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Sappho Griffin (with Hannah, 4) and Andrew Starzomski reworked their quaint shingled cottage-house inside and out.

A PASSIONATE
HOMEOWNER CRAFTS
AN EVOCATIVELY OLD-
WORLD HOME FOR HER
FAMILY IN A HISTORIC
HALIFAX-AREA BURG.

TEXT BY ELLEN HIMELFARB
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW WALLER

Character Study

So much design

these days is about European trends, injection-moulded plastics and \$10,000 light fixtures that it's refreshing to behold an interior that eschews the "next best thing." That's not to say that today's style is capricious. But when you see a home like Sappho Griffin's, in the enclave of Bedford, N.S., you know it was decorated by an individual with real soul.

Bedford, a forested seaside community 15 minutes from downtown Halifax, is possibly as romantic as urban living gets in Canada. By turns misty and sun-soaked, it hugs the

TOP: Characteristically resourceful, Sappho transformed her white wood-paneled living room into an eclectic entertaining space with pillows found at a flea market in New York, a vintage chandelier and pieces she designed for her shop, Henhouse. Curtains, Babylon Draperies; shades, Pier 1 Imports; armoire, mirror, Henhouse; flowers, The Flower Shop.

It took Sappho and Andrew a summer of weekends to paint the exterior, which they redid in putty-grey. The

Nova Scotia-made Adirondack chairs were repainted too. Andrew and Sappho's father redid the garden. Umbrella, Pier 1.





The overhauled kitchen now incorporates an upper level of cabinets, polished-concrete counters, cork flooring and vintage-look taps. The island was the first of its kind Sappho did for Henhouse. The lantern is from Stadacona Lodge, a military hall in Halifax. Taps, Ginger's; baskets, Renovator's Resource; flooring, Taylor Flooring.

Atlantic like a summer resort. For a place to grow up, or to grow old, you can't do much better. Or so says Sappho, who chose to settle here seven years ago.

She was born in Vancouver and grew up in Toronto, where her mother, JoAnn Griffin, was an avid collector and dealer of antiques and McCoy pottery (her collections have appeared in previous issues of *House & Home*). In her twenties, Sappho moved back out to Vancouver and took a job with the antique and reproduction furniture store Folkart Interiors, where she learned the arts of furniture design, restoration and custom-finishing.

She might still be in Vancouver if it weren't for the city's housing market ("Crazy!"), the rat race ("It was getting a little like Toronto") and her husband, Andrew Starzomski, a Nova Scotia native. Yearning to escape the pressure to work longer hours, discover a

TOP RIGHT: Sappho painted the breakfast nook a soft khaki. She brought the vintage chairs and antique table from B.C. and designed the banquette herself. The sconces were found at a vintage shop in Halifax; the artwork, a wedding gift, was painted by her cousins. EAT letters, Backyard & Veranda; walls, Light Khaki (2148-40), Benjamin Moore.

RIGHT: In the hall, the black-painted front door, star-shaped light and Indian fabric-turned-closet drape are unique contrasting adornments. A little antique stool helps Hannah don shoes. All the pine floors are original. Wall colour, Natural Linen (CC-90), trim (throughout), Cloud White (CC-40), Benjamin Moore.

