

feature

MODERN COMFORT

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FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY PINK POPPI

Blame it on a Pottery Barn light box. Jill loved the accessory on sight, but it didn't fit her décor so she decided to update her en suite bathroom to suit the alluring accessory. That simple change turned into a six-month, top-to-bottom renovation that resulted in a living space Jill describes as comfortable, simple elegance. "I live with three boys and my husband," she laughs, "I need a space that provides serenity amid the constant male energy!"

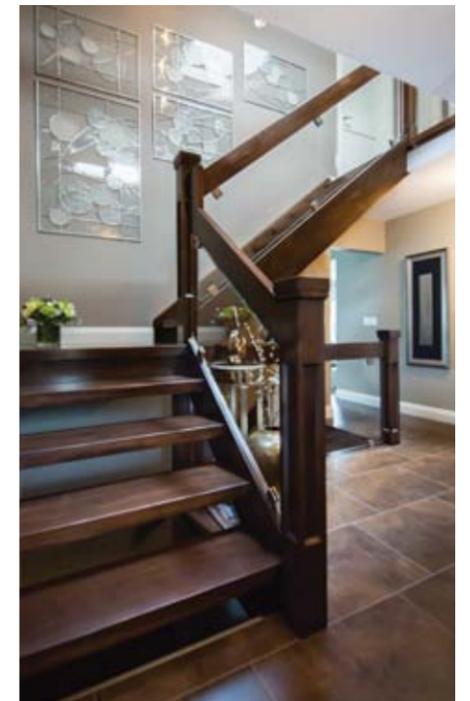
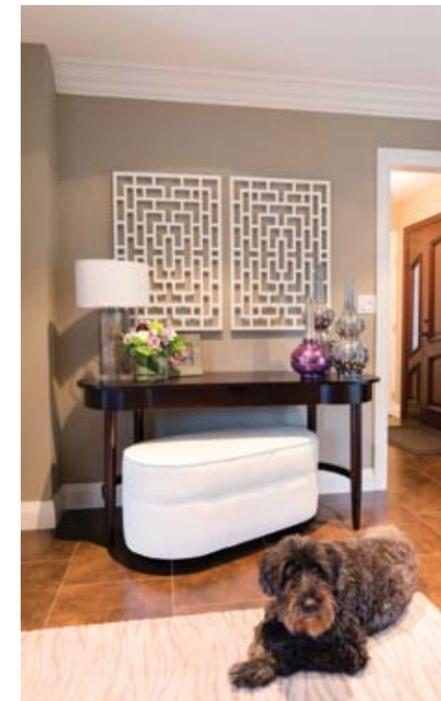


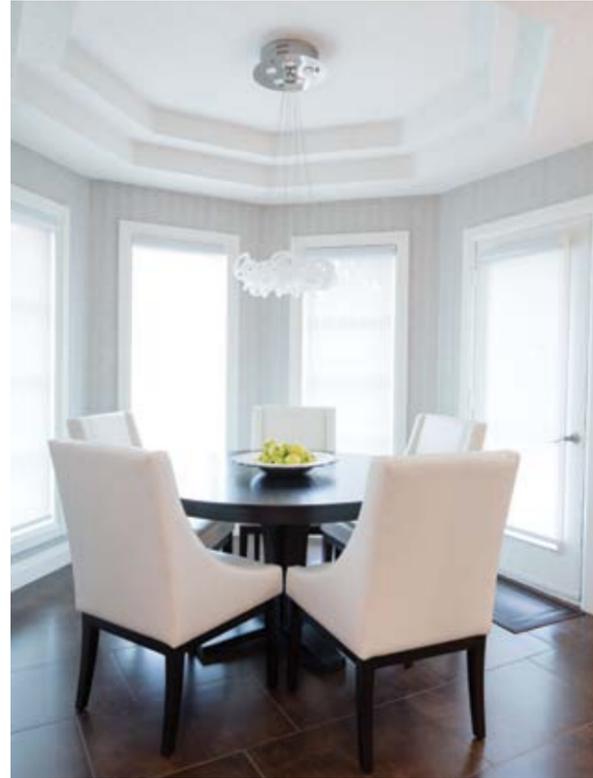
The family's main living space features comfortable seating, built-in storage and large sliding doors that open to the backyard. Its colour scheme is carried through the whole home. **TOP RIGHT:** The family dog, Georgie, relaxes in front of a custom-made ottoman that tucks under the side table when not in use. **TOP FAR RIGHT:** These beautiful panels from Kara's Stained Glass adorn the stairwell and are the first thing people see when they walk into the home. **RIGHT:** The expansive backyard has something for everyone, but the sports court is a favourite for the homeowners' boys.

