

# HONEST



01

# REPAIR

PHOTOS JAN RAS  
PRODUCTION SUMIEN BRINK  
WORDS CHERI MORRIS

**IN RENOVATING THEIR 178-YEAR-OLD HOME,** KEVIN FELLINGHAM AND WINNIE SZE KEPT INTACT A SENSE OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME.



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# KEVIN FELLINGHAM AND WINNIE SZE'S BO-KAAP HOME DATES TO 1839,

making it one of the oldest structures on their block. The building previously served as a farmhouse, an industrial workshop, a plumber's playground and a variety of office set-ups until it found its current purpose as the humble kingdom of a Miniature Schnauzer (with a not-so-miniature personality), Missy, and her creative human companions, Winnie (a curator) and Kevin (an architect).

Their well-loved home, says Kevin, is not so much a renovation or restoration as an "arts and crafts idea of an honest repair". The method with which he went about creating the artistic sense of comfortable wonder that the house exudes could be compared to the Japanese craft of *kintsugi* – repairing something broken using methods and materials that celebrate its history rather than disguise

the damage, such as mending broken pottery with gold to reveal rather than conceal the fracture lines. In the spirit of this philosophy, all the changes that the house has undergone have been made visible in a charismatic, conversational sense of honesty.

The original timber beams, which held up the old tin roof that has been around since the building was erected, are subtly contrasted with new sealed poplar inserts in a way that presents old and new as the best of friends. Where a crumbling structure once gave way to an ugly hole, a seemingly oddly placed skylight illuminates a small section of face brick purposefully left unplastered – an arresting form of simple art created through thoughtful architecture.

Hardly a thing was wasted in the refurbishment. What was once a front door that "didn't fit quite right" in the office space now serves as the rooftop balcony portal through which one moves to greet the city skyline against the picturesque backdrop of Table Mountain. An old courtyard now serves as a light-filled enclosed connection between the kitchen and the lounge, facilitating a moody play of light as the long fingers of the sun stretch in from the glassed tower space above it.

Other small details, like kitchen cupboard handles inspired by a dog-eared page in Kevin's diary, express the artistic whims of the architect's mind.

Winnie and Kevin are both avid collectors, so naturally various spaces in the house are adorned with detailed assemblages of art and artefacts. In the dining area is a larger-than-life bookcase nicknamed the Museum of Anthropology, named after the actual Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, one of Kevin's favourite places. Designed and made by him some years back in his London apartment over many Saturday mornings (much to the dismay of his neighbours), the shelving unit houses a myriad impressive collectibles that, without due explanation, could be horribly mistaken for things of little value.

"Winnie collects art and I, well, among other things I collect chairs," says Kevin. "I got this entire lounge set for half the price of what the couch alone normally costs. I used to go around checking out the antiques shops in London that were getting low on stock so I might be the first one there when a new batch came in. It's all about getting your timing right."

• [kfellingham.com](http://kfellingham.com)



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## PREVIOUS SPREAD

**01** The family of three sit on the staircase that leads to the bedroom. Winnie found the sculpture from the series *Neoscope* by Igshaan Adams at an art auction.

**02** The office space features a '60s Danish-style desk, a chest of drawers from an English antique market, a Chinese rice basket converted into an umbrella stand, and another piece by Igshaan Adams. The Spoon chair is by Antonio Citterio for Kartell.

## THIS SPREAD

**01** The kitchen, fitted by Kevin Fellingham Architects, sees simple materials work beautifully and efficiently.

**02** The dining room is a shrine of collectables and antiques. The table and chairs are from De La Espada and are lit by Danish lights from the 1960s. The shelves, handmade by Kevin Fellingham Architects, hold wonders that include a piece of the Berlin wall, the eardrum of a whale, and artwork from the likes of Bobby Lloyd, Jan-Henri Booyens, and Jackson Hlungwani.



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**REFURBISHMENT**

**01** In the study, a bentwood chair and stool by Alvar Aalto for Artek, an American office chair from the '20s, and a '30s reclining Morris chair are evidence of Kevin's love for collecting seating. The Tolomeo lamps are by Michele De Lucchi for Artemid; the World War II bent plywood leg splint (on the bookcase) is by Charles and Ray Eames; and the artwork on the wall is by Arlene Amaler-Raviv.

**02** The lounge features: an Eames coffee table and chairs, side tables by Alvar Aalto for Artek, a '60s standing lamp by Peter Nelson, Akari YA2 table lamp by Isamu Noguchi, and a large feature fireplace.





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**SPACES ARE ADORNED WITH DETAILED ASSEMBLAGES OF ART AND ARTEFACTS**

**01** The original, homely bathroom is part of the bedroom and features a contemporary tub from Builders Warehouse. The towel rails, by Kevin Fellingham Architects, are also the water pipes that carry the hot water from the solar heating unit.

**02** The warm, pop of colour from the Hay bedspread brightens the simple yet characterful bedroom. An Akari 1P lamp by Isamu Noguchi rests on the Jasper Morrison marble Plate table. The chairs are Pernilla by Bruno Mathsson.



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