

A BOLD REDESIGN WITH A *soft palette*

STORY **GINA MAKKAR** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Ken and Maxine Black loved their replica 1860s farmhouse in Streetsville. Over the years, they tackled plenty of renos, layering the home with English and French-country elements. As time went by, the 60 by 180 ft. property became a lot to maintain, so they decided to downsize. *Continued on page 31*



Each and every element in the newly designed space comes together to create a spectacular yet comfortable place to come home to.

“I always feel like a house tells me how it wants to be decorated.”



LEFT: The room came together with the help of Kennedy Galleries and homeowner Maxine Black's keen eye for interior finishes. **BELOW:** Little touches, like swapping the original hardware for crystal knobs and adding pot lights, gave the kitchen a refresh.

“We wanted a mature area,” says Maxine. “Streetsville was a very walkable community, and we didn’t want to move too far from the shops and restaurants that had become a large part of our social and shopping experience.” They’d always admired the Enclave on the Park, a condominium townhome community that offers many amenities, including a club house and exterior maintenance. They purchased a home that fulfilled much of their wishlist: an open-concept layout, three bedrooms, a two-car garage and large windows. The outdoor pool was a big draw, as it was a place they could spend time with their four grandchildren.

The design approach for their new space was light and bright. “I always feel like a house tells me how it wants to be decorated,” says Maxine. “I know it sounds odd, but it’s true in my case. We’ve moved a number of times, and each time, it’s a different vision.” To help achieve the look, the stipple was removed from the ceilings by **Platinum Pro Painters**, crown moulding was installed and the walls were treated to a fresh coat of paint in Sherwin Williams White Dawn. Pot lights were

added to the kitchen, en suite and basement and crystal knobs from **My Back Shed** were added to the kitchen cabinetry for a little sparkle.

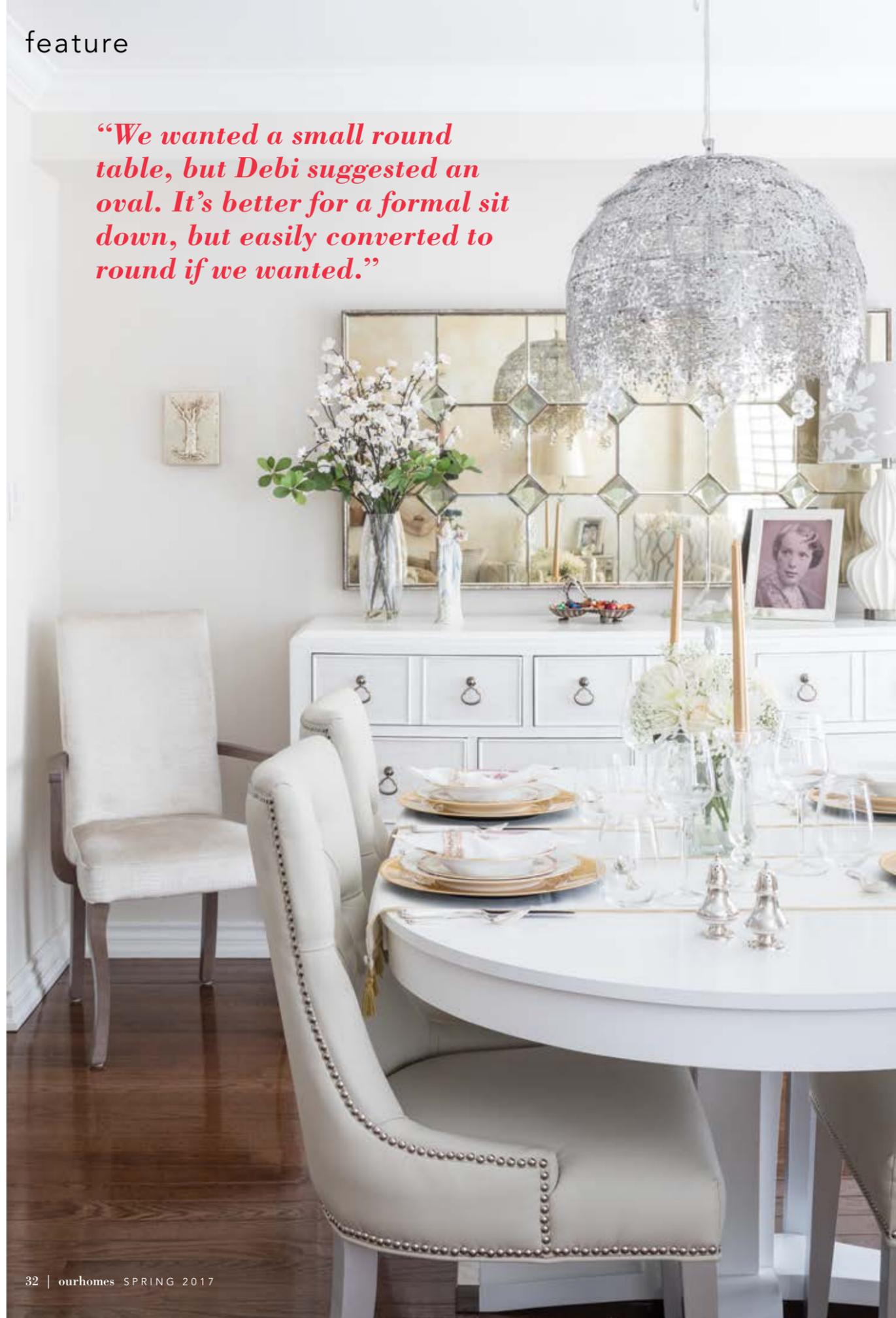
Maxine was inspired when a photo of an ivory key, Spanish-point sideboard in antique white by Tommy Bahama caught her eye in a magazine. Her search for a Canadian supplier led her to **Kennedy Galleries**. The Blacks enlisted the store’s design team to help make décor decisions.

