



OUTSTANDING HOMES

Design Specialist: Ivan Meade

Photographed by Joshua Lawrence

THE ART OF LIVING

Industrial urban chic meets West Coast warmth in the artfully renovated Fairfield home of sculpture artist Samantha Dickie.



CAPTIVATING CONTRASTS

The kitchen, at the very heart of the home, is open and welcoming — perfect for the family who loves to entertain. Oak cabinets with an espresso stain contrast dramatically with luxurious Tamori Cararra tiles, Caesarstone countertops in Blizzard, white leather bar chairs, and pendant lights from Bocci. Frosted glass cupboard doors add lightness to the space and mimic the glass of the pantry door. A touch of turquoise on the far wall adds artistic flair.

Sculpture artist Samantha Dickie is used to spending time in art galleries, but she didn't want the home where she lives with her two children, dog, and menagerie of "artists in residence" to feel like one. Instead, Dickie, whose ceramic sculptures have been exhibited across Canada in public galleries, sought to create a home that is an artful blend of earthy warmth, contemporary cool, and industrial edginess. The result is a home with plenty of space and ambience for work, play, and family life in all its variations. What began as a renovation became a three-year undertaking because of major issues found with the original home. In the end, the house was almost entirely rebuilt, a story that is familiar to seasoned renovators.

For Dickie, one of the biggest luxuries is having a custom in-home 750-square-foot studio where she can work as she likes and be home for the children. "I can have a life," she laughs. The studio has its own kiln and drying area, so instead of having to be at a separate studio for long hours waiting for her pieces to "cure," her work has instead become an organic part of family life. The studio even has a special area for the kids and their friends to exercise their own creativity. Because of the kiln, the entire house is designed with ultra-fireproof materials, and the studio also features a sophisticated ventilation system. "It's a very healthy work environment," says Dickie.

Visiting Dickie's home brings to mind her artist's statement: "Each piece [of my work] is a microcosm standing alone suggesting a grounded simplicity, but when replicated and installed with multiple components, it becomes imbued with energy suggesting a macrocosm full of complexity and interaction."

In the same way, the house she created conveys a grounded simplicity that, imbued with the energy of busy children, plenty of friends and visiting artists, and the bustle of daily living, becomes a home in the very best sense.



STUDIO SERENITY

Dickie's second-storey studio is a complex yet beautiful space that welcomes in light through massive windows and skylights. The 750-square-foot studio has ample space for Dickie to work, with dedicated spaces for a kiln, pottery wheel, a separate drying room for the ceramics, and a creativity space for her children.

THE POWER OF VIGNETTES

Besides creating art, Dickie also collects it. For the living room, she designed two wooden wall boxes to create a focal point and display artworks at eye level. Grouping objects together in vignettes creates pleasing focal points. This vignette includes ceramic sculptures by Dickie, a tall, concrete sculpture by Birgit Piskor, a paper and wax sculpture by Jessica Drenk, and a painting by Vivian Trodos Fraser from Buenos Aires. To soften the space, Dickie brought in soft furnishings. The hare pillow is charming on the Arne Jacobsen-inspired chair, and an ottoman picks up on turquoise accent colour used throughout the home.





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OPEN TO CREATIVITY

Exposed steel beams and glass respect and reveal the architecture of the space and showcase three levels of the house. The home has the very urban, partially industrial feel of loft studios, tempered by the warmth of wood floors. The top level opens to a balcony with views of the gardens and the neighbourhood; the second floor holds Dickie's studio space and features an office on the mezzanine. The main floor combines the kitchen, living room, and bedrooms. The basement is a suite often occupied by Dickie's "artists in residence."

ENTER BEAUTY

The entry way features a colourful collection of masks from Florence, made by an artist who creates masks for Cirque du Soleil, and a rustic sideboard. Dickie choose several rustic pieces of furniture to bring in warmth and a grounding earthiness. The concrete floor complements the adjoining oak and is the perfect entryway material for Victoria's rainy seasons.



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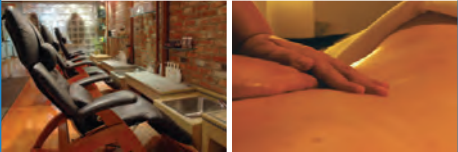
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CREATIVE LIVING

Above the fireplace, the reds and oranges of the oil painting by Meghan Hildebrand bring warmth to the space. The lighted nook beneath, filled with sculptures by Dickie and Cathi Jefferson, is one of those details possible in a customized home. The black leather chaise lounge is a 1920s reproduction piece from Restoration Hardware. Behind it, large glass and metal garage doors open to a patio.

SPACE TO PLAY

This vibrant basement play space features swinging hammocks, bold blue gym mats, beanbags, and a climbing wall with colourful Mountain Equipment Co-op hand and footholds installed on durable plywood by Dickie's friend who climbs. The wall on the left is brightened by a mural of orange poppies.



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▲ **CONTEMPORARY COZINESS**

A bold orange built-in bench is paired with a cozy charcoal chair. Dickie also selected three plexiglass and metal chairs that almost disappear into the space because she did not want the dining nook to feel blocked off.

For the far wall, Dickie chose a vibrant oil painting by Lani Imre and wallpaper with a contemporary flair to add vitality to the room. The overhanging pendant light is an original mid-century Modernica, re-edited. Three windows behind the seating area feature a pattern repeated throughout the house, giving it a sense of unity and flow.

▶ **LANDSCAPE DRAMA**

The landscape design by Dickie softens the rigid lines of the house now that it is maturing. The home's roof in corrugated metal adds an industrial feel that contrasts with the earthy colour of the siding.



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SOURCES

Architect: Wil Peereboom,
Victoria Design Group

Interior designer: Samantha Dickie

Landscape designer: Samantha Dickie

Contractor: Barry Goddard

Finishing carpenter for interior and landscape:
Bruce Calland Construction

Framing and siding: Danno Widdifield

Painting: KMA Painting

Landscape installation: Garden City Tree
and Landscape

Kitchen and bathroom cabinetry:
EuroTek and Simply Counters



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