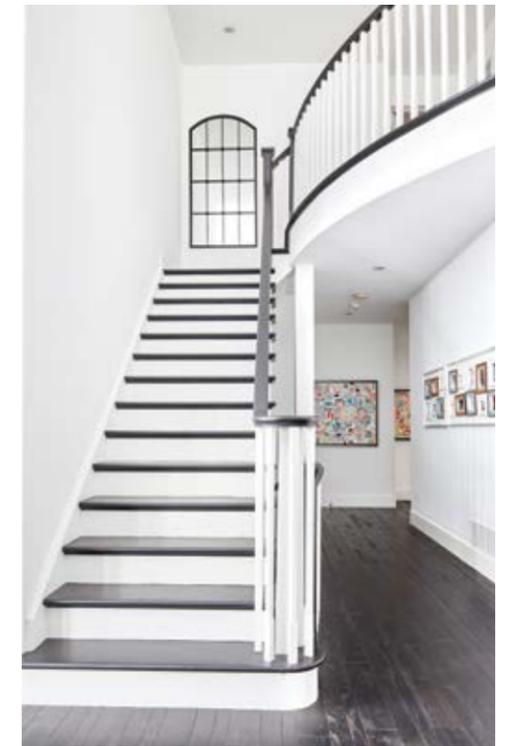


Relocating from Toronto in 2013 with their first child, Kathy and Nick were completely new to the Orangeville area. They found a quiet court in a safe, family neighbourhood that spoke to their love of nature and the outdoors.

# BACK TO *life*

Millwork in the front hall, crafted by Ferndale Trim & Doors adds dimension and texture. Dufferin Windows Ltd. installed the front exterior door, windows flanking the fireplace and the en suite windows.



STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**  
FLOWERS **PETALS FLOWER COMPANY**

The home they chose backs onto a woodlot, which makes them feel like they're at the cottage, but still close to schools and city amenities. Kathy is a physiotherapist and Nick is an orthopedic surgeon, both with busy practices. They now have three children under the age of six, so it's one busy household! When asked about the early years in Orangeville, Kathy laughs and says, "I lived in a brown house for five years!" The family was growing, the décor dated and drab, and the original design wasn't serving their needs. *Continued on page 39*

**TOP LEFT:** The dining room is used for formal company dinners. Draperies sourced by Montgomery Homes. **TOP RIGHT:** Currently the second floor is reserved for Nanny's quarters. It will become a guest room in the future. **RIGHT:** The hallway and archway were existing. Montgomery added the dark wooden accent to frame the view into the great room.





What they loved about the layout was that the kids could run and play, eat and sleep – all on the main floor. What wasn't working was the central kitchen/family room space. It wasn't conducive to the way they wanted to live and interact with their children, friends and family.

The couple had many ideas about what they wanted but needed someone to take charge of the renovations. In 2017 they commissioned **Montgomery Homes** to lead the project. The relationship was borne of a friendship that grew between Kathy and **Kristin Bax**, co-owner of Montgomery Homes.

Both Kathy and Nick say their working relationship with Montgomery was built on trust and confidence. Nick also says, "We benefited from having the builder, project designer and stager working together as a family – and for us – it was a priceless combination!" They managed all aspects of the renovations, including coordination with trades, sourcing of product, providing design solutions and decorating advice.

The family moved out of the house and lived with friends during the renovation, which took three months. The interior of the house was gutted. Pillars, which were part of the original dining room design, were removed to accomplish a more open design.

The renovation involved a new great room and new flooring throughout the home (engineered oak supplied by **Bigelow Flooring Inc.**). All bathrooms were renovated, millwork installed in the entryway, and the addition of a one-and-a-half car garage is an ongoing project.

The kitchen/family room was completely redesigned to accommodate Kathy and Nick's different views on style (kitchen cabinetry by **Sutcliffe Kitchens and Renovations**). Nick's style is modern and Kathy's more transitional. The rear wall was opened up to the green space beyond, giving the great room a cottage feel. The original fireplace was removed and replaced with a gas insert from **Caledon Fireplace. Ferndale Trim & Doors** faced it with a stunning white high-gloss panel with recessed walnut

*Continued on page 40*

**NICK'S STYLE IS MODERN AND KATHY'S MORE TRANSITIONAL. THE REAR WALL WAS OPENED UP TO THE GREEN SPACE BEYOND, GIVING THE GREAT ROOM A COTTAGE FEEL.**

**ABOVE:** The great room is the hub of family life. Warm walnut accents counterbalance the sleek modern feel of the space. **OPPOSITE:** Designed to be a room to live and entertain in, the great room exudes style while retaining functionality. Wooden benches add warmth to the cool white palette, but are also practical for kids to sit and watch nature go by outdoors.

