



HIGH-GLOSS SHELVES + BOLD COLOUR + TAILORED FURNITURE = COSY MULTIFUNCTIONAL DEN

THE BIG PICTURE Heron removed an old crumbling brick fireplace and the original radiator, which took up valuable floor space. She designed striking millwork to envelop the room, with a panelled wall at one end framing a 70" flatscreen TV. "We stepped the built-ins back as they got closer to the window to allow for a sectional," she says. Heron notes repetition was the key to the success of this room. "Sticking with a monochromatic palette on the walls, cabinets and drapes allows the eye to absorb the room as a whole," she says, explaining that that makes the space feel larger.

THE DETAILS The blue-grey millwork was sprayed in a rich, high-gloss lacquer finish, which sets it apart from the matte walls and makes it visually recede. The dark colour also keeps the television (not shown) from standing out too much. Rich orange and red accents and natural materials were layered in for warmth and dimension. A few larger pieces of furniture were chosen over many small items to give the room a greater sense of space. To highlight the couple's collections, library-inspired picture lamps were installed over the shelving.

THE END RESULT In what was once a bland space, a new sense of "home" has emerged; the pair were able to dust off their antique book collection, which not only adds depth and patina to the space but also personal history. And other sentimental items, such as Brian's dad's baseball glove and ball, have come out of storage, too. "It feels so much like us," says Brian. "It's like we've had this room for years."

One photo on Pinterest spurred an entire house renovation when Brian Frimeth and Glenn Saxby spotted custom bookshelves by Toronto designer Meredith Heron. "I thought, 'That's exactly what we want,'" says Brian. The couple set up camp in their basement and embarked on the redesign of their century-old home with Heron. First up was the den, which needed to be multifaceted. Glenn, a 1940s and '50s film aficionado, loves to screen movies for friends, so the room had to function not only as a cosy spot for entertaining or for quiet mornings reading the paper with the couple's dog, Sugar, but also for watching films.



Built-in colour, Lead Gray (2131-30), Benjamin Moore; sectional, ottoman, Meredith Heron Interiors; rug, Weavers Art; brass table, RH Restoration Hardware; fireplace, Stylish Fireplaces; pottery vase, Vintage Fine Objects.



BEFORE