



This living room reflects the homeowners' tastes for transitional style with simple lines, and muted blues and taupes. **RIGHT:** Spectacular stone on the chateau-style exterior blends into the natural surroundings.



STORY **ERIN PEPLER**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

When Ben and Nancy Moreira built their dream home in Halton Hills, they truly went off the beaten path. Tucked away on a rural lot near Acton and just minutes from town, the scenic property is cloaked by mature trees and tastefully landscaped with shrubs and flowers. It's a charming haven in the countryside with unexpected amenities inside and out – a true family treat. *Continued on page 54*

MODERN SECLUSION

Designed by **David Small** of **David Small Designs**, the concept for the house came straight from the homeowners. After creating a plan, Ben and Nancy reached out to Small, who ran with the design, tweaking it to create improvements while preserving the Moreiras' vision. "I really love its relationship to the property," says Small. "The home is positioned on a wide clearing on an otherwise heavily-wooded lot. The seclusion offers the homeowners as much privacy as desired, as well as some amazing views of the surrounding nature. It's also quite an experience to travel up the driveway, with woods on either side, when all of a sudden, this stately home appears, nestled among the trees. It's a very powerful visual."

The Moreira family also includes 18-year-old son Alex, who studies at the University of Guelph, 16-year-old Emily and the family dog, Bean. They chose the build site not only for the picturesque setting, but for the academic and community resources available to Emily, who has autism. "It was very important to us that Emily would get everything she needed

at school and have opportunities in the community," Nancy explains, noting that her daughter takes dance nearby and has other resources at her disposal.

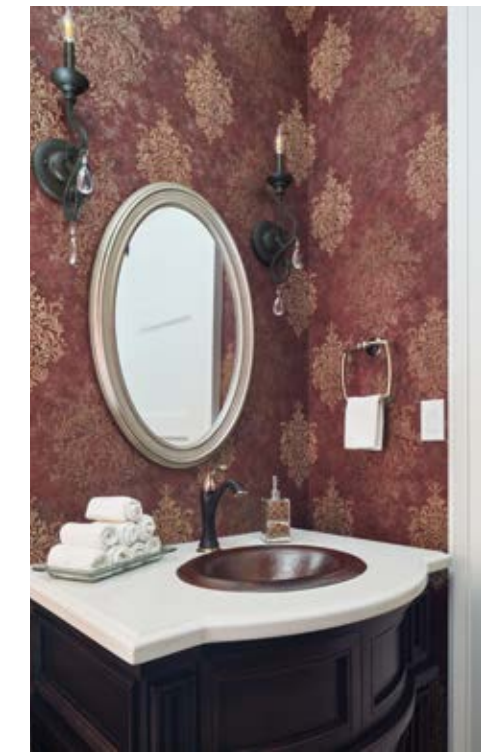
The front of the property is impressive but doesn't reveal the full size of the house, which is close to 14,000 square feet with its expansive finished basement. The stone steps and pathways match the exterior of the home, which was executed by a local stonemason named Vitaliy. Gardens by **New Stone Landscaping** are inspired by the home's natural surroundings. A breezeway between house and garage leads to the backyard where a stone patio, a fire pit and an elegant swimming pool, also by New Stone Landscaping, awaits. A basketball court by **Sport Court** finishes the space.

Though the home's interior design is mostly transitional with a calm, neutral palette, pops of colour are found in the paintings and accessories. Ben and Nancy chose the finishes, furniture and accessories themselves, spending countless evenings poring over design magazines and looking

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Curved, exposed ceiling trusses add character to this transitional new home. **BELOW LEFT:** Oversize doorways provide multiple sightlines throughout the main floor.



at samples. “We worked through one room at a time,” Ben explains, noting that Nancy’s style is slightly more traditional than his. “We’d lay everything out on the table and make decisions, and then move on to the next room in the house.”

Their creativity and hard work is evident in each and every room and the result is a high-end design that’s deeply personal. Ben and his father, **Jose Moreira**, laid most of the home’s tile by hand. **Gotcha Covered** made all of the blinds and curtains. Nancy upholstered chairs, and the couple built many pieces of furniture themselves, or had them custom-made to their specifications.

The spacious entryway offers a view to the back of the home. Polished stone flooring is from **Ciot**. A stately chandelier from Levico Lighting hangs overhead. The formal living and dining rooms feature traditional fireplaces and crown moulding alongside contemporary art pieces and furniture, including dining chairs from **ARTEFac**. A modern sofa in a muted gray-green fabric was custom-made by **Nu Look Upholstery**. At the back of the home, the chef’s kitchen was crafted by **Custom Engineered Millwork** and includes a walk-in pantry and large servery. A hint of industrial in the vintage-inspired bronze pendants from **Milton Lighting** completes the space. *Continued on page 58*



ABOVE: The kitchen pairs classic, furniture-style details with a neutral colour scheme. **RIGHT:** Dramatic art pieces are conversation starters in the formal dining room. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** A dark glass backsplash complements the use of bronze in the lighting and hardware. **TOP RIGHT:** The opulent powder room includes damask wallpaper. **BOTTOM:** The dining room table is large enough to host dinners and holidays.

home & builder

A three-season room with retractable screens and a rustic stone fireplace connects the interior to the outdoors. The main floor also features a mudroom, home gym with sauna and the master suite. The bedroom offers views to the backyard, and the suite also boasts a spa-like bathroom, walk-in closets, a private laundry room and a den.

Upstairs, the home is all about the Moreira children. Each has a bedroom with en suite and Juliet balcony – a design request from Nancy. There's also a recreation room and separate guest wing.

The lower level is an entertainer's paradise with a bar, wine cellar, party room, games area, home theatre by Automated Entertainment and a billiards table, shuffleboard court and two-lane bowling alley by **Associated Bowling & Billiard Companies Canada**.

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It's time for family fun with a two-lane bowling alley, complete with custom lighting. **TOP LEFT:** The lower level is a gaming paradise, with a golf simulator and billiards table. **TOP RIGHT:** The custom bar area makes hosting larger parties a breeze.

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“Emily loves to bowl, so this was for her,” Nancy says. If you need to get back upstairs in a hurry, you can take the lift by **Federal Elevator**. After a busy couple of years designing and building the home, the Moreira family is finally able to enjoy it. “David really hit the mark,” Ben asserts. “The design of a home is so important – it’s where you’d never want to skimp – and he was wonderful to work with. We’ve recommended him many times because we were so happy with what he did.” With Nancy busy with her career in property management and Ben quickly growing his new residential construction management company, **Forj**, it’s hard to imagine they want to take on more – but they do. “Our goal is to eventually create a housing community for adults with autism,” Nancy says. “A place that would allow independence but also have support.” It’s a beautiful vision, and if their home is any indication, it will be a beautiful reality as well. **OH**



LEFT & ABOVE: The en suite’s luxurious details include tile set in a herringbone pattern, and furniture-finish cabinetry. **TOP RIGHT:** The backyard includes a pool, hot tub, cabana area and basketball court. **TOP LEFT:** The master bedroom’s vaulted ceiling treatment exudes old-world charm.



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