

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

STORY **JOYCE TURNER GIONET**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



Life begins and ends with family, according to **Niki Micevic**, speaking about her mom, custom homebuilder **Mara Micevic**, who is President of **MGM Development Design & Build**. *Continued on page 32*

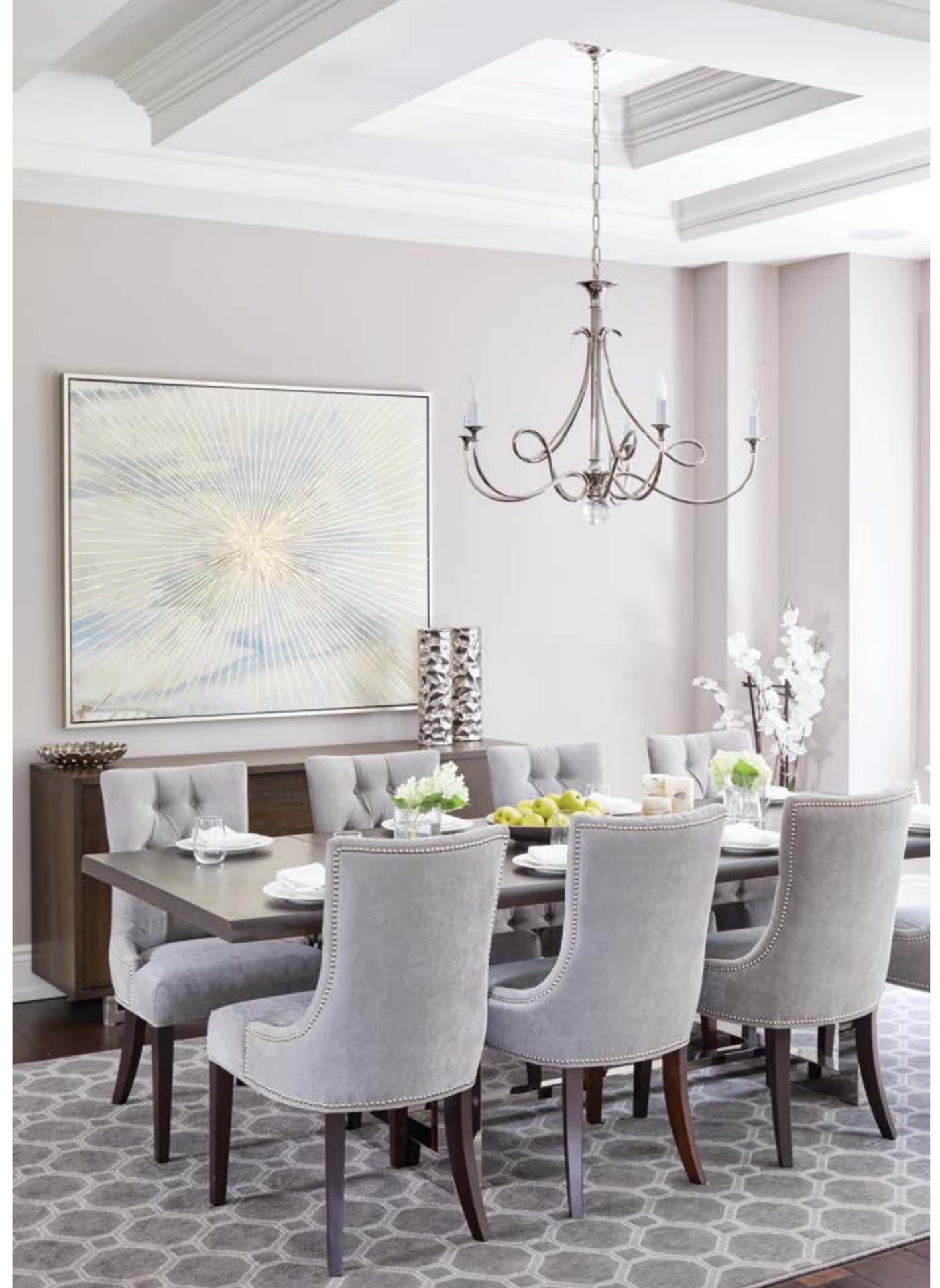
**ABOVE:** Layers of texture and colour on the home's Muskoka-style facade add curb appeal. **LEFT:** Though traditional in design, modern elements like shiny statement lighting and glimmering hardware complete the kitchen.

