

Sharoun developed an eye for design as a child

Small children run away from home for any number of reasons, but not many go off in a huff over wallpaper.

Designer Adriana Sharoun, 25, was only five years old when she packed her bags to leave the family home, all because her mother refused to buy her the wallpaper of her choice.

"I cringe at the thought of what that wallpaper looked like," Sharoun says now. "When other children drew people, I laid out floor plans."

A Toronto transplant, Sharoun came to Victoria in 2003 after graduating from Ryerson University's Interior Design degree program.

She landed her first design job at Victoria's prestigious Zebra Design firm, where she was mentored

by gurus Rus Collins, Dianne Kennedy and Bruce Wilkin (who has since left Zebra and formed his own company). Always striving to stay on the cutting edge, Sharoun went to night school at the International Academy of Design and at Humber College.

Recently engaged, Sharoun is now with Coastal Construction and Development. She says one of the casualties of today's design mania is the notion that quality design takes time.

"One of the biggest misconceptions in design, most likely fuelled by reality TV home series, is that a kitchen can be designed and constructed and ready to move [into] in two days flat."

Sharoun says the biggest help to fusing Kuiack's traditional tastes with Jawl's modern hankerings was

a binder the couple compiled of styles they loved and hated.

"Knowing what someone hates is just as important as knowing what they love," says Sharoun. Kuiack and Jawl did the ground work in the new design by narrowing down their extensive art collection into a few key pieces.

"You have to be realistic and know that not everything you own will work," says Sharoun.

"But if you can be honest with yourself, and say I can't live without X, then we have a more realistic starting point."

Sharoun is an associate member of the Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia.

— JH