

SMALLER SPACE **2,280 SQ. FT.**

THE DOWNSIZED HOME



the joys of DOWNSIZING

When the kids left the nest, these world travellers created a new dream home for two

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ith their daughter off to study in Europe and their son at boarding school, interior designer Stacey Litwin-Davies and her husband, Phil Davies, found themselves rattling around in their big old house. Like many empty nesters, they were ready to downsize, but their dream house had to meet a few criteria: home offices for both parents, spaces for the kids, a much smaller yard to care for and, above all, proportions that would accommodate artwork and furnishings gathered over years of living and travelling abroad. Their new three-bedroom home is a whopping 2,000 sq. ft. smaller than their previous five-bedroom place, but it doesn't feel that way: thanks to a bit of judicious reconfiguring, the new space works better – for the whole family.

dramatic dining

This room is smaller than the dining room in their former house and receives little natural light. Stacey had the walls painted a rich bluish red that recaptures the spirit of the previous space. To bring out the room's vertical proportions, tall casement doors (opposite) were painted a deep aubergine that draws the eyes upward and that reads almost as black. The dining table was cut down to fit the more intimate scale. →



old dining room

204 SQ. FT.; SEATING FOR 14

OPEN HOUSE The layout reminded interior designer and owner Stacey Litwin-Davies of enfilade-style homes in France, where one room opens directly into the next, for beautiful views and an efficient use of space. Rooms that are visible to one another demand colour choices that harmonize, even when they're contrasting, as seen here.

DESIGN Stacey Litwin-Davies litwindavies.com. **DOOR PAINT** custom, based on Tanner's Brown 255 farrow-ball.com.

DINING ROOM With such a strong wall colour, the room was furnished simply, in neutral tones. Modern photography was combined with traditional sconces and a chandelier from a Paris flea market.

TABLE, CHAIRS litwindavies.com. **WALL PAINT** mix of Raspberry Truffle 2080-10 benjaminmoore.ca and Incarnadine 248 farrow-ball.com. **FABRIC** Holland & Sherry Andes in Putty (drapery), through designers, telio.com; Lee Jofa Verandah Sheer in Flax (sheers), through designers, leejofa.com.



new dining room 185 SQ. FT.; SEATING FOR 10

new multifunctional living room
277 SQ. FT.

LIVING ROOM Seating from the former living room fits in the new space, but one new addition makes a world of difference. A round ottoman in an energetic zigzag fabric sets a more casual mood than the previous home's glass coffee table.

SOFA, OTTOMAN litwindavies.com.

PAINT Ballet White OC-9 (walls) benjaminmoore.ca; Lamswool 11-30 (trim) prattandlambert.com. **FABRIC** J. Robert Scott Shinto (wood-frame chairs), Holland & Sherry Patagonia (ottoman top), through designers, telio.com; Pierre Frey Kanto (ottoman side), through designers, primavera.ca.





old formal living room 276 SQ. FT.

multifunctional living

Separate living and family rooms in the old house led to an all-too-common problem: a family room that saw near-constant duty, and a living room that was rarely used. The new living room is about the same size as the previous one, but its functionality has increased considerably. Stacey and her family use it for entertaining, watching TV and relaxing by the fire with a great book.

BOOKCASES An enviable library of classics and architecture books in floor-to-ceiling built-ins adds warmth and colour to the living space.

PAINT India Yellow 66 (inside bookcase) farrow-ball.com.

FIREPLACE MARBLE crystaltilemarble.com. **ARTWORK** *Mother Tree* by Fred Franzen artinteriors.ca. →

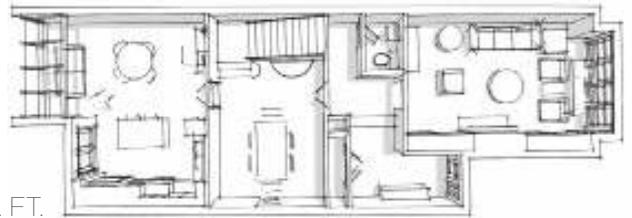




BREAKFAST AREA A compact sofa nestled in the solarium window is a favourite spot for Milly, the family spaniel. The wall hanging, a Victorian wedding crinoline hand-painted by Janis Gillan, is an eye-catching conversation piece.

