

THE GREAT ROOM OF DESIGN

BY HEATHER WRIGHT // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DEEKS



The great room boasts high ceilings and a view of the landscape. **TOP RIGHT:** The staircase leads to an open landing that overlooks the great room. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The family dogs enjoy the large space.



One can't help but look up in awe at this sweeping two-storey, four-bedroom Greely home, set against the rolling green backdrop of the Emerald Links Golf Course. The ceilings soar high in all areas of the home, 20 ft. aloft in the great room, creating an ethereal quality. There is acuity of light, space and volume, made special in the details, which tie the sweeping space in this vast home together.

Antonio Sanchez of **Sanchez Homes Inc.** built the home based on a combination of grandeur and down-to-earth design. "I like the way the home flows," he says. "It is a spectacular home to entertain in."

The tall walls are lined with large, coverless windows from **Grandor Group**, to maximize the sense of space. A wide open-riser staircase connects the floors. The design elements in this home unfold into each other and collectively increase the exposure to air and light.

Behind the staircase is a travertine stone wall (**Euro Tile & Stone**) that reflects the supportive nature of the design elements of this home – each with their role to play. The owner likes the stone, which can be seen throughout the home, including the fireplace and pillars in the great room, where it seems the most natural. It ties in best with the nuance of the décor that surrounds it. *Continued on page 22*

Antonio embraced his clients' desire for a home that was resplendent, but inviting. He set out with some very specific design decisions to support this. "After establishing the clients' interest in having a very open concept, we decided to remove the wall from the first floor to the basement," Sanchez says. "This permitted natural light transfer from the wall of windows from the basement to the main floor and vice versa. We also decided to incorporate a detailed coffered ceiling on the two-storey great room to add depth and accentuate the height of the main floor."

The ceiling in the great room is not the only one of interest. Similar coffered ceilings are in the master bedroom and powder room. The dining room has a coffered ceiling with a funky crystal light fixture (**Suede Contemporary Interiors**) that gathers and redistributes the light, again drawing the eye upward. Other lighting came from **Multi Luminaire** and **Zone**. All the trim in the house was chosen for its simplicity and its clean lines, as opposed to being ornate. *Continued on page 24*



The backyard is the dream entertainment area for this family. **ABOVE AND LEFT:** The elegant front exterior, complete with porch, provides the perfect spot to watch the world go by.



A bay window in the master bedroom provides a lovely area to sit back and relax. **ABOVE:** The formal dining area is complete with custom-made chairs and a stunning modern light fixture. **RIGHT:** The contemporary chandelier hangs from the tall ceiling over the entranceway.





The colour palette plays a key role in the vibe of this home and contributes to its sense of fun and design humility. There are a number of different paint colours used throughout the house, but they collectively contribute to well-placed pops of colour. The great room and much of the main floor is decorated in muted grey and earthy tones that tie in with the natural setting that lies beyond these windows. The floors lend a “welcome home” appeal, flanked with dark hardwood that emits the same earthy hues.

The powder room on the main floor is one example of fun, hip design in this home. With purple walls, a funky stone sink and a visually arresting light fixture, it is playful, but elegant. Similarly, the daughter’s bedroom explodes with fun, complete with a high, arching ceiling, built to accommodate the large window and vibrant walls covered in pink. “This room is just so much fun,” the owner says. Her daughter picked the vibrant pink herself.

ABOVE: The informal dining area sits between the kitchen and great room.



The functional design elements have an underlying sense of pragmatism with things like laundry on both the main floor and upstairs and an outdoor bathroom in the pool area. In the kitchen a sleek granite island (**The Granite Shop**) is surrounded by dark counters and contrasting shaker cabinetry by **Deslaurier Custom Cabinets Inc.** The island is a contemporary focal point, but definitely serves a purpose. It is a hub for family activity, reflective of the synergy between fashion and function that runs through the house.

Several rooms open up to the sprawling backyard, including the master bedroom and the upstairs spare bedroom (which has a walkout to a porch that acts as an overhang for the patio below). The backyard oasis is “an extension of the house, meant to be the centre of entertaining,” says the owner.

Antonio concurs that one of the best features of this home is its natural flow that is tailor-made for entertaining. The backyard area, he says, is an important component of that. “It was important to the clients to be able to enjoy their backyard as much as the rest of the home. They gave us carte blanche for the landscaping. This enabled us to include a swimming pool, waterfall, outdoor kitchen, fire pit, hot tub and television, all of which make for a very inviting outdoor space.” Elegant stamped concrete from **Cabido Construction** was used to complete the look. *Continued on page 26*



The bright, open kitchen creates a family space. **ABOVE:** Getting ready for fall cooking.



ABOVE: The master bedroom leads to an open en suite. **RIGHT:** A spacious shower in the en suite. **FAR RIGHT:** This vibrant pink room is this little girl's dream.



Clearly, this home is about creating space around an open concept, a driving force behind the design. It's all about flow. "I didn't want the house, as big as it is, to be intimidating," the owner says. "I didn't want people to feel 'don't touch' when they came in the door."

Although this home is grand, there is fun lurking in many corners, with numerous funky design pockets, which squash pretension and extend an invitation to come in, relax and be yourself. **OH**

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