

Eye for detail

NAMES: Tammy Isbell and Peter Outerbridge

OCCUPATION: Actors

RESIDENCE: Two-storey Victorian home in The Annex in Toronto

LIVED THERE: Over three years

By Kathryn Kates

When husband-and-wife actors Peter Outerbridge and Tammy Isbell found out they were going to have twins, it was time to find a bigger home. The couple and their sons Sam and Tom, now 2½, found a 1926, red-brick Victorian-style home with a front porch in The Annex in Toronto.

Toronto-born Outerbridge plays David Sandstrom in *ReGenesis*. He's also just completed filming *Burning Mussolini*, the first writing and directorial feature by fellow *ReGenesis* actor Conrad Plah. Outerbridge also has been cast in the movie, *In God's Country*, with Kelly Rowan of *The O.C.* Until last year, Isbell, who's from Victoria, B.C., played FBI agent Sigalis in *Missing* and currently plays Rose in *Paradise Falls*.

With twins and busy careers, the couple doesn't have time to renovate. So, they turned to actor Allen Altman of Allen Altman Designs — a landscape and design business. He co-stars with Isbell on *Paradise Falls*.

Q: How did Allen Altman help you?

A: I think Allen has really a great eye for what we want. Our house is a work-in-progress. We want to update, but we are also trying to make it look like when you come through the front door this is what you would find in a house like this. So, our design has always been based on trying to preserve the feel of the house, as opposed to putting in some contemporary anachronisms.

Q: How would you describe your home?

A: On the main floor to the right of the foyer is the living room, which opens up into a separate dining room, the kitchen, a bathroom and an addition that was put on by previous owners and acts as a large breakfast room at the back. The top floor has one bathroom and three bedrooms, including the master and the twins' room, and an office with built-ins. Both the living and dining rooms have ebony hardwood flooring. The kitchen and breakfast-room floors are done in a vinyl terracotta-coloured tile.



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Tranquil living room blends traditional styling with modern comfort — a mix the couple hopes to achieve throughout the home.



Actors Peter Outerbridge and Tammy Isbell are busy parents to twin sons Sam, in green shirt, and Tom.

The living room is painted in linen by Ralph Lauren. There is a hand-woven Asian rug in light gold with accents of red on the floor. Drapery is a light-gold pinstripe. Lighting is a vintage, utilitarian tin schoolhouse hanging light with a white glass shade. There is an ebony black leather couch and a green metallic velvet chair and ottoman set with antique brass tacks.

The dining room has gold-painted walls. What is special about the dining room is Allen painted the ceiling in a metallic gold. We have a warm red buffet and hutch on the south wall and on the north wall is an oil painting of a large

wedding ring on a black background bought for our fourth wedding anniversary. Underneath, Allen built a bar, which is painted black and has crystal knobs.

The kitchen has toast-coloured walls, white appliances and cabinetry, and laminate countertops in a light-bamboo shade. There is an antique bar from England and a dark-brass antique chandelier with glass drops. Allen created a backsplash using a Venetian finish in terracotta mixed with green and gold.

Q: What are your future renovation plans?

A: Future plans include building a master bedroom with walk-in closets and an ensuite with an old-fashioned tub in the attic. That will ensure the boys have their own rooms.

We intend to live in the house for the rest of our lives and look forward to raising our children here.

Q: What is your advice to others buying an old house?

A: You want to check that the electrical system is up-to-date, the foundation is solid and there are no cracks in the wall or water damage. Make sure you have a good inspector when you buy a house. Know what you like and make sure that is what you get, because you have to live with it. If you use a designer, make sure the designer is on the same page as you are.

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