

FRESH START

homeowner Single mom Janet, 40, and her children, six-year-old Pauline and nine-year-old John **reason to buy** Recently divorced; needs new family home



Interior designer Linda Gallo, InSight Design Group, Vancouver



Style at Home What was your goal?

Linda Gallo We wanted Janet's home to be comfy and welcoming for her and her kids, and a statement of her style – soft, quiet elegance.

S@H What was vital for this design?

LG That it feel fresh, and that the colours be soft and muted. The city of White Rock, where the townhouse is located, is close to the beach, so we wanted to have a surf-and-sand theme, without going over the top.

S@H Why are materials and texture such a large part of the decor?

LG Because the colours we chose are quiet, texture creates visual interest. Combining a lot of textures and different types of materials – from canvas to wood to metal – warms and cosies up the interior, making it feel more like a home than just a design space.

S@H How did you use art?

LG Here, the pieces are statements of Janet's freedom and independence. The bold movement and drama of the artwork assert that she's looking for a new start and a new life for herself and her two children.

TOP LEFT Used as a centrepiece, this vase by Martha Sturdy "adds a wonderful shot of colour to the table," says interior designer Linda Gallo of InSight Design Group.



TOP RIGHT Designed as a quiet space for Janet to unwind, the living room has a relaxed yet sophisticated air thanks to Barbara Barry chairs, a glass-top coffee table and a tailored slipcovered sofa.



BOTTOM LEFT Chosen for what Linda calls its "strength and drama," a landscape by Luc Bernard takes centre stage in the living room and underscores the coastal theme. Built-in cabinetry flanking the fireplace adds storage and balances both sides of the room.



BOTTOM RIGHT Plush cotton bedding, a woven headboard and a glass-base table lamp create an inviting oasis in the master bedroom. The painting is by Jane Brookes.



OPPOSITE Aiming for "a lack of formality," Linda decided against a matching look in the dining room; instead, she chose a cherry table that coordinates with the floor, and upholstered chairs with white frames. A chandelier finishes the decor. ▷

how to *personalize an interior*

"Every element of the decor should capture the passions of the people who live there." LINDA GALLO, INSIGHT DESIGN GROUP