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Where Ambition Meets Femininity

CAMILA GONZALEZ: IN HER OWN LEAGUE

The TSN Soccer host brings ambition, confidence, and grace to building a career beyond the expected.

VICTORIA BECKHAM WAS ALWAYS THE BRAND

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Dvira Ovadia Is All In

The principal designer behind DVIRA Interiors has built a career shaped by European beauty, New York ambition, television, motherhood, and a pace that never seems to slow. For Dvira Ovadia, design is not only about beautiful rooms. It is about discipline, energy, detail, and the belief that if something is worth doing, it is worth giving everything.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY D'ELIA



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER



Dvira Ovadia has a soft voice. That is the first thing you notice. She speaks with calm, warmth, and elegance, the kind of presence that makes you assume she moves through life with ease. Then she begins to describe her days, and another side appears.

She is a mother of two. A principal designer. A business owner. A woman who manages projects, clients, a team, a household, family schedules, dinners, friendships, properties, her mother's art business, and a design firm known for polished, layered, highly considered interiors. She wakes up early, works out, runs from meetings to job sites, answers questions, solves problems, thinks through details, and still wants to know how everything can be better.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER



In her own words,

she does not believe in doing things halfway.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER





PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER

Whether she is working on a home, supporting her family, building a project, or pursuing a personal goal, Dvira is always asking the next question. How can this improve? How can we grow? How can we take this to the next level? She describes the mindset almost physically: five

more push ups, one more chapter, one more hour of work. It is not about perfection for the sake of image. It is about momentum. She does not want to become complacent. She does not want to become too comfortable. She wants to do hard things.

That inner fire, wrapped in an elegant exterior, may be the truest way to understand her.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER

Dvira was born in Israel, but moved to Brussels as a baby and grew up in Belgium. That European childhood shaped her eye before she had the language to explain it. Beauty, history, culture, architecture, food, travel, and the art of living were part of her environment. Weekends could mean Paris, London, or Switzerland. Design was not something separate from life. It was woven into the streets, the buildings, the rituals, and the way people moved through their homes and cities.

When she came to Canada at 12 with her mother, she felt the difference. North America had its own rhythm, but she missed the European attention to aesthetics, culture, and history. Her father remained in Brussels, so she continued travelling back and forth through much of her youth, keeping one foot in Europe and one in Canada. That duality would later become part of her signature as a designer.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY VALERIE WILCOX



Even as a child, her mother noticed her instinct for beauty. Dvira arranged things carefully. She plated food with intention. She styled her room. She cared about how things looked and how they felt. It was not surface level. It was a way of understanding the world.

She studied architecture at the University of Toronto because she wanted a strong foundation and wanted to keep her options open. The architectural training mattered, but she wanted more. She began researching the best interior design programs and eventually applied to Pratt Institute in New York, where she completed her master's degree in interior design.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIAMH BARRY

New York was exactly the kind of environment that fed her. It was fast, ambitious, creative, and full of possibility. Every material, showroom, finish, brand, and idea seemed accessible. For a young designer developing her eye and her confidence, the city was electric. One of her thesis projects was a fashion incubator in SoHo, and she even interviewed Betsey Johnson as part of her research. It was the kind of moment that confirmed she was in the right place, in the right field, surrounded by the right energy.

After graduating, Dvira worked in the commercial design world in New York, then returned to Toronto to be close to her mother. She worked on restaurants, nightclubs, hospitality spaces, and expressive commercial projects. That was the world she thought she would stay in.

THEN TELEVISION CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF HER CAREER.

In 2004, she applied for *From the Ground Up with Debbie Travis*, a national design competition show that selected contestants from across Canada. Dvira made it onto the show and won. Her prize included a contract to design 10 model homes with Tribute Communities, a major Toronto developer. The shift was unexpected. She had come from commercial design, and suddenly she was working in residential spaces and model homes. But once she completed the contract, something clicked.

If she could do that on her own, she thought, she could build something of her own.

She launched her business, and one project led to another by word of mouth. At the same time, television continued to open doors. She worked on HGTV projects, including Income Property with Scott McGillivray, joining the show in its early seasons and staying for a long run. For years, she was running two tracks at once: television contracts and her own growing client work.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



Then came marriage, motherhood, and more work, not less.

Her son was born in 2009. Her daughter was born in 2012. Dvira does not describe that period as a season when she paused one part of life for another. For her, it all happened at once. She remembers breastfeeding, pumping, running to job sites, coming home, pumping again, and heading back out. It was intense, but she speaks about it without self pity. This was the life she chose, and she chose to stay fully in it.

That does not mean it was easy. It means she found a way to manage it.