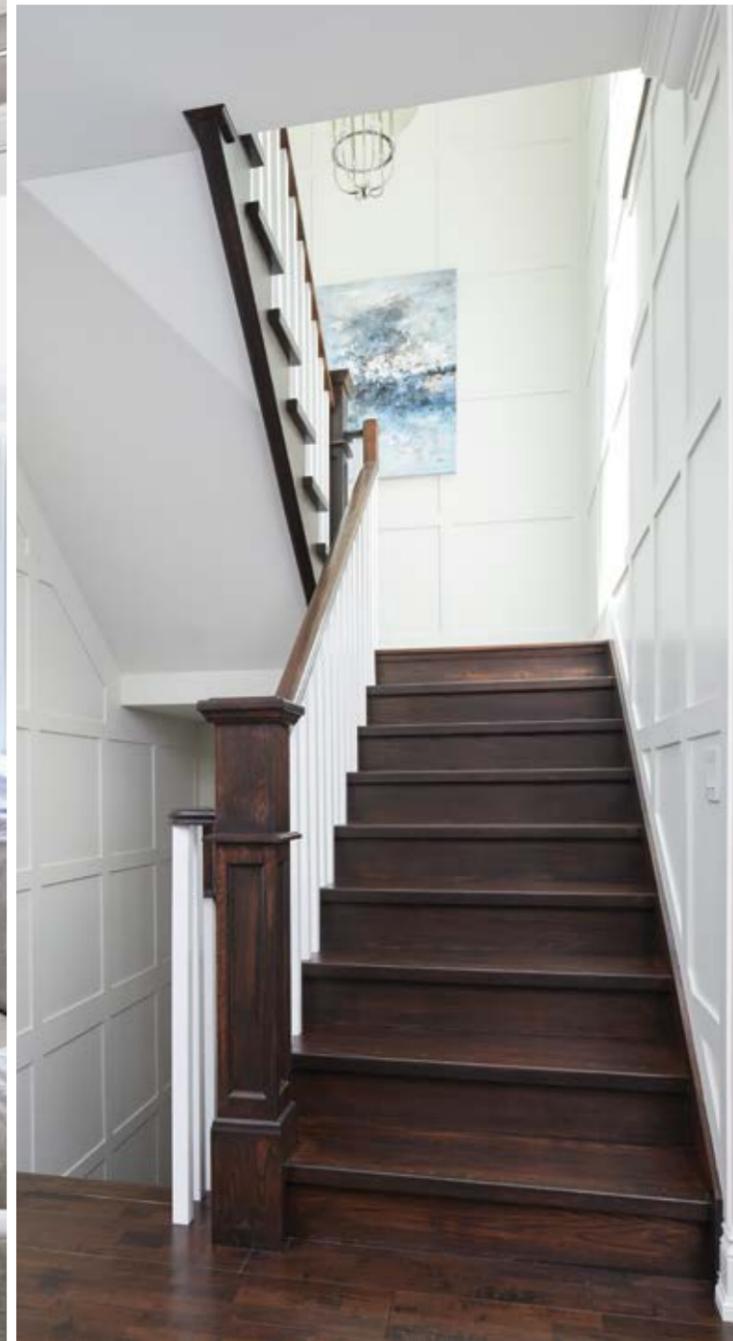


Land development, residential and commercial builds, renovations, additions and even heritage restoration – MGM has been doing it all since 1995. They are also involved in a hotel build in Toronto and another in New York City. They're the team behind the updating of the Old Railroad Station at 139 Thomas St. in Oakville. The neighbourhood has been watching the reno closely, since the station is part of Oakville's history. Spoiler alert: Yes, they're keeping the original brick. If you're curious about the inside, drop into the October Open House.

