

A Stunning Reno Gives a Retro Home Fresh New Attitude



Audax Architecture amps up the looks and lifestyle of a boxy home in Yorkville

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Photography by [Naomi Finlay and Arnaud Marthouret](#)

Jonathan Goldman was being diplomatic when he described to me the pre-reno look of his three-bedroom, late '70s home. But the technical term is ugly.

The real estate developer bought the 345-square-metre place in 2012, because the rare boxy modern in Yorkville – packed as it is with historic Victorians – was irresistibly unique. But it wasn't in great shape. From the front, it was like a giant, blank stare, with one sad strip window cut into a swath of beige siding. Inside, the original open concept floors were dark and cluttered, particularly in the basement and the kitchen. The potential was there, though, and now, nearly 40 years on: seven split levels, all cascading around a central staircase towering up through a sun-filled light well.



The new zinc exterior is a far cry from '70s-era beige siding. The dip in the roof informs the shape and size of multiple skylights. Contractor: GreenGold Construction Ltd.

Down a half-flight from the front hall is the 43-square-metre main living area, with a walk out to a sunken backyard; while up a half-flight is the light-filled [Scavolini kitchen](#) and eating area, gleaming in Corian and with a bold feature wall.



The central staircase with glass guards filters sunshine from above, and allows views of multiple rooms. Six-metre chandelier by [Mary Ratcliffe](#).

The modern redesign really takes hold on the upper floors, where a capacious sleeping area at the top is resplendently spare, with little more than a bed, sitting space and private deck. “I’m the kind of person who could really have one or two pieces of furniture per room,” says Jonathan Goldman. And perhaps the most striking room in the house is a massive, bright ensuite with shimmering quartz walls, which are emblematic of the home’s timeless simplicity and will easily last through the next 40 years.

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