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## Fashion Queen Sylvia Mantella's Gallery for Haute Couture

The Toronto native created a 1,000-square-foot dressing area in her home's master wing that shows off pieces by designers like Alexander McQueen.

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### 1. Island

The retail-quality center island was customized to hold Mrs. Mantella's jewelry collection; it is lined in black velvet. Price: \$55,753



PHOTO: BRANCOON BARRÉ

By LEIGH KAMPING-CARDER

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Don't call Sylvia Mantella's dressing area a closet. It is more like a gallery for her collection of haute couture.

"Some people collect art, some people collect books, some people collect fossils—I collect things related to fashion," said Mrs. Mantella, chief marketing officer of Mantella Corp., a Toronto-based land development and venture-capital firm. A fixture of the city's style pages, Mrs. Mantella also runs a 40-acre animal sanctuary outside Palm Beach, Fla., where Zeus, a tiger, was born in January.



Sylvia Mantella's black-and-white marble floor includes an "M" bordered in Swarovski crystal, which cost about \$12,220. PHOTO: BRANCOON BARRÉ

In October 2014, Mrs. Mantella enlisted Lori Morris, founder of the House of LMD, a Toronto-based design firm, to create a space that would show off—but not compete with—the clothes. The 1,000-square-foot dressing area is [part of the master wing](#) in Mrs. Mantella's six-bedroom home in Thornhill, a Toronto suburb. The \$535,000 redesign was completed in May.

Pieces on display have included a Giambattista Valli ombre purple gown and a pair of Alexander McQueen's "armadillo" heels. Drawers in the stairs hold purses; pilasters hide compartments for belts; and coat hooks pull out from the walls to hang more items.

"If it looks fabulous and it doesn't work," Ms. Morris said, "then it doesn't count."