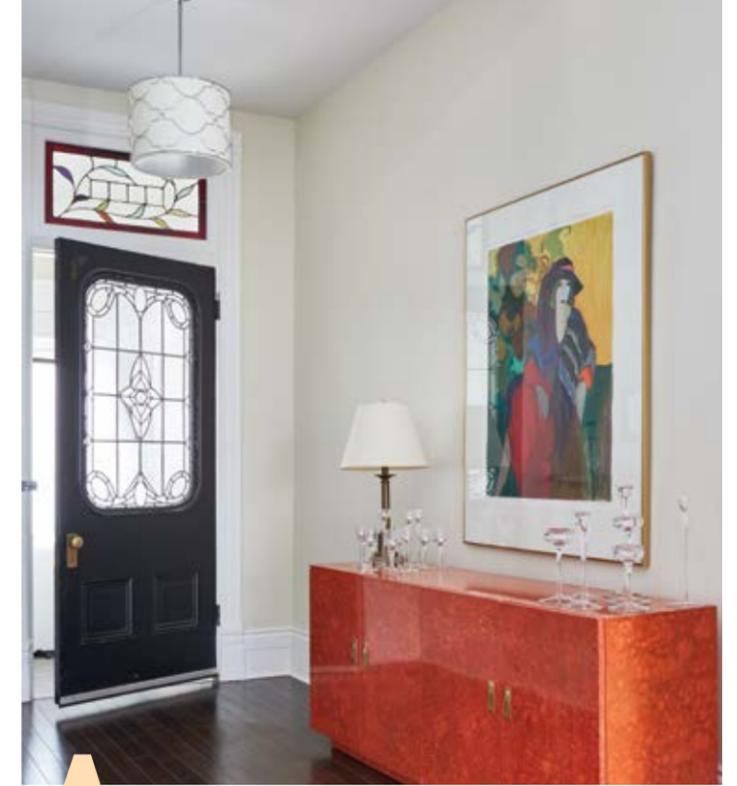


STORY **MARY HATT**
 PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

charm & CHARACTER



A restored front porch, stylish fencing and new landscaping make a stately welcome to the core-area century home. Trim colours were custom mixed.
OPPOSITE, TOP: The spacious entryway announces Rebecca McIntosh's unique taste and love of colour.
BOTTOM: The chic colour choice for the entryway is Quietly Violet by Benjamin Moore.



A great kitchen and a pool topped Rebecca McIntosh's wish list when she went house hunting several years ago. She now has the pool, and of course the kitchen, but rather than finding these features ready and waiting, they became part of an extensive renovation to a century home in London's core. *Continued on page 38*



Homeowner Rebecca McIntosh, right, with two of her design team, Nancy Evans of Inside Inc. and Grant Gilvesy of Grant Gilvesy Design.

feature

Purchasing a more than 120-year-old home was not really in her plan, but after looking to no avail for a place that checked the boxes, Rebecca warmed to the idea. The yellow brick storey-and-a-half house offered high ceilings, beautiful stained-glass transoms and other character elements. It also came with a very large property, ideal for accommodating that must-have pool area.

Rebecca could see the potential. Shortly after taking possession, she asked designer **Nancy Evans** of **Inside Inc.** and contractor **Paul Hales** of **Paul Hales Painting & Decorating Ltd.** and **Quality Pro Renovations** to help her establish a vision.

“Dealing with a structure that was built to code many years ago is always a challenge,” Paul says, adding he enjoys “taking an old home and turning it into a beautiful thing.”

Nancy says, “When we first saw the house it was in poor shape with a lot of little spaces and doorways that were small in relation to the height of the ceilings.” She knew they would have to remove walls and widen and raise doorways to establish the right scale, an airier atmosphere and better sightlines.

Continued on page 40



Rebecca enhanced the existing family room with a large built-in entertainment centre, cosy furniture and cheerful pops of colour. Walls throughout the house are Benjamin Moore Battenberg. Trim is Cloud White. **LEFT:** Many colour choices throughout were inspired by whimsical pieces of art. Drapes were chosen for smaller windows to make them appear bigger. Roman blinds inside the frames of others add visual balance.



Clean, contemporary lines in furniture and lighting (fixture from Guildwood Lighting & Fireside where other lighting was sourced for the home) define the dining room. Three marble columns topped with candles (Bernardo Group Ltd.) add dash. **BELOW:** The kitchen eating area was located along the side wall, creating easy access from the front of the house to the back. **OPPOSITE:** The compact work area, including a handy peninsula counter in quartz composite (Progressive Countertop), provides a functional workspace for serious home chef Rebecca.

With a plan in place, Paul and his crew got started. “It was chaos,” Rebecca recalls with a chuckle. She moved in with one of her daughters just one week after work began.

The crew discovered rot in the floor joists of an earlier addition to the house. This required some unexpected rebuilding. They also worked on floors throughout the home to make them of uniform height. Old wood and linoleum were then replaced with dark-stained engineered wood floors by **Huron Flooring Ltd.**

Roy Inch & Sons Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing installed a new HVAC system as well as a tankless hot water heater. **Jamie Campbell** of **J Campbell Plumbing** worked with Paul on the bones of the house. Some windows were replaced by **Aluminum Associates**. A Sonos system for the main floor and patio was installed by **London Audio**.

