

MCMURDO

MARCH 2023 | VOLUME TWO

HOMIE & GARDENS

DECORATING SECRETS

*Choosing the perfect tapestry
and arranging your favourite
things*

REAL READERS' HOMES + EXPERT TIPS + DIYs

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dearest Ross Island Friends,

With the advance of winter, we have been given new permission to be homebodies and to become a little antisocial, blissfully so. There's an undeniable pleasure to domesticity: curling up with a book, utilizing Starlink, or puttering around with your latest Skua decoration. During Winfall, I've discovered how much I love coming back home after an event or a day at work. Now that I'm not in Summer season, I realize how much I love and value my home as a sanctuary from the hubbub, the commuting, and the traffic. A colleague remarked that before the winter, she felt like home was a place to grab White Claws between social appointments or a place to nap at lunch. Now she's a nester.

The end of summer makes us see our houses or apartments in a new light. With the waning sunlight and smaller population, I feel like I have a deeper relationship to my house, like being away from a loved one then seeing them with fresh and appreciative eyes when we're reunited. The security and comfort of our homes are vital to providing a sense of well-being. Our subject matter might usually be fabric swatches and paint colors, but we know it's the heart and soul of a house that make it a home. We're pleased to feature one of the Island's pre-eminent power couples in this issue, Kenneth "Kenny" Lang and Virginia "Ginny" Bickman, and their beautiful estate. Their warm and welcoming aesthetic perfectly embodies this issue's theme of the "house as home", and we're thrilled to highlight them. Enjoy.

XOXO,
Kelsy

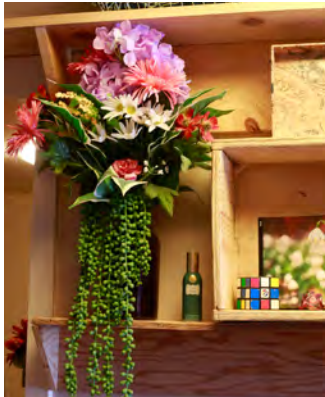


Kenny-whip out that funky talked and put it somewhere loud and proud.

Through a warmly lit bathroom clad in-what else-tapestries lies a room that's a talker all in its own. In a stroke of genius, Ginny and Kenny have challenged societal expectations of what a bunk bed can be and turned theirs into a lounge setup through some clever restructuring.

"We put a lot of work into this room," explains Kenny, gesturing to the lounge. Another lesson here; put in the work. Get sweaty, get tired, take the time to make that lounge room everyone will walk away from talking about. Shine those lights through that humidifer stream. Be big and bold this season and, through your labors, be comfortable.

written by Ryan Emma



KENNY, GINNY, & THE MOOSE HEAD

Tapestries? Check. Plants? Check. Wall mounted moose head trophy? Of course. The eclectic stylings of power couple, Ginny Bickman and Kenny Lang offer up a roadmap for this winter's must-have trends: depth, breadth and iconic "talkers."

Squirreled away in their beautiful bayside two room condo, Ginny and Kenny have eked out a magical getaway space that's part tropical, part ponderosa. The secret to their success? Expertly executed skua runs.

"Tapestries are a must-have," said Ginny,

explaining her thrifting strategies. The dedication shows; scant few inches of wall are visible to the naked eye, but who's looking when there are moose heads and spyro statues around?

"We're not even sure how it got down here," Ginny explained. The faux moose head's origins may be a mystery but its impact is far more definite. "It's a big talker. People love it."

As we move into what's forecasted to be a chilly winter, learn from Ginny and

Style Tips From *Hannah*

This year is speeding by, and the fashion world and its ever-evolving trends are following an equally brisk pace. While autumn may have seen us donning Balaclavas and Blundstones, there's a while new suite of trends to pay attention to as we barrel headlong into winter. From big reds to Carhartt jackets and zip-up fleeces, the most recent fashion month made one thing abundantly clear: oversized silhouettes are most definitely in. We included the rise of the Buff in our autumn trends, but don't think that it's disappeared for its prime time season of winter. While minimalist balaclavas - designed with a practicality of warmth in mind - are the main trend, more decorative bonnets are also having their moment. When it comes to bottoms, bibs are the popular choice of the moment - whether windbreakers or Carhartt coveralls. Embrace any hue, not just the classic black: from cool indigo to warm terracotta, the options are endlessly play. CDC-stock restrictions may apply.



The Joy of Entertainment:

My Evening with Christian

by Ryan Emma

A misremembered schedule, a chance encounter and a couple extra Nintendo Switch controllers; this was the preamble to a 60 minute detour I spent ensconced in the eclectic and wabi sabi boudoir of Christian Ware.

“Welcome,” he said. “Just put that anywhere,” he reassured, gesturing toward my pinot gris and jacket. The warmth of his welcome was punctuated by the soft smell of nothing in particular, the crepuscular glow of the evening sun suffused through what I suspected was a neutral density filter or, perhaps, an unwashed window.

It’s a wonderful thing, transient comfort. Christian struck me as a man who knew this.

“It’s a studio apartment,” he said, explaining how he balked at the sort of eccentric decor enjoyed by those who collect trinkets and curios. I nodded.

Sitting on his comfortable, two-and-a-half person sofa-laconically adorned by a single pillow-I found myself transfixed by his television area. An upcycled entertainment center with nooks and crannies abound, its



dark semigloss finish begged a certain focus that Christian seemed committed to deny; the electronics were tucked behind and around, away from view. Togetherness, joy, friendship were on full display here, not some technological gizmo.

A man cave? A bachelor pad? Certainly not but, rather, something more. The tasteful minimalism, the deliberate, subtractive styling of it all was glued and held together by shared experience, something to chew on as we spoke of life’s mysteries.

There are things I shall remember forever about my evening with Christian; his hospitality, his OSRS ironman with Pegasian Boots, how embarrassingly I crushed him at Mario Kart.* I shall never, however, forget how well he entertained.



**Editor's note: Christian definitely won.*