

Living Local

THE SUMMER ISSUE

MAGAZINE

**DESIGNED
FOR**
Summer

JESSICA CINNAMON'S
ART OF SUBTLE
SOPHISTICATION

**Annie Glows in
Stratford**

**Savour Summer
on Local Patios**

**Akadi Lumina
Night Walk**

Creating Sophisticated Interiors with Warmth & Balance



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“Designing a home is about more than how it looks—it’s about how it feels. Even the quietest colour moments, when chosen with intention, can become the most beloved parts of your space.”

As mid-summer brings its golden glow into our homes, we find ourselves at the perfect crossroads between seasonal vibrance and interior tranquility. It's the ideal time to embrace thoughtful design that feels fresh, layered, and enduring.

Whether you're refreshing a single room or planning a full renovation, this season offers a unique opportunity to lean into the balance of colour and texture, light and shadow, and modernity with timelessness. Understanding how light moves through a space is essential when choosing the right palette. It's one of the first things I consider in any design. North-facing rooms, for example, receive cooler, more diffused light throughout the day.

These spaces can often feel shadowy or flat if not approached with intention. I like to introduce warmth here through softer whites and warm neutrals, think gentle taupe, creamy ivory, and muted terracotta. These tones counterbalance the coolness of the light and lend a rounded sense of elegance. West-facing rooms, which come alive in the late afternoon and evening, are a wonderful place to experiment with richer, more saturated hues. This golden-hour light enhances bolder colours that might feel overwhelming in other areas of the home. Deep greens, warm ochres, and moody blues are especially effective here, absorbing the sunlight and revealing layered dimension as the day transitions into night.

If bold colour feels intimidating, there's no need to commit all at once. One of my go-to strategies is layering subtle tonal shifts to add interest without overwhelming the senses. Muted shades like dusty rose, soft sage, and teal blue are beautiful entry points for those hesitant about colour. When applied through textiles, painted millwork, or artwork, these hues offer a sophisticated, understated impact.

A Simple Pro Tip: Always test your paint on all four walls and observe how it changes throughout the day. What reads as soft in the morning can become far more saturated by evening, particularly in rooms with directional light. These nuances are essential to achieving a cohesive and balanced palette. Equally important are the finishes and materials you choose. This season, I'm particularly inspired by the interplay of matte and polished surfaces, especially in kitchens and bathrooms. In kitchen and bathrooms, even a small touch of colour in the hardware can transform the space. One collection I'm currently specifying for clients is the MOND faucet collection by VOGT. What makes the collection especially exciting right now

