

For immediate release. June 2024

Ashley Botten Design has created a flexible work environment for the changing needs of Toronto film production company.

Housed on the second floor of a recently completed mixed-use building at 12 Ossington Avenue, a growing television production studio takes advantage of the natural light that pours in through multiple arched windows. The building may be new, but its unique design by Hariri Pontarini Architects has made it an instant icon on a street well known for its graffiti-covered alleyways, fashion shops, eateries and bars.

In contrast to the bustling street, Ashley Botten Design (abd) introduces to the interior a calm sophistication, which is evident the moment visitors step from the elevator. A gently curved oak wall with the company's logo embedded in copper leads to the open-concept space with high ceilings and wooden floors reminiscent of a converted warehouse. Abd's natural material palette layers in a casual and inviting warmth. More traditional office desks are replaced by tabletop surfaces and a communal table surrounded by 16 matching Lara chairs in bleached ash. The extended table provides ample space for impromptu meetings and conversation.

A generous kitchen reflects a work culture that values entertainment and social interaction as essential creative tools. Centrally located, it has a false ceiling and side walls that frame it as a room within a room. Bleached oak finishes define the walls with concrete-hued composite used on the countertops. A plate of blackened steel folds over one portion of the island adding another textural feature. When not in use, the ample island and matte-finish cabinetry transform into sculptural volumes, blending seamlessly with the office design and its overall caramel palette.

To maintain the interior's openness, abd selected sliding doors over fixed walls and doors. Manufactured in Italy, the moveable walls have linen layered between sheets of glass to provide a scrim for privacy without obstructing the natural light. An additional sliding wall between the kitchen area and work tables allows for a discrete lounge area at the back, where two changing rooms are regularly used for costume fittings.

Lighting selections are a playful mix of direct and diffused. Track lighting on the ceiling and office-inspired task lights, including the Juniper Thin suspension above the harvest table, make every seat option in this space a potential workplace. Meanwhile, various diffusers, from a moon-shaped wall sconce near the waiting area bench to a conical pendant made of crinkled white paper, cast a softer and more residential mood.

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ASHLEY
BOTTEN
DESIGN



Photography: Patrick Biller

Project name: Downtown Film

Completion: Spring 2024

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Design team: Ashley Botten, Quinn Baleja, Jessica Collins

Builder: Starna

Architect: Hariri Pontarini Architects

Photography: Patrick Biller

abd furniture and products that were used in this project:

frederick ottoman

poppy coffee table

copper apple box

small copper potter vessel

small black potter vessel

brass apple box

ashley botten design

Founded in Toronto by Ashley Botten, abd is recognized for its experiential interiors, outdoor environments and artful accessories and furniture. The studio brings a deeply refined appreciation of quality, artistry and a unique curated approach. Its modern sophistication comes from a calming sense of balance and proportions, where every detail is intentional and fits naturally within the dimensions of a room. Ashley and her team are highly attuned to finding singular moments, where objects that might seem purely functional, such as a curtain rod or wooden bench, become a defining feature. The studio seeks out what is exceptional in the everyday and is continually engaged in collaborations with bespoke creative studios including bronze caster Nancy Pearce. Select abd products are available through Avenue Road and The Rug Company.

ashley botten. creative director

Born and raised in Toronto, Ashley credits her unique aesthetic to a wealth of lived experiences and a love for art, architecture and fashion. Her mother's natural ability to style the family's homes was an early Influence, as was growing up immersed in the hospitality world with a father who managed luxury hotels in Toronto and Boston, including the Four Seasons Hotel. She recalls spending weekend sleepovers in hotel suites and exploring every corner, including the indoor pools and discotheques that were popular in the 1980s.

After a career in retail at a Montreal home accessories and clothing shop, Ashley moved into the hospitality design space, and after 3 years launched her own studio in Toronto in 2008. Her process is deeply collaborative, working closely with local artisans, fabricators and clients on private family homes, multi-generational retreats, workspaces and retail shops.

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