

CANADIAN

NOVEMBER 2020

HOUSE & HOME

Winter Magic

CHRISTMAS IN CANADA: PHILIP MITCHELL IN CHESTER, N.S. • AMI MCKAY IN VANCOUVER
DEB NELSON IN HALIFAX • NANCY LOCKHART IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE... AND MORE!

100+

DECORATING
IDEAS

HOLIDAY
CRAFTS

STYLING
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A 1790s CHARLESTON
HOUSE GETS A
TOMMY SMYTHE REDO

plus

THE SECRET TO
THE BEST HOLIDAY
BIRD EVER

Instead of a front hall, a striking panelled dining room leads on to the rest of the house, enfilade style. **Chandelier**, Bijan Royal; antique **dining chairs**, Of Things Past.

'TIS THE SEASON

A HISTORICAL NOVA SCOTIA HOME IS A STORYBOOK SETTING FOR DECKING THE HALLS.

Design by **PHILIP MITCHELL** | Text by **ARREN WILLIAMS** | Photography by **JANET KIMBER**



A roaring fire keeps the chill at bay on Philip Mitchell (left) and Mark Narsansky's covered portico, just off the living room.

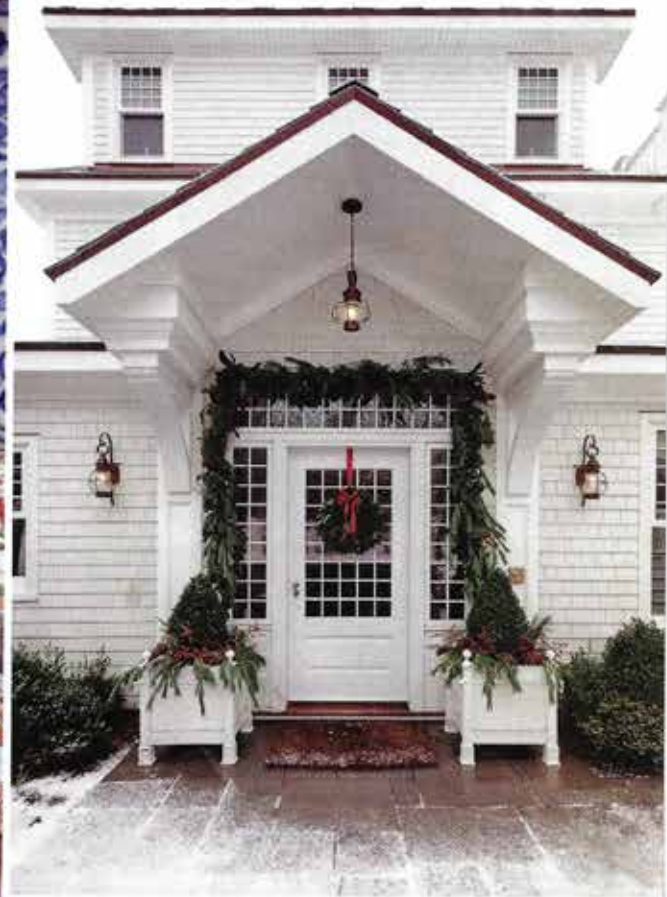
EVEN WITH OFFICES IN NEW YORK AND TORONTO, clients all over the continent and a book for Rizzoli on the way, Philip Mitchell prefers to spend most of his time ensconced in the quaintly named White Cottage. He shares this rambling home in the village of Chester, N.S., with his husband, advertising executive Mark Narsansky, and their two butter-wouldn't-melt Ganaraskans, Jacob and Wylo. I caught up with the renowned designer while he was setting the table for dinner guests (one of his favourite things to do) and we chatted about design, restoring old homes and how to get ready for the holidays.



A maximalist Christmas tree has pride of place next to the living room fireplace. Philip and Mark proudly display locally made ornaments on its branches. **Armchairs**, George Smith; **jute rug** by Stark, Elle.



LEFT: Mark's snow globe collection creates a whimsical holiday moment on a vintage table in the living room.



