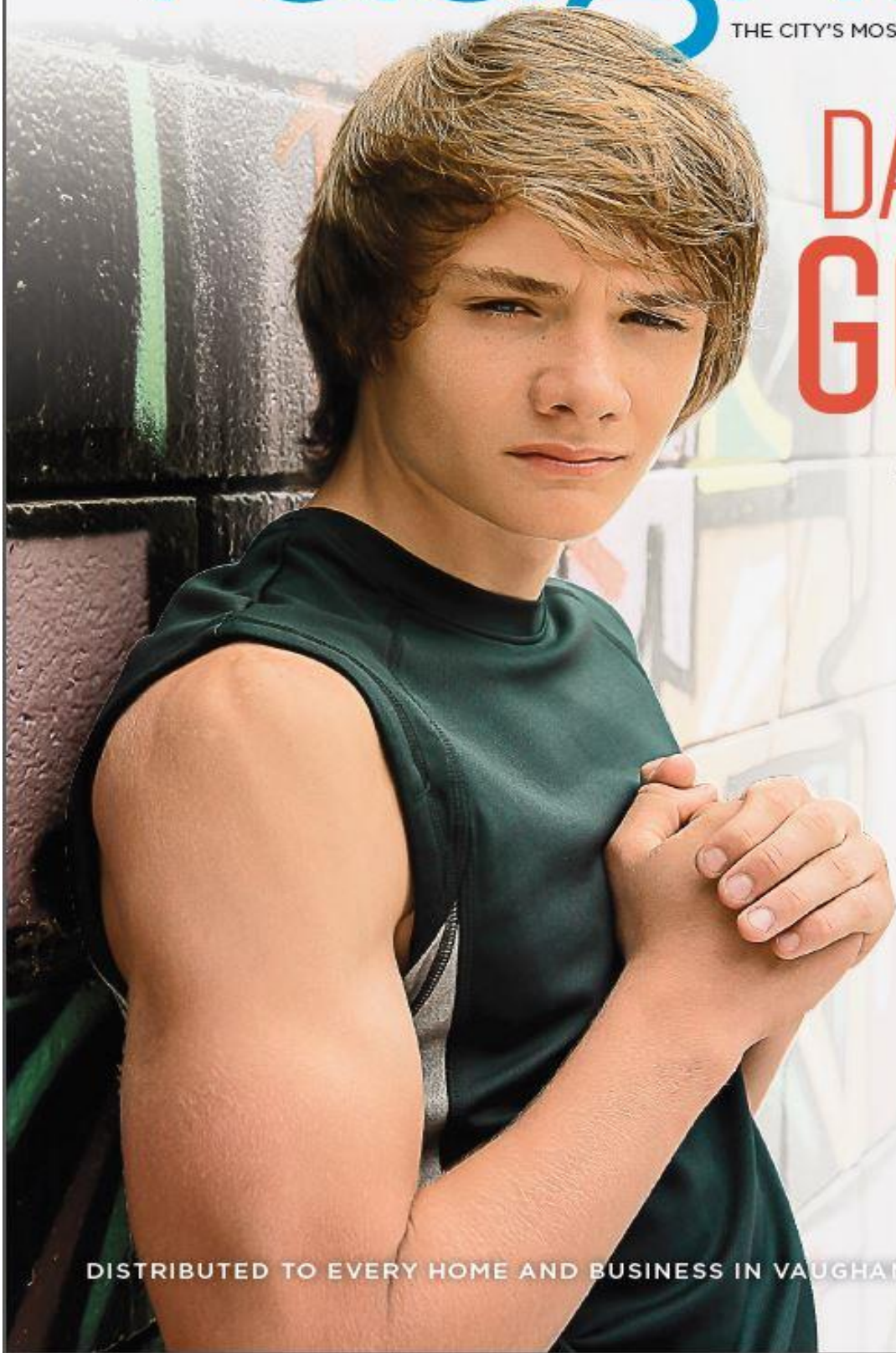


WHATEVER

Vaughan

FALL 2014 | VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3

THE CITY'S MOST WIDELY READ MAGAZINE



DAKOTA GOYO

A STAR IS BORN
...IN VAUGHAN

Q AND A
WITH THE
MAYOR

WHAT'S
ON IN
VAUGHAN

HEALTHY
FOOD
CHOICES

DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS IN VAUGHAN VIA CANADA POST

