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03 LIVING IN STYLE

**LIFE BEFORE
DESIGN**

**HOLLYWOOD
DESIGN MIRACLES**

**NENDO
AT THE
HOLON MUSEUM**

**CHINA ART
PERSPECTIVE**

**MIAMI MUSEUM
OF
CHIANG MAI**

OBJEKT(NORTH AMERICA)



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*THE
TORONTO
GALLERY
HOUSE*



Above: the Gallery house in Toronto in its new appearance. Right: before and after the renovation. Far right: architect Taylor Smyth, responsible for the transformation. production: OBJEKT International



When two Toronto homeowners hired Taylor Smyth Architects to transform their dark, outmoded place in Forest Hill, where they had lived for over a decade, they asked for two things. They wanted light filled spaces to accommodate a museum quality art collection. They also asked for a real home: warm, relaxed and family focused.

Taylor Smyth Architects, based in Toronto Canada, synthesized the two, potentially contradictory ideas in a way that playfully showcases the art, but also offers both the parents and their three children a multitude of flexible spaces for work and relaxation, congregation and solitude.

The architects contained the program within the house's original footprint. They did so by expanding the interior spaces and ceiling heights, and clearing away awkwardly placed walls and columns.

The family areas were grouped on the ground floor at the rear of the home. They overlook a spacious garden and pool, visible through glass walls from the open-concept kitchen,



and homework center where each child has a work niche with a desk and a pin board. With an entire wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, the master bedroom was designed as a treetop perch. Its high ceiling was achieved by extending the space up into the attic above. Juxtaposed with this is the en-suite matte-black bathroom. This space invites soothing nighttime soaks under star-like lights and a circular skylight, offering both man-made and celestial experiences. The exterior of the house was substantially retained with the exception of the house's three, oversized neo-Tudor gables. These were re-clad with a random pattern of black stained marine plywood panels, divided

Far left: the master bedroom with the new ceiling height windows. Below: the black master bathroom. Center: the family spaces and the main hall and stairs featuring the installation '365 Days of AZT' by General Idea, and installation by Christian Boltanski and canvases by Graham Gillmore and Claude Tournant.



den and eating area. The library is tucked behind the living space. It was left untouched as a memory of the dark wood, Arts and Crafts-style paneling that lined the original house.

Suiting the family's passions, the original formal dining area was transformed into a sculpture gallery. It is now divided from the main hall by a feature wall that displays an installation called 365 Days of AZT by General Idea. The hall was aligned with a wall that features another piece of art: a bucolic Jeff Wall photograph that echoes the home's inside-outside themes.

An oak-and-steel stair runs along a wall with an installation by Christian Boltanski and canvases by Graham Gillmore and Claude Tournant. It leads up to a central lounge



by clear anodized aluminum channels. According to the architects, this was an artistic, contemporary response that abstractly refers back to the formal timber divisions of the original gables. The spacious backyard is relatively unchanged as a private retreat with a swimming pool, grass garden and various covered and uncovered seating areas.

The Toronto Gallery House

Objekt International Magazine, November 2016

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