

avenue

A New Hope

Is Edmonton ready for Syrian refugees?

Mad Mac (DeMarco)

Eccentric musician has eclectic Edmonton roots

Karla Billey
Etienne Grossi
Karolin Métivier
Dawn Stiles

FAB4 DESIGNERS
SHOW OFF THEIR
STANDOUT PROJECTS

DECOR

KARLA BILLEY'S FAVOURITE ROOM

Living Room, Downtown 12-Floor Condo

The prairies and the fjords came together when Karla Billey's clients asked her to decorate their 12th-floor condominium a couple of years ago.

"The client is Scandinavian, so she actually thought about colours that reminded her of being back home and living there," says Billey, who has 20 years of experience in the interior design field. "She thought of the greys, the neutrals, and then she thought of some of the colours that actually are here on the prairies that reminded her of some of that as well, the tans. It was actually ahead of trend in terms of putting greys into a space."

Working in those neutral tones — like white, grey, black and tan — might be challenging to some designers, but Billey says it comes naturally to her.

"I think it's because of the gradation of colour and the different textures you need to use within [that palette]," she says.

The living room of the condo might be small, but it feels much larger due to the floor-to-ceiling windows. The northwest-facing view they provide of the city "makes the room," Billey says.

Another central piece in the room is a custom-made area rug that Billey first sketched and painted by hand, and became reality thanks to Monson's Carpet Finishing, a local company.

"A lot of times, area rugs only come in certain sizes; you can have them cut down and bound depending on the pattern. But we wanted something unique to just them."

—Glenn Cook



"It was actually ahead of trend in terms of putting greys into a space."



SOURCE LIST

Grey velvet sofas, leather accent chairs, floor lamps and end table, all from McEhran's Fine Furniture; coffee table, glass end tables and sofa table, all from Posh Interiors; area rug designed by Karla Billey and produced by Monson's Carpet Finishing; silk drapes, roller shades and toss cushions, all custom designed.



photography by Curtis Comeau
hair and makeup by Jasmine Ming-Wai Ma

ROOMS TO REMEMBER

Creatives of all sorts keep portfolios of their work: Photographers and illustrators have albums full of their photos and drawings. Musicians keep demo reels.

For interior designers, though, it's a bit trickier. You can't just pick up a room from someone else's home and put it in your pocket. For them, favourite projects live on in photographs or in memories.

This month, though, we asked four local interior designers to revisit their favourite projects and tell us why they were so special to them. Their reasons vary just as widely as their aesthetics and design choices, but it's clear that, when inspiration strikes, some truly beautiful — and memorable — rooms can be the result. ▶