Q&A

ARREN WILLIAMS: Tell me all about this gorgeous house! Did you renovate?

PHILIP MITCHELL: This place is super traditional, mainly because it was built in 1795 and we wanted to honour the history of the home. The house has Cape Cod touches, even Georgian aspects, but there was a lot we wanted to change. It was definitely a fun project. The kitchen was originally in the basement, so the house was basically disassembled during the renovation, then catalogued and assessed to see what could be reused. Everything was stored in nine storage units, including all the old wall and ceiling joists that were sent to a millwork company, milled down and turned into decorative panelling. Even though the reno took almost three times as long and cost three times as much, we're so happy in the end!

TOP RIGHT: For the festive season, the side lights flanking the front door are accented with classic evergreen garlands, and berries are added to the boxwood planters. **Lantern**, sconces, Cape Cod Lanterns; **planters**, RH.

BOTTOM RIGHT: For even more Christmas cheer, Philip dresses all the gates on their property with an evergreen wreath and red ribbon.

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**"BOTH OF US ARE COOKS,
SO WE MADE SURE THE KITCHEN
WAS THE HEART OF THE HOME"**

TOP LEFT: "We have three bars in the house, and everything is always stocked," says Philip. "We love classic martinis, but we have anything from champagne to Chablis on hand to keep our guests happy." **Curtain fabric**, Primavera Interior Furnishings.

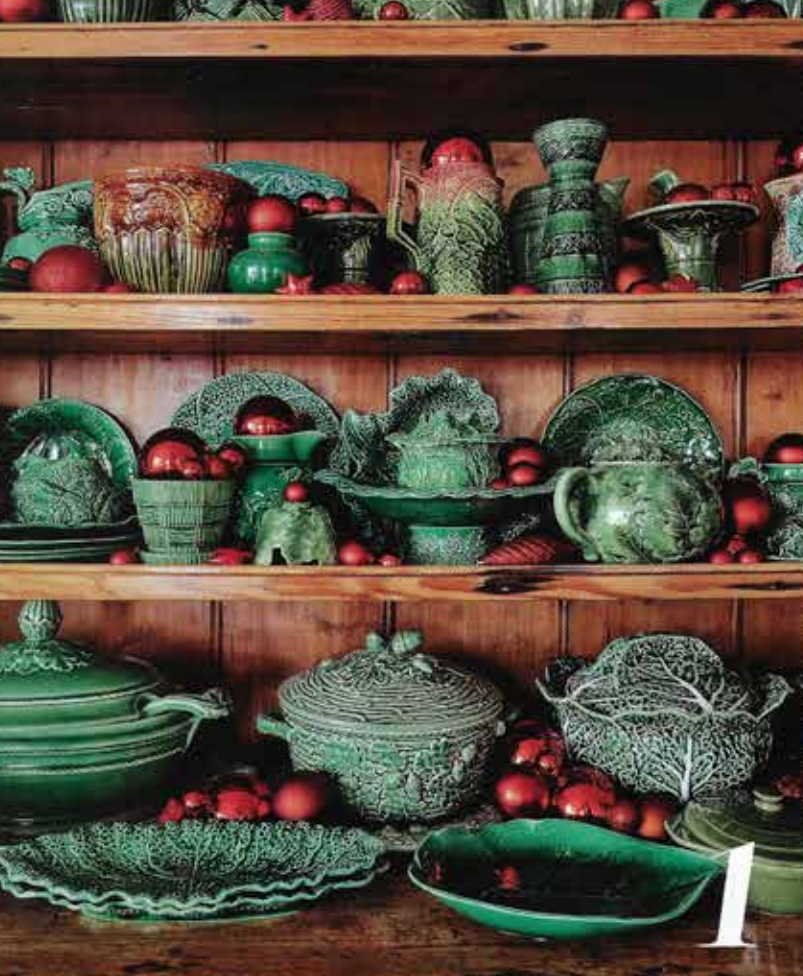
BOTTOM RIGHT: The kitchen includes plenty of space for baking and entertaining. **Ceiling fixtures**, Cape Cod Lanterns; custom **pot rack**, Ann Morris Lighting; open rack **hutch** (right), 1stdibs; **trim and painted cabinet colour**, Dune White (CC-70), Benjamin Moore.

