

# NAVIGATOR

GREAT SPACES

## The Six-Month Reno

A family races to gut a Roncesvalles home before baby number two arrives

BY CAROLINE AKSICH



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK SHAPTON

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**Malan Rietveld**, an investment consultant, and his wife, Ashley Millar, a historian, were bouncing between New York City and Malan's native South Africa when they decided they wanted their son, Leo, to have a brother or sister. The multi-city juggling act was doable with one kid but seemed impossible with two. Keen to settle in North America but priced out of New York, they decided to hunt for a house in Toronto, Ashley's hometown.

They wanted two kids' rooms and a master bedroom on the same floor. Ideally, the house would also have space for a separate guest suite, as well as room for an office, because Malan works from home.

Last May, they found a three-storey Edwardian foursquare in Roncesvalles, which fit the bill but was charmless. White siding covered up sections of century-old brick, about a dozen tenants had been crammed into a patchwork of mismatched extensions, and the kitchen ceiling hid a serious leak.

They rushed to find a builder that could complete a reno before baby number two's arrival. Every company they approached balked at their aggressive timetable, except Lionfish, a residential design and construction company, which got everything done in seven months.

The home is now totally unrecognizable. The main floor is an entirely open living space. The second floor has three light-filled bedrooms while the third storey has been transformed into a palatial in-law suite. Leo, now three years old, finally has a place to call home—and the house was finished a few months before baby Kai was born.





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1 The three Tom Dixon pendants that hang over the kitchen island match chromatically, but each one is a different shape.

2 Ashley brought this dresser back from Cape Town. She loves the inlays and mismatched knobs.

3 Malan displays his guitar collection in his basement office.

4 Leo's room has a safari theme. The cabin bed is cute and practical: the walls keep him from rolling onto the floor at night.

5 The designers snagged some extra space from the roofline and added these deep built-in drawers.



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6 The stairs are the architectural anchor of the house. Ashley measured to make extra sure there was no way Leo could somehow slip between the steps.

7 This Delta table by Pianca has two glass leaves that fold out to accommodate 12-person dinner parties.

8 The family is divided over the Japanese washlet toilet. Ashley is a proselytizing convert. Malan, not so much.