Mara Micevic loves to build – it's her passion. She also wanted to build something lasting, a business where she could work with her children one day. She got her wish. They're all involved in MGM. Niki, in particular, played a major role in the design of Mara's home build. What was the toughest part of the job for Niki? Colour! "My mom's not big on colour, she loves white and grey. I really had to work on her to add the soft sea-blue touches," laughs Niki. *Continued on page 34*

**LEFT:** Mara's love of white plays centre stage in the crisp, fresh kitchen. **BELOW LEFT:** A separate dining nook takes advantage of windows that provide natural light and a pretty view. **MIDDLE:** The powder room features chic wallpaper, oversized hardware and glimmering accessories. **RIGHT:** Mixed metals and mirrors add elegance to the entry. **OPPOSITE:** Crowned with layers of formal moulding, the dining room's central location and transitional furnishings slide seamlessly in the open main-floor layout.





**ABOVE:** A large custom sofa takes centre stage and provides space for the whole family to enjoy. **TOP RIGHT:** New England-style square panelling in the stairwell adds grandness. **LEFT:** It's a family affair for Mara (seated) and Niki Micevic.

According to Niki, as a homebuilder and designer, it's hard to sit still. Every day is different, and every day is busy with lots of projects on the go. "As builders, we are constantly on site every day overseeing every aspect of the build," Niki says. "We're always exposed to new ideas in design, technology,

materials, colours and finishes. It's exciting."

Mara did stand still long enough to design and build this house for her and her husband – a two-storey Muskoka-style home on a tucked-away street a stone's throw from Lake Ontario. At 4,000 square feet, it's not small, but it manages to remain cosy, a result of cohesive

design elements and a calming colour scheme.

The home's many luxury details include a glossy marble-slab entrance, maple floors in espresso, solid wood doors like the African Mahogany front door with its frosted swirl glass panels sourced from **Byrcon Wood Products**, custom plaster ceilings, New England-style

square panelling, which turns the staircase wall into a stunning feature wall, and more. The craftsmanship is superb, in large part because Mara has spent 20 years assembling a reliable and talented team of tradespeople. Kudos to EFP Designs Inc. for the drop-dead-gorgeous coffered and recessed ceiling work.

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A bright transitional kitchen opens to the family room with a view onto the Muskoka porch through large, made-to-order windows by Kolbe Windows & Doors. “Mom is extremely neat, so millwork panels cover appliances and a walk-in pantry hides clutter.” The shimmering mother-of-pearl mosaic backsplash tile is from Ciot. Grill inserts on cabinetry are a lively change from glass, adding depth and interest. Chunky hardware is from Barcres Wholesale Hardware Ltd. How can you tell when a family entertains a lot? By the size of the island! **Cameo Kitchens & Fine Cabinetry** installed the kitchen. “We’re pretty casual,” laughs Niki. “Sitting around the island is far more comfortable than eating in a stuffy dining room.”

Niki terms the dining room a transitional space, in deference to the highly detailed recessed ceiling and mouldings layered around arches and doorways. Chrome legs on the harvest table, metal frames on artwork and the elegant chandelier’s metal touches add a modern feel to the open space. There are no formal doors; in fact, almost all rooms on the main level are open to each other creating a smooth, seamless vista.

*Continued on page 38*

**TOP LEFT:** A cosy seating area makes full use of the space in the master suite.  
**TOP RIGHT:** The spacious mudroom also houses a shower for the family pup.  
**RIGHT:** The master bedroom is soft, sweet simplicity.

