



GROWING TO STAY

Katherine and Mario Arcaro's rambling Collingwood home has evolved with their family over the years, with additions and renovations tailored to their changing needs.

STORY **KRISTIN SCHNELTEN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

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When the couple first built their home nearly two decades ago, their space requirement was not great; a small home with a two-car garage suited their needs. But as children arrived, they realized their house needed to grow. The first remodel included a downstairs mudroom as well as a family room adjacent to the kitchen. "Our initial renovation really changed the way the house worked, and improved the feel of our space so much," says Katherine.

As the children, Maria and Tony, grew into teenagers and the family's needs changed again, Katherine and Mario considered selling their home and starting over with a new build. But only briefly. "Our home is mature, with such a cosy feeling and our neighbourhood is filled with friends. We just couldn't imagine moving away," says Katherine. They ultimately chose to create the space they needed, right where they were.

That second renovation was substantial and included adding a kitchen that spanned the length of the house, a new master bedroom, an additional kitchen, screened porch, pool and second two-car garage. But Katherine, partner and designer at **Farrow Arcaro Design Inc. (FAD)**, was up to the challenge. "This type of project is typical of

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LEFT: The front elevation shows the seamless design that was created when an addition was put on the home. A fire pit on the front lawn is still very private as the house is surrounded by mature trees. **ABOVE:** Random cuts of flagstone create a meandering path to the front door. A Japanese maple is surrounded by coral bells and hostas in a repetitive pattern in the front garden. **OPPOSITE:** Katherine, Mario, Tony and Maria Arcaro have lunch on the screened porch. The linen tablecloth and the wicker seating keep the feeling light and breezy. Strings of Edison-bulb lights shine at night.



LEFT: Katherine and Pippin, a long-haired dachshund, relax by the pool. Lush tropicals and flowering containers surround a distressed door. Metal table and door from Kettlewells. **RIGHT:** A peek into the guest bathroom through the sliding barn door reveals a Moulin Rouge poster. **BELOW:** In the dining room of the open-plan main floor, a trestle table and leather chairs offer lots of room for entertaining.



the services we provide at FAD. We work with clients to identify their needs, designing the space to fit their lifestyle,” says Katherine.

Coordinating with architectural technologists and tradespeople, Katherine and her partner **Marina Farrow** develop and implement plans for new builds, renovations, and remodels. The two designers are hands-on with clients, sketching concepts and helping them to visualize their project. “Sometimes homeowners realize, after working with us, that they may not require as much space as they initially planned,” says Katherine. “And often we see, from the outside, solutions they haven’t yet considered.”

Such was the case with Katherine and Mario’s home, as it was Marina who first suggested the large kitchen expansion. “Once she mentioned it, we immediately realized this addition was exactly what we needed. Our kitchen is often filled with friends and family, and the new space we created is perfect for entertaining.”

As is the case with her other FAD projects, Katherine reserved the décor decisions for the final touch. “At FAD we concentrate first on how the homeowners live and what design works best for them. Once those plans are final, we move on to colours, furniture and other décor.” In Katherine’s own home, she chose a casual,

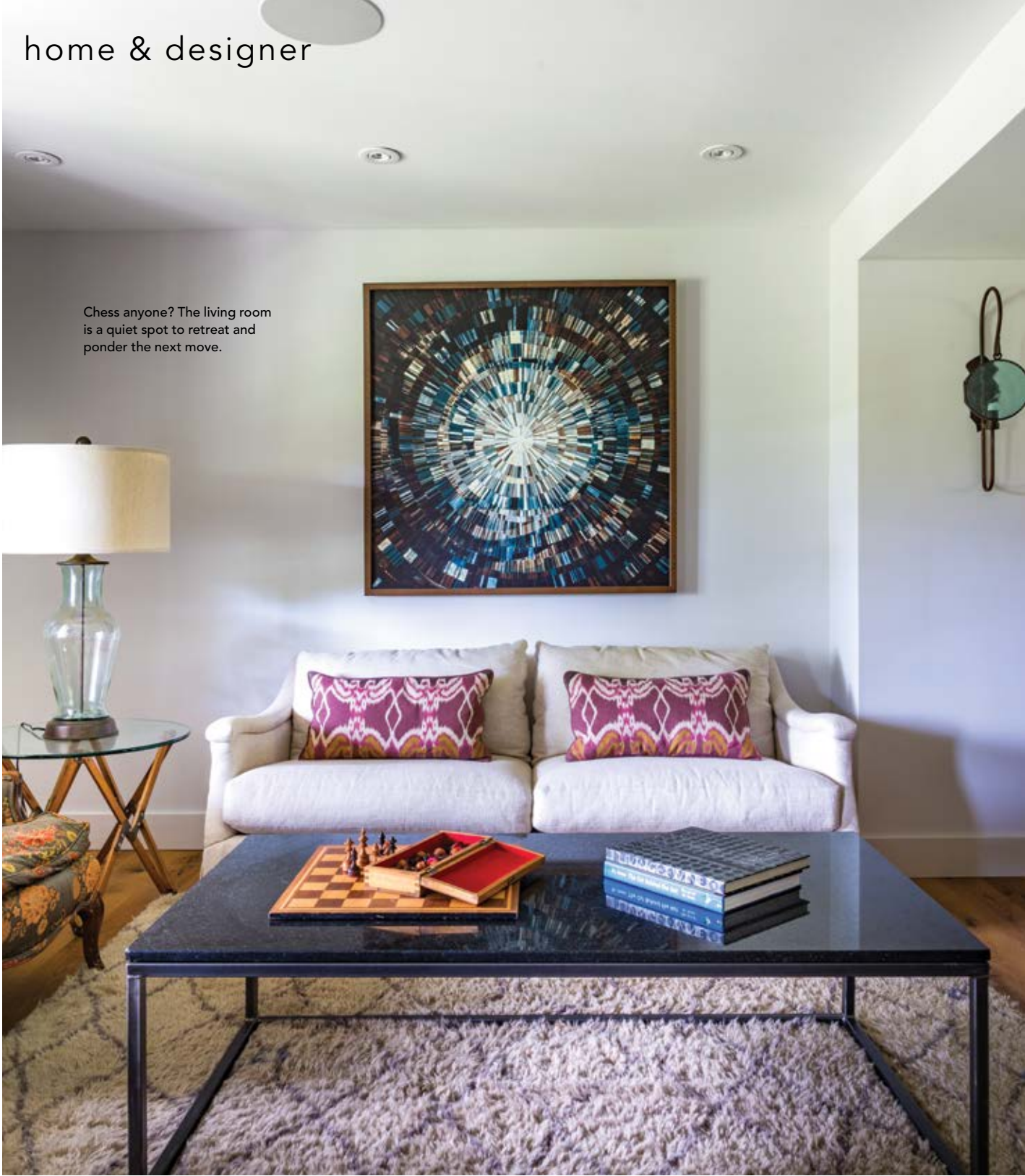
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Open shelves hold an eclectic collection of china and glass. Having only lower shaker-fronted cabinets creates an open clean aesthetic in the new kitchen. Windows on two sides let sunlight fill this well-used space, and provide a view of the pool.

