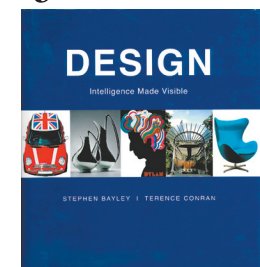


'Part history, party house-porn, part reference': a must-have for design junkies

Design guru Terence Conran got his start designing a store for Mary Quant in the swinging London of the 1960s. His 1974 bible, *The House Book*, is still a keeper for home-style aficionados. Mr. Conran's co-author, Stephen Bayley, is the design guru who famously said that "Modernism is fundamentally an inclination to want to tidy up." Together they've created a design bible that's

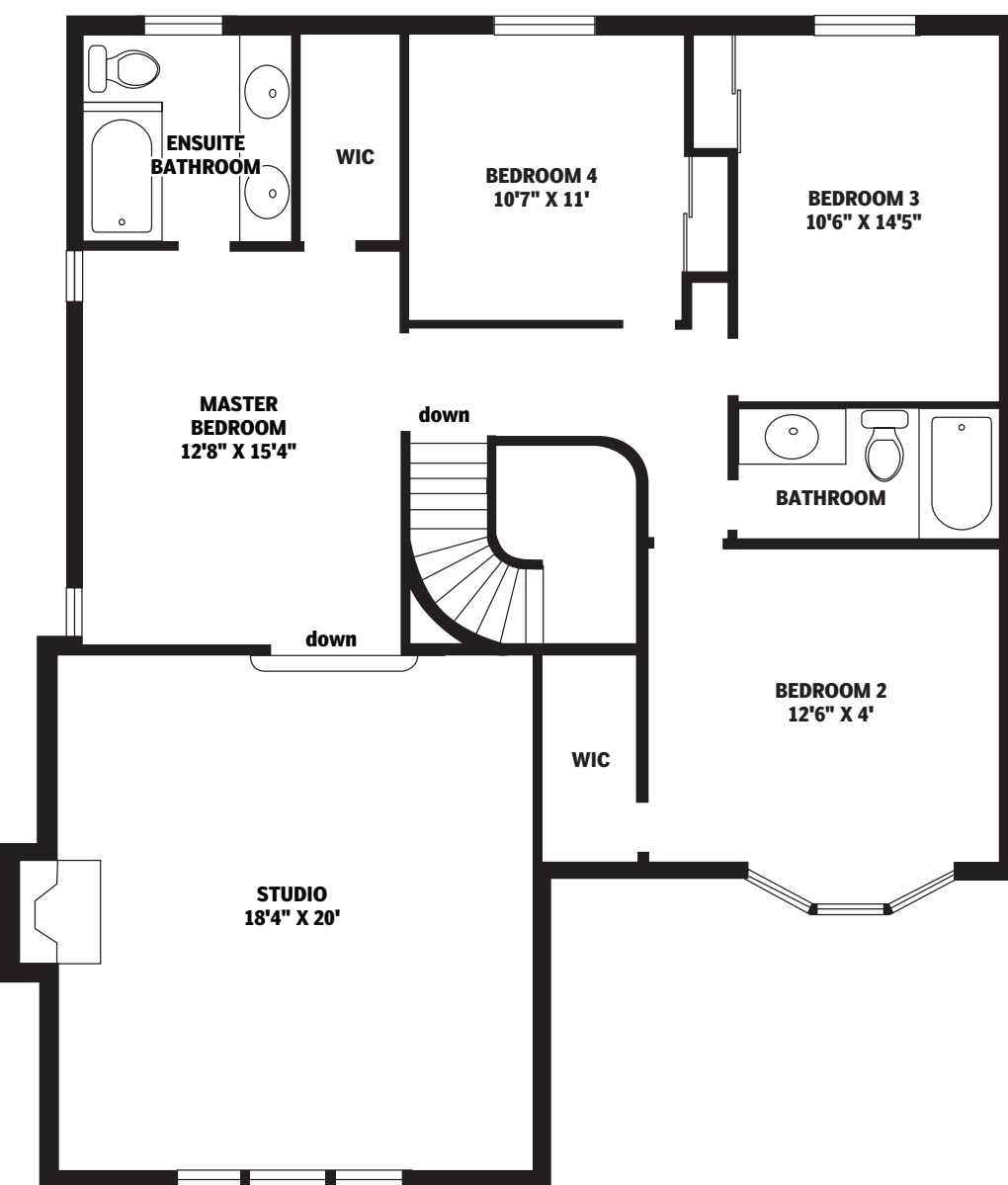
a must for art freaks and cultural historians. Presented dictionary-style, the book is a glorious buzz through all things beautiful and functional. Part history, part house-porn, part reference book, you'll find everything from a brief history of the Google logo to fine art, cub-

ism, Bauhaus and more. Pieces of cultural history are put into context, with gorgeous colour-plate illustrations and a faultless design that makes handling and reading a pleasure. *Denise Ryan, CanWest News Service*



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Three design experts analyze a layout for a 2,365-square-foot single storey of a house



ANTHONY PROVENZANO
*Intern architect,
furniture designer*



This floor plan screams loudest, cries of disproportionate space. And when it's not screaming,

it's yawning because it's so boring. In a floor plan with four bedrooms, the master suite is assigned roughly 45% of the total floor area. As a result, the plan is very efficient, in that a very small amount of floor space is allotted to circulation. But that doesn't make it a good plan. It is all very anti-climatic spatially because it's severed from the floor below. To address the shortcomings, leave the rooms in their current location but get corridor access to the studio (rework the second bedroom). Then in the studio, introduce double-height volume to connect the first and second floor. Intuitively, I'd say the front third of the current studio should be given to create a double-height space with a guard-height wall overlooking the space below. This would make it more interesting spatially and simultaneously, the master suite gets re-proportioned. And I think this plan needs it.

■ Anthony Provenzano is an intern architect and furniture designer.

DEE DEE TAYLOR HANNAH
Architect, interior designer



Dull is not fun. Living in this mundane plan is not going to inspire. A studio is exactly what? Will

Francesco Vezzoli be embroidering there? I doubt it. At any rate, you can only get to the studio through the master so let's change this up. The studio becomes the master bedroom with closets along the walls that are accessible. The previous master bedroom becomes the sitting room and the ensuite grows as it takes over the previous WIC. A suite is born. There is a trend for two master suites so let bedroom two take over space from the new master bedroom. Now this second master suite can have its own ensuite and dressing area. If your closets are not walk-in, you can capture more area for other uses. Speaking of the closet game, you can eliminate closets, hence enlarge the room and purchase armoires that can be custom designed for your clothes scrimmage. Think of it as a touch-down for your shoe collection.

■ Dee Dee Taylor Hannah operates Taylor Hannah Architect and is a partner in Montclair Construction.

ZAC RIDGELY
Lighting designer



There is nothing wrong with the plan, other than one might die of boredom. The

second bathroom is too small to service the three bedrooms. Move the wall in bedroom two to create space in this bathroom. One might look to add a toilet/hand basin to avoid the morning rush. Although that would involve sacrificing some bedroom size. The master bedroom's walk-in is tiny. By centring the step down to the studio on the exterior window, valuable space is created to the right-hand side of the master bedroom. A dresser or minimal built-in could then be positioned here. The walk-in closet in bedroom two should have its doors centred to create more balance. More interesting? Open the central stair, install a minimal railing and a large skylight above. Let the natural light flood in. This would also be a great location for a custom glass chandelier. Where could we source one of those? At ridgelystudioworks.com, of course.

■ Zac Ridgely is the principal of Ridgely Studio Works Inc., an interdisciplinary firm.