



CLASSIC *by Design*

STORY **GINA MAKKAR**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, EVERY HOMEOWNER CONTEMPLATES WHETHER IT'S TIME TO MOVE OR RENOVATE. LIFE CHANGES, AND WITH IT, THE NEEDS IN A HOME SOMETIMES CHANGE TOO. IT CAN BE A DAUNTING DECISION. Continued on page 28



ABOVE: The lovely entry features a stone wall with a metal foyer table. **TOP:** A well-designed landscape highlights the beauty of the architectural features. **LEFT:** Classic millwork adds timeless details to the main living space.

When **Sandra Martone** of **Sandra Martone Interiors** and her family custom-built their home in the beautiful Bailey Estates over 18 years ago, French Country was the popular aesthetic. As the flair of French Country faded, the Martones found themselves looking around and questioning what to do next.

“When we built our house, we were young,” says Sandra. “We didn’t complete the finishes the way we wanted, so we thought, either we update the home or we move.” Still in love with the bones of the home that they’d carefully created, they decided to tackle a major renovation of the first floor.

“We love the Ralph Lauren flagship store in New York, and Victoria Hagan is my favourite designer,” says Sandra. Inspired by photographs of a room in *Architectural Digest*, Sandra was delighted to find that the space was actually Hagan’s. The photos became the cornerstone of the new design.

Though the original flooring and tilework remain, the rest of the home received a complete overhaul. First, Sandra tackled the great room. “It felt like a squash court before. There were built-ins and a small fireplace, but no moulding or panel details on the walls, no beams and no light. We felt the space was empty and not very welcoming.”

Beams and mouldings were added to accent the soaring ceiling height and add interest to the walls and dormer window. “We spent a lot of time choosing the mouldings and beams and, consequently, they look like they’ve been there all the time because they were well planned. It made a huge difference in the room,” Sandra says.

A floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace adds warmth and dimension. The overall effect conveys elements of classic New England style. “I love casual elegance, which a lot of my style reflects. It’s not fussy, but still elegant. I want people to feel comfortable when they come into our home.” *Continued on page 30*

RIGHT: The coffered ceiling, a time-honoured feature, helps create the New England look. **TOP:** The sightlines to the loft stairwell were considered for a smooth transition. **OPPOSITE:** Warm floors and granite countertops add contrast to the all-white palette in the kitchen.



An integrated hood fan creates a seamless aesthetic.

Doors flank the stone fireplace, but while one set leads to the master retreat, the other set houses the television and creates visual balance. Transoms over the interior doors add character.

After completing the great room, they turned their attention to the kitchen, which no longer blended with the recent updates. Dark colours were traded in favour of fresh, white face-framed cabinetry and a glossy white backsplash. Granite brings colour and movement to the crisp surroundings. An oversize integrated hood fan adds a traditional yet timeless element. "This home has elements of tradition and transition, which I like," Sandra says.

Through a doorway, a staircase leads to a loft space over the garage that was originally intended to be a gym. The space became the boys' playroom and most recently, Sandra's home office.

The walls throughout are painted Benjamin Moore's Ivory White. "Not a lot of people use this colour because of the yellow undertone, but to me, our house lends itself to the creams and browns, so having the yellow undertone is great," says Sandra. "It works with our flooring, it works with our stone, and it works with everything. I am drawn to creams and browns." *Continued on page 32*



Touches of mixed metal help connect the design elements throughout. **LEFT:** A multi-use space over the garage now serves as Sandra's office. **TOP:** A cosy seating area makes it easy to enjoy the view.