OPPOSITE: Upper cabinets were sacrificed to make room for the sink and banquette, with the latter designed to offer spectacular views across the water. Custom **pendant** (right), Urban Electric Co.; **table**, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; custom **banquette**, CCI Custom Furnishings.

RIGHT: Mark's love of baking knows no bounds. In fact, he's working on a cookbook (his specialties include chocolate butter tarts and shortbread).

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HOLIDAY STYLE STEAL

1. Happy Hitch

Give open storage a holiday spin by adding red baubles to your collection of dishes. Here, emerald green antique Majolica ware, mid-century finds and ceramics from Portugal and Spain are bejewelled with ornaments for a dash of Christmas style.

2. Festive Tablesetting

Dress your table with mix-and-match china, vintage cranberry glassware and simple roses in bud vases to up the seasonal vibe.

3. Special Collectibles

The holidays are a perfect time to display cherished items like a collection of new and antique rolling pins or a set of well-loved copper cookware.

The antique games table comfortably hosts smaller get-togethers (or Scrabble and backgammon tournaments) during the holidays. **Pendant**, Urban Electric Co., **rug**, Elle.



AW: The kitchen was really in the basement?

PM: Yes! The only thing that was upstairs was a servery that connected to the kitchen below, which obviously didn't suit us. We wanted a large family-style kitchen; both of us are cooks and Mark is an incredible baker, so we made sure the kitchen was the heart of the home. We also wanted to take advantage of the view. The prime spot is a big banquette built into the bay window that overlooks the ocean.

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AW: I love that the living room is so layered; how did you create the look?

PM: I'm a huge textile person. I love anything touched by hand, like embroidery and block-printing, and, of course, I love antique textiles, too. I don't buy things because something goes with them, I buy things because I love them. If I respond to a certain textile, I just have to have it. Most of the pieces in this house, especially anything upholstered,



While much of the house is light and bright, Philip chose a richer, darker palette in the powder room. An old chest was repurposed as a vanity. *Blind and curtain fabric, Lee Jofa.*

were already in a certain fabric, and we just made it work. The one sofa we made has the Aerin Lauder zigzag fabric from Lee Jofa, but that was the only new piece; the rest we just had. We have two dogs, and things do wear. Visitors often remark on the mix of patterns and how the house feels so comfortable.

AW: *Getting ready for the holidays takes some planning. What are your tricks?*

PM: The collections start to come out at the beginning of December, like the nutcrackers and snow globes, and the Victorian feather tree goes up in Mark's painting studio. We're totally "real" people: we love real Christmas trees, and fresh garlands and magnolia leaves. But because of that, they only last so long. We bring in the trees a week before Christmas, give them time for the branches to fall, then we'll start to decorate.

AW: *And what's your idea of the perfect host gift?*

PM: I always say to people, just bring something baked that you've made yourself, or even bought. And rather than buying something elaborate and expensive, if someone shows up with a beautiful piece of Roquefort, it's such a nice token! **H&H**



The bedroom is a medley of pale neutral tones to keep the focus on the antique pine mantel, a favourite piece that Philip had built into the space. *Ceiling fixture, RomEla Antique Lighting; armchairs, Lee Jofa.*
OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: While things are quieter during the winter, come summertime, the wharf is where dinner guests moor their boats.
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: Even Mark's painting studio is decorated for the holidays. "Our guests often like to wander the house," says Philip. *Curtain fabric, Primavera Interior Furnishings.*



Natural Cream (OC-14), Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898 or benjaminmoore.ca; embroidered throw pillows, beads (on coffee table), Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com; armchairs, Target, target.com; drapery, Ikea, 1-866-866-IKEA or ikea.ca.

Page 57: Christmas tree: Sofa, Brentwood Classics, (905) 761-0195 or brentwoodclassics.com; rug, coffee table, Wayfair Canada, wayfair.ca; stockings, Etsy, etsy.ca.

