

ELLE[®] DECORATION

CANADA

FIRST ISSUE
GO WHITE
& TURN
SPACES FROM
BLAND TO
GRAND

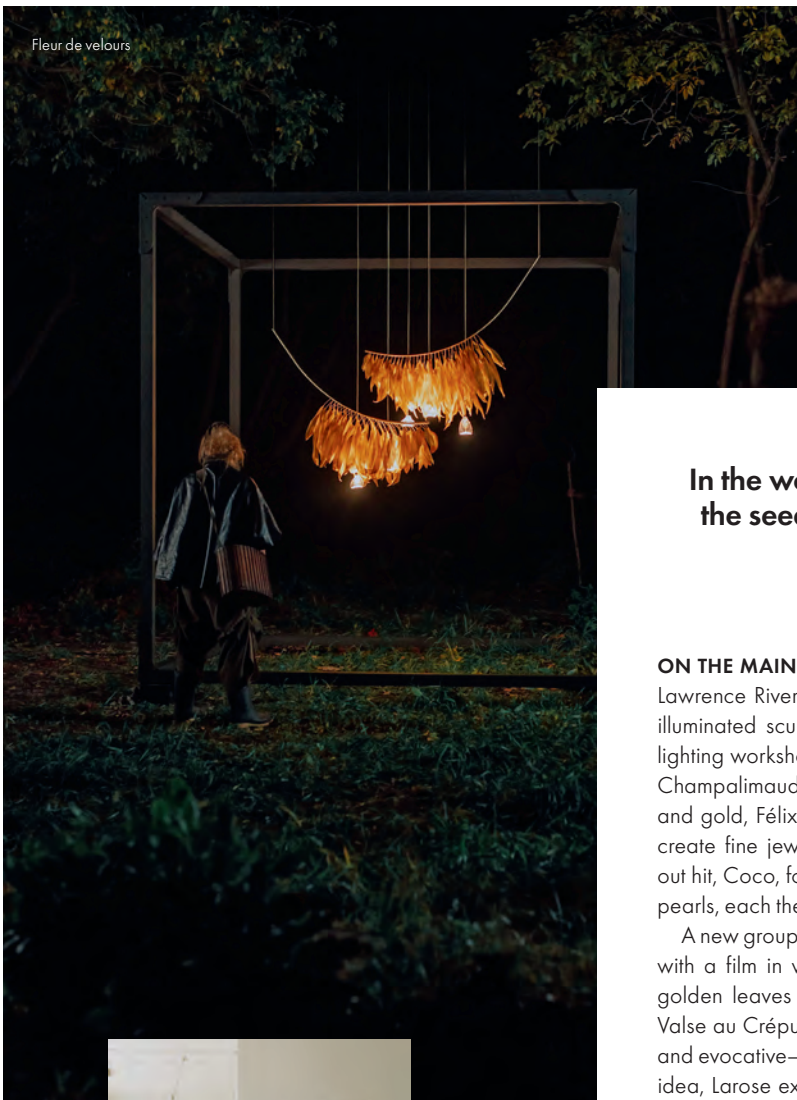
BRIGHT
and beguiling!

— + —
OPULENT vs **CHILL**: A TALE OF
TWO PENTHOUSES



Larose Guyon's latest
illuminator *Valse au Crépuscule*
(French for 'waltz at dusk')
required over 120 hours of
work by 10 Quebec artisans

Fleur de velours



In the wondrous realm of LAROSE GUYON, the seeds of creativity are abundant—and generously shared.

By Sophie Donelson

ON THE MAIN STREET OF A SLEEPY VILLAGE on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, an old general store is now filled with breathtaking illuminated sculptures. This is the home of Larose Guyon, a young lighting workshop that counts design greats like Rockwell Group and Champalimaud as clients and collaborators. With blown glass, brass and gold, Félix Guyon, Andrée L. Larose and their four-person team create fine jewellery writ large—sometimes very large. Their breakout hit, *Coco*, for example, is like an unclasped strand of blown-glass pearls, each the size of a melon.

A new group of limited editions, *Automne*, arrived recently, together with a film in which tiptoeing forest foragers gather mystical flora: golden leaves and glowing glass orbs, the same ones that grace *Valse au Crépuscule* and its brethren designs. The video is cinematic and evocative—a Hollywood movie trailer for home decor. The whole idea, Larose explains, is that while only a handful of people will get to live alongside the majestic pieces themselves, the videos allow many more to enjoy the creativity behind them. “We are not firemen or soldiers or doctors,” says Guyon. “We cannot save lives, but we can share this magic and poetry with the world.”