Fortunately, the basic reno was completed within a few months, including the kitchen, which was transformed into a cheerful workspace. White custom cabinetry by **Wm. E. Tyssen Furniture & Millwork Ltd.** defines a compact u-shape. When Rebecca first saw the home’s existing kitchen, she recalls, “it was awful!” However, she quickly realized that two windows on either side of the room’s outside wall would nicely frame a dramatic range hood, later built by Tyssen, and her new range (all appliances from **London Major Appliances**).

Continued on page 42



feature



Once the gritty work was out of the way, Nancy could focus on building a decorative statement for the home, as well as careful furniture placement. “Traffic routes were important because the house is long and narrow,” she says of the need for a clear path from the front of the house to the rear.

The front vestibule, with original stained-glass door by London artist **Ted Goodden**, now opens to a spacious entry hall then an airy middle space connecting the front of the house to the kitchen area and family room beyond that.

In the kitchen, an off-centre banquette along the wall of the eating area with table and chairs (**The Table & Chair Co. Inc.**) allows easy access to the family room.

“One wall colour and one flooring material tie the whole level together,” Nancy says, “but then each space has its own colour scheme.”

Orange and tan define the large central space, the kitchen is mainly neutrals with teal and orange accents and the family room features pops of teal, copper and violet. Nancy chose drapery fabrics (**DaPonte’s Custom Draperies**) to add colour and geometric, circle, flame stitch and dot patterns. She made choices that “minimize visual clutter and don’t compete with the paintings they sit beside.”

Continued on page 44



Soft yellow with grey and white accents make the master bedroom a welcome retreat. **ABOVE:** The small front parlour is a kind of homage to Rebecca’s parents. She inherited many of their lacquered and speckle-painted pieces, including chairs she had reupholstered in blues and greens.



Thunder



Kingsport Gray

Rooms refreshed by Upstaging using Benjamin Moore paints



Dove Wing



Clancy’s Rainbow



Visit us at one of our two locations, or order your paint and supplies online at www.clancysrainbow.com

1030 Adelaide St. N. (at Cheapside), London • 519.434.3201
NEW LOCATION: 595 Fanshawe Park Rd. W. (No Frills Plaza), London • 519.472.1116

Moulding Dreams Into Reality

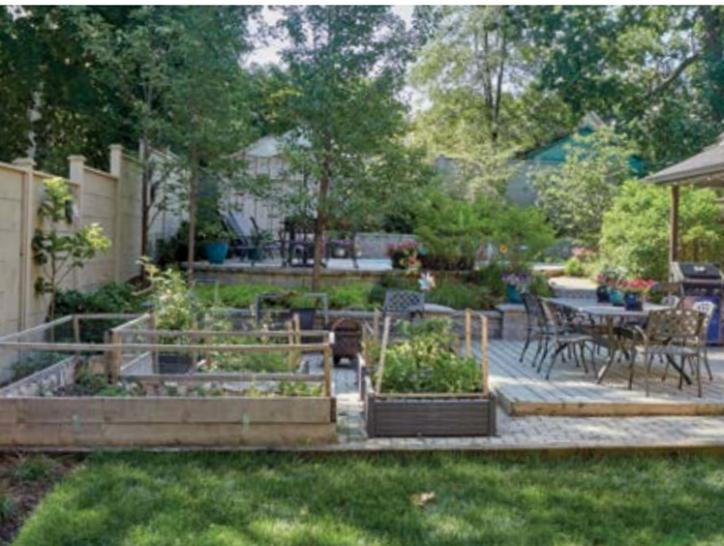


Before

CCR

BUILDING & REMODELING

2416 Sunningdale Road West, London, Ontario • 519-472-7461 • www.ccrbuilding.com



Decorating a small living room at the front of the house had been a back-burner project until last year when **Grant Gilvesy** of **Grant Gilvesy Design** stepped in to help Rebecca use special lacquered pieces from the home she grew up in. They create a uniquely elegant parlour in greens and blues. The room is inspired by the work of former London decorator Pat Tebbutt, who worked with Rebecca's mother on many a project in the 60s and 70s and wasn't afraid to be inventive. The seating, some of which had been her parents', was recovered by **English Refinishers (London) Limited**.

Outside, it wasn't long into the renovation before Rebecca hired **Forest City Pool & Patio** to install her coveted swimming pool. The initial landscaping around the pool was done by **Kelly Lans. In Bloom Designscapes** recently landscaped the front of the house and **Lobo Stoneworks Inc.** built a new retaining wall to shore up one side of the property. **Rob Murison** of **RTM Custom Decks** revived the home's front porch and built a rough pine board fence.

Rebecca's initial investment of time and money to enhance her century home is paying dividends. "This house is actually very easy to maintain," she says. "I still love it as much as I did when I first moved in."

Adds Nancy, "It feels like Rebecca." **OH**

ABOVE: An added feature of the home is its outdoor living space, unusually large for the centre of town. Fresh vegetables and herbs are at the ready thanks to garden boxes just off the kitchen. **TOP:** Rebecca and her family enjoy their pool well into the fall season.

THE *London's Most Unique Furniture Location*
TABLE & CHAIR CO. *Inc*
 Quality furniture at comfortable prices for your home & office

YOUR EXPERTS
 44 Meg Drive (off Exeter Road), London
 519-668-1200 • 1-800-265-1208
 www.tableandchair.ca

E D E N
 G A R D E N W O R K S

REFINED RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES

@edengardenworks
 www.edengardenworks.com
 info@edengardenworks.com



THE ENSUITE
 Bath & Kitchen Showroom
 The first choice distributor for trade professionals and the clients they serve.

Please call to book a consultation:
 519-457-3626

944 Leathorne Street,
 London, ON

