

LE MARCHÉ ST. GEORGE, A CHARMING NEIGHBORHOOD SHOP AND CAFÉ
IN VANCOUVER, B.C., HOUSES A STYLISH, SECOND-FLOOR SECRET.

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Stay.



Janaki Larsen and her family kept the floors original to the 1904 space, added period-appropriate moldings, and then took down walls in order to create the open floor plan. To decorate, they filled the apartment with reupholstered Craigslist finds and inexpensive antique store treasures; almost all of the paintings are by Janaki's mother, artist **Patricia Larsen**.





OPPOSITE: The stairs leading up to the apartment feature a photograph done by Janaki's sister, **Klee**, and a vintage chandelier.
THIS PAGE: All of the window treatments are simple Belgian linen, next to another work of art by Janaki's mother. The space, in addition to being an apartment, has at times held a pop-up restaurant, shop, art gallery, and more.



Go ahead—just looking won't hurt, will it? These famous last words that come before so many major purchases aren't often spoken before buying a building in near shambles, but **Janaki Larsen's** family just has a knack for seeing the beauty in things. Even things that may be "covered in putrid blue stucco," as she puts it.

But after having driven by 4393 St. George St. for a long time and dreaming of turning it into a market, Janaki, her husband **Pascal Roy**, and her aunt **Marie Brennan** bought the turn-of-the-century building in 2009. One year later, it became Le Marché St. George. "It think it was meant to be," Janaki says.

The shop that occupies the space downstairs is only three years old, but it certainly feels like an idyllic, old-world general store that one only expects to see in movies anymore. That's not surprising, given Janaki's background in the film industry as a set decorator, and skills as a ceramic artist. Her eye for composition makes everything just so. A revival of the neighborhood store of yesteryear, or French "marché," the shop stocks various gourmet foodstuffs and sundries alongside a charming café.

Larsen's aunt owns the 830-square-foot residence above the marché, which has also been extensively renovated—much of it by Pascal, with help by their architect friend, **Barbara Bernal**.



FROM LEFT: In keeping with the found nature of the furnishings, the ornate dining table was a gift from a friend. The simple, modern kitchen has open shelving, and the refurbished fireplace features are ceramics crafted by Janaki. The bed linens were found on a buying trip to Mexico, and can be purchased in the shop below the apartment.

They transformed the former two-bedroom apartment with a choppy layout and pink-tiled kitchen with three layers of linoleum into the open, elegant space that it is today. The best part? They did it on a small budget. "Our whole family are total scavengers," Janaki says. "No two things in the apartment are from the same place."

Through Craigslist, thrift shops, antique stores, friends, family (all of the art on the wall is the work of various talented members of Janaki's family), they achieved a flawless haute bohemian look. "Nothing is extremely precious, expensive, or designer," Janaki says. "It's beneficial to be confident in the things that you love, and not to worry if they all go together.

There is always a common thread in what people like, so it just ends up working."

The other piece of advice Janaki has is that patience is a virtue. "It took a good year to get it to this point, and it's because we didn't settle. Sometimes you have to live without a coffee table if you can't find one you love. I'd rather not have something than have something to fill the space." Things certainly don't have to be perfect to be picture-perfect.

Love this space as much as we do? It's available to rent daily (three night minimum), weekly, and monthly. ✨