

FRESH TAKE ON TRANSITIONAL

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*CAN A ONCE TRADITIONAL HOME TRANSFORM INTO
A TRANSITIONAL BEAUTY? ABSOLUTELY.*

A neutral colour
scheme is enlivened
with hints of colour.



A contemporary front door opens to reveal an entrance with a sleek drop zone.



LEFT: The living room and dining room flank the entryway and create multiple spaces for entertaining. **BELOW:** A vibrant piece of artwork shines against the neutrals of the living room. **BOTTOM:** The large dining table creates an intimate setting for family meals and dinner parties. The sea urchin-like fixture is a conversation piece.



When a pretty, red brick colonial became available across the street from her Toronto home, designer **Meg Ryley** of **MCR Interiors** and her husband **Paul Peterson**, a real estate agent with **Blue Elephant Realty**, jumped at the opportunity. With Paul's keen eye for gems and Meg's interior design ingenuity, they fell in love with the home and its potential. "It needed updating, but wasn't desperate for it, so it was a renovation we could take on easily. It didn't need any structural work, just a facelift," says Meg.

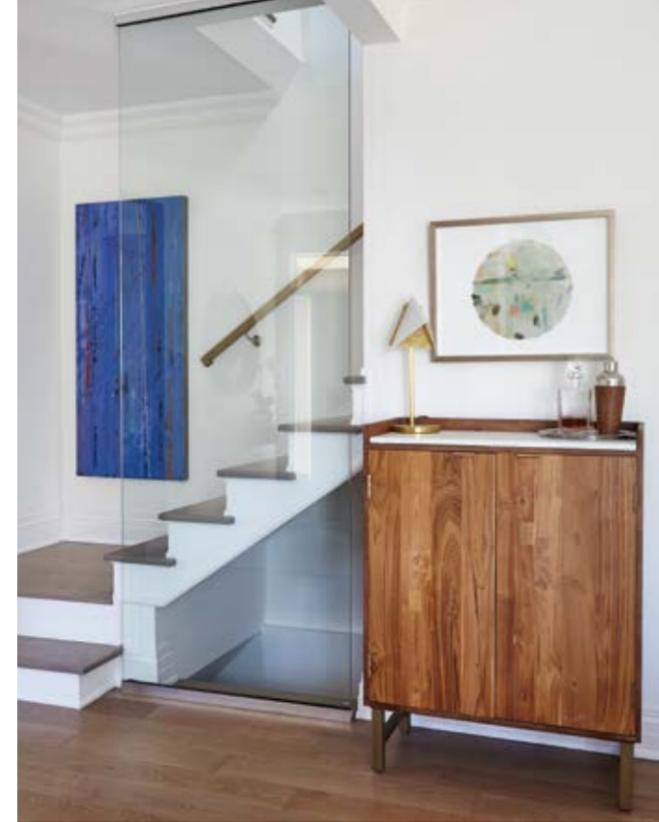
Close to a ravine and steps from public transit, the couple loved that everything was within walking distance. The corner lot faces north, east and south, and floods the home with plenty of light at different times of the day. Despite the hustle and bustle of living on a busy corner, lush landscaping and soaring trees offer privacy.

When it was time to tackle the redesign, Meg suggested blending Paul's love of modern with the home's traditional elements to strike a beautiful, transitional balance. "We kept all the interior mouldings but added some modern touches, like glass railings and partitions and transitional gas fireplace inserts with modern stone surrounds. We added as many clean lines as we could," says Meg. *Continued on page 50*



“I originally wanted blonde floors while he wanted dark brown, and we ended up with a warm caramel! He is more modern and I am a bit more traditional. I lean towards lighter colours, and he likes darker tones. Our house ended up becoming very warm with lots of taupes and pewters, and we love the outcome,” Meg says.

