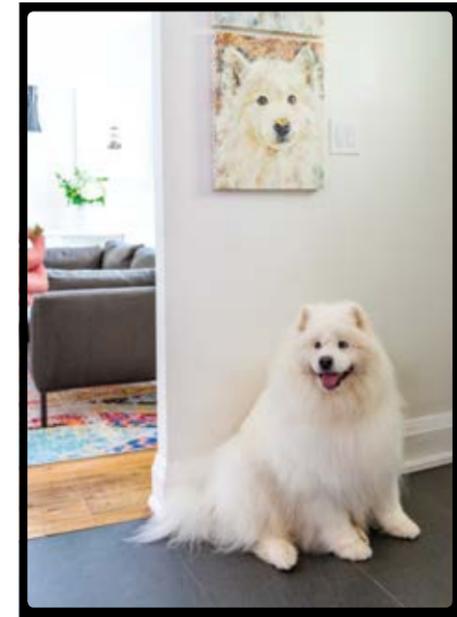


TIME TO *enjoy*

STORY
CATALINA MARGULIS
PHOTOGRAPHY
SANDY MACKAY



Elements like a beautifully coloured rug and architectural lighting add dimension.



FAR LEFT: A floating table in the entryway maintains openness. **LEFT:** The home is ideally situated with plenty of walking destinations for the family pups. **BELOW:** The sweet cottage exterior was preserved to maintain the original streetscape.

like many empty nesters, Jean and Alistair Pickering focus on living their best life. After many years in a large Markham home raising their family, they recently moved to a smaller, conveniently located midtown Toronto home to enjoy more of their time. After looking at countless renovations and new builds, they settled on a home in leafy North Rosedale in July 2017 and started renovations immediately.

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“We didn’t set out with the intention of doing a renovation,” says Alistair. “We would have happily bought something that was finished, but there wasn’t a lot of choice on the market at the time,” he says, referring to the high prices and bidding wars of Toronto’s then real estate market.

Built in 1911, the 1,950 sq. ft. home has a mansard roof and “looks like a cottage in the city,” says Jean, and is located on one of the most original Edwardian streetscapes in Toronto, Alistair adds. The couple wanted to retain the architectural integrity of the original build, so they left the exterior untouched. Instead, they focused on an interior renovation influenced by the style and location of the house.

The three-bedroom, three-bathroom home came with no air conditioning, some knob and tube wiring and a damp basement. To get the home they wanted, they decided on a complete renovation.

They worked with **Simonetta Gazzea**, senior design and sales consultant at **Canaroma Bath & Tile**, on many of the kitchen and bathroom finishes, as well as other details throughout the home, including lighting and tiles. The Pickerings had previously worked with Simonetta when renovating their Markham home.



The streamlined kitchen maximizes efficiency for a couple who love to cook. **TOP LEFT:** Original glass throughout the home was lovingly preserved. **BELOW:** The choice of apron sink fits perfectly with the aesthetic. **BELOW RIGHT:** A tiled wall adds interest.



“They carry a big range so we didn’t feel like we needed to go to 10 different showrooms,” says Jean. “They have everything. Simonetta gave us some ideas and in the end we just let her do it.” “Jean loves the way I think, and I love the way she thinks, so we’re good as a team,” says Simonetta.

The master bath has an airy feel with open-based pedestal sinks and a Victoria + Albert clawfoot tub. Wall cabinets add storage space. Polished Calacatta-style porcelain adds warmth and elegance, while damask and mosaic white tile on the walls adds dimension.

En suites added to the bedrooms upstairs during the renovation feature marble-like porcelain tile from Canaroma, and a mix of modern and traditional fixtures. “The look is soft, elegant and very classic – it will last forever,” says Simonetta.

The Pickerings chose a different look for the powder room on the main floor, which features a dark-grey tile floor that carries through from the foyer and kitchen, as well as a black lacquer vanity with a black glass countertop and a tiled wall.

Canaroma also had a hand in the kitchen renovation, an important room for the couple, who enjoy cooking. The stainless steel Fira apron sink is from Julien, a company located in Montreal that supplies what Simonetta describes as the “Rolls-Royce of kitchen sinks.” The prep area includes a stainless-steel pullout SmartStation sink from Julien. Gerald Eagletower at **Goemans Appliances** helped the couple select kitchen appliances. “He absolutely understood what we were aiming for and was very instrumental in our choices,” says Alistair.

In addition to the pieces provided by Canaroma for the kitchen, the Pickerings worked with **Lucvaa Kitchens**. “They manufacture everything themselves on site – they’ve got a full custom workshop. There’s a great showroom where you can go and choose modern, traditional, transitional, whatever you like and they will make it custom, to fit every nook and cranny. They were top notch – very responsive,” says Alistair. *Continued on page 62*

TOP: A well-planned layout on the main floor maximizes views and natural light. **LEFT:** The office is both fun and functional, with plenty of personal touches.

feature



ABOVE: The lower-level transformation extends the home's living space. **RIGHT:** Reclaimed elm floors add warmth to the cottage flavour. **BELOW:** Using the same solid surface material throughout the bath creates seamless transitions.



With the kitchen and bathrooms taken care of, the Pickerings turned their attention to renovating the rest of the home. The reclaimed elm floor in the main living area was re-stained. The couple tracked down the original supplier from 15 years ago, **Nostalgic Wood**, and bought more material to complete the stairs and second floor.

Stained glass windows, a unique feature of the home, were preserved to maintain the home's original look and feel. The couple worked with **Glass Dreams** to replace existing buckled windows and create custom panels and stained glass for the doors.

Lucvaa Kitchens also made and installed custom cabinetry for the living room, office, laundry room and basement, working with an outline provided by the Pickerings.

In the basement, a sump pump and back flow valve were added and pipes renewed, and an insulated hydronic heated floor was installed under polished concrete. It all contributes to a comfortable living space that includes a bathroom, office, bedroom and media room.

The Pickerings now enjoy their renovated home, and look forward to visits from their son who lives in Berlin and daughter who lives in nearby Mount Albert. *Continued on page 64*



TAPESTRY DÉCOR

Rosalia Fazzari of Tapestry Décor and her team will *"bring your home to life"*



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“Our son is excited to come back for visits, he likes being in Toronto,” says Jean. As for her daughter and grandkids, the home comfortably accommodates the whole gang when they get together. In between visits, the couple enjoy weekends walking to Evergreen Brick Works, visiting the farmer’s market and taking the dogs to Chorley Park.

“I work 12 minutes from the house and Alistair now bikes to the office,” says Jean, noting the big improvement from the hour she would spend commuting on the highway, while Alistair would take the GO train daily. “We bought back a lot of our time really,” says Jean.

Between their convenient new location and cosy new digs, the future looks bright for Jean and Alistair. **OH**

RIGHT: A barn door creates a fun transition and adds a little visual impact. **BELOW:** The beautiful tub is ideally placed to maximize views. **BELOW RIGHT:** Pedestal sinks with open bases keep things light and airy.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Bay Bloor Radio • Canaroma Bath & Tile • Elte • Garden Retreats • Glass Dreams • Goemans Appliances • Lucvaa Kitchens • Ness Security • Stone Valley • Nostalgic Wood

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