

STORY **NANCY BELGUE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

DOWNSIZE WITHOUT *compromise*

The homeowners loved the hair-on-hide area rug. The pattern adds interest and plays off the mixture of weathered wood, espresso wood and cherry wood in the room. Flooring is from Rose City Tile Inc.

Giving up the ride-on lawnmowers, snowblowers and maintenance issues that come with older homes is becoming more and more appealing to a growing and younger group of the population. It certainly was the goal of this very active and sporty couple who love to travel – and the Villas at Forest Trails turned out to be the perfect place for them to realize their dream of early downsizing. *Continued on page 41*



ABOVE: The pedestal table elegantly dresses up the foyer and is ready to accept both keys and handbags after a long day at work. The elegant chandelier is from The Lighting Boutique. **LEFT:** With Energy Star certification, great location and exciting floor plans, these townhomes are the ideal downsizing solution.



PHOTO: DEVON PASTORIUS

“In order to make a great design, there must be a partnership between the client and the designer.”



Macarons are the perfect confection for these Francophiles.

ABOVE: The kitchen is efficient and streamlined. The homeowners love to cook so the kitchen was very important to them. Granite is from Roma Tile; appliances are from The Appliance Shoppe. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:** The homeowner has a love of all things French. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The bar unit is an heirloom piece and was built by the homeowner's 80-year-old father. It is finished in a distressed black to coordinate with the kitchen island and was topped with natural walnut by Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry.

Timberland Homes, one of Windsor's premier builders, has once again read the market perfectly. Designed for maximum comfort and style, these townhomes offer the winning combination of luxury, location, convenience and freedom. It was an irresistible draw for these homeowners. They sold their 5,000 sq. ft., 20-year-old house (with everything in it) along with its half acre of land and haven't looked back. Then they enlisted the design expertise of **Rebecca Colautti** from **Bertoni Chairs & Things** and set about making their new space into the ideal launch pad from which to enjoy their new life.



Designer Rebecca Colautti of Bertoni Chairs & Things.

"They were perfect clients" jokes **Ornella Bertoni**. "They were clean-slate clients." Rebecca was able to take the clients through each stage of the process with as little guesswork as possible. With her wizard-like ability to do 3D modelling, she worked with the floor plan to give the homeowners detailed renderings of each and every room. "It makes it a whole lot easier to visualize," Rebecca says. "There's great peace of mind in knowing exactly what the space and your new furniture is going to look like before you pull the trigger."

Clients are thrilled to have all the uncertainty taken out of a decision." The homeowners were very clear on what they wanted for their living room. They absolutely vetoed the traditional fireplace wall. "It was a challenge," says Rebecca, "to figure out what we were going to do with this 22-foot-long wall. At first we considered cabinetry but it ended up looking too old-fashioned. That was when we came up with the idea for this Stikwood wall." The peel-and-stick, solid wood wall covering was a

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LEFT: The headboard in the master bedroom is a deep, restful grey and boasts an abundance of tufts and nail-heads for maximum elegance. **BELOW:** The en suite has a generous oversize shower (Bay-View Glass & Mirror Ltd.) and leads into a walk-in closet.

clever solution. It gives the room warmth, texture and an organic design element that is a great backdrop for the walnut, mid-century designed credenza (Bertoni Chairs & Things) and flat-screen television.

“To make a room work properly you have to have flow,” says Rebecca. “I find it comes down to practicality. I always start with the big pieces like sofas, dining tables and stools at the island. In this home I was able to work with some lovely elements that were already here, like the countertops and the hardwood.” In the great room, though, she took a somewhat different approach and began with a 100 per cent hair-on-hide area rug. The homeowners loved it and that became the design direction for the entire space. “It was the statement piece and we scrapped a lot of other ideas to work with it,” Rebecca says. To round out the cool vibe, she ordered two, three-seater salt-and-pepper tweed sofas and two Geno chairs in a colour she loves. “It’s called Kiran Caviar and is a velvet, smoking jacket sort of colour,” says Rebecca.

It can still come as a revelation to some that Bertoni Chairs & Things offers full design services. “It is often a surprise for our clients to find out that we have offered a full-service design experience since 2013,” comments Ornella. “But once we started showing 3D room

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The screened-in porch from Seaton Sunrooms adds light, space and a feeling of being close to nature. With the roaring fire (Forest Glade Fireplaces) and cosy furnishings, it extends the couple's entertaining space and is used three seasons a year.

models we realized we couldn't live without them. Now, we don't sell so much as a sofa without doing a 3D model. Because pretty much everything we sell is custom-made, we take every precaution to make sure it's right. When we write an order, it is with complete confidence that it will look good and that our client will love it. They constantly tell us that there is wonderful peace of mind in knowing they won't be sorry with what they have purchased."

From the moment you set foot inside this beautifully built and furnished townhome, it's clear you're about to see both the results

of that commitment to customer satisfaction as well as downsizing at its finest. The elegant foyer sets the tone for the quality and finishes found throughout the home. The wainscoting is painted in a neutral grey and is a perfect choice with the tray ceiling. To take advantage of the spacious entryway, Rebecca chose a wire-brushed pedestal table instead of a wall console. The coffered ceiling in the great room is another high-end touch, as is the screened-in porch with a roaring fireplace that extends the living area three seasons of the year.

Because the homeowners love to

entertain, both the kitchen (**Cremasco Fine Cabinetry**) and the dining area were high on their list of priorities. They chose a double-pedestal harvest table that extends to accommodate 12 at a sit-down dinner.

"These homeowners are some of the easiest people I've ever worked with because their design decisions were made as a team," says Ornella. "We wanted to make it so they could live happily in this townhouse for the rest of their lives. Downsizing never meant compromising to them. It was always about future possibilities and we were thrilled to be a part of it." **OH**



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