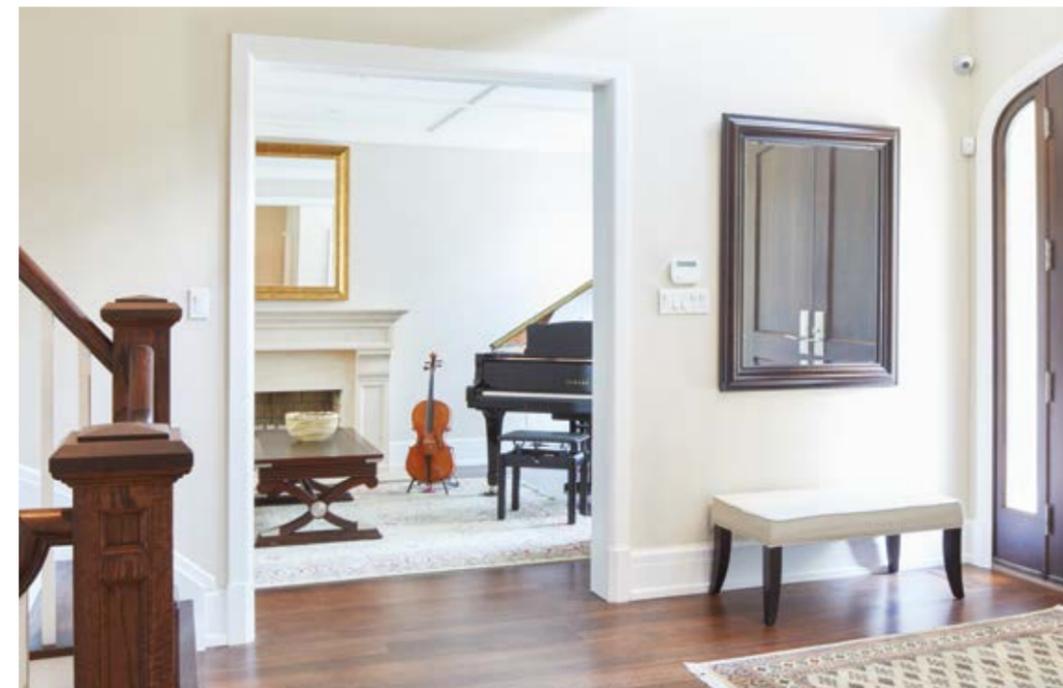


ORIGINAL *Grandeur*

STORY ERIN PEPLER | PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



ABOVE: The formal sitting room is a dream for music aficionados. **LEFT:** The rooms are well defined yet open, allowing for lovely sightlines. **OPPOSITE:** The exterior is classic elegance with a stone facade, arched windows and a peaked roofline.

When Ronald Fink and Barbara Dirks returned home to Canada after an eight year stint in Chicago, they knew exactly what they wanted: a spacious home that would work well for a family with two young children.

James Hodgins, principal and founder of **Hodgins Realty Group Inc.** worked with the couple to find the ideal property and location.

They purchased a 7,500 sq. ft. residence in the desirable Clarkson area of Mississauga. "From the moment I first showed Ron and Barbara the Clarkson Road estate I knew they were the perfect buyers," James says. "Their passion and vision for the project absolutely shone through as they meticulously restored and dramatically improved this signature home and property back to, and far beyond, its original grandeur. Barbara and Ron succeeded in creating a wonderful family sanctuary,

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beautifully positioned in the middle of one of Mississauga's most desirable neighbourhoods."

The property came with a separate three-car garage, a tennis court and the original farmhouse structure, which functioned as a guest house. A **Marley** concrete tile roof, soft grey stone exterior and circular driveway lends an elegant feel, and large trees throughout the property were a beautiful bonus.

They closed on the home in 2011 and immediately started renovations. Both busy professionals in the financial sector, they each required a dedicated home office and plenty of living space.

They preferred a somewhat traditional layout with separate, formal principal rooms, but wanted to eliminate hallways whenever possible. Taking inspiration from a number of homes they visited during their real estate search, their vision became more clear – a mix of luxury

A pretty inlay adds visual interest to the backsplash.



