

AN ADIAN

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Our Best Christmas  
Cookies Ever!

# HOUSE & HOME

CANADA'S MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

## *All that Glitters*



**100+ Inspired  
Ideas for Holiday  
Decorating**

**CELEBRATE IN STYLE  
NEW LOOKS FOR THE DINING ROOM**

*Easy DIY: Garlands, Stars & Baubles*





# Defying Age

Lynda Reeves explores the age-old look of new furniture and finds.

**The most interesting** rooms I see these days are calm and serene, but still thrilling. These are not rooms that scream, "Look at me!" These are soothing spaces that beckon you to sit down and relax. Then, when your senses have been quieted by the peaceful palette, generous seating, soft lighting and luxurious fabrics, you begin to notice the wonderful things that surround you. Chairs and tables that are mismatched, but look great together. Gently worn rugs with a vintage feel and antiques with the patina of age. There are quirky things that look like they're repurposed and artifacts that seem so old they could be in a museum.

Now, what if I told you that (almost) everything in the room is brand new? You would have a hard time believing me!

I love this kind of room because it's complex. It doesn't have a formula. It's a gathering of found things you arrange to feel spontaneous. I equate a room like this to a good meal with complex flavours and textures to savour, while a room that is achieved by following a formula is like fast food: momentarily satisfying but soon tiring.

Admittedly, this look takes time and patience. I personally struggle through the concept stage, go crazy looking for things, and know that a certain amount of trial and error is in store for me. So how do you make rooms feel fresh and current and not just a mishmash of stuff? There are ways to limit the risk, such as buying paint testers and doing paint boards before committing, asking to buy rugs and lamps on approval, and relying on a good retailer to help you understand what works best with what. But how do you find the right pieces? What if you're starting fresh and want a room with history in a big hurry?

Here are my tips for achieving a cool, curated style:

1. Be global. Mix some English-inspired pieces with more exotic Indonesian wood benches and Scandinavian modern chairs, for example.
2. Be ageless. Don't resort to one period. Include some antiques, modern art, and both old and new textiles. *CONTINUED*



These pots at Kuda in Toronto look wonderfully worn.



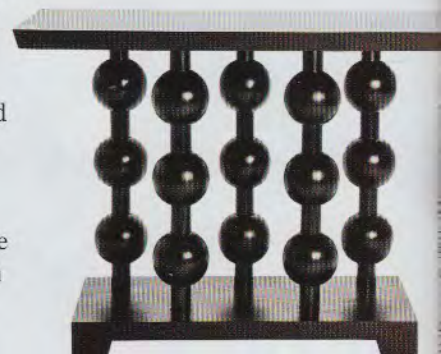
The brass-mounted Colonial Revival leather trunk from the RLH collection at Elte.



Kilim-inspired fabric on a cocktail ottoman from Elizabeth Interiors has a global feel.



The Crescent bench from West Elm uses recycled African Kuba cloth.



The Abacus console at Snob is hand-carved in Africa from solid mahogany.



At 108" long, this English Chesterfield sofa from the RLH collection at Elte makes a grand statement.



A metal Moroccan urn on an iron stand, from Kantelberg & Co.



A new woven pillow has the look of an old kilim, available at Elizabeth Interiors.



Mixed materials dress the ebony and shagreen Bardot chest at Elte.



**IPAD-EXCLUSIVE VIDEO**  
Lynda Reeves is in the kitchen making easy festive favourites.