TABLE Knoll Saarinen drechsel.com. **CHAIRS** Eames DCM hermanmiller.com. **FABRIC** GP & J Baker Adina in Oatmeal (sofa), Lee Jofa Remo Stripe in Bittersweet (cushions), through designers, leejofa.com. **CARPET** elte.com. **ARTWORK** janisgillan.com.

new kitchen 258 SQ. FT.



1,161 SQ. FT.

“The new kitchen is more efficient and has more storage, even though it’s smaller”

STACEY LITWIN-DAVIES, OWNER + DESIGNER

a working kitchen

With lots of natural light and 9’ high ceilings, this room had some pluses, but the design was a problem, says Stacey. A space-hogging corner fireplace was removed, making way for much more living space. She moved appliances away from the entrance, and added taller cupboards to maximize vertical space.

KITCHEN The new kitchen includes ample storage, a desk area, lounge area, table and chairs, and an island for casual meals and entertaining – an all-in-one modest-size space. A stainless steel backsplash, white cabinetry and a centre island with a highgloss Chinese red base give the room a clean, modern feel.

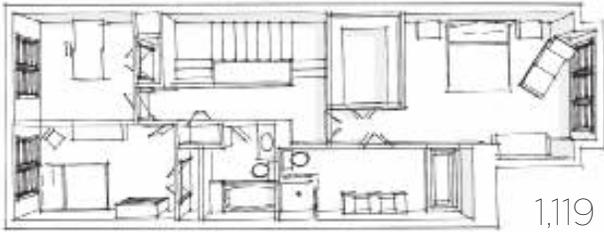
PAINT Cloud White OC-130 (uppers), Revere Pewter HC-172 (base units), Sultan’s Palace 2081-20 (island front) benjaminmoore.ca. **LIGHTING** greatlighting.com.

STOOLS Lem kioskdesign.ca. **CERAMICS** (on shelves) Classic Century crateandbarrel.com. →



old kitchen 325 SQ. FT.

ILLUSTRATIONS SCOTT ROGERS



1,119 SQ. FT.



“Moving to a smaller house doesn’t have to mean giving up your favourite things”

STACEY LITWIN-DAVIES, OWNER + DESIGNER

restful retreat

The couple loved the calming design of their old master bedroom and wanted to recreate it in the new house. They had the walls painted the same sky blue, but Stacey updated the silk-upholstered headboard with a more casual frame. Neutral surfaces work beautifully with the pale blues of the bedroom. The striped grain of the marble shower tile lends a low-key shot of pattern.

BATHROOM Stacey and Phil wanted a double vanity and lots of storage, so there are two large medicine cabinets behind the mirrors, multiple drawers and a built-in laundry hamper. Luxurious yet practical touches include a heated floor and towel warmer.

WALL PAINT Strong White 2001 farrow-ball.com.
SHOWER TILE stone-tile.com. **BASIN,**
FAUCETS gingersbath.com. **LIGHT FIXTURES**
Luminart 416-780-9775.



old master bedroom

290 SQ. FT.; ONE OF 5 BEDROOMS

BEDROOM Downsizing doesn't have to mean compromise. The new master bedroom has all the comfort and elegance of the previous bedroom. Softly padded upholstery, a new streamlined headboard frame and a restful blue-and-cream colour scheme make this space a cosy nest.

WALL PAINT Skylight 205 farrow-ball.com.
NIGHTSTAND, HEADBOARD litwindavies.com.
BED LINENS luccahome.com. @

new master bedroom
248 SQ. FT.; ONE OF 3 BEDROOMS