

full HOUSE

BY ANDREW PHILIPS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

This Midhurst family home is full of fantastic memories for Joan Kelso, John Alousis and their four sons.



LEFT: Joan and John chat in the great room before heading to work. **ABOVE:** They host friends and business associates regularly so the large open space is perfect for gatherings. There's a service opening from the great room to the lovely kitchen, which is handy when guests arrive. **RIGHT:** A quaint sitting area in the great room. **FAR RIGHT:** John's office is located off the large, welcoming foyer.



Joan Kelso and John Alousis have built a home that can sometimes prove difficult to replicate.

While many newer builds feature abundant living space and plenty of modern conveniences, not all can successfully claim to ooze warmth, charm and character quite like the Midhurst couple's abode does.

Located just a short drive from Barrie's hustle and bustle, their home on a quiet cul-de-sac has proven to be a welcome respite for their friends, business associates and most importantly their four boys Scott, Derek, Alex and Luke.

"We love it out here and the kids loved it growing up," explains Joan, who works as an investment advisor while her husband practises law in Barrie.

When she and John first started dating, they each had two young sons. They eventually formed a blended family and quickly outgrew their previous cramped quarters that possessed just one bathroom.

"It was crazy, you should have seen our hockey schedule," Joan jokes as her sons Scott, 22, and Derek, 20, chat nearby.

Derek, who now attends Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, says moving to Midhurst was a welcomed change.

"It was great to have your own space," he says of a recent visit home. "It was just so much bigger. We used to love playing hockey and skateboarding outside. There was just a lot more to do and it was quieter."

To help with the design process and find ideas, Joan and John regularly visited open houses throughout the area, but actually ended up finding their dream design on the Internet.

"Fortunately, my husband was very involved in the process," Joan adds. "He's very detail-oriented."

Designed with help from architect **Peter Archer** of **Peter Archer and Associates** in Barrie, the solid two-storey was custom built in 2005 and has since been featured on the May Court Club of Barrie's annual Christmas tour. *Continued on page 34*

feature

From the large and open front foyer, one is able to survey an inviting living room, formal dining room and office area all featuring magnificent Brazilian cherry wood flooring installed by **Todd Phillips of North Country Wood Floors** in Barrie that changes colour naturally depending on the light.

The spacious living room features a wonderful upright piano, plenty of comfy seating and an imposing hearth that encompasses a cosy fireplace for those chilly winter nights. In the warmer months, a nearby wooden deck provides a popular place for guests to mingle.

In that vein, the home has also become a popular meeting place for business associates, including members of both the Springwater and Huronia Rotary Clubs.

“We have the Rotary Christmas party here, we have meetings here,” Joan explains. “We really like to entertain, it’s a lot of fun.”

It’s also easy to see why the kitchen completed by **Cartier Kitchens Inc.** has become such a focal point in the home.

“We designed the kitchen from something I found in a book,” Joan points out. “It was neat to see it come together.”

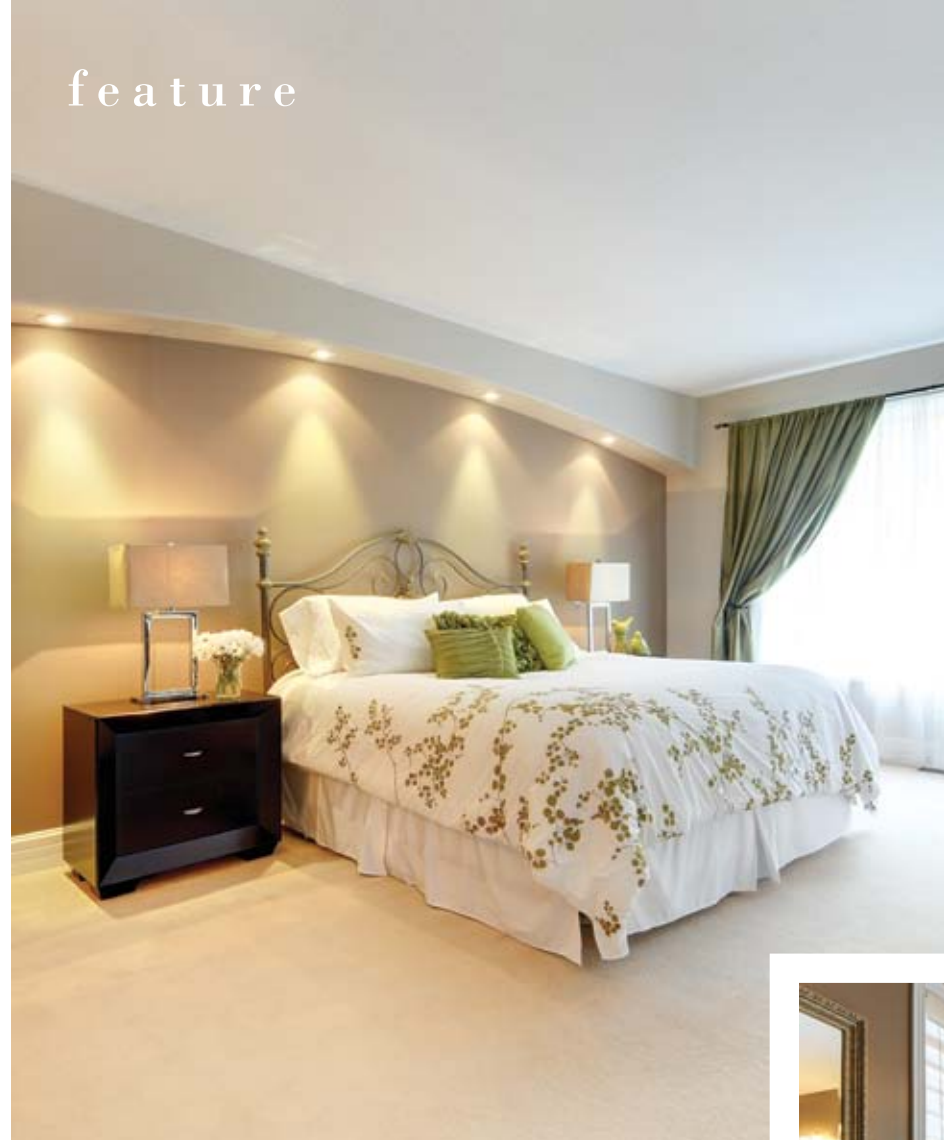
The kitchen has ample custom cupboard space as well as high-end Jenn-Air and Kitchen Aid stainless-steel appliances from Sears and a wonderful four-by-10-foot island, equipped with a double sink and enough working space to thrill any chef. “We’re part of a gourmet cooking club so we often have a group of people over and we’re all working together,” Joan says. “It’s a lot of fun.”

