

DON'T MOVE, *improve!*

A total revamp turns a cramped, disorganized main floor into a flowing family space with tons of storage and style.

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DESIGN, Eugenia Triandos, Hibou Design & Co. **CONTRACTOR**, Constructions Archetype. **CABINET MAKER**, Atelier Boistek. **White Oak FLOORING**, Club Maison. **BANQUETTE, CABINETS**, Hibou Design & Co. **TABLE & PENDANT**, RH, Hudson Valley. **SCONCES**, Montreal Lighting. **CHAIRS**, Wayfair. **BASKETS**, Must Société. **WALL ART**, Minted. **STOOL**, IKEA. **VASES** (on shelves), Black Knot. **BOOK ENDS**, Bird. **STATUE**, Hibou Home.



OPEN STORY

Opening up the main floor and adding custom storage solutions lets the small home function like a much larger space. By opting for a banquette that hugs the wall in the dining area instead of having a dining table centred in the space, designer Eugenia Triandos gained two feet of floor space. "This allowed us to include both a table and an island in a tight space, and still have room for the boys to dash to the back door," says the designer. Using the full length of the wall for the banquette allowed her to include lots of storage drawers for toys, craft materials and seasonal kitchen goods. Bonus: the banquette's faux-leather commercial-grade upholstery is so durable that even pen marks wipe off.



To stay or not to stay? That was the question facing this family. Their challenge: they were growing, but their 1920s Montreal row house wasn't. Was a move to the suburbs necessary or could a reno turn their house into a dream home? "Young families often come to this fork in the road," says designer Eugenia Triandos of Hibou Design & Co. "In this case, they truly wanted to stay." But with two young boys, the tight layout was rife with storage issues, and the outdated closed-off kitchen (and its constantly used backyard door) was frustrating.

"Our goal became to change their lives for the better but not change the square footage," says Eugenia, who set about opening up the main floor and adding plenty of custom storage. She elevated the chronically chaotic front entrance into a gloriously organized space, and turned the kitchen into both a haven for family togetherness and a gateway to outdoor play. Then she turned her attention to aesthetics. Bistro-style tufting glammed up the banquette and graphic wallpaper jazzed up the seating nooks. "These are eye-catchers, the crowning glory on a space designed, first and foremost, to make life for my clients easier, prettier, and a lot more carefree."





BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE

One secret to the space-saving success of Eugenia's design is her custom seating solutions, including the banquette, and entryway and kitchen nooks. Tucked into one end of wall-to-wall storage by the front door, a nook (left) offers a sweet spot for pulling on shoes. Drawers stow mitts and gloves. Inside the floor-to-ceiling closets are short racks for the kids and tall ones for parents. Easy-care vinyl wallpaper in a subtle geometric pattern, and a display shelf and seat that match the wood floors close to the busy door leading to the yard, a kids' nook (opposite) is seamlessly integrated into the cabinetry. More easy-wipe wallpaper and two drawers for sports gear make it hard-working and easy on the eyes.

FLOW & FUNCTION

"Towering floor-to-ceiling cabinets along one kitchen wall disguise the fridge and impart architectural-style continuity," says Eugenia. By maximizing storage on this wall, she was able to forego upper cabinets on the range wall, which keeps the space from looking boxy. At the end of the banquette, built-in shelves are integrated with the banquette storage; while at the opposite end, cabinetry seamlessly encases a radiator. "Slots allow the warm air to escape," says the designer. "The less space you have between built-ins, the better, because it presents a sense of flow."

WALLPAPER (in nook), Metro Wallcoverings. Two **CUSHIONS** (kitchen nook), Hibou Home. **DISH TOWEL**, Hibou Home. **FAUCET**, Brito. **SINK**, Blanco.

"For a truly successful renovation, nothing beats custom storage. It adapts as your family grows."

BRIGHT IDEAS

Removing the original dining room walls allowed natural light to pour into the space. "Sunlight now streams from both the front and back of the home," says Eugenia. "The family wanted to be able to see their kids from any space, so the new layout was designed around allowing that." But they also didn't want to see the kitchen from the entryway. The solution: a partial wall blocks the view of the cooking zone from the entryway side, but from the kitchen side, the same wall becomes a feature with a fab range hood as a focal point.

CABINETS, MILLWORK, custom white oak **SEAT**, Hibou Design. **WALLPAPER**, Metro Wallcoverings. **PILLOW** (in nook), Hibou Home. **CABINETS HARDWARE**, Emtek. **ART** (on shelf), clients' own.



TONES & TEXTURE

"The palette is bright yet soothing and makes use of quiet naturals," says Eugenia. "Instead of white, we used a light taupe for the kitchen cabinetry. It's less predictable and more like furniture, something that is true of the custom range hood, as well." The island's warm green is paired with tones in the glazed ceramic tile backsplash. These same hues appear in the wall art at the end of the dining table. Natural elements, including white oak flooring, wood window frames, woven chair seats, basketry and the boys' stepstool impart a homey, relaxed feeling. For impact, dark tones were introduced via the table, Wishbone dining chairs, cabinetry hardware and decorative items, such as bookends and baskets.

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