

Trim puts exclamation point on a room



**ALYKHAN
VELJI**
ALY'S FAVOURITE
THINGS

As designers, we take a lot of different elements into account when working on a renovation, new build or even a single room. There are a lot of choices to make for lighting, paint, wall coverings, windows and doors, and then the far-too-often overlooked: interior finishings.

Often an afterthought, the interior finishing choices you make are like the exclamation points at the end of a sentence — and the right choices in this department make the others shine. Think about it, baseboards are a must, the windows without any trim would be bland, the doors with no casings would be boring, and gorgeous ceiling details would be missed without crown mouldings.

These elements, formerly thought of as modest finishing touches, can be brought to the forefront of your design. Make a statement with your trim and you will create a more complete design, layered with interesting details and one that will fit right in on the cover of a design magazine.

This month, I want to show you a few ways that you too can achieve editorial-worthy designs with the simple use of interior finishings.



Photos: For the Calgary Herald
Very Square Collection, Door (www.metrie.com): A simple, flat stock door, is elevated with the use of rift-cut, horizontal grain of white oak. Solid core construction and its clean lines provide a stunning contrast to any modern space.



LEFT: French Curve Collection, Scene I Ikon (www.metrie.com): Most people associate this look with an older home and wouldn't use them in a modern space, but as you can see from the install photo, they can bring opulence and charm to any room. Installed on the ceiling with some gorgeous trim, they add just the right amount of pattern. I would also love to see this updated pattern as decorative touches on the wall of a room to add that certain je ne sais quoi!

RIGHT: True Craft Collection, Scene III Fir Casing, fireplace surround (www.metrie.com): Framing out a fireplace surround is a simple task, but using the right trim can make a fire feature go from bland to grand (and not break the bank). I love the look of the pieces in the True Craft Collection, they elevate the ordinary fireplace into a focal point.



**GEORGIA
NICOLS**
SEPTEMBER 27-28

All signs

We have the all clear today to do business and make important decisions. The Moon is in Scorpio.

Aries (March 21 — April 19)

Today: When dealing with shared property or how to divide something, make sure you protect your own best interest. After all, you don't want to give away the farm. Be kind, but remember that there is such a thing as idiot compassion.

Sunday: Others might be generous to you today or vice versa, you might be generous to them. Naturally, this is a good day to share something.

This week: This is an interesting week! For starters, many of you will run into ex-partners and old friends. This could be pleasant or not depending on how things ended.

Taurus (April 20 — May 20)

Today: You will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. In two weeks, the Moon will be in your sign and others will have to go more than halfway when dealing with you. Life is a pendulum.

Sunday: This is wonderful day to enjoy the company of others. Make plans to socialize and meet people for brunch, lunch, sporting events, a drive in the country, antique shopping — whatever.

This week: This particular Mercury retrograde is frustrating because at this time, you're on a kick to be productive, efficient and effective in everything you do. You want to be perfect! Lord knows you're working hard to get better organized, which makes it seem unfair that this Mercury retrograde is coming along to sabotage your efforts.

Gemini (May 21 — June 20)

Today: You might feel lazy today and not into work. That's

OK. It's Saturday. Just get through this day with a big smile and your momentum will return. In fact, Monday will be highly productive. Can you do something to improve your health?

Sunday: If you have to work today, you will get along well with co-workers and customers because people are congenial and easygoing today.

This week: This continues to be a fun-loving time, and also a time where you can enjoy sports events, playful times with children, the arts, the theatre and yes — romance. *Toujours l'amour!* It's the perfect time to slip away on a vacation and also the perfect time to begin a new flirtation. Old flames will be back in your life again and perhaps something will be rekindled?

Cancer (June 21 — July 22)

Today: This is a great day to schmooze with others. Make plans to have fun with kids or friends. Enjoy sports events, the arts, social occasions as well as vacations and fun times at restaurants and hotels. It's an easygoing day.

Sunday: This is a magical, creative day for you. Enjoy hobbies or expressing yourself in any artistic, creative way. In addition, you'll love to socialize with friends or be involved with playful activities with children.

This week: Your focus on home and family continues. Some of you are busy with redecorating projects and entertaining at home. Invite people over because you will love this camaraderie!

Leo (July 23 — Aug. 22)

Today: You will enjoy relaxing at home today; but you might also entertain. If so, you will be tempted to go overboard. Leos are famous for this.

Sunday: You will like resting at home today and enjoying the comfort of familiar surroundings. A conversation with a female family member is likely.

