

Let's Party!

STORY **CATALINA MARGULIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



**THANKS TO A WHOLE-HOME UPDATE,
A BURLINGTON FAMILY IS READY
TO ENTERTAIN IN STYLE.**



A concrete fireplace surround helps satisfy the couple's desire for a modern look. **RIGHT:** The staircase was updated to match the new aesthetic.

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When Paul and Rebecca Kwiatkowski first turned to **Joleen Constantis** of **Volumes of Space Inc.** to update their Burlington home, their top concern was the en suite in the master bedroom. Four years later and the entire home has been revamped.

“Very often with a renovation, you start with one thing, and that leads to another and before you know it you’re renovating your whole house,” says Joleen.

Set in the upscale Forestvale neighbourhood of Burlington, the two-storey, four-bedroom, 4,500 sq. ft. home was stuck with a dated 1990s interior. Paul and Rebecca wanted the home to be more suitable to their outgoing lifestyle.

“It’s an older forested area, and the homes are 20-plus years old, and need to be renovated, so quite a lot of work is being done in the area,” says Joleen. “The houses were designed when families didn’t organize in the same way, so it’s about modernizing areas and opening things up – making the home feel fresh and bright, using new materials and a more modern colour palette.” *Continued on page 48*





“We wanted modern and chic, but we also wanted something nobody else had in their house. We wanted the wow factor,” adds Rebecca.

With the help of **Ryan Willetts of Riverside Construction Inc.**, Joleen tackled the basement first, so the family could move downstairs while the rest of the home was worked on. The team replaced lighting and flooring and many walls were removed. They also added a bathroom, changed out the fireplace and put in a bar outfitted with a full kitchen.

“The stucco they had was so heavy looking, they needed something clean and crisp, and modern that will never go out of style,” Joleen says of the fireplace’s new tile surround.

The family of four, which includes daughters Mya, 13, and Tianna, 11, moved into the basement while the main floor got its makeover.

The entire kitchen was redone, including new floors and new cabinetry from **Braam’s Custom Cabinets**.

“The space was wasteful before; the angled pantry didn’t store a lot and took up a lot of space. We made it a more functional space for the things the family actually did in the kitchen,” says Joleen. That included moving the pantry and fridge so they could widen the door to the dining room. *Continued on page 50*



The kitchen’s sleek contemporary look is softened with textured stone and a walnut bar top. **TOP LEFT:** The lower level was given new life and became home base during the rest of the renovation. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Lower level kitchens don’t have to be cast-offs. This one features many of the same fine finishes found throughout the home.



LEFT: This space in the large kitchen was thoughtfully used to integrate a wine fridge and additional storage. **BELOW:** Simple panel doors are accessorized with oversize hardware. **BOTTOM:** It's all about function in the mudroom with built-in storage.



"We entertain a lot and the old kitchen would get crowded," says Rebecca. "With the wider opening between the kitchen and dining room, people can move back and forth without bumping into each other," she says.

To brighten the space, Joleen added halogen lights and fixtures as well as lighting under the cabinets. "We doubled or tripled the light that was originally in there. There used to be angled cabinets in between the windows – keeping the window clear and choosing strategically where we put those cabinets opened it up so much," she says.

Panelled appliances also bring a sleek look. "Freezers, dishwashers, all break up the flow when you're looking at a kitchen. Adding panels helps maintain that consistency throughout the space," says Joleen.

The kitchen also features great conversation pieces: A glass door that opens to reveal a coffee station and communication hub, and a stone island with a walnut waterfall bar top. "A lot of what we're seeing in design now is using different materials and layering them on top of one another. The walnut on the island softens the stone," Joleen says.

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Rebecca's favourite colour is purple, so Joleen incorporated it into the dining room. The room also features chairs, a table and mirror from **Cornerstone Home Interiors** in Cambridge, as well as a chandelier by Matteo from **The Lighting Shoppe** in Cambridge.

