

DESIGN

deconstructed

STORY
HEATHER WRIGHT
 PHOTOGRAPHY
JUSTIN VAN LEEUWEN



LEFT: The covered porch on the stone exterior offers a welcome respite from nasty weather in all seasons. **BELLOW:** The striking ledgerstone wall leading upstairs offers a striking welcome into this cool, contemporary home. **OPPOSITE:** The great room is the gathering spot for the whole family. The stone surround holds the television and houses the LED fireplace.

There is a particular kind of skill in appearing effortless, especially when you are creating something. It's even more impressive when the end result is built upon a myriad of minute details that silently slide into each other and positively combust with style and purpose.

This is precisely what you'll find inside **Mark Kranenburg**'s Greely home, which is proof positive that a space can be simultaneously utilitarian and stylish. Mark's home is comprised of sleek, contemporary design elements that each has a distinct function.

Mark is the owner and president of custom home building company **Greenmark Builders**, which is quickly gathering notoriety and acclaim in the Ottawa home-building market. To add to his collection of awards that Greenmark has received, Mark recently won the People's Choice Award at the annual Housing Design Awards, sponsored by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association. And the home that won? The one that he designed for his own family to live in.

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A built-in cutting board
& recycling centre helps
make kitchen prep easier.

ABOVE: The beautifully finished mudroom serves the family's storage and organization needs.

RIGHT: The family gathers in the most important room of the house.

OPPOSITE: The large kitchen has space for everyone. The kitchen design goes from good to great with smart, space-enhancing decisions, like putting the fridge and freezer across from each other on different walls.



Mark shares this four-bedroom home with his wife Crystal and their young children.

There are so many “small things” in this home that just make sense and work together to simplify and support quality of life. “I favour design that is clean and simple,” says Mark, “It’s hard enough to keep things organized, so where we can help, we help.”

For instance, in the sizable kitchen, Mark talks about the seemingly innocuous choice of placing the fridge and the freezer (Electrolux,

Corbeil Appliances) on opposite walls.

But as he explains it, you can easily see how this kitchen, like so many other rooms in the house, goes from good to great with small but significant choices. “This is something I would absolutely do again,” says Mark. “In so many homes you have the fridge and freezer side by side, which is a waste of space,” explaining that corner cabinetry doesn’t get used to its full capacity. To create a more efficient use of space, he placed the fridge and freezer opposite

to each other, across the island (**Masterpiece Granite & Marble Inc.**, Espresso Granite) and created a row of cabinetry (**Harpstone Kitchens Ltd.**) in between.

Also in the kitchen, Mark pulls out a drawer that houses a chopping board. This isn’t just any chopping board though; it has a receptacle underneath to catch droppings from kitchen prep. The board is also completely removable, which makes for easy clean up. *Continued on page 29*



Often, Mark says, people see something really smart on *Houzz*, in OUR HOMES magazine or from other housing inspiration, and say, "That's so cool! I would love that!" Well, I actually did that." At the front of the house, the mudroom (Harpstone Kitchens Ltd.) has sleek built-ins, with some highly functional qualities. As Mark points out, the room is well equipped with hooks as opposed to hangers for hanging coats and other items, which is genius from a space and ease standpoint.

In the front hall area, he has cleverly raised and widened the doorways, subtly changing the sense of space – from big to bigger – with huge impact. He matched the light fixture ([Marchand Lighting & Electrical](#)) to the floor ([Barwood Flooring](#), Superior Oak Wire Brush Finish) as well, another small detail among many that serve to stitch the seams around this house's contemporary cool design.

A favourite gathering spot for the family

is the great room, with a contemporary natural stone fireplace ([Harding The Fireplace Ltd.](#)) that serves as a stylish focal point. This fireplace is not only fashionable, it's functional as well, in that it was designed to contribute to the family's comfort. They chose an LED fireplace, so that they could gather family and friends in the room without being too hot.

One of the coolest parts of this home is a stunning ledgerstone feature wall ([Olympia Tile](#)) that you are greeted with immediately upon entry. It was the last thing that Mark did in the home. He really wanted to create a visual that not only impressed, but cemented the theme for the house. The end result? He got what he wanted. "Everyone that comes in my door says, 'I love that wall!'"

Moving upstairs, the master bedroom is funky, with a textured feature wall that enhances the space without dominating it. In the master bathroom, you are greeted with a sublime pedestal tub,

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Clever in-cabinet storage keeps office clutter to a minimum.



LEFT: Mark's home office includes contemporary furnishings, including a glass-topped desk and red chairs, yet traditional built-ins with clever storage. It's an inspiring room. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room table expands to seat a crowd in a pleasing room with innovative architectural details on the ceiling.



