

DESIGN DUO JASMINA AND GORAN TIJANIC
AT TORONTO HARBOUR

POSH ON
LAKE ONTARIO

The apartment of the architects Jasmina and Goran Tijanic in the iconic Harbour Terrace building at Toronto's harbor, developed and designed in the by architect Daniel Li. The interior was designed and executed entirely by the residents and their design company Gogo Design. They converted a one bedroom apartment into a modern spacious living environment.

Outside the sailing boats glide past and, in the distance, small planes take off from Billy Bishop airport on one of the offshore islands. Here, in Harbour Terrace, a modestly sized apartment complex, is where Jasmina and Goran Tijanic live.

Both architects hail from Bosnia and have found their new home in Toronto.



Right: Jasmina and Goran Tijanic at their Toronto apartment overlooking the Lake Ontario and parts of Toronto Harbour. The artwork is by Victor Tkachenko, Toronto, Left: the balcony of the apartment.

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It is now called one of the most prestigious Waterfront condo designs in Toronto. Harbour Terrace, with its intelligent architectural design, allows residents to enjoy views of Lake Ontario on three sides of the building. It was built in the eighties by architect Li, who designed and developed it at the lake shore. In those days this was a scrappy, industrial area with no residential buildings or any planning to develop it.

Things have changed considerably since those days. Over the last ten years, the shore of the lake has been swamped with high-rise apartment buildings in all forms. Harbour Terrace may appear small, but it offers residents all the benefits of the modest scale. The apartments are designed with one to three bedrooms and some have fireplaces. The 7th and 8th floors accommodate three two-storey penthouses. Jasmina and Goran Tijanic have been living here since 2006.

“It was a one-bedroom apartment of 1400 sq feet. Yes, it was small but we found the location beautiful. We saw great potential with the views. We knocked down everything in the interior and transformed it into a modern 2 bedroom and 2 bathroom apartment. Only the window elements were left untouched.”

“For the rest, we freshened everything up. It is a pretty solid building. Even now you can find apartments in the original state. All apartments are at an angle of 45 degrees to the main structure so that unobstructed views are guaranteed. Pretty cool for a building from the eighties. The only thing that is less cool is the ceiling height, but after our renovation it isn’t all that noticeable.”

The main feature of the apartment is the large window section and the covered balcony. Directly connected to this are the living room, dining area and kitchen. More to the back, are the master bedroom and a second room with sliding doors. That room can be used as study or a bedroom. In the corridors the design duo created an ingenious series of wardrobes.

The Tijanics originate from Bosnia, but the war forced them to leave. Having spent two years working at an architectural practice in Prague, they landed in Toronto in 1995.

Jasmina: “We didn’t speak a word of English, but managed to learn it quickly. I went to work at the Rogers Wireless company, which was in the process of building a big network. However, no-one wanted to look out on something like that, so I worked on the camouflage. I managed to create a position for myself. And now we work together. Goran embarked on creating customized furniture, and later designing and building houses. Yes, we’ve worked hard to get where we are, but we have had opportunities here. And that also applies for a lot of people from Bosnia and Croatia who had to flee because of the war.”



Right: with big sliding doors the Tijanics created an extra bedroom/ study adjacent to the kitchen and living area.

Below: the living area with bespoke Tijanicsfurniture.

Top right: the master bedroom with big sliding doors to the balcony.

Below that: the master bathroom with ingenious spacing of the showers and utility room.

All all interior elements were designed by Goran and Jasmino Tijanic and their design company Gogo Design. Kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms , all built-in furniture were made by millwork and fine furniture company Line to Line from Toronto. Goran is co-owner of Line to Line. Wood art and lamp are by Brazilian Home, New York.