Jill and her husband Kevin purchased their home from friends. It was originally raised to be the builder's personal home and was the largest lot in its development. The backyard features a multi-function sports area that can be used for basketball, volleyball or hockey. A gate separates the court from the pool and hot tub installed in 2008 by **Tim Goodwin Pools Ltd.** An adjoining cabana was custom built by **JWS Woodworking & Design Inc.** The backyard is a popular gathering place for the boys and their friends in the summer.

Working with general contractor **Les Robertson of L. Robertson Homes Inc.**, the homeowners made significant interior changes to improve the flow of the house. A wall and a picture window were removed in the lounge to create easier access to the backyard.

Built-in storage inspired by a magazine photo surrounds a custom-designed banquette sofa. The Magnussen lift-top table adds an extra eating space for entertaining and doubles as a games and puzzles table. Martha Beckermann from **Kitchen Concepts By Martha Beckermann** designed the kitchen and the built-in storage. *Continued on page 27*





ABOVE: Carolann Mackie, also known as The Frugal Decorator, helped Jill turn her visions to reality. **TOP RIGHT:** Adjacent to the kitchen is the bright, clean dining area. **RIGHT:** The wide-open kitchen flows into the rest of the house, but also has lots of work space. **OPPOSITE:** This sunken living area is designed for conversations, but the two armchairs also swivel around to face a TV on the wall opposite the window.



“The kitchen is the centre of my living space. I would look through magazines and see a picture of what I wanted and then it had to be adapted for our needs,” says Jill. “I like tone-on-tone decorating and interesting textures. We have hard surfaces that must survive the action here and still be warm and welcoming.”

The cabinets are Italian walnut veneer and the granite counter has flecks of gold in it. The floor is porcelain from **Casa Bella Tile & Stone Inc.** and the hardwood was installed by **Sarmazian Bros Ltd.**

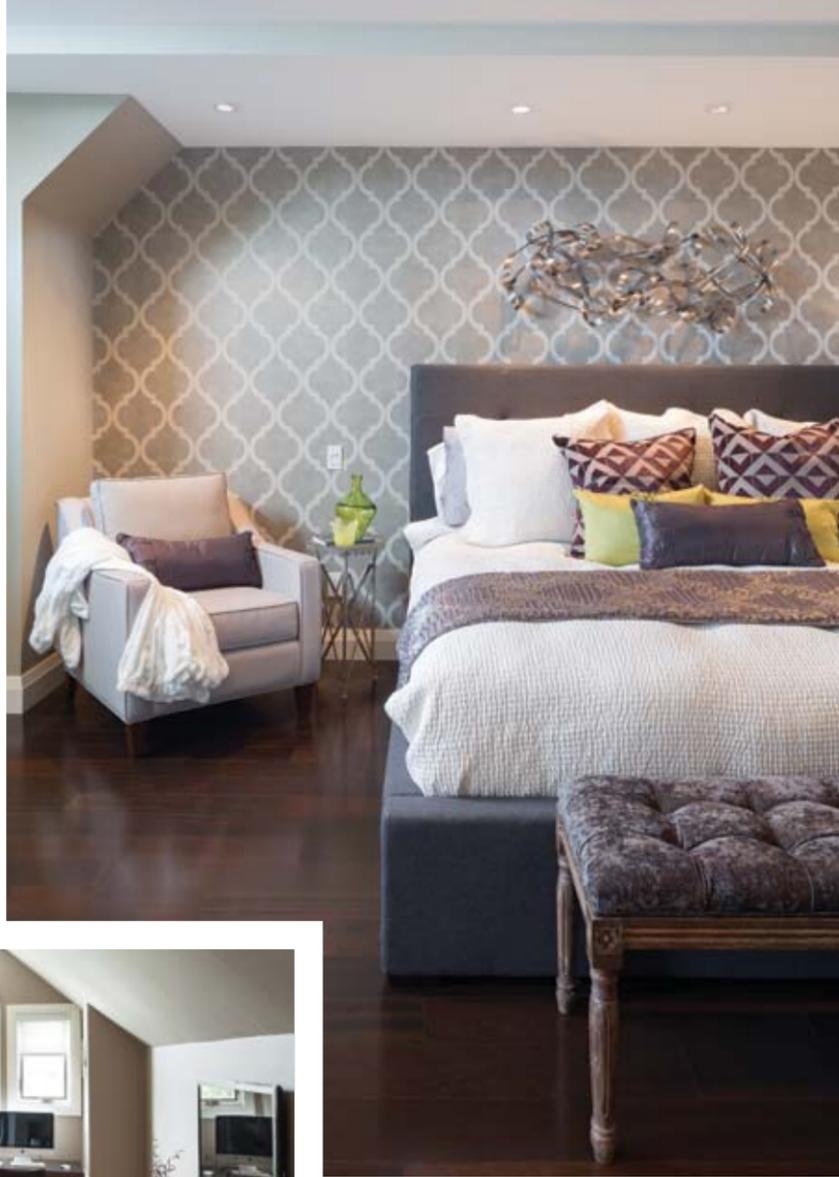
Carolann Mackie, **The Frugal Decorator**, came on board when most of the renovation was complete. “She provided valuable interior decorating guidance and helped us to put together the fresh and co-ordinated look we wanted,” says Jill. Similarly, Carolann says there were no serious challenges when it came to decorating because Jill had made great decisions about the hard surfaces such as floors, counters and cabinetry.

