

## Designer keeps eye on the outdoors while furnishing Nun's Island condo

STORY BY DONNA NEBENZAHL

What does a home away from home look like? In the case of a well-travelled businesswoman with houses in other countries, the place to live when visiting her son at university here is a beautifully appointed condo apartment on Nun's Island.

When the client asked Montreal decorator Jean Stéphane Beauchamp to furnish the 1,200-square foot space, she insisted only that he focus on her love of open spaces, both inside and out. "She chose the height of this apartment so she could have these proportions: one-third sky, one-third city, one-third apartment," he says.

Inside the apartment, he worked with colours in the loft-size public space that would go with the blues, greens and grays of the landscape. "We decided that the colours here wouldn't clash with the outside," he says, "so I was careful to be neither too colourful nor too minimalist."

Against dark walnut floors throughout, he chose a background of warm grey in the form of semi-opaque curtains in a silk-like fabric that won't fade in the bright sunlight. Even the sheer Roman blinds that can be pulled to mute the light don't hide the view, he says.

The charcoal tones of walls and drapes frame a tailored couch in matte black leather that is warmed on chilly autumn days with a colourful throw. Part of the wall is painted in pale turquoise, contrasted with a fresh lime green that looks great in any season, Beauchamp says. He has used the lime touches in flowers, boxes and on a few accents. "It's a strong colour, so I use it sparingly."



Because the owner loves dark wood, the living room's drum shaped coffee table is made of mahogany, and Beauchamp has used natural linen throughout to give texture. "With simplicity, you add texture as a way to make the look more interesting," he says. "You can have the same colour going through a room, but without texture it lacks depth."

He also likes using contrast in furnishings, like a French bergère armchair with upholstered back and tailored seat cushion, in natural linen, paired with a chrome and glass Eileen Gray coffee table from the 1920s. "These are updated classics," he says. ▶

PHOTOS BY ALLEN McINNIS



# In harmony with the view

› Open spaces, window coverings that let in the light and colours that reflect the outdoors ensure that this home away from home is a bright, welcoming place.





› Cool contrast: A French bergère armchair in natural linen is paired with a 1920s chrome and glass Eileen Gray coffee table.

PHOTO BY JEAN STÉPHANE BEAUCHAMP



› The kitchen is separated from the public space by a granite island. An industrial wheeled trolley adds a touch of fun. The breakfast nook's banquette is covered in natural linen and accented with floral cushions. Crystal chandeliers over the kitchen and dining room tables add sparkle.

A tufted ottoman, also in natural linen, brings out the tones of the simple 8-by-10 wool rug in a minimalist floral pattern. "It offers a transition between classic and contemporary with its greys, mustard, turquoise, brown and charcoal," he says. It's interesting by itself but doesn't overshadow anything else.

"We always have that view to contend with."

Giving a nod to her Asian heritage, the owner has let Beauchamp indulge his love of orchids, using them throughout the space. "I also use long-lasting red branches as filler with the orchids and to give a touch of colour in the fall," he says.

He added crystal, which the owner loves, though minimally to avoid clashes with the view, choosing in the dining room a sculptural chandelier with large hanging baubles. This room's curved wall was a challenge, he says, that he mastered by bringing in a circular wood table, usually beautifully draped with linens, to blend with the curve. The table seats six comfortably on armchairs upholstered in taupe linen.

The kitchen area also opens into the public space, separated by a granite island with lots of storage under which he has put industrial-style metal and wood stools. The colours here are again natural linen, grey and brown in



the walnut cupboards, with the addition of a backsplash in glass tile. Over the fan, he has installed a fitted, custom-made covering of galvanized steel, "for a bit of shine," he says. "It's also magnetic, so you can put up notes and recipes, and it adds a touch of light to the dark wood."

Beside the island, the owner makes use of an industrial wheeled trolley, a quirky piece that serves many functions, from drinks tray to buffet cart. Beauchamp chose this item because, he says, "when a decor is a little serious, it's fun to have something different."

He opted for unusual treatment for the small space near the kitchen, an alcove that had no use until he created a banquette with a small table that the owner uses as a breakfast nook or a workstation from which she can





enjoy her beloved view. The natural linen cover on the banquette, which opens for storage, is brightened with turquoise and chartreuse cushions in the floral style of William Morris. A smaller crystal chandelier adds a bit of sparkle, and directs the eye to the glass-front shelves above the banquette, where an assortment of English china teacups are prettily displayed.

