

MY FAVOURITE ROOM: MICHAEL TAYLOR'S LIVING ROOM

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Since 1997, architect Michael Taylor has lived in a century-old former dairy located in a Toronto laneway. The principal at Taylor Smyth Architects converted it into a residence, trying out various design ideas in it, using it as a lab where he could run test before showing plans to clients. His favourite experiment, as it were, ended up being his living room, designed for easy access to the outdoors. “I love it because of the relationship it has with the outdoor walled garden, formerly an enclosed room in the original building,” says the 54-year-old Harvard grad. “The room captures an approach I take with all my projects: bringing the inside out and the outside in.”

1. The Photograph

“This is by Raymond Lavois. I like it because its large scale seems to be reflecting an alternate reality of my living room. It’s a room within a room.”

2. The Sofa

“This is the Feng sectional by Ligne Roset. I love the contrast of the darker fabric against the lighter. The pillows are a bright green colour called Kiwi from Elte. I like to add saturated hits of colour to all my projects.”

3. The Lamp

“This lamp is called the Strala, from the Old English word meaning both spear and ray of light. Design in 1986 by Scot Laughton with Tom Deacon, it is a numbered original. I fell in love with it when I saw it at the now defunct VIRTU annual Canadian design show in Toronto, where it was first shown. Time Magazine named it one of the 10 Best Designs of 1987.”

4. The Side Table

“This was fabricated from a single piece of steel that has been cut and folded. It adds another hit of colour to the

room. I found it at the store Avenue Road when I was selecting furniture for one of my clients. They bought one and so did I.”

5. The Coffee Table

“The Noguchi coffee table is a classic piece. It has a sculptural quality I appreciate. With no sharp edges, it encourages movement around the sofa. I purchased this at Palazzetti, here in Toronto.”

6. The Chair and Ottoman

“The Eames chair and stool are also timeless classics, way ahead of their time. They are both retro and futuristic at the same time. I also purchased them at Palazzetti.”

7. The Deer Head

“I saw this acrylic sculpture at a gallery in Toronto. It has an ironic transparency I couldn’t resist. I place a light below it to create a wonderful effect of light and shadow on the ceiling.”