“OUR KITCHEN IS OFTEN FILLED WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.”

Chess anyone? The living room is a quiet spot to retreat and ponder the next move.



eclectic feel. The expansive kitchen island called for two large, bold pendants, which create the focal point of the room. The mauve of the pendants' shades is continued throughout the home as an accent colour, including the linen curtains in the living room, dining area sconces and bedroom linens. The couple's furniture was primarily sourced through FAD, along with other

decorating elements, such as lighting, accent pieces and textiles. In summer months, the family gathers for meals in the new, comfortable screened porch, and spends many afternoons poolside. Greenery and vintage treasures from **Kettlewells** give the pool deck personality. **Martin Zeng of Zeng Landscaping** installed the swimming pool and stone work.

Stonemason **Dominic Arcaro** completed the masonry work on the house, making the addition seamless. The tranquil pool area leads to the second garage, where Mario stores his "baby," a 1969 Chevy Camaro. The immaculately restored and rebuilt muscle car is the latest in a series of classic vehicles, "But this one is really his dream car," Katherine notes. *Continued on page 108*



TOP: In the front hall, a view into the kitchen also shows the open-tread stairs to the second floor and down to Mario's cantina and mudroom that has access to the garage. **ABOVE:** The master bathroom double vanity has a matching mirror that reflects the large walk-in shower. **RIGHT:** Double doors open onto the screened porch from the master bedroom. Patches the cat has a view of the garden to keep an eye on the birds. Mixed patterns come together on the master bed. The door leads to the master en suite and on the other side of the bed is a walk-in master closet.

MAUVE REPEATS AS AN ACCENT COLOUR IN THE KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, DINING AREA AND MASTER BEDROOM.



The large bulletin board displays medals and mementos.



RIGHT: Linen bedding on Tony's bed keep it cool for the summer. Doors to a closet were removed and shelves built in, becoming an organized space for his desk. **BELOW:** While gaming in the family room, Tony picks the bean bag chair over the large sectional. Family photos, grouped together, hang above the half stairs to the main floor. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Maria's music and art fill her bedroom.



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The Honda dirt bike waits in another garage to be cleaned and tuned up for its next ride.

When weather turns cool, Mario's lower-level kitchen fills with friends. "This space is all Mario – the kitchen, the cantina for curing his prosciutto, the wood stove. It's so handy to have it all here, connected to the mudroom," says Katherine. "The room, and the

whole house really, are quite warm and cosy in winter with the heat of the wood stove." Among the family's visitors are a multitude of neighbours, who may take a break from their afternoon walk to sit down for a chat around the Camaro or kitchen island. "We just

love our neighbourhood. Our children have grown up on these streets, free to roam and play with their friends. There's a real feeling of community here, and we're grateful the renovations we made to our home allowed us to stay," says Katherine. **OH**



ABOVE: The '69 Camaro has pride of place. With tools and Mario's expertise, this beauty is in top shape. **LEFT:** The kidney-shaped pool installed by Zeng Landscaping is in a sheltered and private corner of the rear garden, perfect for sunbathing.



With over 2,800 sq ft, this 5 bed, 2 bath home offers many upgrades throughout, keeping some original charm. Entertain your family & friends in the large, private backyard or relax on the wrap-around porch and listen to the mature Maple trees blowing in the summer breeze after enjoying one of the many outdoor activities in the area. Located just 20mins from the shores of Georgian Bay, 10 mins to the golf club and only 75 mins from the Toronto Pearson International Airport. **\$699,900**



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