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**Trisha Murray Ross**  
 Principal Designer

It's go big or go home in the family room where a sectional was made to seat 20. Despite its size, it doesn't dominate the room. A soft wool rug, organic accessories and subtle pops of sea blue deliver a warmth that offsets such a large piece of furniture. We're not sure where they found the time, but Mara and Niki made many of the accent cushions from leftover fabric. "Although it's easy to switch things up, and we do it for clients, in our own space we're not much for changing fabrics and accessories with the season," says Niki. "I like colours that work all year round. I also love flowers and candles in a room. A lot of the furniture in the house is from Sunpan. We like the brand just as much as our clients do."

"Soothing" is the most appropriate word for the master and en suite, both boast 12-foot ceilings. His-and-hers closets are situated off the bedroom. Swarovski crystals and glass handles were used in Mara's space, while hubby's was given a more masculine appeal with dark-stained oak cabinetry set off with brushed nickel hardware. The en suite features oversize, bevelled, white subway-tiled walls and gleaming porcelain on the floors. A simple crystal-drop chandelier hangs over the freestanding tub. Fixtures are by Kohler, sourced at **Taps**. Privacy shades are from Elite Window Fashions.

"My mom arrived in Canada from the former Yugoslavia at 15 years old," says Niki. "She spoke no English and arrived without her parents. She's worked hard, built a good life and a very successful business. She taught us that in Canada, if you work hard you can do anything because it's a country in which anything is possible." In the year in which we are celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's a beautifully appropriate sentiment. **OH**

**TOP:** White on white with a hint of colour makes this en suite a peaceful retreat.  
**RIGHT:** A simple crystal chandelier is a pretty addition over the tub.



*Inlaid tile adds an "area rug" of texture to the en suite's porcelain floor.*



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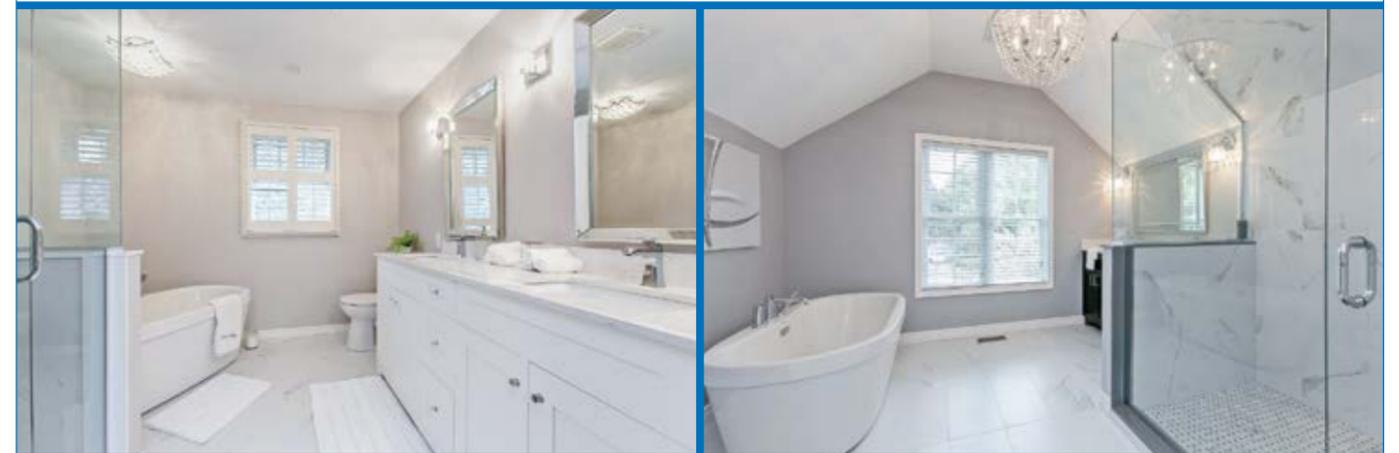
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