Automne began not with magic but with whimsy, via a machete using the crinkled paper wrappers of Ferrero Rocher bonbons. “An organic design cannot be drawn on a computer,” says Guyon. “You have to play with the material and see how it will react. You have to find beauty in the imperfections.” The candy wrappers inspired the crimped brass mesh leaves of the final pieces.

The pair gather their own inspiration in the woods, too, and not far from their studio and Guyon’s ancestral home in Verchères, Quebec. In a circular gesture, the firm partnered with One Tree Planted to donate 1,000 trees for each of the 50 *Automne* editions sold. Says Larose, “It seemed natural to give back to nature when we take much of our inspiration from it.” ■



Andrée L. Larose and Félix Guyon in their Verchères studio

GOLDEN HOUR

BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN.

And vice versa. In this issue we explore home designs that think both outside *and* inside the box, blurring the line between the great outdoors and the gorgeous indoors with custom flooring, furniture, lighting and decorative pieces that bring the two together, plus windows that widen our horizons all year round.

LITTLE ITALY, BIG STYLE

Montreal architecture firm ATELIER BARDA likes to fully reimagine spaces. For this top-floor urban apartment, they crafted a lush inner courtyard to tie together the living areas, creating a quiet oasis in the midst of a bustling neighbourhood.

By Muriel Françoise Photos Alex Lesage & Maxime Desbiens Styling Nicola Marc



Separating the living room and the bedroom, the inner courtyard, with its lush vegetation, is the work of Ronan MacParland. Lacquered steel chairs by Harry Bertoia for Knoll (mohd.it) surround Antonino Sciortino's Garbo bistro table (serax.com)





FROM THE STREET, you'd never suspect that *Résidence Alma* conceals a unique interior designed by Atelier Barda. The brick and stone triplex, on the corner of a busy Montreal commercial strip in Little Italy, fits right in with its surroundings. Wrought-iron balconies, so typical of the neighbourhood, overlook the front windows of a gift shop that occupies the ground floor. It was in this building that a young entrepreneur from the fashion world, drawn as much by the vibrant neighbourhood as by the building itself, chose to make his home. To renovate his new residence, he turned to Cécile Combelle, Antonio Di Bacco and Kevin Botchar, part of the new guard of Canadian architecture. For this project, they didn't hesitate to overturn the classic codes of North American home design, preferring to draw on an eclectic array of influences. While the second floor was designated for short-term rentals, the third, covering some 1,700-square-feet, was remodelled from top to bottom to bring the natural world into the very heart of the house. The open plan allowed the designers to create a 200-square-foot inner courtyard—a secret garden clad in burnt wood and replete with lush vegetation and a Japanese bath—which serves as the centrepiece for the living areas. The apartment, which now has two levels thanks to the addition of a 400-square-foot mezzanine for the kitchen, dining room and two terraces, has not only received a much-needed shot of natural light, but a dose of soul as well. ➤

The mezzanine kitchen was designed to bring people together. Here, the owner likes to host large gatherings that continue on the outdoor terrace, with its views of Mount Royal. A Myriad chandelier by Gabriel Scott (gabriel-scott.com) lights the long table and Kalahari benches by Claesson Koivisto Rune, as well as a pair of Maun Windsor chairs by Patty Johnson (mabeofurniture.com). The C401 stools alongside the island are the creations of Montreal standout Kastella (kastella.ca). The Aktuel kitchen cabinets (aktuel.ca) are the perfect backdrop for the Catherine Normandin vase and bouquet (oursinfleurs.com), Poster by Maude Lescarbeau, serving plate by Tina Frey and salt and pepper mills (jamaisassez.com), Nespresso Vertuo coffee machine (nespresso.com), Danilo vase and salad servers (vdevmaison.com) and linen tablecloth (coeurdartichaut.ca)



Greige-coloured Linenhouse curtains (storeurbain.com) bring a delicate touch to the apartment. Stone and glass side tables in organic shapes by Foraine, Atelier Barda's furniture line (atelierbarda.com), complement an Extrasoft modular leather couch by Piero Lissoni for Living Divani (mohd.it). Also seen are Steinway Model M 1913 piano, Divinity rug in Stanton wool (tapislalonde.com), a Mudano vase (oursinfleurs.com) and a small blown-glass vase (verredonge.com)



THE ATELIER BARDA TEAM PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LOGGIAS AND COLONNADES THAT ARE THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF THE NEW PENTHOUSE.