Page 58: Dining area: Custom dining table, Third Line Enterprise, (226) 750-3074 or thirdlineenterprise.ca; dining chairs, Target, target.com; pendants, CB2, cb2.ca; light grey throw pillow, Yantzi Home Centre, (519) 655-2014; dark grey pillow, Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com; candlesticks, candles, Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com.

Page 59: China cabinet: Trim colour, Natural Cream (OC-14), cabinet colour, Dark Olive (2140-30), Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898 or benjaminmoore.ca.

Page 60: Principal bedroom: Bed frame, table lamps, Ikea, 1-866-866-IKEA or ikea.ca; rug, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca; sconce, Yantzi Home Building Centre, (519) 655-2014; wool throw, accent pillows, candle (on side table), Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com.

Page 61: Laundry: Tile, Olympia Tile & Stone, 1-800-268-1613 or olympiatile.com; sconce, Amazon, amazon.ca; art, LD Shoppe, ldshoppe.com. **Bathroom:** Tile, Olympia Tile & Stone, 1-800-268-1613 or olympiatile.com; vanity, faucet, Ikea, 1-866-866-IKEA or ikea.ca; mirror, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; pendants, Amazon, amazon.ca; basket (on vanity), Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com;

hand soap, Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com; hand towel, VdeV Maison, (647) 348-3381, (514) 277-8484 or vdevmaison.com. **Page 62: Boys' bedroom:** Bed frames, The Novogratz, thenovogratz.com; nightstand, Ikea, 1-866-866-IKEA or ikea.ca; wall colour, Steep Cliff Gray (2122-20), Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898 or benjaminmoore.ca. **Page 63: Side entrance:** Mirror, One of a Kind Antique Mall, (519) 539-9563 or oneofakindantiquemail.com; runner, beaded garland (in bowl), Wills & Prior, (519) 273-0202 or willsandprior.com.



'TIS THE SEASON

Pages 70 to 79

Design, Philip Mitchell, philipmitchelldesign.com, (416) 364-0414 or philipmitchelldesign.com.

Page 70: Dining room: Chandelier, Bijan Royal, (212) 533-6390; antique dining chairs, Of Things Past, (416) 256-9256 or ofthingspast.com; chair back upholstery fabric, Brunswick & Fils, 1-800-538-1880 or brunswick.com; florals, Flowers, Flowers of Chester, (902) 275-5707 or flowersofchesterltd.net.

Page 72: Living room: Armchairs, George Smith, georgesmith.com; jute rug by Stark, Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com;

CONTINUED

wall and trim colour, Dune White (CC-70), Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898 or benjaminmoore.ca. **Page 73: Front door:** Lantern, sconces, Cape Cod Lanterns, capecodlanterns.com; planters, RH, 1-800-910-9836 or rh.com. **Page 74: Kitchen banquette:** Custom pendant (right), Urban Electric Co., (843) 723-8140 or urbanelectricco.com; table, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture, (416) 322-0927 or sharonodowd.com; custom banquette, CCI Custom Furnishings, (905) 669-3963; pendant shade fabric, Kravet Canada (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or kravetcanada.com.

Page 75: Bar: Curtain fabric, Primavera Interior Furnishings (to the trade), (416) 921-3334 or primavera.ca; curtain fabrication, Kingswood Drapery Service, (416) 633-1103. **Kitchen:** Ceiling fixtures, Cape Cod Lanterns, capecodlanterns.com; custom pot rack, Ann Morris Lighting, annmorrislighting.com; open rack hutch (right), 1stdibs, 1stdibs.com; antique dough bowl, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture, (416) 322-0927 or sharonodowd.com; trim and painted cabinet colour, Dune White (CC-70), Benjamin Moore, 1-800-361-5898 or benjaminmoore.ca. **Page 77: Antique games table:** Pendant, Urban Electric Co., (843) 723-8140 or urbanelectricco.com; rug, Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com. **Page 78:**

Powder room: Blind and curtain fabric, Lee Jofa (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or leejofa.com; curtain fabrication, Kingswood Drapery Service, (416) 633-1103; blind trim, Primavera Interior Furnishings (to the trade), (416) 921-3334 or primavera.ca. **Painting studio:** Curtain fabric, Primavera Interior Furnishings (to the trade), (416) 921-3334 or primavera.ca.

