

Decor ideas can be found even in less flamboyant coffee shops

DECOR FROM G1

“I think the main thing is to go with a few pieces that have a ‘commercial’ style. If you have feather pillows everywhere it won’t look like a coffee shop, it will look like a cottage retreat. Coffee shops are public spaces, so they usually use tight furniture.”

While both Crew and Pastel Rita stand out for their out-of-the-ordinary designs, there’s nothing wrong with drawing inspiration from a more minimalistic looking spot, like Café Larue & Fils on Jarry Street in Villeray.

With its floor-to-ceiling windows, exposed brick wall and ceiling ductwork, the shop’s bare bones are already remarkably similar to those of many condos in the city.

“Café Larue & Fils, to me, reads

as a bright space,” said Arianne Hudon-Brooks. “Natural light is abundant and the use of glossy white subway tile plays nicely with this light. Wood elements add warmth to the mostly neutral palette, while plants and vintage backless stools make the space more casual and relaxed.”

“In the N.D.G. kitchen that I worked on, walls were demolished and the existing window was replaced with a much larger one, to achieve our goal of flooding the main floor with natural light. Glossy subway tiles contrast with the rawer and dark concrete countertops; they were installed all the way up to the ceiling for an industrial look.”

“Open storage might also make the kitchen feel similar to a coffee shop, keeping everything easily accessible and overall more relaxed.”



Glossy white subway tiles work nicely with the natural light in Café Larue & Fils, while plants and vintage backless stools add a casual and relaxed vibe to this mostly neutral decor. *MAYSSAM SAMAHA PHOTO*



The N.D.G. kitchen Arianne Hudon-Brooks worked on saw walls demolished and an existing window enlarged “to achieve our goal of flooding the main floor with natural light.” *PHOTOS (3): COURTESY OF HB DESIGN*



White subway tiles were installed right up to the ceiling in this N.D.G. kitchen for an industrial look. And open storage (below) can make a kitchen feel similar to a coffee shop, with everything easily accessible.



Trends in custom-built decks

Custom-built decks can expand usable outdoor entertaining spaces. Decks can surround pools and create outdoor patio areas that make it easy to establish multi-tiered living spaces, improving the functionality of outdoor areas.

Certain deck trends have emerged as industry experts’ top picks for the upcoming remodeling and renovation season. For those thinking of revamping an existing deck, or building an entirely new one, these trends are on point.

Established perimeters — “Picture framing” is not a new trend, but one that has taken greater hold in recent years. The term refers to esthetically appealing designs that conceal the ends of deck boards for a clean finish.

Some designs feature contrasting material colours on the ends for even more impact. This helps create refined perimeters for a polished look.

Rooftop decking — Urban areas also can benefit from decking to create usable outdoor spaces. In fact, many new condominium and townhouse communities are incorporating rooftop decks into their designs, particularly in communities with water views or other impressive vistas.

HGTV experts suggest rooftop decks feature light-coloured materials and fixtures to help keep the area cool even in direct sunlight.

Distressed hardwood — Builder and Developer, a management resource for professional homebuilders, says that the trend for using distressed hardwoods at home has migrated outside.

Some decking manufacturers have recently introduced low-maintenance composite deck boards that mimic the look and feel



Deck trends continue to improve on the form and function of outdoor living spaces. *METRO CREATIVE PHOTOS*



cial eateries, breweries and urban markets in their exterior design choices. Decks featuring composite materials and aluminum railings blend sophistication, urban appeal and comfort.

Personal touches — Homeowners can customize their decks with personal touches. It’s not unheard of to wrap columns in stone or glass tiles for more impact. And a vast array of decking colours now enables fun interpretations for outdoor areas.

Firepit conversation area — Many decks can incorporate water or fire elements for visual appeal. Gas-fuelled fire elements can expand the functionality of decks beyond the warm seasons, or make enjoying them practical on nights when the temperature plummets.

Decks are reimagined in many different ways with continually evolving trends.

of distressed, rustic hardwood flooring.

This weathered appearance gives the look of age without the upkeep of real aged wood.

Wooden walkways — Decking can be the more traditional design people envision with a patio table or outdoor furniture. But it also can consist of wooden walkways or a low-laying patio to accentuate the yard.

Mixed materials — Homeowners may be inspired by commer-

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