



PROPERTY OF AZURE MAGAZINE

Some of IN8 Design's additions are subtle, including a brass-coated leaf inserted into the vintage dining table. Gold bowl by Tom Dixon, blue table lamp by Diesel with Foscarini, courtesy of Studio Pazo, Toronto.

→ A Paul Smith Swirl carpet (courtesy of Avenue Road) and Nada Deb's Pebble table tie together the room's yellows, oranges and browns. Dipinta Di Blu (black carbon fibre chair) by Marco Papa for Adele-C.

SHOCK FACTOR

IN8 Design sweetens a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto with unexpected hits of orange and yellow

By Alex Bozickovic / Photography by Bob Gundu and Paul Orenstein





↖↖ The bathrooms are colour blocked, one in yellow, the other in orange. The designer used miniature molten mosaic tiles from Trend USA in both rooms.

↑← Baltic birch in the foyer conceals shelving for a vast shoe collection. Above, a sandblasted panel slides open to reveal the kitchen.

IN MOST CITIES, APARTMENT TOWER INTERIORS are seen as bastions of feature-less boxes cloaked in humdrum tones. So it is rare to find a creative interior, never mind one that counters the trend with a blast of citrus yellow laminated millwork. A recent renovation by interior designer Michel Arcand of Toronto's IN8 Design is a sophisticated revision of a two-bedroom apartment with materials and details micro-tailored to the desires of a lively couple.

The owners moved in to the 149-square-metre space with their two teenagers eight years ago, and now, empty nesters, they were looking to upgrade their poorly detailed interior. Arcand's team left the floor plan as it was, with bedrooms at either end, making only a few incisions. The first is visible from the front entrance, with a sandblasted sliding panel that either hides or reveals the kitchen beyond, and lets natural light reach the entry from a full-height window.

Surfaces throughout were dramatically redrawn to make way for blocks of extremely bold colour. The first is vibrant panels of yellow-laminated plywood and Baltic birch that surround the kitchen on all sides, separating it from the living and dining areas. The colour carries over into the kitchen cabinetry with accent features, including cupboards and light fixtures, in

grey laminate. "It's like an iceberg in the middle of the room," Arcand says of the monolithic form that keeps dinner party kitchen messes out of sight.

The living room, with a floor of grey-stained white oak, provides a neutral backdrop for a collection of contemporary paintings and photography, and a Danish rosewood table that has been in the family since the '60s. Arcand had one leaf of the eight-seat table painted with two layers of lacquered brass leaf, to evoke one owner's occupation as a mining executive.

But the boldest moves happen in the suite's two small bathrooms, which share similar custom millwork and molten mosaic tiles: a teeth-jarring shade of yellow in the master bath, with the guest bath defined by an equally forward shade of orange.

Manufactured by Trend USA, the slip-resistant tiles are meant for outdoor pools. Countertops of white quartz by Cosentino and a conspicuously clean ceiling plane with concealed fans make a bit of room for the eye, but the effect is overwhelming, and deliberately so. "We know how we want to live," says one of the owners. "Every morning, I come in here, and it feels exactly right." Clearly, if the neighbours don't like it, she couldn't care less. **AZ** in8designinc.com



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Yellow cabinetry incorporates a backlit neon art piece by Orest Tataryn. Engineered white oak flooring by Baltic Wood, chair by B&B Italia and resin vase by Gaetano Pesce, courtesy of Studio Pazo, Toronto.