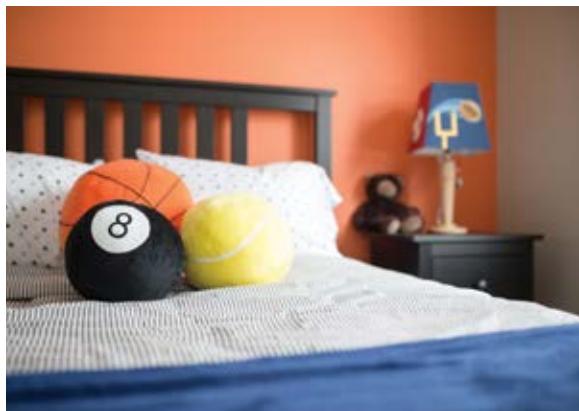
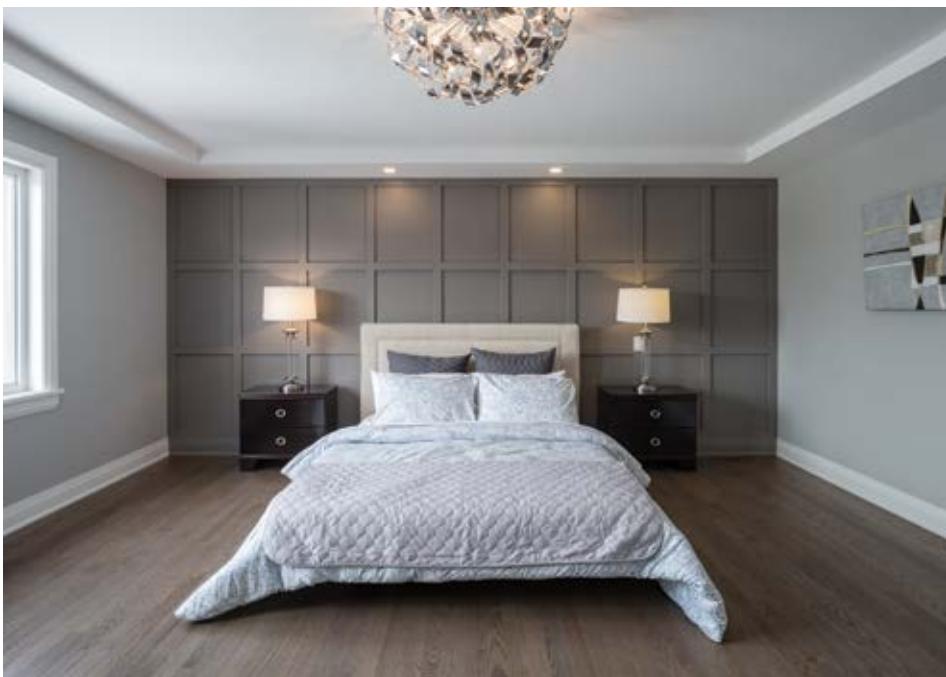
dark granite countertops (**Emerald Tile + Marble**), Nero Angola) and sizeable shower (Olympia Tile) with a huge rain shower showerhead (Hansgrohe, **Mondeau Bathrooms and Kitchens**). Another one of Mark's clever design tricks is the way in which he has extended the mirror directly to the countertop rather than installing the usual lip to transition from counter to mirror.

Leveraging the reflective quality of the mirror, "It looks like your granite just flows," he says.

And that's not the only place he uses refractory light as a design tool; it's evident with a number of light fixtures throughout the house. "We're huge on lighting," says Mark, commenting on how light fixtures are an often overlooked design tool. As he explains, they aren't just focal points; they create effects in distributing the light, like shadows, which can alter your perception of a space.

Mark is not only an award-winning builder, he is a pioneer of sorts. He describes how he has kind of "morphed the idea of open concept" by using design elements like textured ceilings to define the space below as a separate but connected room, which he did in the great room.

The goal for his home, was to "include design everywhere," which is clearly evident, even in the most minute of details. Upon closer examination of these design elements, you quickly realize that deconstructing the visual impact that this home delivers reinforces how design is a whole made up of parts. **OH**



TOP: The master en suite is outfitted with the latest fixtures that provide comfort and efficiency. The huge vanity has two sinks set apart. The vessel tub and slick, glassed-in shower make it easy to get up in the morning. **ABOVE:** The spacious master suite has a grey panelled wall that anchors the room. The chandelier adds sparkle. **LEFT:** Their son's room has a fun spark of colour.



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