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# HOUSE & HOME

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# Dressing DOWN

A CALGARY COUPLE REAPS  
BIG RESULTS DOWNSIZING  
FROM A TRADITIONAL FAMILY  
HOME TO A SLEEK NEW  
INNER-CITY TOWNHOUSE.

*Text by Amanda Graves  
Photography by Bruce Edward*

The living room's sleek lines are offset by warm, inviting colours and plenty of light. A built-in cherry cabinet beside the fireplace complements its contemporary design. Sofa, chairs, vase, Douglas Cridland Interior Design; fireplace, Diamond Fireplace & Stone; ink on paper by John Heward, Paul Kuhn Gallery; bronze sculpture by William McElcheran, Masters Gallery; wall colour, Oak Flats (8684M), General Paint.



Architect Jeremy Sturgess says the interior plan's central kitchen, which serves as the meeting point, was designed to maximize space and flexibility. Countertop, Porter Tile & Marble; barstools, Douglas Cridland Interior Design; paintings by Stuart Oxley, Paul Kuhn Gallery.

**BELOW:** In the dining area, designer Douglas Cridland juxtaposed traditional chairs from the owner's previous home with a contemporary glass and steel table. Dining chairs, mirror, William Switzer & Associates; table, credenza, driftwood sculpture, Douglas Cridland Interior Design; light fixture, LightSpan.

**In our current** age of condo booms and continued inner-city regeneration, urban downsizing has become downright stylish. Certainly, that was the case for this Calgary couple, whose children had grown and gone. Downsizing meant saying goodbye to their large, eclectic family home and hello to a dynamic, streamlined contemporary townhouse in an intriguing new inner-city development by Jeremy Sturgess, a Calgary architect they had actually worked with on a previous home. It also meant a call to designer and longtime friend Douglas Cridland. "He's always had a hand in what we've done," one owner explains. "We've known Doug for 40 years."

With its clean lines, sophisticated architecture and an abundance of natural light, the open, airy main floor of this townhouse (the development's model suite) was what really caught the couple's eye. "But we wanted to warm it up," says the owner. "So we worked with the lines of what was already here... because the space *was* well-considered."

Cridland agrees: "The inspiration for the interior design came from the architecture," he says. "The space had good





**LEFT:** The second-floor office, which is the owner's favourite room, overlooks the living room below. Originally an empty landing, it was newly outfitted with a built-in desk and cabinetry. Desk, desk chair, cabinetry, Douglas Cridland Interior Design; armchair, William Switzer & Associates.

**ABOVE:** The second floor originally housed the principal suite but is now a private retreat for guests, complete with a luxurious ensuite bath. Fixtures, The Royal Flush Bath Boutique and Plumbing Showroom; etchings by Thelma Manarey.

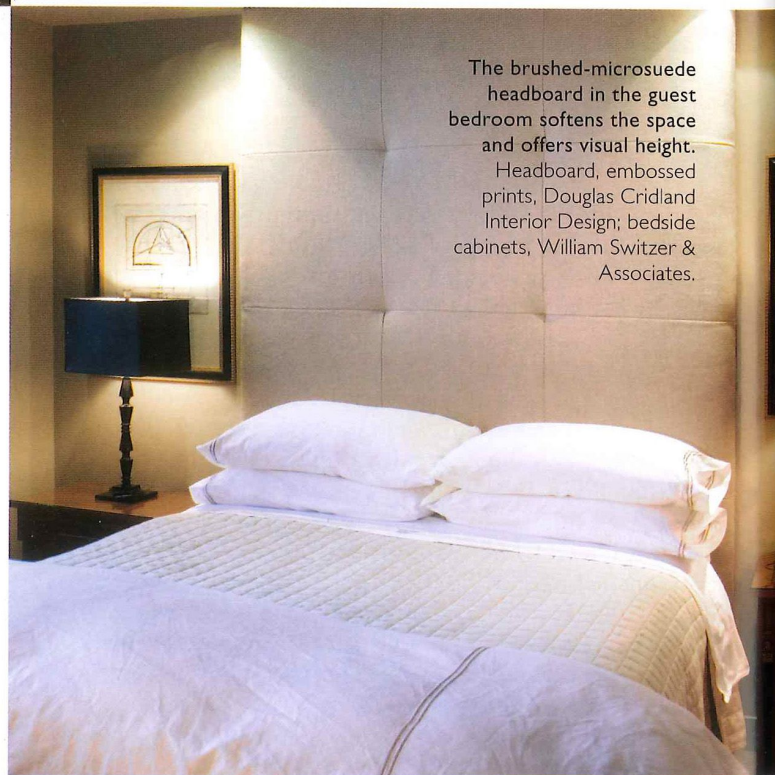
bones. We really just used what was there to start with and took it to another level.”

While the couple was happy with the contemporary aesthetic of the house, they wanted to reconfigure some of the spaces to fit their new empty-nester lifestyle. Case in point, the second floor was originally designed as the principal suite; however, the bedroom didn't comfortably fit a king-sized bed. So they gutted the top floor, which housed two bedrooms and a bathroom, and incorporated an ample principal bedroom and bath there instead.

With the couple's quarters on the top floor, the second floor was turned into a private retreat for guests. With family in Ottawa, the owners host overnight visitors several times a year.

Details such as oversized brushed-microsuede headboards in the bedrooms introduce a sense of luxury. “I like things that are unexpected,” says Cridland. “Putting something overscaled in a more intimate space is unexpected. It also visually offers the illusion of height.”

On the main floor, the homeowners kept the open design of the kitchen, dining and living areas. “We do



The brushed-microsuede headboard in the guest bedroom softens the space and offers visual height. Headboard, embossed prints, Douglas Cridland Interior Design; bedside cabinets, William Switzer & Associates.