Page 79: Bedroom: Ceiling fixture, RomEla Antique Lighting, (416) 544-1938 or romelaantiquelighting.com; armchairs, Lee Jofa (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or leejofa.com.



GRAND GESTURES

Pages 86 to 93

Design, Tommy Smythe and Lindsay Mens Craig, TOM, thisistom.ca; architecture, Julia F Martin Architects, jfmarchitects.com; contracting, Harper James Finucan, Charleston, S.C., (843) 577-4477; construction project manager, Haskins Howerton; project manager and design assistant, Haley Dermenjian, TOM, thisistom.ca; local design coordinator, Melissa Lenox, melissalenox.com; custom

mirror, Robert Hines, oldmirrorglass.com; fireplace mantel carver, Mary May's School of Traditional Woodcarving, marymaycarving.com; drapery, Wesley Seto Design, (416) 538-3223; furniture refinishing, Robert Sarco Restorations, facebook.com/RobertSarco54, and Aubrey Brackett Fine Finishes, facebook.com/AubreyBrackettFineFinishes; furniture reupholstering, Powell's Upholstery, powellsupholsteryllc.com, and Windsor House Furniture, (905) 738-6800; marble and counter manufacturer, World Granite, worldgranitecharleston.com; art framing, Wilfred Spoon, wilfredspoon.com.

Page 86: Banquette area: Chandelier, wicker chairs, Foxglove Antiques & Galleries, foxgloveantiques.com; table, Carrocel Interiors, (416) 999-2525 or carrocel.com; brick flooring, Creekside Tile Company, (416) 256-3800 or creeksidetile.com. **Page 87: Kitchen refrigerator:** Refrigerator pull, The Door Store, (416) 863-1590 or thedoorstore.ca; drawer latches, Rejuvenation, rejuvenation.com; lantern, The Antique and Artisan Gallery, theantiqueandartisangallery.com; runner, J&D Oriental Rugs Co., jdorientalrugs.com; flush-mount light fixture by Thomas O'Brien, Circa Lighting, 1-877-762-2323 or circalighting.com.

Kitchen fireplace: Counter (left), Caesarstone, caesarstone.ca; armchair, ottoman, John Derian Dry Goods, johnderian.com; loop pulls (on island), The Door Store, (416) 863-1590 or thedoorstore.ca. **Page 88: Dining area:** Dining table, Alexandra Antiques, alexandraantiques.com; dining chairs, ginger jars, Seventeen South Antiques, antiquescharleston.com; chair upholstery fabric, Kravet Canada (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or kravetcanada.com.

Page 89: Living area: Sofas, Acquisitions Interiors, acquisitionsinteriors.com; sunburst mirror, armchairs, white table lamp (background, left), Foxglove Antiques & Galleries, foxgloveantiques.com. **Entry:** Grasscloth, Kravet Canada (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or kravetcanada.com; sideboard, 1stdibs, 1stdibs.com; runner, J&D Oriental Rugs Co. jdorientalrugs.com; lantern, Jamb, jamb.co.uk; wainscotting colour, School House White (291), Farrow & Ball, 1-877-363-1040 or farrow-ball.com. **Page 90: Principal bedroom sitting area:** Lantern, Foxglove Antiques & Galleries, foxgloveantiques.com; wallpaper, Farrow & Ball, 1-877-363-1040 or farrow-ball.com; bed frame, Chairish, chairish.com; custom duvet bedding fabric, Kravet Canada (to the trade), 1-800-535-3258 or kravetcanada.com; coffee table, Acquisitions Interiors, acquisitionsinteriors.com; vintage rug, J&D Oriental Rugs Co., jdorientalrugs.com; sisal rug, Elte, (416) 785-7885 or elte.com.

Twin beds guest bedroom: Wallpaper, Schumacher, fschumacher.com; bed frames,