

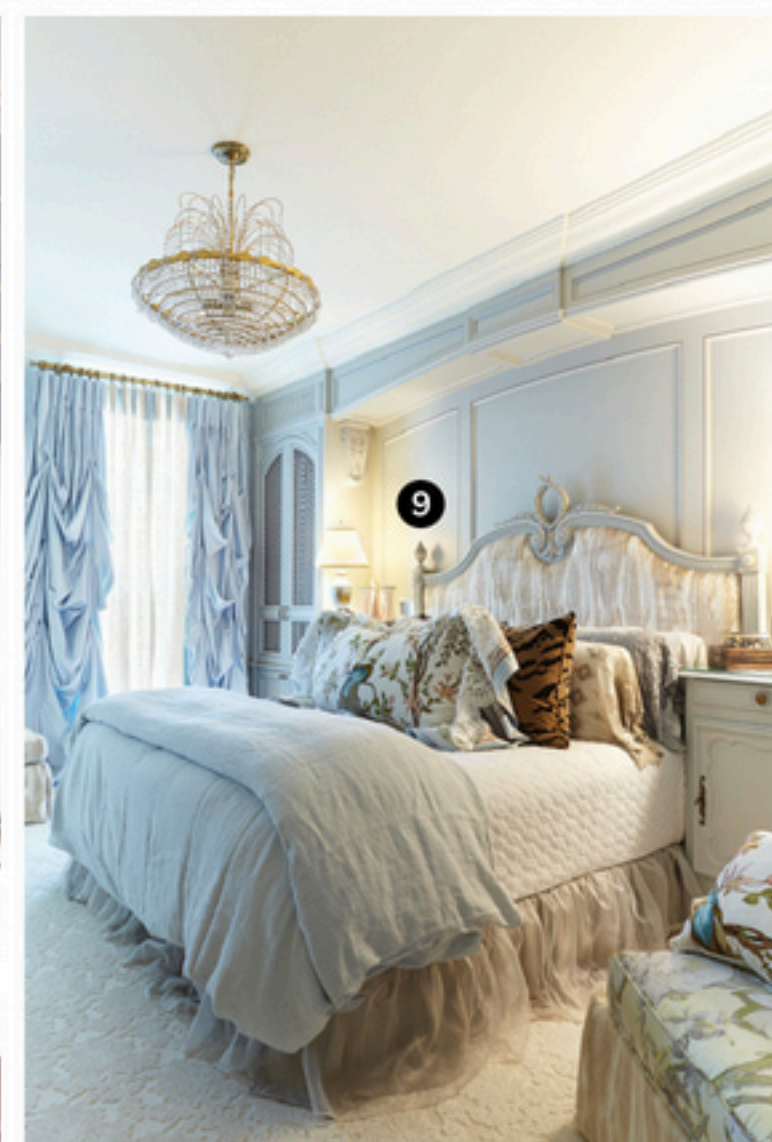


## GREAT SPACES

## Swish Château

Lori Morris, interior designer to the jet set, creates her own plush sanctuary in the city

For 25 years, Lori Morris has designed fantasy-inducing estates all over the world—a sprawling mountain lodge in Montana, an ancient house in Jerusalem, an oceanfront beach property on the Gulf of Mexico. The hectic, travel-heavy lifestyle made her crave a waterfront retreat of her own. Walking around her Etobicoke neighbourhood in 2003, she came across a terraced neo-Georgian row house on the lakefront and had to have it. Problem was, it wasn't for sale. She waited five years for it to come on the market and scooped it up the moment it did. In February 2008 she took possession and got to work turning the 2,500-square-foot property into her own private escape. She was inspired by French châteaux she'd visited on buying trips and indulged herself with the same luxuries as her clients: custom furnishings; antiques collected from France, Italy and England; ornate chandeliers; and enough rococo gilding to make Marie Antoinette blanch. She also updated the look to satisfy her 21st-century tastes. She stripped the house down to the studs, added grand archways to open up the space and crowned the rooms with custom millwork she designed herself. The result is an over-the-top hideaway that serves as her own Petit Trianon in Mimico. Her favourite room is her bedroom—she calls the rest of the house “the long hallway to my bedroom.”



1 The mirrored reading alcoves are a signature Morris design.

2 The leather and suede couches are custom designed by Morris and inspired by Fendi pillows, her favourite, which she has throughout.

3 The 1940s Murano chandelier is from Stanley Wagman Antiques.

4 The fireplace was cast from a French carved walnut piece imported for Forest Hill clients.

5 British artist Russell Young did the Marilyn Monroe portrait. It's finished with diamond dust.

6 Dinner parties let Morris show off her high-end mix-and-match aesthetic. She pairs black wine glasses with 24-karat gold plates, lamé crocodile placemats and antique silver services.

7 Morris is fanatical about fresh flowers. She gets the blooms from DMF and arranges them herself.

8 Tufted velvet walls and velvet pillows contrast “Choice of Weapon,” a work by French painter Yannick Fournié.

9 She designed the bedroom in neutral creams and powder blues for a romantic Merchant Ivory effect.

10 The antique mirror-topped table acts as a kitchen island.

11 Morris displays crystal and silver throughout the house. “Why buy beautiful things and hide them in a cupboard?” she says.

12 The mesh, crystal and LED chandelier is from the south of France.