

CSNY's Graham Nash taught his children well — life is better in Hawaii

Two-time inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

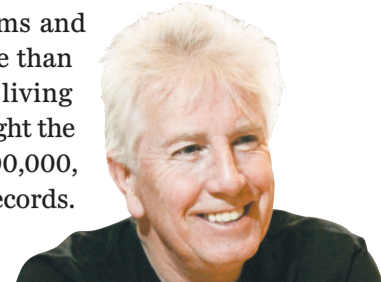
Graham Nash is on the road as part of the Crosby, Stills & Nash U.S. tour, but after that, he's Hawaii bound. Nash and his wife, Susan, have sold their longtime Encino home for its asking price of US\$1.6-million, *The L.A. Times* reports. The couple raised their children in the house and now plan to make Hawaii their full-time residence. The Tudor

CELEBRITY HOMES

house was the centre of their family life as well as a place to entertain and for Nash to compose. He wrote songs on the grand piano in the living room and in the guesthouse, which includes a recording studio. The gated property includes the main house, a guest house and a pool with spa.

There are six bedrooms and 6½ bathrooms in more than 4,600 square feet of living space. The couple bought the house in 1986 for \$900,000, according to public records.

National Post



DAVID BAGOSY

A bronze console and a cheery yellow ottoman set the dark/light tone that's found in the rest of Tamara Robbins Griffith's home, which is precisely what an entrance should do.

MAKING AN ENTRANCE

It's nice to be home! That's how a cleverly designed entry should make you feel



SAMANTHA PYNN
Pynn Pointers

When the entryway is the first place people see in your home, a pile of shoes and the dog's leash doesn't exactly say welcome. Of course, not everyone is lucky enough to have a recessed space in the front entrance where a bench, console, or chest of drawers will fit. In the case of some condos, as soon as you open the front door you're in the kitchen. This is fine if you're a neat freak because chances are you'll take off your shoes and walk them to the bedroom closet, place your phone in its charging station, hang up your keys, and recycle flyers and mail. If, on the other hand, you're a Pig-Pen, or worse, you're a neat freak who lives with a Messy Marvin, the front entrance and subsequently the first flat surface in your home (likely the kitchen counter or dining table) become a dumping ground for change, receipts, keys, and gum wrappers. Clearly, you need a space-saving solution.

CREATE YOUR OWN CLOSET

A closet at the entrance of a small condo is a blessing. However, if you don't have an entry closet but your space is wide enough, a bench with cubbies

for shoes and hooks above for hanging coats and umbrellas will work in lieu of a closet. I'm not going to lie to you, this kind of mock-closet can get messy. Closed storage like baskets that fit into the cubbies will hide the visual noise of hats, gloves and shoe cleaner. An alternative to the bench with cubbies is an upholstered bench with a hinged top for storage. West Elm's nail-head upholstered storage bench in jute, \$418, will tie into the rest of your home's furniture.

SHELVES FOR TIGHT QUARTERS

A narrow shelf with brackets or corbels will give you a surface for displaying some welcoming decorative elements like frames, vases and possibly a lamp. Pretty change-and-receipt catch-alls like bowls and boxes are a must. For a space-saving light and modern look, a Lucite or glass shelf will provide a spot to rest keys, mail and sunglasses. Neat (neatspace.ca) carries 23x7.8-inch glass shelves, \$37, and brackets, \$17 each. If you have space for more substantial shelving, have your hardware store cut a narrow piece of wood between eight and 12-inches deep and as long as your entrance can accommodate. The key is to make the shelf disappear by painting it the same colour as the wall. Conversely, if you want your shelf to stand out consider painting it a colour that references your decor.

PETITE CONSOLE

There are several console consoles on the market, above which you can hang a picture, but I feel that a mirror is a must. The "last-minute makeup check"

has become a cliché for good reason. Forget makeup, does anyone want to leave home with a hunk of spinach in their teeth?

One of my favourite small-space entryways is in my girlfriend *Style at Home* managing editor Tamara Robbins Griffith's loft. Every time I visit, I'm impressed by her efficient use of space (her entire home was featured in the March 2009 issue of *Style at Home*) particularly the entryway. Against the 32-inch-wide wall, Tamara fit a 28-inch hammered bronze console. The dark console recedes into the ebony hardwood floors and smoky-grey grass cloth wallpaper that covers every wall in her open-concept condo, while the eye is drawn to the large show-stopping lacquered yellow mirror above.

And there's even a small cube ottoman slipcovered in a yellow-and-white damask fabric where she can sit and pull on her boots. And, if you're imagining that the rest of Tamara's loft is dark and moody, contrasted with white and pops of yellow, you're right. A well-designed entry will hint at the style of the entire home.

I started by saying that the entryway is the first spot that guests see when they walk into your condo. But really it's you who needs to feel welcomed home. An entryway should look as fabulous as the rest of your space and it should help keep you organized. The world is a busy (and sometimes crazy) place, so as soon as you turn the key, you should feel like you've arrived at your safe place, away from the frenzy of traffic, receipts and, hopefully, even your partner's clutter.

National Post

LAKE-SIDE LOGISTICS

Which palette works best with a water view?

BY LINDSAY FORSEY

On the phone from his mid-town Toronto office, Fardid Biglar's voice is calm and steady; his pronunciation soft and articulate, like a guided meditation audio recording. Listening to him speak, it's hard to imagine Mr. Biglar has a demanding career and resides in the city's restless downtown core. But the thirty-something partner at BiglarKinyan Design Partnership says both he and his wife have stressful jobs and lead busy lifestyles. That's precisely why they adore their waterfront condominium.

