



## Denizens of Design

**project** McMichael Café, Kleinburg, Ontario.

**photography** clockwise from opposite: Mark Binks; Scott Norsworthy (3).

As a child, **Dyone Fashina** frequented Ontario's Nottawasaga River, collecting clay for sculptures. "I was always the kid into art and architecture," says the principal of Denizens of Design, which she founded in 2014. Armed with an interior design degree from Toronto's Ryerson University, Fashina climbed the corporate ladder before striking off on her own. Several successful hospitality projects later, her firm was commissioned to renovate a café at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg—its holdings include Indigenous works, both historical and contemporary—which Fashina first visited on a school trip years earlier. The museum's main building is an enormous log-and-fieldstone cabin built in the 1950's and much-enlarged since. For its new café, Fashina envisioned "a space that felt like it had multiple makers, celebrating Canadian craft in the way the museum celebrates our art." With movable privacy screens, modular service stations, and flexible furniture, the 2,000-square-foot dining area can be expanded into 3,000 square feet of adjacent gallery space for weddings, cocktail parties, and lectures. 🍷



"The importance of the building and the art within it is what should be recognized—then the café becomes part of that"