For this unique urban staging, Atelier Barda, as is its custom, relied heavily on its artistic touchstones. Particular attention was paid to the loggias and colonnades that are the most striking feature of the new penthouse. "The first image we had in mind that we drew inspiration from was the baldaquin, a feature that was extremely common in Italian architecture during the Renaissance, since in those days people spent a lot of time on their rooftops. It provides a view of the city, but also the opportunity for quiet contemplation," says the atelier's co-founder Antonio Di Bacco. The architects also relied on their instincts to craft some surprising ambient experiences for their client and his guests, particularly in relation to a carefully orchestrated interplay of shadow and light. "We work on our spaces as if we were carrying a camera on our shoulder," says Di Bacco with regard to the contrast-laden interiors designed by the creative trio. Such contrasts are evident even in the layout of the two upper levels of the house. A bathroom in black terrazzo, plus dark-hued kitchen cabinets and sofas, stand out against cream-coloured walls and oiled-oak flooring. "This rather sober backdrop will allow our client, as the years go by, to add objects that tell a story about the period we are living in," explains Di Bacco. The intentionally timeless feel of the decor was developed in close collaboration with Quebec artisans. Here and there, immediately recognizable creations from Montreal designers shine forth, such as a sculptural light by the firm Gabriel Scott, and organically shaped stone and steel tables by Foraine, the furniture line created by Atelier Barda. These details deepen the overall feel of unostentatious luxury. ■ (atelierbarda.com)

In this interior that consistently gives pride of place to natural materials, the bar and home automation devices are hidden behind curtains. On the Foraine tables (atelierbarda.com) are a Mudano vase (oursinflours.com) and a glass one (verredonge.com)



A bookcase frames the entrance to the office, which is left open to provide maximum light. Hanging above the sculpted wood Kalahari desk by Claesson Koivisto Rune (mabeo.com), the painting *Dépotoir 1* by artist Achilles Kwon (achilleskwon.com) warms up its bright white surroundings. Accessories include Theia lamp by Mathias Hahn for Marset (bonaldo.ca), glass vases (verredonge.com), ceramic vases and flowerpot (vdevmaison.com) and a bowl by Catherine Normandin (oursinfleurs.com). In the foreground, we notice a handcrafted woollen Turkish rug (ecarpetgallery.com)



With a headboard that incorporates walnut night tables, the Dubois bed by Luca Nichetto for De La Espada (mjolk.ca) forms a welcome alcove in a space that is highly focused on the outdoors. The space is decorated using Brass Chipperfield Wästberg w102 bedside lamp (mjolk.ca), vases (verredonge.com), Lina grey linen cushions (vdevmaison.com) and Gabrielle Paris linen pillowcases (coeurdartichaut.ca)





The terrazzo flooring ([stonix.ca](#)) in this bathroom offsets the CEA faucets ([cvconcept.com](#)) and Logan bathtub for Slik Stone ([bathemp.ca](#)), creating a refreshing yet intimate atmosphere. **Opposite:** the bathroom is reminiscent of those seen in Japanese spas. It is complete with Glo-Ball opaline glass wall lights by Jasper Morrison for Flos ([latitudenord.com](#)), soaps ([vdevmaison.com](#)), and vases and bath linens ([oursinfleurs.com](#))

A modern bathroom interior featuring a black speckled vanity unit with two sinks. Above the vanity is a large, frameless mirror that reflects the ceiling and a hallway. The vanity has two gold-colored faucets. On the left side of the vanity, there is a small white vase with yellow flowers. In the center, there is a bar of soap and two bottles of liquid soap. On the right side, a striped towel is draped over the edge. The floor is made of large black tiles. In the foreground, the back of a white bathtub is visible. To the right, a large window with a black frame looks out onto a bright outdoor area with a potted plant.

**WE WORK ON OUR SPACES AS IF WE WERE
CARRYING A CAMERA ON OUR SHOULDER.**

— [Antonio Di Bacco](#)