

SHADES OF GREY & POPS OF YELLOW

Chic colour combo vamps up new Abbey Road show home

by JANINE MACKIE

COLOUR IS THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN MAKING A room feel personable and finished; yet for many new homebuyers, it is one of the most feared additions in any space.

Meet an interior designer that doesn't shy away from bold colour. **Kylie Brundell** and her team at **Concept to Design** recently staged the new show home at **Abbey Road** in South Surrey. Located at the corner of 24th Ave. and 164th St. in the vibrant Grandview Heights neighbourhood, Woodbridge Homes is excited to launch this new concept in townhouse living. The three-level show home packs a lot of punch into 1564 sq.ft. There's a cheery home office and full bathroom on the ground floor, a modern open-plan kitchen, dining and living area on the main floor and three-bedrooms and two-bathrooms on the top floor.

Unify with colour: Homes that have a repeating color scheme seem bigger and more organized

Brundell was happy to share a few of her staging secrets that were vital in making this show home stand out on the market. She likes to start by choosing a strong colour palette, repeating the key colour in each room and layering it with accents. Brundell also looks for furniture pieces that have interesting shapes and serve as conversation pieces. The "Ringo" coffee table from Urban Barn proved to be the perfect jumping off point for her vision. Its high gloss grey finish has a flashy ultra modern design with a swivel top which can be customized into several shapes.

Nothing is left to chance. This interior decorator has trained her eyes to see each and every detail, turning a blank canvas



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into a welcoming work of art. Even the music is well orchestrated. What's the significance of "All You Need is Love," streaming from the living room speakers? Consider that the project is called Abbey Road, and the coffee table collection is "Ringo," and you may be on to something.

"Yes, absolutely, the Beatles theme is at play," laughs Brundell, "We really had fun with that in the office. A colourful and quirky room with great artwork, memorabilia and two work stations that show how easy it is to contain your computers and work in a designated space away from the rest of the house."

Upstairs the main floor moves to its own beat, taking retro elements but giving them a modern contemporary feel with a trend-setting colour palette.

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said 'that's it,' exclaims Brundell. "It's all about colour! We wanted to make a big impact that gives people a feeling of cheerfulness and fun."

Large scale accessories have more impact than lots of little things

While the pops of colour are like the sweet icing on a cake, it's the designer built-ins, like the modern-version of the buffet and hutch with mirrored back, the media centre and cosy kitchen bench seating that give the show home structure, focal points, as well as extra storage.

To this Brundell added large scale accessories, a dazzling orb chandelier made of interwoven fine glass strands and well-edited furniture like a reproduction Swan Chair, ribbed velvet sofa and glass dining table that accentuates the open floor plan.

Upstairs the sultry grey bedroom is dressed up with metallic grey panels made of faux-leather above the well-fluffed queen bed.

"Another helpful tip is to take a simple Ikea mattress and box spring, add a ready-made duvet from HomeSense and then vamp it up with custom pillows," shares Brundell.

Her secret formula certainly works - the space is luxurious and reminiscent of a glitzy French boudoir. Grey is the recurring theme, even in the kids' rooms, but with a surprising punch of colour. Pink and grey are fabulous in the little princess' room, while metallic grey Mickey Mouse wallpaper bedazzles the boy's bedroom with personality.

Be inspired. Visit Abbey Road's new show home, open daily (except Fridays) from noon to 5pm at 2469 164th St. in South Surrey. Concept to Design and their portfolio of staged homes is on the web at www.concepttodesign.ca.

Call it a coincidence or calculated move, this season we're seeing shades of grey on more than just book shelves. When it comes to home decor, grey is metamorphosing into a deep, dark and alluring palette that looks especially sensational when hit with a sassy shade of yellow.

Grey and yellow. This might seem like an odd combination at first, but once you see them paired in living colour within this show home you're sure to agree the duo creates instant electricity as they mingle from room to room.

"Yellow brings out the cool tones in the grey and the grey soothes the brightness of the yellow," says Brundell, as though she's describing a match-made-in-heaven. "The palette can be used in any room for instant personality."

When decorating, shop with a purpose.

Keep focussed with your colour palette in mind.

Wallpaper makes a big statement throughout the home - in the bathrooms, and as a feature wall in the living room. Its neutral base is contrasted with blocks of vibrant yellow horizontal stripes that are echoed in the custom drapery and toss pillows. For trend-spotters, the flame-stitch pattern fabric (mimicking needlepoint embroidery stitch with zigzag lines) used for the drapes and cushions takes a modern twist of fate.

"As soon as we spotted the yellow, grey and black flame stitch fabric we took one look at each other and



Love the look? Here's where to source these fabulous show home finds:

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| MODULAR DESK:
Ikea | THREE-TIERED COFFEE TABLE:
Urban Barn |
| OFFICE CHAIRS:
Ikea | EAMES FIBREGLASS ROCKING CHAIR & SWAN CHAIR:
Rove Concepts |
| ART, ACCESSORIES AND BEDDING:
HomeSense | PATIO FURNITURE:
Pier 1 Imports |
| DINING ROOM CHANDELIER:
Pine Lighting | CUSHIONS AND CURTAINS:
Custom by Window Works, Richmond |
| DINING ROOM FURNITURE:
Moes Home Collection | BEDROOM FURNITURE:
Ikea |