"Living by the lake, there's a sense of detachment from the hectic pace of the city," Mr. Biglar says. "When you can see and hear the water, it feels like you're further from the chaos. It's a great way for us to create balance in our lives."

In 2009, the Biglars made their 33 Harbour Square investment property their home. The 900-square-foot space (plus a generous balcony), located at Queen's Quay and Bay Street, is a significant shift from the house they previously lived in. For starters, it's smaller. But anticipating fewer nooks and crannies, they incorporated built-in storage into their renovation, which included removing several walls.

On the plus side, condo living means less property maintenance and more free time. And, of course, there's that view. "We wanted the space to be serene, minimalist and clear, so that it doesn't compete with the view or the sunlight pouring in," Mr. Biglar says. "The view is the focal point."

A warm, off-white colour runs throughout the home on the walls and upper cabinetry; the lower cabinets are finished in chocolate cherry wood. "We didn't want to place emphasis on the perimeter. We wanted the walls to disappear," Mr. Biglar says. The blank canvas is an ideal backdrop for their more-practical-than-paintings art forms, such as a curvaceous Eames La Chaise, an Isamu Noguchi coffee table and polished chrome Bertoia chairs in the dining area.

"Whether we're eating, lounging or entertaining, everything faces the outdoors," says the designer, who has worked with several clients in waterfront spaces. Mr. Biglar and his wife also like to spend time in their "backyard," checking out the Tall Ships and other events in the Harbourfront area. "Living by the water is a different, better lifestyle. We're surrounded by happy people," he says.

It's true — Toronto's waterfront is brimming with smiling shore-dwellers. Tobi Brockway, principal of Tobi Brockway Interiors in the King Street East design district, says it's typical for people who live lakeside to have an affinity for the water.

"Many people tell me that the water calms them and brings a sense of serenity into their homes," says Ms. Brockway, who's discovered that simply working on waterfront projects enhances her mood.

Ms. Brockway is designing a space in the 364-unit Monarch Homes development Quay West at Tip Top, currently under construction on Stadium Road near Lake Shore Boulevard West and Bathurst Street. Quay West includes a nine-storey podium as well as a 23-storey tower. Her client, a professional single woman in her 40s, wants to bring the outside into her 21st floor, one-bedroom-plus-den suite.

The nature-inspired plan includes flowing ivory-coloured sheers, white

marble and grey granite kitchen surfaces, wide-plank maple floors and plenty of track lighting near the windows. (Remember, a lake view turns sable after sunset.)

"The view from up high is vast sky and water so you see a lot of blue. I like to bring that in on the walls, especially a feature wall for art. Benjamin Moore Wedgwood Grey is a beautiful colour, similar to Lake Ontario," Ms. Brockway says. She'll mix in sand shades as well and use light fabrics like linen in upholstery. "Every space has its own vibe and people have different preferences, but bringing loud colours into a place with a water view almost defeats the purpose," she says.

Running-water features, like wall-mounted fountains, are another way Ms. Brockway brings the outside in. She also stresses the importance of having a UV barrier film professionally applied to any large windows to prevent sun damage to fabrics and other surfaces in the home.

Quay West at Tip Top is just one of several new waterfront developments. Melandro Quilatan and Tania Richardson, principal partners at Tomas Pearce Interior Design Consulting are leading the design at Ocean Club Waterfront Condominiums in Etobicoke. The project by Graywood Developments will consist of 460 units in two buildings, starting from the low \$200,000s.

"Ocean Club will combine sophistication, glamour and fun. For the lobby and model suites, we're working with a palette of warm mocha, nude and blush, and keeping things light and airy," Ms. Richardson says. "The views are absolutely spectacular," Mr. Quilatan adds.

At Park Lawn Road and Lake Shore, Art Deco-inspired South Beach Condos and Lofts are under construction. Amexon Development Corp.'s twin 27-storey towers topped by lighted blue and green glass will house 750 units in a themed, resort-style neighbourhood.

Dan Menchions, principal at II by IV Design, is at the helm of South Beach design. "We've incorporated all of those South Beach hues into the development — white with pale shades of pink, yellow and blue," Mr. Menchions says. "In the model suites we positioned the interiors so that you're always taking advantage of the views. What's wonderful about South Beach is that every resident will have a walkout terrace." South Beach units start from the mid \$200,000s.

South Beachers will have private outdoor space, but not everyone on the waterfront has the same luxury. Nikka Design principal decorator, Barbara Nyke, recently worked with a retired couple living in a condo without a balcony near the Humber River. "They love nature and still wanted to feel that connection," Ms. Nikka says.

Repositioning the sofa to face the outdoors was an instant improvement. Ms. Nyke also brought in two swivelling cream-coloured leather recliners that can face inward for entertaining and outward for relaxing.

Ms. Nyke took inspiration from the lake and sky, choosing a warm robin's egg blue for the sofa, and a large area rug in shades of blue, tan and pale persimmon also beckons the outdoors in. "The space has a quiet and peaceful ambience that totally suits their personalities," Ms. Nyke says. And that means two more Torontonians are making the most of their lakeside lifestyle.

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Ocean Club's pale palette doesn't distract from the lake vista.