Details like a distinctive chandelier create classic style. **BELOW:** The third level recreation room also houses Ronald's office. **OPPOSITE:** The large, U-shaped eat-in kitchen varies textures and colours for a truly transitional feel. Bar stools at the island instead of formal seating allow for casual meals.



and warmth that would work for a busy family of four. Ronald led and managed the design himself, working with a number of contracted professionals.

The changes started with the floors. Ronald and Barbara had rift-cut engineered oak hardwood installed throughout the home, replacing several mismatched existing floors. "There was tile, herringbone-laid hardwood, then parquet – a bit of everything," explains Ronald. "We replaced it all with the hardwood to have that consistency." The custom stain, Ainsley Brown, was named after the couple's daughter.

Mahogany doors lead into the home. The elegant foyer is spacious with a lovely, understated light fixture. Over 200 pot lights throughout deliberately avoid statement pieces. Just past the entrance, a curved staircase leads to the upper and lower level.

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"I'm big on symmetry, and it had to line up just right," Ronald admits. "I couldn't believe it when they got it done on the first try. It's perfect."

To the right of the foyer is a sitting room with arched **Pella** custom architect series windows, a glossy black concert grand piano and a fireplace. To the left is Barbara's wood-paneled office, furnished with a minimalist glass-top desk.

Many of the rooms feature custom mouldings. Painted in warm neutrals throughout, touches of wood, glass and mirror can be found everywhere. Though the home's footprint is large, the couple steered away from dramatic ceiling heights and open-concept spaces with the exception of the gourmet kitchen, with its open, airy sight lines to the generous family room. "We deliberately laid it out this way," Ronald explains. "I know everyone wants open concept and those high ceilings, but we didn't design it for other people – it's designed for us and how we live."

The second level features a spacious homework and craft space with built-in desks and plenty of storage. The family affectionately calls it the "artastic" room, a name coined by son Charlie. The children each have their own room joined by a Jack-and-Jill bath on the same level.

The master suite features a vaulted ceiling and en suite with a soaker tub, walk-in shower, granite countertops, radiant heat flooring and Grohe faucets. The third floor serves as Ronald's home office, with an additional bedroom for guests.

Custom cabinetry in the main floor mudroom provides an individual space for each family member's belongings. All cabinetry was custom designed and built by **Pearl Kitchens**. *Continued on page 58*

TOP: The "artastic" room is a haven for inspiration. **ABOVE:** The handsome office space includes wood panelling. **OPPOSITE:** Neutral furniture is a smart choice in the family room. Throw pillows and blankets add texture and colour, creating a stylish space for the whole family.



feature



The kitchen features painted cabinetry in Cloud White, and a large sink adds function. The island features Opal Quartz Granite countertops. A charming marble backsplash in a basket weave pattern over the stove adds texture. Distinctive, handmade light fixtures, quality stainless-steel appliances and a pot filler complete the space.

In the family room, french doors lead to the yard, which boasts a deck, outdoor kitchen and a spectacular in-ground pool by **Turtle Bay Pools & Leisure**. Landscaping by **RRG Landscaping Inc.** enhances the outdoor oasis.

A bit of a tech junkie, Ronald helped install a Russound distributed audio system throughout the house, which is completely wireless. Everything from the television to the radio can be operated with iPads. "A wiring mistake led to the discovery that the house could be divided into six separate zones, which hadn't been done before," says Ronald.

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LEFT: Beautiful blue makes a statement in the master bedroom. **BELOW LEFT:** The master walk-in closet is an organizer's dream. **BELOW:** The dark cabinet choice adds richness in the spacious master en suite.



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He and Barbara can entertain guests in one zone while the kids watch a movie in another, or music can be played throughout the home.

Looking back on the design process, it's clear that Ronald and Barbara created something that perfectly reflects their lifestyle and priorities. The house is beautiful and spacious, but unequivocally warm and inviting. This is not a museum – it's a place where meals are cooked, music is played, work is done and children's laughter is heard. For one family, it's home.

The home is currently for sale with James Hodgins of Hodgins Realty Group Inc. Inquiries are welcome at 905.855.8700 or visit jameshodgins.com. OH



TOP: The backyard oasis includes a pool and tennis court. **ABOVE:** Girls just want to have fun in this pretty pink bedroom. **LEFT:** It's fun and games in the lower level recreation room.



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