The formal room had lots of mouldings and was painted in black and white. Joleen chose to paint it all black. "It looks tailored and architectural," she says, noting that they also replaced the mantel and marble surround on the fireplace. A rug from **Imperial Rug Galleries** was added to complete the design.

"We were hesitant to go all black; we'd never seen anyone with a black room before," shares Rebecca. "Joleen said, 'You wanted something different,' so we did it, and it's awesome. You can see the deviations in the wood."

The family room, on the other hand, is all about natural light, with big windows, vaulted ceilings and a new concrete surround fireplace wall by **Anthony Concrete Design Inc.** A new fireplace insert by **Barbecues Galore** completes the transformation. "It's where we watch TV and the room we use as a family. For gatherings, we'll turn the room into a dance floor, have friends over and a DJ in the corner. It turns into a mini club," says Rebecca.

Also on the main floor, the powder room got a refresh with a dramatic black and white colour scheme. The staircase too was replaced, and now features a thick tread with modern square edge.

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LEFT: The homeowners' passion for purple was used as a backdrop for the dining room. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A bold choice, the black living room exudes a chic, upscale vibe. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The pedestal sink adds an architectural element to the powder room.



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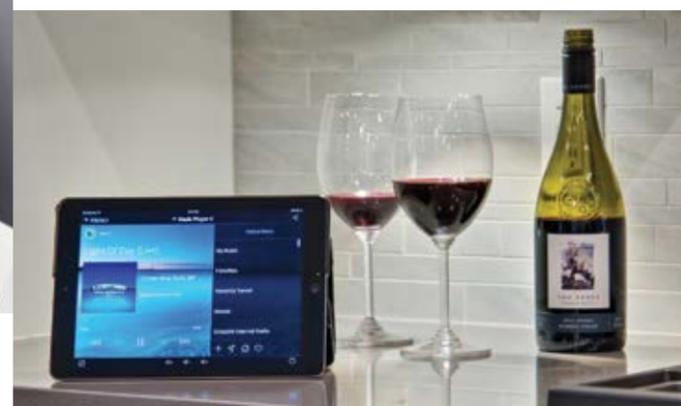
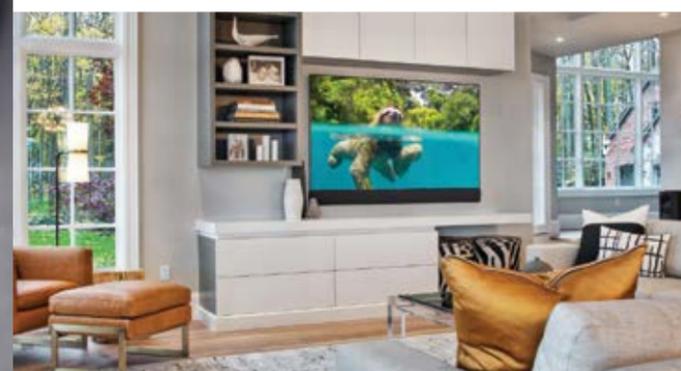
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Wardrobes integrated with the master bed provided the couple with the storage they lacked. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Wenge wood cabinets with a vertical grain add movement to the en suite. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Colour adds a fun, playful element to this bedroom.



Upstairs, the master bedroom received much needed additional closet space with custom built-ins on either side of the bed. "It's amazing; it's like nothing I've ever seen before," says Rebecca. But it's the master en suite that steals the show, with high-gloss wenge wood cabinet doors and floor-to-ceiling tile. The bathroom also includes heated floors and a digital control shower. Now that their home renovation is complete, Rebecca says she has a lot of people interested in seeing it. "A neighbour came in, did a two-minute tour, and said 'This is what I want.' Now she's getting her home done. Joleen did a really great job," says Rebecca. With a fall season of entertaining ahead, the home is sure to meet many more admirers. **OH**



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