The kitchen and family room share one open space. Fresh white cabinetry from **Decorama Kitchen Cabinetry Vanities Custom Woodworking** and white matte subway tile from **Stone Tile International Inc.** create a space with timeless appeal. A Caesarstone island from AST Stone also serves as a place to share meals. “I love that our kitchen island has a dining space so we can still face each other and have a casual meal, Meg says. “We utilize every corner of this room and spend most of our time here either cooking, watching TV or hosting.” *Continued on page 53*



ABOVE: The family room off the kitchen has built-ins that mimic the wood on the kitchen island. **FAR LEFT:** In this powder room, crisp white and cool grey hues are simple yet beautiful. **TOP RIGHT:** The glass enclosed staircase adds a touch of modernity. **RIGHT:** A blend of traditional and modern elements results in a timeless kitchen.

In the front entrance, the traditional exterior door was swapped in favour of a more linear style in an ashy hue. A floating shelf and simple mirror make full use of the smaller space. The nutty brown hues of the engineered, white oak hardwood flooring from **Allan Rug Company Ltd.** add warmth.

To the right of the entrance, the dining room’s layout allows a circular table from **Traditional Woodworking & Joinery** to slip in seamlessly and take centre stage. “We entertain often, so the round dining table was key,” says Meg. Artwork, soft draperies and a striking, oval spike pendant from **Universal Lighting** completes the space.

To the left of the entrance, the living room is made warm and inviting with a

spectacular grasscloth wallcovering by **Primavera Interior Furnishings**. A bold, floor-to-ceiling fireplace fabricated by **AST Stone** creates a focal point. “I love the symmetry of our living room and how the floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace is the focal point of not only this room, but our house,” says Meg. The warm brown undertones and grain in the stone are mirrored in the oak used for the master vanity, the island in the kitchen and the family room built-ins.

A softly patterned rug from **Elte** gives the living room synergy, successfully marrying taupes and greys. A vibrant piece of artwork over the tufted sofa from **Silva Upholstery** adds a splash of colour. Meg says one of the biggest challenges with the redesign was blending styles so that they’d both be happy with the outcome.





The warm wood tones in the island are reflected in the adjoining family room built-ins, where just the right hue in the custom stain of the rift-cut oak was painstakingly achieved by Omar and his team at Decorama. The drapery and pillows throughout were crafted by **Sew It Seams**.

A glass-enclosed staircase from **Décor Railings**, a touch of modernity, leads to the upper level. There, a spacious loft serves as an office area.

The master bedroom blends taupe with blush pinks for a pretty and tranquil result. An upholstered headboard, tufted ottoman and soft draperies layer textiles for comfort and style.

In the en suite, flat panel cabinets in a medium wood tone with an undermount sink and crisp white countertop help give the illusion of space. His-and-hers cabinets maximize storage.

A spare bedroom boasts enough space for two twin beds, the perfect place for siblings to dream, laugh and play or to host overnight guests. Soft striped bedding is accented with pretty pink florals. *Continued on page 54*



ABOVE: An office in the loft maximizes the home's usable space.
LEFT: A spare bedroom with two large windows is ready for guests.
OPPOSITE, TOP: The en suite marries beauty and function.
BOTTOM: Everything is light and bright in the master bedroom.



feature



The main bathroom utilizes mirrors and millwork to reflect light. White-on-white-on-white keeps the room fresh and bright, while the warm countertop ties into the wood elements throughout the rest of the home. Here, storage was also thoughtfully considered. Drawers from top to bottom in the vanity provide plenty of space to tuck away toiletries.

In anticipation of Meg and Paul's new arrival, whites and greys create a soft, inviting nursery. A crib with vintage appeal is accented with sweeping grey drapes, a cosy rocker with rolled arms and cute, whimsical touches like a floppy eared bunny and fuzzy sheep. A touch of pink finishes the space and connects it to the pink elements throughout the upper level.

From top to bottom, the aesthetic is inviting, each transition slipping effortlessly to the next. As a designer, Meg strives to create spaces that speak to the unique personalities of her clients. In her own home, she struck just the right balance to achieve beautiful, timeless appeal. **OH**

LEFT: Mirrors allow the secondary bathroom to feel larger.
BELOW: A pretty nursery is set to welcome a new arrival.



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