This week: This continues to be a busy time for you because you are schmoozing with others and loving it. You feel warm and friendly to everyone around you and in fact, you might be surprised to discover how much love there is in your daily world.

Virgo (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22)

Today: This is a positive day for those of you who use words for a living. It's a great day for writers, actors and teachers plus people in sales and marketing.

Sunday: You are energetic and curious today, which is why you will enjoy short trips, errands and chatting with others. Quite likely, you will notice the beauty of your daily surroundings more and be surprised by how much love there is in your daily world.

This week: Money squabbles with someone might erupt late in the week, especially on Saturday. These are power struggles about cash or possessions. Try to avoid them.

Libra (Sept. 23 — Oct. 22)

Today: Be careful with finances today because you will be inclined to spend big and throw your money around. If shopping, keep your receipts in case you change your mind later.

Sunday: You will delight in shopping for goodies and treasures for yourself and loved ones today. (You love clothing and beautiful things.) However, please be aware of the Moon Alert and do not shop during that window of time.

This week: Power struggles with others might erupt late in the week, especially on Saturday. Oy vey. You need this like a fish needs a bicycle. Fortunately, with Venus in your sign, your diplomatic skills are strong.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 — Nov. 21)

Today: Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Jupiter. This makes you feel benevolent and generous to everyone around. You're not concerned with trivial details because you see the big picture. You will love big gestures and fun time. Enjoy — but guard against excess.

Sunday: This is a lovely day because the Moon is in your sign dancing with Venus, which is why you feel gracious and diplomatic. Enjoy talking to others because they will enjoy talking to you.

This week: Mercury goes retrograde in your sign; and there is no sugarcoating this. It will attract old friends and ex-partners back into your life; but you will

also be dogged by silly errors, misplaced papers, forgotten keys, missed appointments and confused misunderstandings with others. *Aaaggh!* Yes, this will be frustrating but these things are minor irritants. Not major.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21)

Today: Relax and take it easy today. Work alone or behind the scenes. You don't have to get involved with other things or other people. Just take a break and watch the world go by.

Sunday: You might be surprised at how peaceful and content you feel today. Contentment is being happy with the way things are. Negativity is wanting things to be different from the way they are. It's that simple. Happiness is that close.

This week: Old friends you haven't seen or talked to for a while will be back in your life. You will enjoy this because you have lots of energy with Mars in your sign now. You won't hesitate to go after what you want, especially on Saturday.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19)

Today: You will feel generous to friends today, especially female acquaintances. This is a great day to hang out with others at clubs, groups and associations or small, social get-togethers. Be careful that you are not out of pocket by picking up a tab that is too steep. Let everyone pitch in.

Sunday: Discussions with others, especially in groups, will be warm and friendly today. In fact, your conversation with a female will be affectionate. A casual friendship could turn romantic.

This week: With the Sun and Venus currently at the top of your chart, you are in the limelight and looking good! A romance with a boss or someone in a position of authority might begin.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18)

Today: You might be tempted to go overboard doing something because you want to impress your boss or someone in a position of authority. Or possibly, you are in a position of authority and you go overboard because you want to impress the people reporting to you. Either way — not good.

Sunday: People in power will notice you today. Fortunately, they see you in positive terms because it's easy for you to make a good impression on others.

This week: Your wanderlust is still strong, which is why many of you are travelling for pleasure or exploring new avenues for adventure and new knowledge.

Pisces (Feb. 19 — March 20)

Today: Today you are excited about big plans for future travel. Or you might be thrilled about school plans or something to do with expanding your horizons through medicine and the law. It's good to think big because you don't limit your options. (And why would you do that?)

Sunday: Travel for pleasure today so that you can break free from your daily routine and enjoy the world around you. In particular, because your appreciation of beauty is heightened right now, visit galleries, museums, parks and beautiful places. This will please you more than you know.

This week: Ask for goodies, cash and favours from others because you will probably get what you want. Meanwhile, romance is passionate and affectionate because of the placement of Venus and the Sun in your chart right now. Enjoy this!

If your birthday is today

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow (1972) shares your birthday today. You quest for perfection, which makes you expect a lot from yourself and others. The first half of this year will seem slow; but soon, your efforts of the past six years will start to show results. Get out into nature this year.

If your birthday is on Sunday

Actress Naomi Watts (1968) shares your birthday today. This is a year of accumulation, and perhaps one of the most powerful years of your life. It's a time of fruition and a good time to buy and sell.