

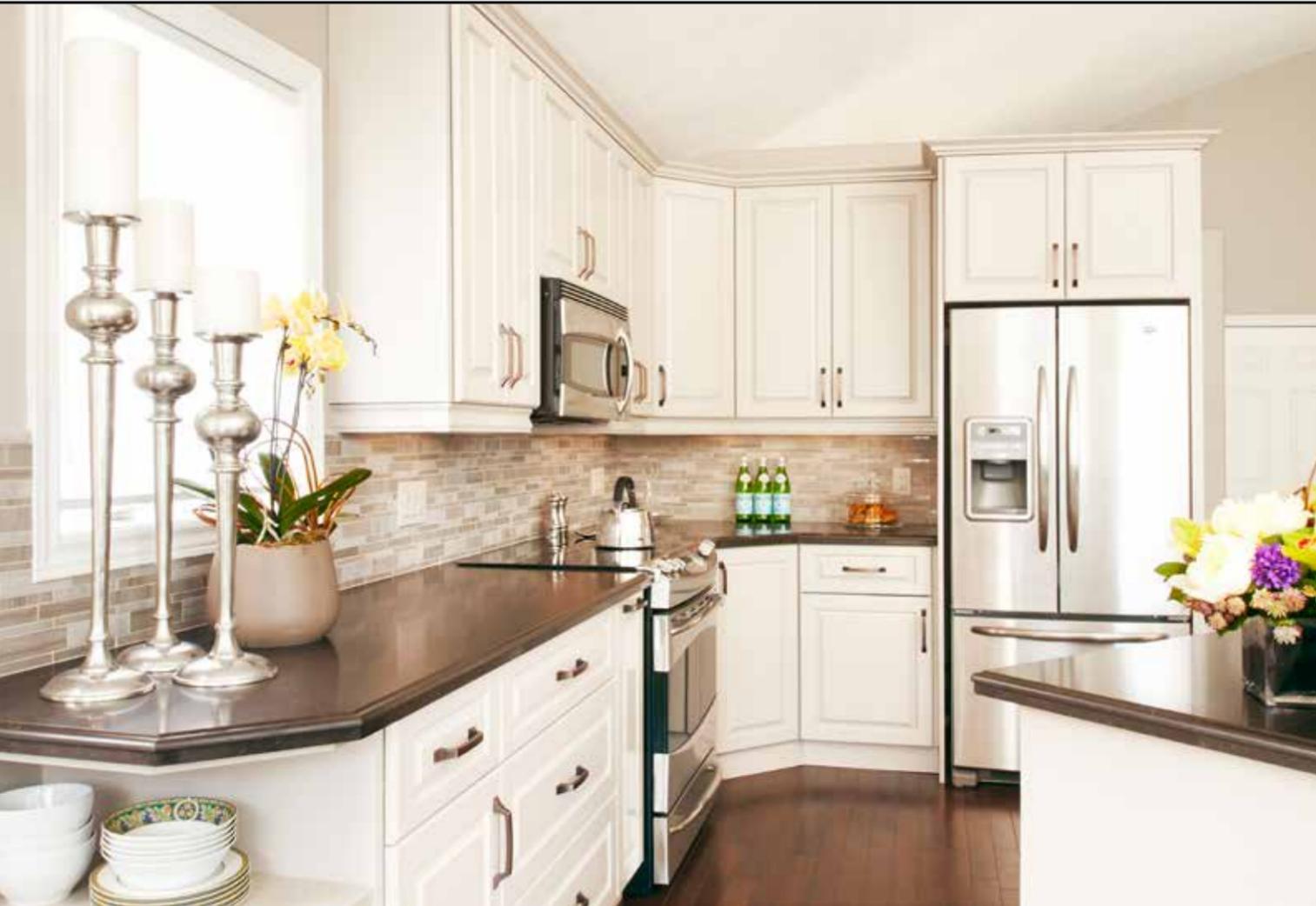
# *kitchen* CONFIDENTIAL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAE PHOTOGRAPHY

