

# Interiors

## *Luxury* BY DESIGN

JOSEPH VELOCE BRINGS A PERSONAL TOUCH  
TO ANCASTER'S LOVERS LANE.

**INSPIRED  
LIVING!**  
BUZZWORTHY  
DESIGNERS,  
DECOR  
& MORE!

A TOUCH OF TARANTINO COMES TO HAMILTON'S NORTH END  
FAB FURNITURE CAN GO FAR | WE SHOW YOU HIGH-IMPACT HOT SPOTS!



## Fab Furniture Can Go Far!

AS **RED BARRINUEVO** POINTS OUT, THE WHERE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE WHAT.

As the saying goes, it's not just the tools in your toolbox that get the job done; it's how you use them. Think of your furnishings as tools that serve a functional, spatial and aesthetic purpose — when used correctly.

As a stylist and “redesigner,” I find that more often than not, the furnishings themselves aren't the problem. Rather, it's their arrangement that can make a home feel cramped, inefficient or just plain awkward.

So, what's the trick to proper furniture placement in your space?

Step one is to measure, then measure again. The size of your space will define the type of furnishings you'll incorporate and how many pieces you'll need.

So, time to hit the showroom? Not so fast! Measuring is an important step not to be missed. I often find that furniture looks smaller in the store because of its wide, open space and high ceiling. When you bring that L-shaped sofa home, it takes up your whole living area. Measuring before buying will help you avoid any unpleasant surprises and the hassle of returns.

Once you have an idea of size, think about function.

These days, particularly in today's modern, open-concept homes, a single space will need to serve many purposes. For instance, an open-concept main floor will be used as a foyer, dining area, living area, family room and work space all in one. With a solid plan

complemented by the right furniture selections, this is all possible in a single space.

This is where zoning comes into play. Think about creating several intimate conversation areas, achieved through the use of colours and some strategic elements. One or two chairs, a side table, a great lamp and a mid-sized rug underfoot are all you need.

As you plan out the zones in your space, think about your traffic patterns. How do you walk through the room to get to an adjoining space or another zone within the room?

**TIP:** In the dining area, you'll need at least three feet of space between your wall to the dining chair to allow room to pull the chair out without bumping into the wall.

With that said, intimacy is key to a good conversation zone. Don't be afraid to place a couple of chairs close together and tell someone your story!

Lastly, look up. Having a high ceiling makes a big difference in the overall feel of the room. If your living room is blessed with high ceilings, take full advantage of that extra space. Although vertical space does not give you extra seating, what it can do is draw the eye upward, which helps to give the impression of a bigger and grander room than it really is. Fill in vertical space with gallery photos or a beautiful gallery wall.

Beautiful furniture that's improperly placed will fall flat. Redesigning a room to get that wow factor often involves a few new furniture finds coupled with your existing pieces and a well-planned perspective on how to place them.



Red Barrinuevo is an Interior Decorator and Principal of Redesign4more, servicing clients in Toronto and the GTA. The firm's known for enhancing and creating stylish yet functional spaces through their creative home staging and interior styling services. [redesign4more.com](http://redesign4more.com)