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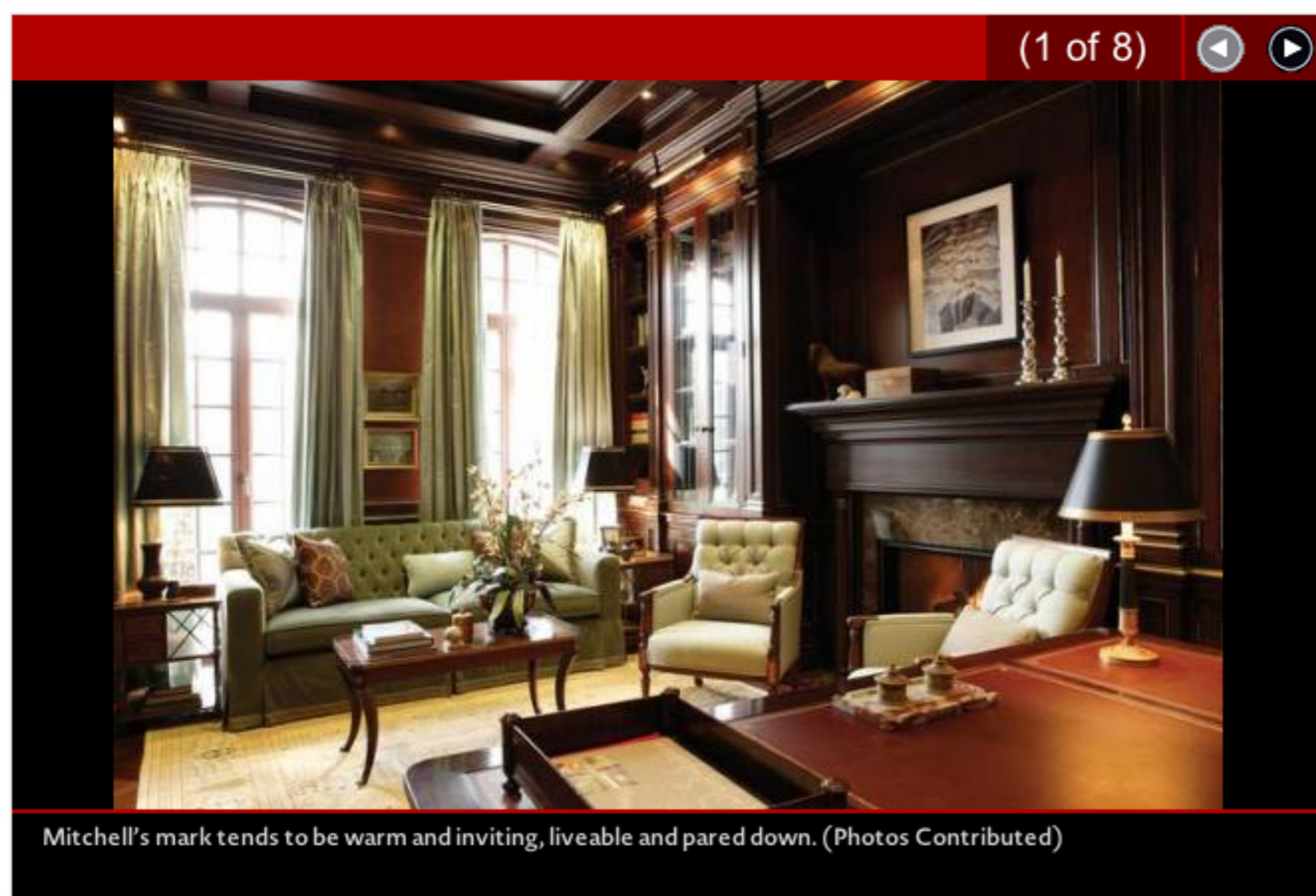
Homes News

Beautiful in their simplicity

DEBRA WELLS-HOPEY | FOUNDATIONS
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Philip Mitchell's designs are beautiful in their simplicity. He has mastered the art of balance



Mitchell's mark tends to be warm and inviting, liveable and pared down. (Photos Contributed)

You may remember the iconic beer commercial with the line, "They come to Nova Scotia and they never go back." My mom likes to say this regarding my father, who came to Halifax in the Navy in the 50s.

There's a reason that line resonates. It's true. But it's true of only a certain ilk. Those who visit and not only find Nova Scotia charming, beautiful and friendly — we all know it's that — but those who get it. They get us.

Designer and decorator Philip Mitchell came here for a visit eight years ago. And he got it. He got it so much that he and his partner decided to set up a home here. Or more specifically, in Chester. Having worked for two large Canadian interior design firms, Mitchell established Philip Mitchell Design Inc. in 2002. Based out of Toronto, Mitchell's projects quickly reached international proportions, with clients in the U.S., Europe and the Caribbean. Mitchell's mark tends to be warm and inviting, liveable and pared down. His designs are beautiful in their simplicity. He has mastered the art (or perhaps it's something one is born with?) of balance. His work allows one to appreciate lines and function, scale and proportion. He has mastered the art of the edit.

So much beauty, balance and line in our home's decor is lost in competing complexity. Mitchell remedies this.

"We seek to create calm, tranquil living spaces that complement the unique personalities and lifestyles of each client," Mitchell explains.

Mitchell's work is a study in dichotomies, creating spaces that are liveable yet elegant, distinctive but casual, modern but warm, refined but relaxed. The photos speak to what I'm trying to describe.

Philip Mitchell Design Inc. has offices in Toronto and Chester, and offers both design and decorating services, from interior and exterior conceptual designs and working drawings, to site inspection and measurement, detailed building specs and schedules and project management. On the decorating end of things, Mitchell offers design and production of custom furniture, window coverings, carpets and lighting as well as sourcing selection and purchasing of furnishing, artworks and antiques.

Mitchell's own furniture collection is custom designed and built to exacting specifications by some of Canada's finest furniture craftsmen working today. The line embodies his functional, elegant, contemporary style. The most traditional of the collection works beautifully with the most modern.

"I'm particularly proud that the entire collection is made in North America," says Mitchell. "We have incredible artisans and craftsmen right here, and it means I have immediate control of the quality and construction. I also believe in supporting our local economy."

The Philip Mitchell Design furniture line is currently available through the Philip Mitchell Design offices and website. How lucky we are here in Nova Scotia to also have it available through Mitchell's Chester location?

Whether design, decor or both, in a condo, townhouse, cottage or estate — a home that has been touched by Mitchell feels, for lack of a better word, calm. And boy, don't we all need some of that? A lot of us could use a little elegance in our lives too, now that I think of it. Myself included.

(See more pictures of Mitchell's work online by visiting TheChronicleHerald.ca/Homes)

About the Author



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Debra Wells-Hopey is a philosopher by training, teacher by trade and writer by chance. She loves her cats, kids, husband and a good marathon — on TV.

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