

# NEIGHBOURS OF YORKVILLE & THE ANNEX

**Dee Dee Taylor Eustace  
& Her Daughter  
Rachael Taylor Hannah:  
Together Driving Interior Design  
into the Future of Luxury**

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# Dee Dee Taylor Eustace & Her Daughter Rachael Taylor Hannah: Together Driving Interior Design into the Future of Luxury

By Perri Blachowitz, Photos by Lorraine Bloom



**D**ee Dee Taylor Eustace was born and bred in Toronto to a family with three siblings. A practicing architect and interior designer based in Toronto, this beautiful powerhouse also has a life that appears to be overflowing with goodness: a thriving career, stunning home(s), beautiful children who are making their way, an amazing fiancé, and a wonderful outlook on life.

Graduating with honours from the University of Toronto, School of Architecture she's now a member of the Ontario Association of Architects and the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada. Her full-service firm Taylor Hannah Architect Inc. specializes in the residential hospitality sectors in a timelessly elegant style both in architecture, development, and interior design. With hundreds of residential and commercial projects, Dee Dee and her team work on premier addresses in Toronto and beyond. Her accomplishments are both impressive and numerous. This is one busy lady.

She has participated in countless events including the Holiday House NYC Designer Showhouse, the Interior Design Show in Toronto, the Designer Show Houses for the Junior League of Toronto as well as the Gardiner Museum's Twelve Trees of Christmas. Dee Dee was also chosen to speak at the Delicious Food Show, The Toronto Designer's Showcase, The University of Toronto Faculty



^ Dee Dee and her fiancé Bobby Genovese at their new home on Old Fort Beach, the Bahamas that is currently under renovation. Photo supplied by resident.



of Architecture as well as the Women of Influence Lecture series. Most recently Dee Dee was invited to be the Emcee for the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada awards dinner of 2019.

Some of her impressive TV Credits include three visits to the Oprah Winfrey Show, celebrity judge in season one and two in Game of Homes, one of the designers in the HGTV's series The Real Designing Woman, featured in the Lexus Style Maker commercial, regular visits to the CBC Steven & Chris Show as well as appearances on The Global Morning Show, The Marilyn Dennis Show, The Canadian HGTV Designer's Christmas Special and host for the HGTV's Love by Design.

Writing credits include the weekly column "Constructive Criticism" for the National Post, a weekly columnist for the Globe and Mail, Style Section as Canada's Design Expert in a column titled "Design: Ask Dee Dee Taylor Eustace, Ask a Design Expert", plus numerous features in the Globe & Mail. Dee Dee has been the spokesperson for Bostik, a global company with 4800 employees in more than 40 countries, speaking at events such as the American Institute of Architecture in Philadelphia and the HD Show in Las Vegas.

Dee Dee's work has been published in several top magazines internationally such as Style at Home, Beautiful Kitchens, Better Homes and Gardens, Canadian Design and Architecture, Canadian House and Home, Luxury Homes Canada, Traditional Home, City Guide, Today's Living: Hong Kong, Decor: Middle



< Dee Dee was a celebrity judge in seasons one and two of Game of Homes with Colin and Justin. Photo supplied by resident.

✓ Showing off part of Taylor Hannah Curation's newly curated line of tableware.



✓ Rachael with 3-year-old Monty.





## ● RESIDENT FEATURE CONTINUED



East, Decor Chic: Italy, and numerous coffee table design books. Her own two books also include *Dee Dee's Rules* and *Dee Dee's Rules: NYC Life, Love, Design*.

To say that charity and philanthropy are a large part of Dee Dee's life is an understatement.

Here are just the highlights: Chair of the Board New Start Foundation for Mental Health & Addiction for youth with Sunnybrook Hospital, Chair of Silver Dinner of Healthy Minds Canada, Curator for the Gardiner museum's 12 trees of Christmas, Chair of the Cook for the Cure for Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, International Chair for the International Arts and Antiques Show in NYC, Co-Chair for the Canadian Council of American Relations NYC, President of Out of the Cold Foundation, Committee Member of the Governor General's Performing Arts, Property Development Task Force of Bishop Strachan School in Toronto, Board of Governors North York General Hospital, Chair of the Gala in the Garden for the Toronto Botanical Gardens, Committee Member of the University of Toronto Boundless Campaign for the Faculty of Architecture, Co-Chair of the McEwen Stem Cell Race, Advisory Board Member of the McEwen School of Architecture Sudbury, Boundless Campaign Committee Member University of Toronto, Arbor Award University of Toronto Recipient and established an entrance scholarship for the University of Toronto John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design. Those were just the highlights.

Asked how she manages such a busy life she tells me that she copes by being on a very tight schedule that is programmed, and, she has people around her who help with everything else



< Dee Dee was curator for the Gardiner Museum's Twelve Trees of Christmas. Photo supplied by resident.



^ Dee Dee models the Jacket of Hope, inspired by the Chapel of Hope; it was designed in memory of aunt and sister Susan Moran, recipient of the Order of Canada and founder of the Out of the Cold Foundation. The jacket was designed as armor for the modern superhero woman.



