

# Fixing up a diamond in the rough

MARCY CORNBLUM  
Special to Postmedia Network

**T**oronto-native Tamara Kronis left a big law firm in 2003 to transition from law to business. Thinking that she now had the time, she would take a course in gemmology at George Brown College, and that led her into the jewelry arts program.

The first time she sat down at a jewelry bench and held a file she was hooked. In 2006, she put her "full-time focus" on jewelry. In 2010, she opened her own shop, Studio1098 ([www.studio1098.com](http://www.studio1098.com)).

Kronis, now a goldsmith and a gemmologist, feels that the best part of her job is: "Helping people celebrate the happy occasions in their lives."

We took the opportunity to ask the jewelry maven about the latest trends. "For ladies, rose gold remains popular. I'm being asked for coloured diamonds and sapphires as an alternative to diamonds."

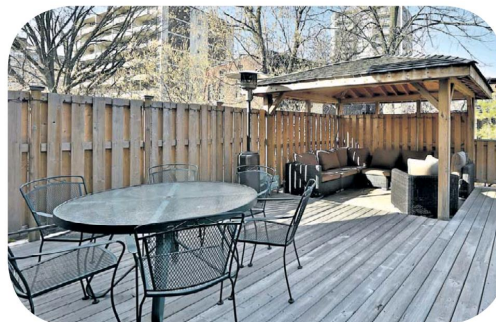
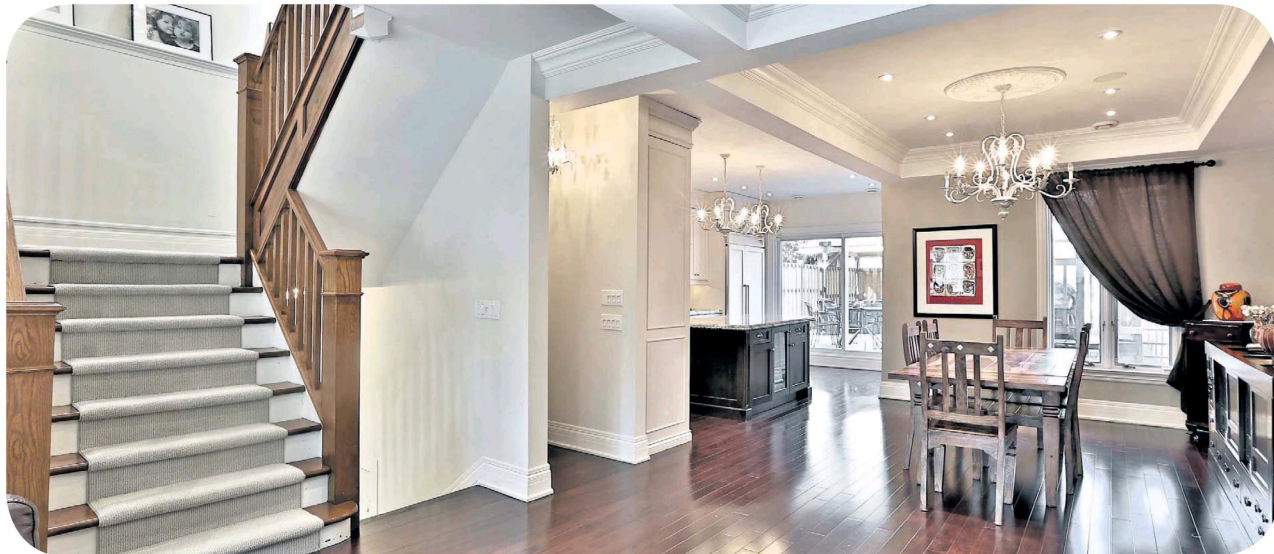
And for men? "Custom wedding bands in mixed metals and a right hand ring that reflects something about his personality."

Kronis invited Celebrity Spaces into her home.

**How would you describe your home in one word?**  
Open.

**Tell us about your home.**

Our home was an old 'Annex' rooming house when we found it in July 2010. It was in such bad shape that we were able to pull together enough money to buy it even though it is in a neighbourhood that we thought we'd never be able to afford. My husband and I spent 14 months converting the house into a duplex. The entire main floor is one big room that serves as kitchen and living space. We have three bedrooms and a laundry room upstairs and a recreation room and extra bedroom and bath in the



basement. It is our eighth home in 10 years and we are never moving again!

**What attracted you to this space?**

It was exactly what we were looking for — a wreck of a house that we could turn into a home.

**Who shares this home?**

My husband Martin and I live here with our eight-year-old daughter and our six-year-old son. A lovely family of three live in the first floor apartment, and we've had a house guest staying with us for the past six months.

**How much time do you spend at home?**

I spend as much time here as I can. Right now, we're here mostly evenings and weekends.

**What is your favourite room and why?**

My favourite room is our

deck. We have a covered outdoor area and I love working and relaxing outside when the weather is nice.

**How would you describe your decorating style?**

Streamlined traditional with warm colours and

open spaces. There are lots of old-fashioned details but fairly minimalist ones with clean lines and without a lot of furniture or knick-knacks.

**What is your fondest memory in this home?**

My fondest memory in this home so far was from the ice storm of 2013. We were incredibly lucky not to lose power so our home became a drop-in centre for many of our friends and family.

**What's the one item in this house you can't live without?**

This winter, it was definitely our fireplace.

**Weekends at home, what are we most likely to find you doing?**

I work Saturdays since it's the only day lots of my clients are available for jewelry appointments. After work or on Sunday morning, you'll find me on the deck under the pavilion reading or just hanging out with one of the kids listening to the noises of the city around us.

**If your walls could talk, what would they say?**

They'd like us to throw more dinner parties!