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Far From All Over

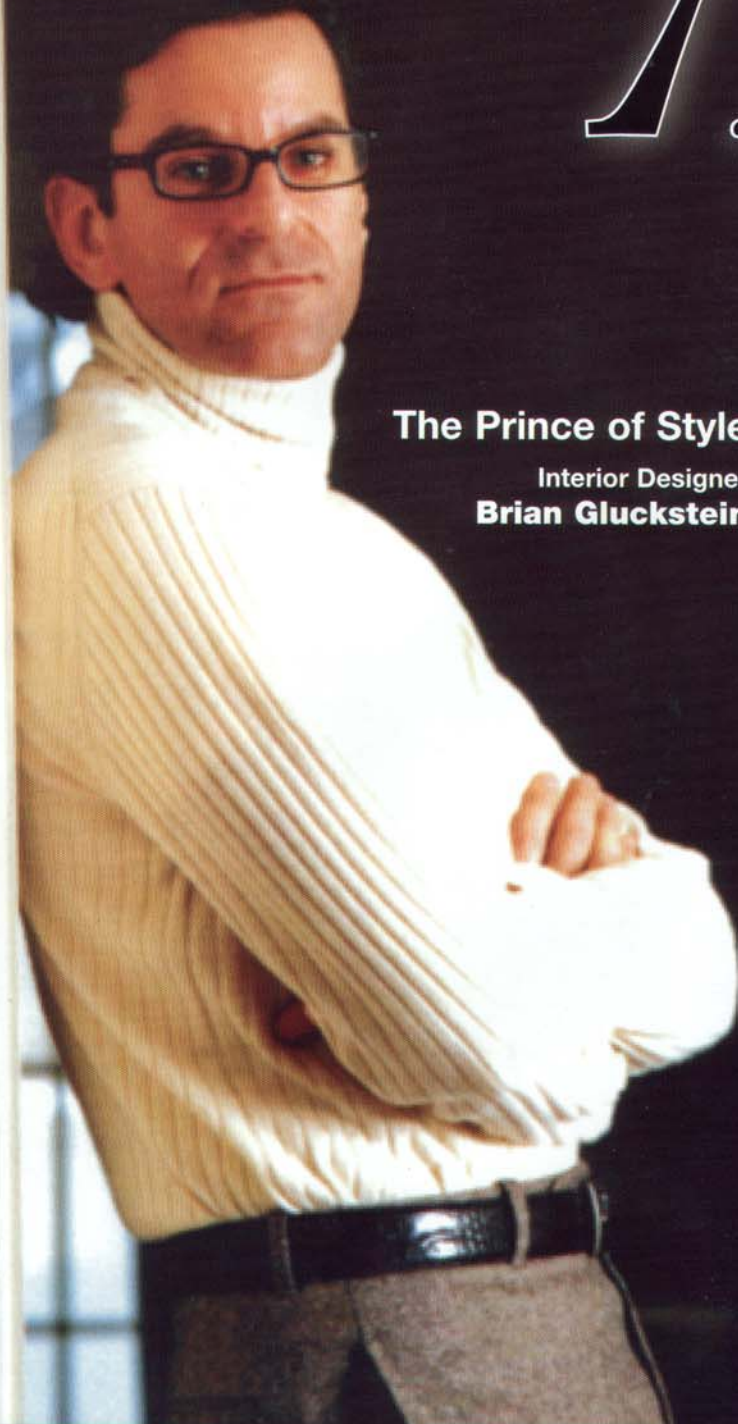
Portrait of Artist  
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A Conversation with  
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Travel Journal  
Gay Paree  
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The Prince of Style  
Interior Designer  
Brian Gluckstein



Special Feature: Toronto's Gay-Friendly Condo Guide

By: Sharon Nease

Many people think that loft or condominium living automatically means a modern approach to design that a downtown setting mandates a modern experience. Anita from Wiklém design inc. proves that this does not have to be the case. Through strategic design and planning, you can still enjoy the warmth and comfortable approach of house living in a condo space.