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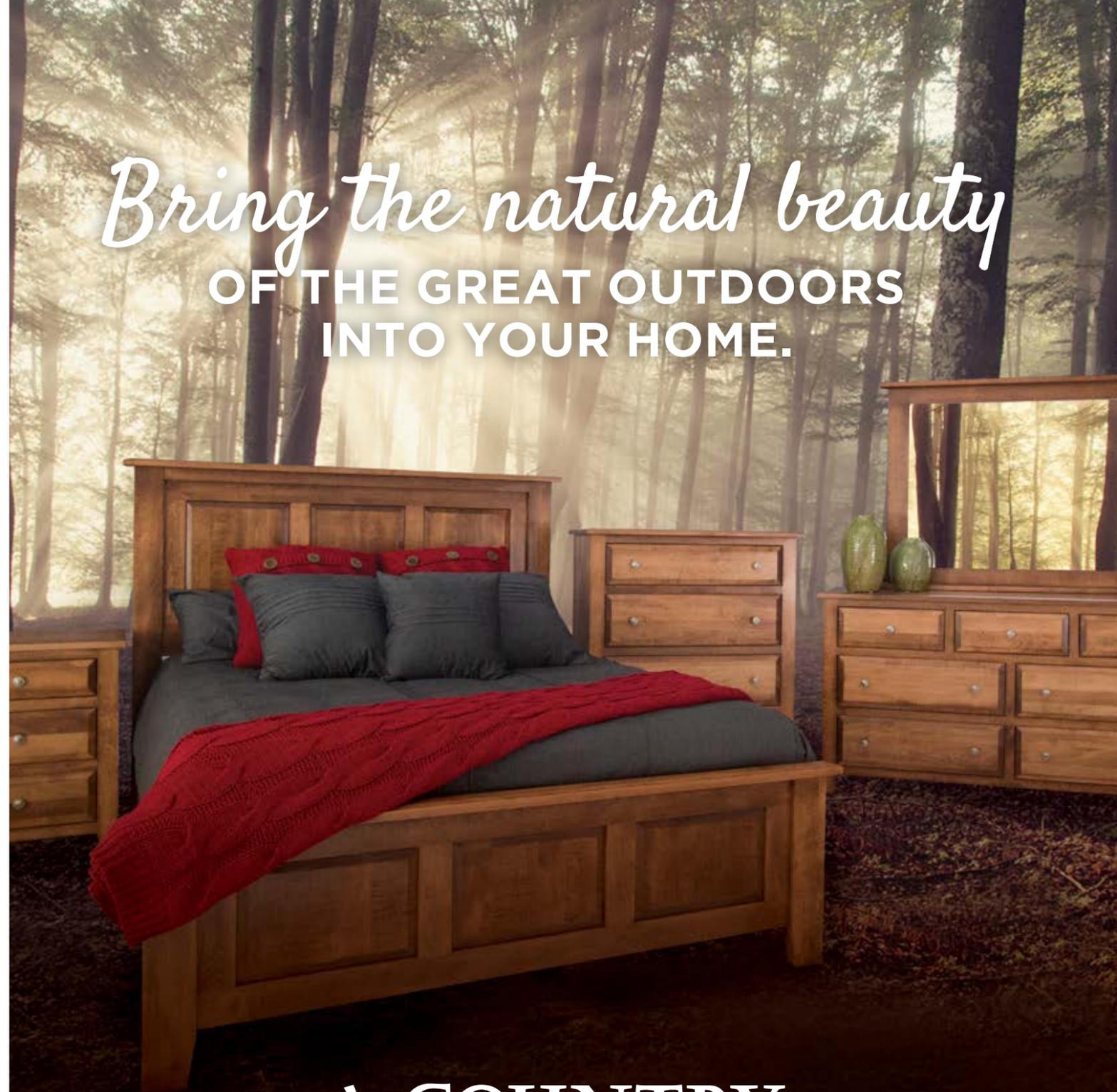


The dining room combines stone, crystal, wood and texture for a comfortable yet sophisticated feel.

At the front of the home, visitors might expect to be greeted with a grand entrance. Instead, a cosy, cottage-like vestibule with a stone facade that matches the fireplace is closed in by french doors. Off the entrance, the dining room features the same stone, and the room is elegantly appointed with a pedestal dining table, a sparkling chandelier and vibrant artwork.

Originally designed with the help of **Gren Weis of Gren Weis Architect & Associates** and built for their family of four, the home's modest size and the thoughtful elements dreamed up during the design process made it an excellent candidate for a renovation. "We wanted to make sure the house was comfortable as the kids grew older and we grew older, hence the main-floor master, which we love." *Continued on page 34*

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“We wanted to make sure the house was comfortable as the kids grew older and we grew older, hence the main-floor master, which we love.”

LEFT: Warm tones create a calm environment in the en suite. **BELOW:** Timeless, elegant finishes are used in the master bedroom.



Many of the items on the original wishlist created the perfect foundation for the new renovation, from the open-concept layout to the high ceilings. Each room is now well-designed for maximum use.

Projects like this renovation are what inspired Sandra to enter the design world. She's worked on many projects, from new builds to full renovations of homes and condos. She's also furnished spaces for clients with winter homes in Naples, Florida.

Known for timeless yet elegant interiors, Sandra creates casual, comfortable, upscale designs that reflect each and every client's individual lifestyle. And she's loving every minute of it. "I just got thrown into the fire," she says. "It's nice that I've been able to take a passion that I probably didn't even know I had, and since then, over the course of the last seven years, the business has grown, and it's a lot of fun." **OH**

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