“Accessories provide visual impact without a large cash investment. We softened the hard lines with fabric, textures and punches of chrome and purple,” says Carolann. Jill very much appreciated having access to The Frugal Decorator’s suppliers because it saved everyone time and she could select items from an array of decorating and design companies she may not otherwise have known.

The foyer posed a challenge during the renovation. Jill wanted to change the existing staircase, envisioning sweeping stairs with deep risers, solid posts and dark wood. The first redo didn’t fit her vision, so Les Robertson and Guelph’s **Stairworks** redesigned it, incorporating glass panels into the heavier rails. A skylight provides ample natural light and the eye is drawn upward by five glass panels by **Kara’s Stained Glass**. “We needed a grouping that would make sense with the steep staircase and that would still work with the rest of the décor. We wanted movement and we wanted the wall colour to show through. Using textured glass achieved our goal of visual interest and flow,” says Carolann.

To the left of the foyer, a baby grand piano takes centre stage. Chairs covered in “Squared Off” fabric by Maxwell fabric are positioned so they can easily turn from piano room to the adjoining lounge. The curved front love seat was custom made to fit the space between the piano and the lounge and the size of the back was adjusted to showcase the art piece called *Tinsel Town*. “The painting is one of my favorites because some people see a winter scene and some people see a summer beach scene. You can see something different every time you look at it and it’s a great conversation starter,” says Jill. *Continued on page 28*

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TOP LEFT: The en suite bathroom, where the renovation began.
ABOVE: This metal art by Artisan House is the perfect finishing touch in this lush master bedroom.
LEFT: A comfy media room is located across from the boys' bedrooms. Here, they can lounge, do their homework and watch movies.

The family room off the kitchen is one of Jill's favourite places to work in the winter. The room's Glacier Wall Mirror and chrome accents were an easy way to add interest to the space. The rope light in the breakfast alcove was originally too short for the space, but Jill and Kevin solved the problem with a few rolls of heavy gauge fishing line.

The largest bedroom upstairs has been converted to a media area. The sunken room features an angled fireplace, splashes of purple and textured fabric to add visual interest.

Down the hall, the lush master bedroom is inviting and cosy. Carolann

had some of the bedding custom-made to suit the décor. Similarly, with his-and-hers sinks, a huge luxurious shower and towel warmer on the wall, the en suite is just as attractive.

"I thought I could just transplant what I saw in magazines into my house. I realized that it's like pieces of a puzzle: everything has to fit together," says Jill. "That's why it was so great to work with the team at The Frugal Decorator. They listened and worked with our personal taste and lifestyle. It was a great collaboration and they shared our family's vision of creating a living space that is functional, comfortable and pleasing to the eye." **OH**



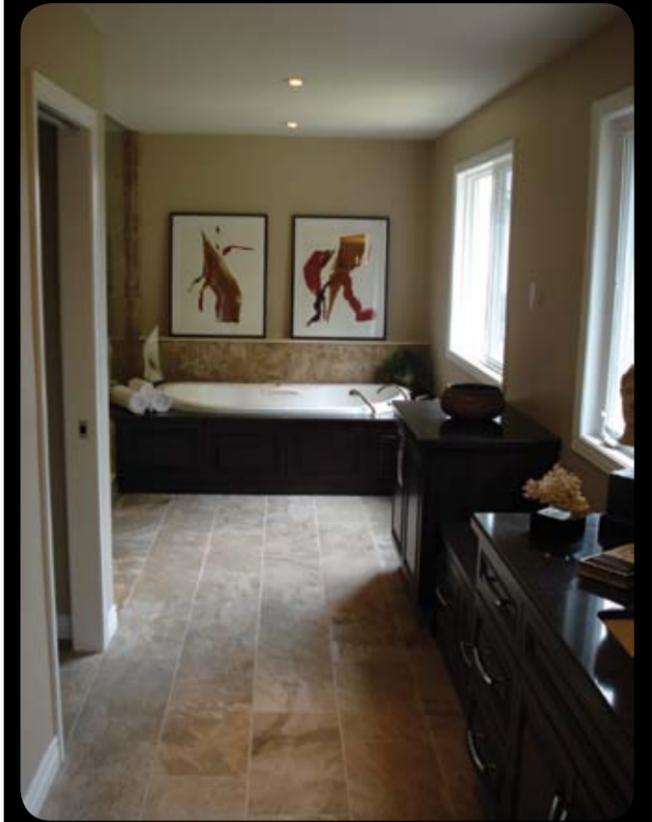
Zanzibar, Saffron from the Coordinations collection.

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