STORY BY SARAH ST. AMAND

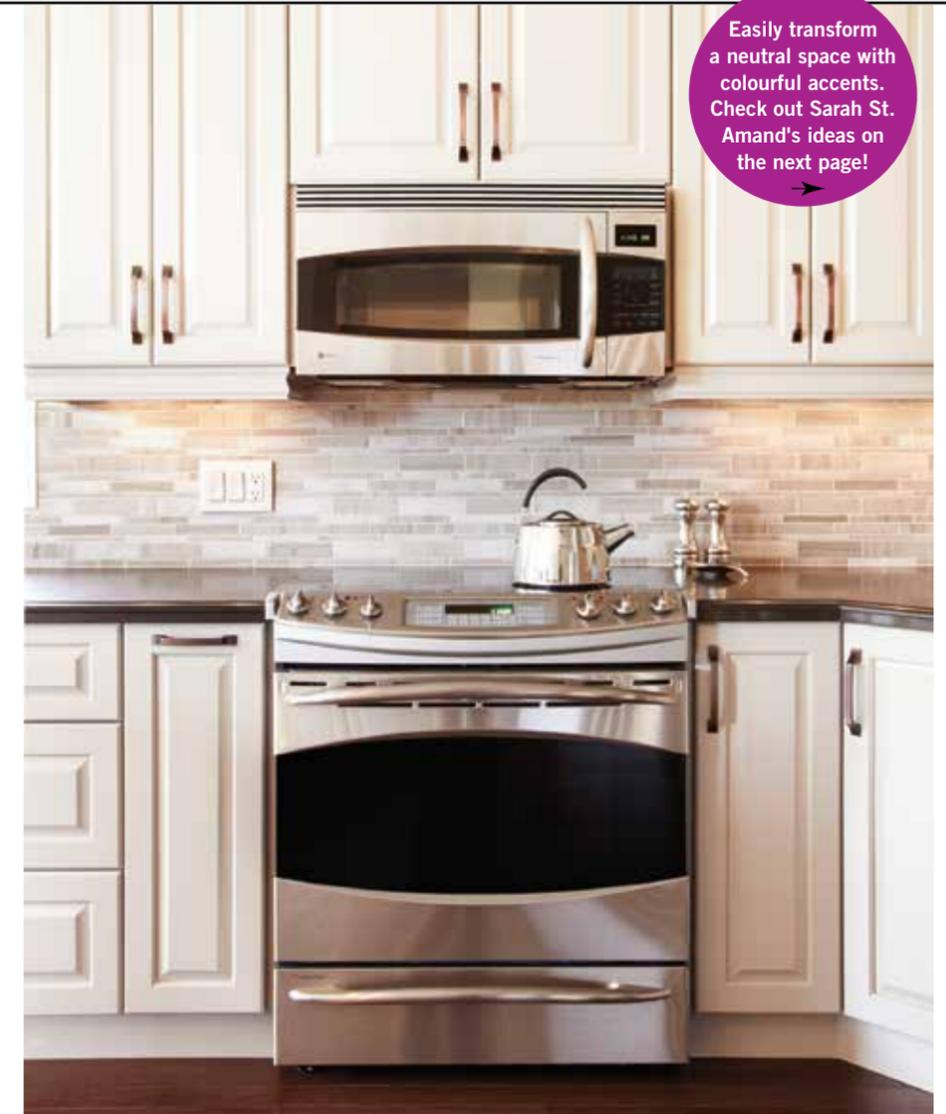
Whether you are renovating or simply refreshing a kitchen, hiring a professional will help facilitate the journey to kitchen fabulousness





entertain their guests was also on the wish list. Low-maintenance surface materials was also vital so I was able to recommend products like quartz for the countertop and a Blanco Silgranit drop-in sink as it is both durable and scratch-resistant.

The homeowners wanted an understated kitchen so I recommended paint-grade cabinetry in a neutral colour creating a more customized, timeless look. A neutral kitchen is always an excellent choice because it allows for colourful accents or trendy details in the drapery, backsplash or small accessories; offering the ability to transform the look without changing the cabinetry. The esthetic of the kitchen is a reflection of the homeowners' personality and lifestyle. It's my privilege on every design project, kitchens and beyond, to tailor the final result to the people who live, laugh and love in their home and that includes a fabulous kitchen to entertain in, cook, dine and enjoy, stress-free.



Easily transform a neutral space with colourful accents. Check out Sarah St. Amand's ideas on the next page!

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Did you know that renovating a kitchen is one of the most stressful home improvement projects for a homeowner? This is because the choices involved are endless, and oftentimes people don't have any idea where to start. Such was the case with these clients, who realized that in order to eliminate the stress of the many decisions involved and to avoid the pitfalls of making expensive mistakes, that they would need to bring in a designer for direction. As a design professional, I love the challenge of coming up with a unique solution to suit the needs and function for each client.

When a client is overwhelmed with the remodelling of their dated kitchen, my job as a designer is to make the process as painless as possible. In this case, the clients wanted their kitchen to be a comfortable and functional space that would coordinate well with their adjoining

living area in their open-concept space. The right kitchen cabinetry can make or break your kitchen's functionality and style—not to mention the cost can easily go over the budget, so I carefully consider all these factors. And there are so many choices when it comes to the details; from shaker to flat-panel doors, corbels to aprons, glass knobs or recessed pulls—are you confused already?

Hiring a designer and a team of professionals will definitely help with the process of narrowing down choices and provide insight into some features and finish options that you may not have considered or even knew existed. It's essential to think about the elements of the design that are most important, and in this kitchen it was key for the homeowner to have a raised island that would conceal any mess to the open-concept living space beyond. Comfortable seating to



PB Classic Linen Napkins (monogramming available; set of 4 from \$47), potterybarn.com



Martillo Square Dinnerware in Sage (sold separately; from \$7), Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca



Fire Woven Placemat (\$5.95); Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca



KitchenAid Stand Mixer in Aqua Sky (\$499.99), kitchenaid.com



### INSTANT UPDATES

When I design interiors, especially kitchens, I like to think in terms of longevity. When homeowners tire of their original choices, it's typically not in their budget to make significant changes to the layout and cabinets. Some simple, budget-friendly solutions to switch up the look could include a fresh coat of paint, reupholstered seating in a different fabric, and the addition of some colourful, new accessories.



For walls, try Palladian Blue (HC-144) Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca

For trim, Cloud White (OC-130) Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca



Le Creuset Classic Whistling Kettle in Cherry (\$100), lecreuset.ca



Customize this Banquette stool by Gresham House Furniture (available through a designer, greshamhousefurniture.com) with a combination of coordinating fabrics by Robert Allen: Courtyard Vine in Blossom; Merona in Alpine; Kyle James in Cloud, robertalldesign.com

Designer Sarah St. Amand, principal/owner of GTA-based Sarah St. Amand Interior Design, specializes in residential and commercial design projects of all sizes and scope. She has made appearances on Citytv's CityLine and has gained national recognition for her design work. For more information, visit stamanddesign.com