Her children are now teenagers, and she remains deeply hands on. She manages school schedules, tutors, volleyball, university planning, dinners, groceries, appointments, and the endless moving parts of family life. She is honest that she is not always home early. Some nights dinner happens at 8 p.m. But she is connected, involved, and aware of what everyone needs.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN

People tell her she takes on too much. She hears it often. Her answer is simple: she likes the pace. She enjoys the energy. She feels fulfilled by movement, challenge, and responsibility. If she has an empty day, she gets bored. She looks for something to do. A workout. A project. A plan. A problem to solve.

Her follow up email after our interview captured it perfectly. When Dvira commits to something, she gives it everything she has. She loves the excitement of big ideas, even the ones that hit in the middle of the night. She wants to keep challenging her own abilities. Growth, for her, does not stop.

That same mindset defines her work at DVIRA Interiors.

Today, the firm works on high end residential and commercial projects in Toronto, Miami, and beyond. The style is refined, layered, and polished, with the European influence that has followed Dvira since childhood. But what makes her work strong is not only the look. It is the thinking behind it.

Dvira does not approach a home as a pretty shell. She wants to understand how a family lives, entertains, moves, cooks, gathers, rests, and uses each space. Every family is different. Every home has to speak the language of the people inside it. Function comes first, then beauty rises from that foundation.

Her commercial work carries the same level of intention. One of the firm's major projects is the Jewish Youth Network, a community centre designed from early concept through interiors. The building is colourful, symbolic, and deeply considered, with details meant to connect young people to Jewish culture, history, and identity in a way that feels alive rather than formal. For Dvira, whether the project is a private home or a public space, design has to carry meaning.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN

That level of detail is also what makes the work demanding. Interior design is often glamorized from the outside, but behind the final photos are drawings, construction, lighting, plumbing, millwork, trades, budgets, timelines, clients, and constant problem solving. To lead a firm well, she has to understand the whole machine, not just the beautiful final layer.

That is where her calm becomes useful. She may have a soft voice, but she is not passive. She describes herself as having an Israeli fire inside, balanced by a European sense of polish. Over time, she has learned not to react to every problem with the same intensity. In an industry where something is always going wrong, she saves her fire for when it is truly needed.

She is not designing from a distance. She is in it fully, as a designer, mother, entrepreneur, daughter, friend, and builder. She did not choose one lane and leave the others behind. She chose to carry many things at once, not because she has to, but because that is how she feels most alive.

Her life is full by design: full of work, family, ideas, details, beauty, responsibility, and the constant desire to make things better.

*She is not chasing ease.
She is building.
And she is all in.*



The greatness
of Torah study
is that it leads
to action.
Talmud, Kiddushin 40b

The Key to Jewish Survival

The one and only ingredient that has preserved the Jewish people through-out the millennia, under all kinds of circumstances, has been the fulfillment of the mitzvot in day-to-day life, such as the observance of Shabbat, the putting on of tefilin, and the Torah education of our children.
Letter of The Rebbe 1973

The Youth Torah

The Youth Torah, set 5760 - 2000, has been written by the youth and other members of our community. The Torah represents the soul, the essence and the ideal of the Modern Family Jewish Youth Center.

The World
on Life

Family Campus



Dvira Design Notes

How do you approach designing a home?

A beautiful room starts with understanding the people who live in it. No two families use a home the same way. The first step is learning how clients gather, entertain, cook, relax, move through their day, and what matters most to them. The design should reflect their culture, lifestyle, family dynamic, and personal rhythm.

What is the biggest summer design trend you are seeing?

Entertaining at home. More people want their homes to feel luxurious, but still relaxed and welcoming. The goal is not a formal space that looks untouched. It is a space that feels warm, inviting, comfortable, and ready for people to gather.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIAMH BARRY



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER

How do you make an outdoor space feel cozy?

Lighting, texture, and layers matter. Think outdoor rugs, pillows, lanterns, umbrellas, awnings, and different sources of light. These details help an outdoor space feel like a true extension of the home, not just a few pieces of furniture placed outside.

Should the exterior match the interior?

Not necessarily. Outdoor spaces are a chance to have more fun. Even if the interiors are neutral, the exterior can include colour, pattern, and personality. A yellow and white striped umbrella, blue chairs, or pink umbrellas in the right setting can make a backyard feel transportive and memorable.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN MILLER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIAMH BARRY



What is one mistake people make with design?

Focusing only on beauty. A space has to work first. It has to support the way a family actually lives. Once the function is right, the beauty becomes more meaningful.

What should young designers know about the industry?

Interior design is not as glamorous as it looks on Instagram. The final photos are only one part of the story. Behind them are construction drawings, budgets, vendors, trades, problem solving, technology, client management, and constant learning. You do not have to own your own firm to be successful. You can build a meaningful career as part of a strong team.