The owner loves dark furniture, so in her bedroom the headboard and all the cabinetry are in dark walnut. Here, different shades of linen are accented with lacquered side tables and a chartreuse wall is the perfect foil for shades of pale grey. The bedskirt, in natural linen, is complemented by a chartreuse linen bedcover and an Egyptian cotton duvet in blue and brown paisley. ▶





› Simplicity and functionality meet in the bedroom, where natural fabrics and colours contrast with the dark walnut of the headboard, mirror and cabinetry. A low-pile carpet helps to muffle sound and keep things cozy.

Pale denim drapes add texture to the composition of sheer and heavier drapery, made necessary not by privacy needs but by the sun, Beauchamp says. “This look has a certain simplicity, with tall glass vases holding orchids and branches and brushed nickel lamps.”

He also makes sure that everything in the room is functional, from the full-length walnut-framed mirror to the side chair in charcoal linen, a comfortable, modern chair that’s perfect for putting on shoes. Even the dresser has a foldout section that can serve double duty as a desk.

The sand-coloured tiles in the ensuite bathroom repeat the pattern in the bedroom rug – Beauchamp favours low-pile carpeting in bedrooms to muffle sound and add a certain coziness – giving the room a continuity. Here, dark wood is used for the cupboards and around the white ceramic trough sink.

A guest bedroom, often used by the owner’s daughter, is designed in a clean hotel style, warmed with a few personal touches and a winning combination of purples and mustard. The high headboard in dark leather is softened with a gauzy linen throw, and to add a touch of whimsy Beauchamp has used fanions, now seen in

Europe as tiebacks for curtains. Here they were custom-made in pale natural linen and used like flags across the headboard.

Curtains, once again, are fully opaque to let in the light and the vista so loved by the owner and her family. “From any room, when you look out there,” Beauchamp says, “it’s a perfect view.”

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## SOURCES

**Paint:** All walls: Benjamin Moore, OC-30 Oxford White; all baseboards and doors: Benjamin Moore, 2108-60 Abalone; living room: Farrow & Ball, Green Blue #84; master bedroom: Benjamin Moore, 2024-40 Yellow Finch.

Painters: Les Pinceaux du Plateau

All flowers: Fauchois Fleurs

**Kitchen:** Backsplash tiles: Centura; accessories: les Touilleurs, Verte Campagne; dish cloths: Qui Dort Dine; cart and stools: Dcovia; cushions (banquette): Grange. ➤





› A guest bedroom, designed in a clean hotel style, is warmed with a few personal touches and a winning combination of purples and mustard. A touch of whimsy is added by fanions draped across the headboard like flags.

## SOURCES cont.

**Dining room:** Table: Beige; chairs: Morphée; linens: Qui Dort Dîne; cupcakes: D Liche

All curtains: custom, Jean Stéphane Beauchamp Design

**Living room:** Carpet: H Lalonde et frère; sofa and TV console: Morphée; cushions: large: custom by Jean Stéphane Beauchamp Design; others: Qui Dort Dîne; round coffee table: Structube; armchair, bench, glass console table and stool: Dcovia; tray on coffee table: Barbara Barry at Celadon

**Master bedroom:** All bedding: Qui Dort Dîne; furniture: Morphée; lamps: Dcovia

**Bathroom:** Towels and accessories: Qui Dort Dîne

**Girl's bedroom:** All bedding: Qui Dort Dîne; furniture: Morphée, owl: Raplapla; banner: Cabane K

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**Centura**, 514-336-4311  
www.centura.ca

**Dcovia**, 514-284-7333  
www.dcovia.com

**D Liche**, 514-500-2505  
www.dliche.ca

**Farrow & Ball**,  
www.farrow-ball.com

**Fauchois Fleurs**, 514-844-4417  
www.fauchoisfleurs.com

**Grange**, 514-843-7686  
www.grange.fr

**H Lalonde et frère**, 514-271-3555  
www.tapislalonde.ca

**Morphée**, 514-282-0744  
www.morpheefurniture.com

**Les Pinceaux du Plateau**,  
www.lespinceauxduplateau.com

**Qui Dort Dîne**, 514-288-3836  
www.quidortdine.ca

**Raplapla**, 514-563-1209  
www.raplapla.com

**Les Touilleurs**, 514-278-0008  
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