“I sat and spoke with Maxine, and it became apparent that she is a classic, elegant, very well put-together woman,” says retail manager **Debi Barnes**. “Casual is not a word I would use to describe her.”

Debi visited the Black home, measured and created a plan that included a Tuxedo-style, three-seater sofa the couple fell in love with. “It was important that each piece be comfortable and be able to withstand entertaining on a regular basis,” Debi explains. “The sofa Maxine loved was beautifully built and high quality with comfortable high-traffic fabric, yet it’s glamorous with some sparkle. We chose pieces that worked for traffic and would sit beautifully.” *Continued on page 33*



“We wanted a small round table, but Debi suggested an oval. It’s better for a formal sit down, but easily converted to round if we wanted.”



ABOVE: Maxine’s love for entertaining is evident in the way she thoughtfully and lovingly sets a beautiful table. **BELOW:** A small hallway table also serves as a bar. **OPPOSITE:** The sideboard was the dining room inspiration, and Debi helped the couple maximize space with an extendable table and elegant chairs.

Though they were scaling down, the couple wanted a space that accommodated their two adult children, Samantha and Simon, and Samantha’s four children for frequent gatherings and Sunday dinners. A sparkling chandelier from **Lando Lighting** hangs over the oval dining table that expands to accommodate family gatherings and rousing games of Trivial Pursuit. Tufted chairs adorned with crystals and nail-head trim add glamour. An oversize mirror with an antique finish hangs over the sideboard, reflecting the space and making it appear larger.

“Debi was fun to work with,” Maxine says. “She was very interested in our opinions and any concerns we had, such as the size of the dining room table. We wanted a small round table, but she suggested an oval. It’s better for a formal sit down, but easily converted to round if we wanted.”

The living room is a blend of old and new. A dramatic art piece titled *Runway* by Canadian artist Samantha Sandbrook hangs over the sofa. Mirrored side tables, a cocktail table and rug were incorporated from the couple’s previous home, blending effortlessly into the new aesthetic. New wingback chairs in a bold trellis pattern add elegance. Simple shaker-style moulding elevates the fireplace surround and serves as a lovely backdrop for an original art piece by Lucy Young. The piece features the Clevedon Pier, a place reminiscent of the couple’s childhood memories in England. *Continued on page 34*





ABOVE: An upholstered headboard adds softness against the more solid surfaces like the luxe mirrored side tables. **RIGHT:** New lighting adds a little bling to the master en suite.

“There were key pieces in the house Maxine loved, so we put our energy into building on and improving with new elements and updating her favourite pieces,” says Debi. “Seeing what she already had gave us an indication of what was important and gave us something to build upon.”

When the couple moved to redecorating their master bedroom, they worked with Christine at Kennedy Galleries. The starting point for the room was the beautiful, quality Egyptian sheets, an option that married beauty and function for a peaceful, luxurious sleep. The light and bright theme continues with walls in Mountain Peach by Sherwin Williams. The couple’s armoire was given new life with a coat of paint. A pretty armchair was lovingly restored by My Back Shed. A luxe upholstered headboard adds a dreamy quality, while antique, mirrored side tables add glamour and storage. Soft drapes, gold bird prints and pillows from My Back Shed add whimsical elements. An electric fireplace provides a lovely focal point. Artwork by Canadian impression artist Angie Strauss completes the space. *Continued on page 36*



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Down the hall, a spare bedroom was converted to a library/den where Ken designed and built a wall-to-wall custom bookcase. The room provides a quiet space to relax or read something from the couple's much-loved book collection.

From top to bottom, the home exudes relaxed elegance post-makeover. "It's important to really embody the needs of a home. The key to good design is working with the client and ensuring you understand who they are so you can translate their unspoken needs into something they love," says Debi.

Downsizing doesn't mean compromising quality or letting go of all the things you love. With a little planning, Maxine and Ken were able to keep some much-loved treasures and still have plenty of room for family, guests and all that's important. **OH**

RIGHT: An old chair was given new life by My Back Shed. **BELOW:** Ken handcrafted the custom built-ins in the upper level library, and the shelves now hold some much-loved favourites.




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