculine and feminine elements plays throughout the space. The subtle tension it produces, a trick designers love to use, creates the drama in the room.

As with any successful design, elements must be repeated, so the standalone Victoria + Albert tub in a light trending grey is an interesting tweak on the more conventional white tub.

The tub was positioned in such a way that the window and robust wall mounted faucets together are centred on the tub.

The custom vanity with a classic Palm Springs inspired appeal on graceful legs feels dainty when paired with the substantial Victoria + Albert wall mounted faucets.

The delicately curved quartz backsplash and curved top medicine cabinet help soften the overall look so that it is nicely balanced.



The goal of any design, says Karen Sealy, is to be aesthetically stunning and functionally perfect.

There's so much here that you can't see too! Adding to the sophistication and comfort of this washroom are the wifi enabled Nuheat heated floors, the built in speakers, that all speak to my Control4 Smart Home system.

I love that I can touch one button to set the scene for a relaxing steam — the lights

dim my favorite playlist starts and the steam heats up,

Now that it's all said and done and I have my bigger luxurious ensuite I'm sure it was the right decision and in the long run paying for one larger bathroom, even with a few bells and whistles, can be cheaper than paying for two mid-sized ones.