Rachael, Jake, and Dee Dee, in London. Photo supplied by resident. >

not related to work. It takes a village. Her golden rule, she tells me is: "Every day is a gift and I blur the line of work and play with my focus on being with my family."

She loves women, fashion, the arts and looks for what she can do for other people. This is why and how the Jacket of Hope came into being. Her most recent charity is called The Jacket of Hope. HBC, The Room picked up her first fashion capsule in May 2020, but then, Covid happened. Dee Dee pivoted her designs and moved forward with The Jacket of Hope. Inspired by the Chapel of Hope it was designed in memory of aunt and sister Susan Moran, recipient of the Order of Canada. The jacket was designed as armor for the modern superhero woman and has a cool neoprene feel to it, with a heavy-duty zipper, and hidden pockets for a mask and for your fingers. Made in Canada with recyclable Blueskin fabric, it challenges consumers to consider what they wear.

Personally, I love the tag inside that reads: She captures a room: she is.... Adventurous, independent, confident, inspiring, polished, ageless, stylish, kind, fun. That sounds a lot like Dee Dee herself. For every jacket purchased, a percentage goes to Artscape and the New Start Foundation, both worthy causes.

### Family details...

She met her fiancé Bobby Genovese 12 years ago when he "sourced her out" she laughs as she tells me their story. A resident of Canada and the Bahamas, he invited her to the Olympics, asked her to work for him, and really wouldn't give up. She tells me "we are two peas in a pod. Life is fun, fun, fun with him. He's my magic carpet ride." Right now they are finishing a home in Nassau and bringing a yacht



from Thailand to Nassau.

### Kids...

#### Dee Dee's

Jake Hannah, 26 and founder of SX NETWORK

Rachael Taylor Hannah, 21 and founder of Taylor Hannah Curation

#### Bobby's

Bobby Genovese, 19 and attending Clemson University

Gigi Genovese, 17 and a senior at Pinecrest, Florida

Currently, Dee Dee is living in and remodeling a 1903 Edwardian Frat House and with a partner, is turning it into three 3000 square feet condos. She lives on the main floor and I can tell you it's stunning. Clean, modern, spacious. Every detail is well thought out and it shows. On her style, Dee Dee says it's timeless of today and yesterday with pieces from various periods all working together to create the environment. Each item is what Dee Dee refers to as "a work of art, in a collection."

Rachael, Dee Dee's daughter, will graduate from Queen's University with a BA (Hons.) this coming spring, majoring in Global Development. While attending school full time, Rachael runs her business and still manages to make the Dean's list for the last three years in a row. Rachael has been learning the ropes from Dee Dee for years, immersing herself in different positions of Taylor Hannah Architect for as long as she can remember. Through this, she noticed a missing interior design market for her own generation, Gen Z, and decided to make that the focus of a new brand called Taylor Hannah Curation. They provide insider access on how to curate your space, functioning as a local provider to a global market.



Taylor Hannah Curation is backed by Dee Dee's 30 years of experience and Rachael's desire to provide her own generation the ability to access an edited platform that speaks to them. Rachael is leading this new branch of Taylor

< Family times at the cottage on Stony Lake from left Lillie, Jay, Rachael, JC, Dee Dee, Bobby, Maureen, Liz, Paige, Michael, and Jake. Photo supplied by resident.

~ Their beautiful yacht called BG CHARADE is making its way from Thailand to the Bahamas right now!! DD re-designed the 46m Feadship yacht and was named top five in the world at the Super Yacht Awards 2016. Photo supplied by resident.



Hannah with respect for tradition while operating for the future.

Through her curated drops, you'll find linens, towels, placemats, tableware, pillows, repurposed furniture, tableware, and so much more. Rachel tells me: "I want to see the interior design world move away from mass production to avenues which foster sustainability and innovation."

Together, this mother-daughter partnership is driving interior design into the future of luxury. Accessible *and* sustainable. Dee Dee tells me "I'm so proud of Rach, seeing her break new ground and make a mark in the design world is so exciting. This has been years in the making."

#### Fav local spots include:

Sotto Sotto, Scollard Diner, Coco Market, Alo Bar, Myles Mindham Jewelry, Tony Char Hair, LAC + CO, and of course, Harbour 60, where she was both builder and designer.

They live between Yorkville, Stony Lake Island 33, BG Horse Ranch Ocala in Florida, and their new home on Old Fort Beach, Bahamas that is under renovation, plus their 46m Feadship yacht. Their love of sport is no less ambitious with tennis at the Toronto Lawn and the Granite Club in Toronto, golf at Wildfire at Stony Lake, swimming, paddle boarding, spinning, skiing, squash, padel, pickleball, and horseback riding. The list goes on.

Rachael and Dee Dee both talk about loving the walkability and village feel of Yorkville with everything at your fingertips. They wouldn't live anywhere else in the city.

The family motto? "Simple," Dee Dee says, "Lead by example." And she really does.



^ Rachael at their horse ranch in Ocala, Florida. Photo supplied by resident.

~ At the Daniels School of Architecture (University of Toronto) with Jay, Michael, Lillie, Maureen, Bobby, Dee Dee, Rachael, and Liz. Photo supplied by resident.