During the reno the rear wall was opened up to allow views of the green space. Cathedral ceilings amplify the size of the room and set the stage for dramatic lighting. **OPPOSITE:** There's enough space to have an informal family meal at the kitchen table too!



Visitors often ask Kathy how the white modern furniture works with three small children. "They're very comfortable and functional and a double dose of Scotchguarding works wonders!" she says. The great room is Kathy and Nick's favourite space. "The open-concept area is where the family interacts in multiple capacities," says Nick. They now have three children: Kole, now 6, Mackenzie, 5 and Ava, who's 3.

Artful, traditional millwork graces the front entry, which offers a view into the dining room. It's linked to the great room by the cleverly placed pantry. The furniture in the

dining room was a gift from Kathy's parents. It was originally a present to her parents on their wedding day. Kathy painted it and the set is used for family occasions and for more formal, sit-down dinners. Montgomery suggested and sourced the blue velvet drapes from **Russell Hills Designs** and the coordinating rug to warm the space.

The wallpaper in the main-floor master bedroom (and the dining room) was existing when the home was purchased. Montgomery replaced baseboards and removed the window coverings to showcase the fabulous treed landscape outdoors. *Continued on page 42*

banding. The wooden bench allows little people to birdwatch and peek into the forest-like backyard, as well as a place for Kathy's thriving plant collection.

The warm wood accents are carried into the L-shaped kitchen pantry. Sleek granite counters and island finishes blend harmoniously with the walnut and the overall effect is chic, welcoming and functional. The same dramatic Caesarstone White Attica quartz, supplied by **Stonex**, was used on the countertop and the backsplash.

**RIGHT:** Kids can play while parents snack on hors d'oeuvres and chat at the island in this open concept kitchen. Kitchen cabinetry by Sutcliffe Kitchens and Renovations.





**FAR LEFT:** The master en suite had a complete makeover. Large windows were a must for this nature-loving couple. A large shower and luxury finishes make this en suite a soothing oasis in a hectic life. **LEFT:** The master suite is on the main floor close to the children's rooms. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Kole's bedroom – fun by day – not often inhabited, by night. **BELOW:** Pretty and pink for Ava and Mackenzie's room.



The en suite was completely renovated with large windows, again for the view, ample glass and new vanities with countertops that echo the kitchen finishes. It's now a luxurious spa-like retreat for Kathy and Nick.

Kole's bedroom is a fun getaway, decorated in a nautical theme. Though he loves his room, he's often found curled up on the floor at night in his sisters' room. Everything pink is the theme in Mackenzie and Ava's room.

*Continued on page 44*



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The upper floor of the home is reserved for Nanny's living quarters. Downstairs it's playtime for the whole family. The children have a playroom that's cleverly closed off by a sliding barn door. There's a home gym complete with a rock wall for kids to climb on one side and a workout area for adults on the other. This is a family whose recreational activities are people-powered, not by machines powered by engines.

Montgomery designed a special place to showcase Nick's impressive collection of Scotch along one wall, adjacent to an existing fireplace. Tucked behind an arched wooden door is a wine cellar. Nick says he estimates it holds about 900 bottles of wine. This is a favourite place to relax after a busy day.

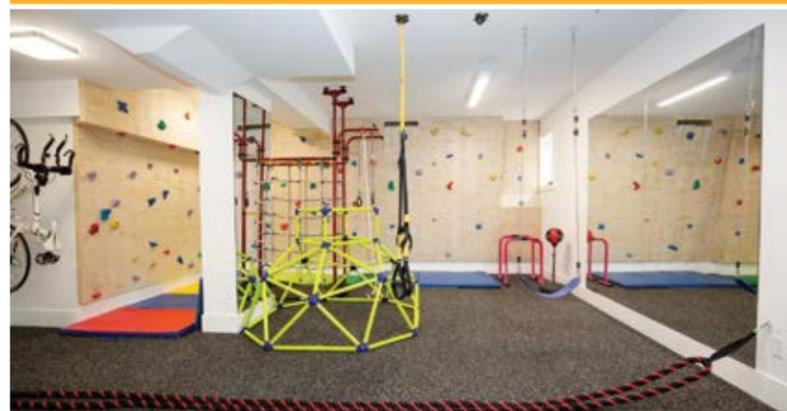
Nick's comment about their experience with Montgomery Homes, post-renovation is: "You get what you pay for - reliable, trustworthy, helpful partners. They are quick to fix problems as they arise and approach fiscal implications with integrity." Kristin from Montgomery says, "these are our dream clients. Having a relationship built on friendship and trust is how it all works." OH

TOP LEFT: Montgomery designed special display casing for Nick's scotch collection. He often retires to this room in the basement when kids are in bed. LEFT: The wood-burning stove in the lower level was existing prior to the reno. It's a cosy spot to hang out and sip on a fine wine. ABOVE: A fully equipped gym with rock climbing wall was designed for adults, and children.

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