In designing this particular condo, Anita had the luxury of starting with an empty shell. She was able to meet with the client close to two years before they moved in and together they planned the design. From the beginning, they hooked into the synergy required by a long-term relationship and worked as a team.

When it came time to select the cabinets, flooring upgrades and finishings, they took existing elements from their current home into consideration. When the client had selected these basics, the second design phase included wall finishings, window treatments, furnishings and the finer details.

Every effort is made by builders to design condos and lofts that maximize space. So it is prudent to capitalize on this effort away when it comes to design.

One key design principle is to create a free flowing, seamless transition between rooms. This can be achieved by choosing colour palettes with the same tone that work together from room to room. For example, you wouldn't mix a buttery yellow colour with a jarring fire engine red. It is important that transition rooms are grounded from one room to the next by colour, design and details that when combined, enhance flow.

**Foyer** (right)

The first thing you notice about the foyer is the arresting emerald green granite floor. Not only does it provide depth for the space but it is a durable and practical choice. The walnut-coloured hardwood starts in hallway and continues throughout the house inviting guests to enter. The muted butternut paint immediately lends a sense of comfort and warmth. The accent tables also frame the foyer and lead the eye inside. Diamond wall paper and decorative mouldings and baseboards complete the space in elegant tradition.

# *Traditional* *goes* Transitional!





Photography courtesy of: John Trigiani



**Sitting Room** (top photo)

The theme for this room is classic comfort. Anita chose a dramatically different rug from the adjoining living room to divide the space but maintained the continuity through colour theming. The black background adds depth to the room and the drama sneaks up on you. The client selected the Luminette blinds for the soft look, privacy and light control.

Curved drapery treatment also adds soft tranquil feel to the room making the ceilings appear taller than their eight feet. Often, condos and lofts come with boxy airducts or bulkheads which are hard to work around. The challenge in this case was to minimize the vast height difference between the sliding door and the window to make it appear to be balanced. The valances were also at different heights.

Wiklém solved the problem by artfully adjusting the valance and height of the

blinds. You would never know by looking that there is a foot difference! The wooden table flanking the couch is a twist on tradition. It is open up without the heavy feel of a full cabinet and is decorated with funky artifacts.

**Dining Room** (above left)

Two French doors from the kitchen to the dining room. The client said that the goal of this room was to make it a majestic while maintaining a comfortable feel. A traditional country style rug was the initial inspiration for this room and is as a fitting contrast against the hardwood floor and dining room suite. The simple lines of dining room furniture make it equally suitable in a modern or traditional setting. The drapery fabric pattern ties in beautifully with the butternut and sage colour theme that is beginning to emerge throughout the condo.

**Kitchen** (above right)

The main hall leads to the corridor-style kitchen and pantry. Right away you notice that the 12 x 12 floor tiles are laid on the diamond for the illusion of space.

The diamond motif is also transferred to the backsplash. The cabinets pick up the hardwood floor colouring for a sense of flow and continuity. The earth tones in counter tops and striped wallpaper are designed to harmonize with the wood floors.

The roman window blind, also striped, brings in a comfortable casual feel and just the right amount of light. Stainless steel appliance and door hardware give a modern contemporary look to the kitchen. A new table was added to existing chairs and accessories as a focal point for the kitchen.



**Main Floor**

**Powder Room** (left)

This room, in essence, completes the circle of the condo. Right away the rich, jewelled green wall and tiling are a recognizable uptake from the foyer granite. The gold scripting in the wallpaper ties in with the gold leaf mirror and even the butternut paint in the adjoining hallway.

**Ensuite Bathroom** (right)

The free flowing wallpaper creates a spacious feel in the ensuite bath because it has the optical illusion of depth. The area rug, linens and accessories bring punch and interest to the white cabinets. A mini-glass menagerie displays collectibles in a room where you wouldn't normally find them.



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