



TAKE A TIP



POSTER PLOY

Paper a wall with art posters to create a vibrant room-sized collage.

Seen At: Le Sélect Bistro, one of Toronto's favourite spots for authentic French food. The restaurant recently relocated, renovating a new space to evoke a '20s-era Parisian bistro.

Designed By: Giannone Associates Architects.

We Love It Because: One entire wall of the bistro's private dining room is covered with dozens of posters marking past cultural events. In addition to being colourful and cheery, the collage captures the *bon vivant* spirit of French café society. Apply your own cache of posters (with wallpaper paste) to the kitchen or breakfast area for similar Gallic charm. For more tips on the bistro look, turn to "Focus," page 176. *Le Sélect Bistro*, 432 Wellington St. W., (416) 596-6405 or www.leselect.com; *Giannone Architects*, www.giannoneassociates.com. — K.B.

NEW AND NOTABLE



- Oliver Yaphe Books rug, \$70/sq.ft. (standard and custom sizes available). Through Y&Co., Toronto (416) 968-7700, Montreal (514) 287-8998 or www.oliveryaphe.com

There's never been a better time to hit the books, as two new fabric and rug collections reveal. Inspired by such globe-trotting writers as Paul Bowles, Pablo Neruda and Karen Blixen, after whom the designs are named, Donghia's Literary Collection of lush cotton fabrics with Moroccan-style patterns in red, amber, green and chocolate embodies the cosmopolitan character of the celebrated scribes. At the same time, Toronto-based Y & Co. recently launched Oliver Yaphe Collection, Canadian designer Katherine Yaphe's debut line of hand-knotted Nepalese wool rugs including one, called Books, featuring jaunty stripes arranged to look like a tower of tomes. Offering style writ large, both have the makings of contemporary classics. — W.H.

Book Smart

- Donghia Literary Collection fabric, \$180/yd. Through Têlio, Toronto (416) 968-2020, Montreal (514) 271-4607 or www.telio.com.



HOT STUFF



Nearly half a century after steam locomotives all but disappeared from this country, another Age of Steam is upon us, at least when it comes to household chores. Recently, LG Electronics introduced the world's first **steam washing machine** to the Canadian market. Featuring one of the largest drums (4 cubic feet) and fastest spin speeds around, the eco-friendly front-loading SteamWasher (\$2,300) mixes vapour with hot or warm water to clean clothes through an entire wash cycle; a separate program uses steam to reduce wrinkles without water or detergent. For the home chef, meanwhile, KitchenAid's new **Dual Fuel Range** with Steam-Assist Technology (\$5,800) combines steam with dry convection heat to add moisture while baking or roasting, resulting in juicier meats and better breads. Full steam ahead! — DANNY SINOPOLI



Steam Efforts

“Have no expectations. Just like in life — you’ll find something great when you’re not even looking”



TURNING JUNK INTO GEMS

These two **wicker headboards** (originally a headboard and matching footboard) were simply cleaned and spray-painted. Cost: \$16. We painted the **lamps**, then added adhesive DIY shades that we covered with fabric and trimmed with ribbon. Cost: \$75/pair. A small **side table** was painted, then a foam cushion was added to turn it into a bench. Cost: \$60. Bench and breakfast tray colour: Cloud White (CC-40), Benjamin Moore; bedding, Dwell; striped runner, Y&CO Carpet/Textiles; square accent pillows, lampshades, bb bargoons; lampshade fabric, velvet ribbon trim, macFAB; wastebasket, Scantrade; towels, red tables, teapot, mugs, HomeSense.

Sabrina Linn, Style Editor

FIRST FIND I spotted a silver teapot that I couldn't believe someone had thrown out — all it needed was a good cleaning. I've used it many times for floral arrangements.

WHEN I GO “SHOPPING” Spring is best because that's when people really start to rearrange and clean out their homes. And the first day of the month when everyone's moving: some people would rather leave something behind than pack it up.

I BRAKE FOR... Things made of metal or wicker. I like items that can be easily cleaned and brought back to life with paint.

FINDING KEEPERS If it catches my eye from the car, I stop for a second look. When a piece is broken beyond repair or if it smells, those are definite deal breakers for me.

WHY I DO IT I think people set certain things apart from the trash, hoping someone will rescue them. I like to put out my perfectly good discards too. Usually by the time I get back into the house the item has already been taken.