THE RIGHT MATERIALS

BY SANDRA NASH

Photos courtesy of Areal Photography

Textiles and fabrics, also known as “soft furnishings”, such as draperies and window coverings, carpets, pillows and bedding are essential elements that are often overlooked and frequently skimmed on. Today’s residential interiors take their cues from commercial settings, restaurants or hotels with fashionable cement floors, open ceilings, hard seating and unadorned walls. These spaces are often stripped down, so that all that’s left are hard finishes, which gives off a clinical or industrial vibe, making them feel cold, unpleasant, and really loud as the sound echoes and bounces off all those hard surfaces.

As a designer I believe that a home is supposed to be our sanctuary, our place to be soothed, calmed and restored. Now more than ever, people are bombarded with media, cellphones, interruption 24 hours a day, and are desperate to escape their busy and over-stimulated lives. Textiles matter because they give a room its personal-

ity by adding function and decoration. When working on design projects, one of my favourite features for using fabrics are their sound-absorbent qualities. Regardless of how the textiles are introduced into a space, for example, through draperies, area rugs, or upholstery, it’s hugely impactful in achieving peace and tranquility.

Since the largest item in a room typically becomes the focal point...the window coverings, the rug, the bed, the sofa...all are made with textiles so they set the tone of your space. We often play with a variety of fabrics by layering different textures and patterns to provide a splash of colour, adding warmth, beauty and style to a room.

Sandra Nash is a Toronto-based award winning designer with twenty years of experience and Principal of Making-A-Scene Designs residential & commercial projects tailored to the individual styles and needs of the clients throughout Toronto and the GTA. Making A Scene www.making-a-scene.com



Window coverings (also called draperies or curtains) have two purposes — function and fashion. Function by providing light control, privacy, energy savings (both by warding off heat, or insulating the glass to keep the cold out), preventing harmful UV rays from damaging surfaces, security, blocking external sounds and even dust from entering the house. Our design team likes to view décor similar to fashion, for example, textiles are like jewellery to the dress – it's the must-have accessory that finishes the look. Window coverings don't need to be elaborate but they do need to be multi-functional. See how we layer the window coverings by using a combination of folding roman shades for privacy and light control, and drapery panels installed above the arched window casing to add height, framing the windows, and softening the hard surfaces in that home office. Window coverings are a long term investment, and can last a lifetime, so choose well, and choose once.

Rugs or carpets are slowly emerging as an integral part of interior décor. Not only do they make the room appear warm and cozy but they also absorb noise, protect the floor and visually anchor a space. It also provides safety from slipping and falling on slippery hard floors, especially for elderly people.

A soft furnishing that is indispensable in the bedroom is **bedding**. Bedding refers to materials that are laid above the mattress like bed sheet, blanket, quilt, duvet, pillow etc. These materials are available in different textures both natural and synthetic, like cotton, silk, satin and polyester. Bedding is for decorative purposes, but also provides warmth and protects the mattress.

The use of **throw pillows or cushions** on sofas, chairs, and beds not only add instant impact and elegance to the room, but also provides neck and back support to the user.

Lastly, **upholstered goods** (sofas, chairs, chaise loungers, ottomans, and benches) have a huge impact on the overall comfort and look of a room, especially if the piece is large. These pieces are an investment and should be considered carefully. There are several points to consider: durability and the environment that the furniture will be used, for example is it in a high traffic area, where your pet may occasionally nap. Our firm also likes to ask prospective customers to think about how long they will be living in that particular space. Is your horizon 10 months for a short term apartment lease or 10 years, for a mature home? Often, people make the mistake of considering furniture that is built and priced for the short term, when a longer term investment is required.