



This home's open-plan concept is both functional for everyday living and ideal for entertaining, and the expansive views from the large living room windows prove wonderful for either.

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FAST AND FURIOUS

A LUXURY CAR COLLECTION DRIVES THE DESIGN OF THIS MODERN HOME

BY SABY REYES-KULKARNI



FEATURED COMPANY
ATELIER CACHET

LOCATION
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO

PROJECT TYPE
RESIDENCE

PROJECT NAME
DRIVEN BY LUXURY

What do you do when a client asks you to wow him with a unique, contemporary design for his home but also stipulates that his favorite thing about that home is his collection of luxury sports cars? If you're interior designer Nathalie Tremblay of Atelier Cachet, the firm she founded with husband Dave Nicholas, you turn your eye to the garage. A one-time choreographer with a background in art direction, Tremblay hews toward design that is sleek, edgy, and powerful—just like the client's vehicles. In general, Tremblay favors gray as a neutral color and, though she loves the brightness of whites, tends to lean toward black for the powerful impression it can make and its grounding properties. But this client's preferences would require that she push herself even further.

"His cars are fast, bold, and low to the ground with sleek horizontal lines and gleaming finishes," she says, "so I used them as my inspiration for the home's interior." Luckily, Tremblay considers asymmetrical horizontal lines among her signature motifs, and she used them to create a design that was ambitious, bold, and dynamic—all leading toward a

"sensuous experience that reflected the authenticity of the luxury cars."

Situated along an escarpment at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the location provided Tremblay with "beautiful views to the south and west as well as ample daylight." Though the scenery helped the project along, huge renovations—including a complete makeover of the main and top floors, which involved gutting rooms and moving walls—provided a challenge.

Unsurprisingly, Tremblay's remodel prominently featured black and gray, most seen in the kitchen. It is in this layout, which she describes as "aerodynamic, sleek, and stylish while delivering superior performance," that the automobile influence is perhaps most visible. A retractable flat-screen television monitor, for example, rises and falls out of a T-shaped island. Meanwhile, the kitchen and second-floor balcony both expose the open space of the living room and its generous view of the outside. "The open-plan concept," she explains, "is very functional and ideal for entertaining." That is, at least until the gathering moves to the garage. **WZ**