

CANADIAN

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Best Brisket +  
Skillet Mac & Cheese

# HOUSE & HOME

CANADA'S MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

## TRENDS 2012

YOUR PREVIEW OF THE  
YEAR'S HOTTEST LOOKS

*5 Foolproof  
Paint Palettes*

CANDO WOODWORKING --OFFICE COPY  
\* PLS. DO NOT REMOVE \*

**MUST-HAVE** LIGHTING,  
FURNITURE, BEDDING,  
WALLPAPER AND MORE!

*Guess Who  
Designed  
This House?*

(Hint: It's one of your  
favourite TV sidekicks)



Designer Connie Braemer (left) and Betsy in front of the living room fireplace, covered in hammered tile in a stacked pattern — a more cost-efficient alternative to one large stone slab.



**H**ouses are only as unique as the people who live in them. And in the case of this four-bedroom home in Toronto, “unique” feels like an understatement. The owner — and visionary behind its eclectic look — is Betsy Aziz, a lawyer who recently became certified as a Master Food Preserver and can often be found making batches of preserves on her eight-burner stove. So it’s hardly a surprise that when Betsy and her husband, Andrew, decided to build their dream home four years ago, they spent weeks interviewing builders and designers who would understand their unique style: a combination of their appreciation for exotic travel and contemporary architecture. They eventually hired Toronto architect Richard Wengle and interior designer Connie Braemer. “Richard and Connie were prepared to work toward what we wanted, and listened to us so we knew we wouldn’t get a cookie-cutter approach,” says Betsy.

Thirteen months after the first shovel broke ground, the couple and their two teenage sons (along with their Boston terrier, Dolly) moved into the new 4,300-square-foot home. The house incorporates every element on their wish list. The yellow-brick Regency façade fits in perfectly with the Georgian architecture in their upscale neighbourhood. Inside, the gracious rooms are traditional, to be sure. Yet Braemer approached each element with an innovative twist: the living room’s coffered ceiling is set on a 45-degree angle for added visual interest, and in the kitchen, distressed Shaker-style cabinets are paired with industrial fixtures and appliances. In the living room, Braemer lined the walls with streamlined

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In the kitchen, birch cabinets get a modern finish with grey stain. Delicate glass industrial pendant lights have an edgy vibe. Honed limestone floors and Carrara marble backsplash and counters add luxury and shine, while Betsy's collection of Egyptian pottery brings an artisanal organic feel. A table on casters at one end of the island can be repositioned and set up as a bar for entertaining. **Floor tile**, *Saltillo Imports*; **cabinets**, *Cando Woodworking*; **faucets**, *Ginger's*.