

Welcoming design

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Photography Paula Wilson

OPEN HOUSE: Furniture designer Shaun Moore, co-owner of Made design store, lives with his boyfriend Todd Caldwell, a landscape and floral designer, in a partially renovated Victorian townhouse on the edge of Cabbagetown that displays a mix of creative savvy and easy-going charm

You bought this home nine and a half years ago. How did you end up downtown, on Bleeker St?

We were on the hunt for a year and looked at 80 to 100 houses, mostly in the west end. It was terrifying. We had a really low budget so most everything we saw was a disaster and tiny. Here, we were able to get much more house for the dollar. Even though the back was a ruin, there were good bones and details we could work with. And we have amazing neighbours.

How did you find architect Tamira Sawatzky who designed the modernist extension in the back?

She was amazing. We are close friends with Tamira so we knew how she worked and her thought processes. And she's a great listener. So the whole thing went really fast. We loved her ideas about layout and composition. Like the bulkheads in the kitchen and bathroom, how they force our attention — the views — downward into the garden instead of letting our eyes wander up in the sky or to the neighbours' homes.

You run a design store but your home isn't pretentious or twee.

I can't stand fussy interiors. Anything that's too pure, pristine and perfect is destroyed by the inevitable bumps and scrapes.