The kitchen also features one very original design aspect that almost seems like a throwback to yesteryear with a comfortable sitting area complete with TV located just a few feet from the island. *Continued on page 36*

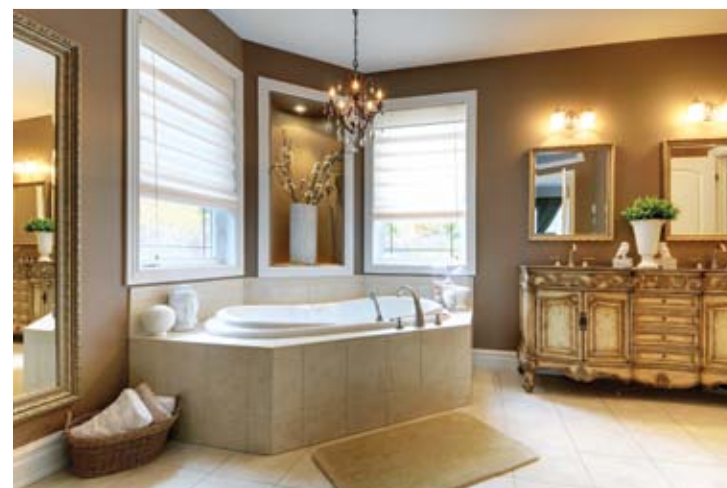


The kitchen is a focal point of the home. The granite-topped 10-foot island has a double sink and lots of space to prepare meals. **LEFT:** The dining room is located at the front of the home. **OPPOSITE BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Linda Stewart of Madison Lane Designs helped stage the home, which is now for sale. This beautifully designed serving area in the kitchen has a pass-through to the great room. A butler’s pantry with lots of storage and a prep area separates the kitchen and dining room.





The master suite has it all – a three-sided gas fireplace, a comfortable sitting area and a master en suite with a beautiful vanity, his-and-her sinks, a soaker tub and a separate glass shower.



“Our kids would do their homework either at the island or sitting over there,” Joan says. “It was great to have everyone together when we were preparing meals.”

Connected to the kitchen via a fully-stocked butler’s pantry, the well-appointed dining room features plenty of natural light, an important aspect one finds throughout the home thanks to a varied range of Pollard windows.

The main-floor, master bedroom comes complete with a large en suite that has a walk-in shower along with a jet bath that like all of the home’s plumbing was completed by Barrie’s **Plumbtech Plumbing Inc.**

There’s also a cosy sitting area that’s large enough to accommodate two comfy chairs for reading along with a double-sided, Heat & Glo gas fireplace installed by **Cancilla Heating & Air.**

“This is our sanctuary, this is where we would run to,” Joan says, noting there’s also a hot tub located just through the bedroom’s patio doors.

Walking up to the second floor, one is struck immediately by the impressive second-floor landing that not only features ornate iron railings created by Barrie’s **John Derks**, but also affords a wonderful view of the downstairs.

The landing itself is likely big enough to accommodate a brass band and also serves to divide the upstairs with two bedrooms and a bathroom located on each side.

The oversized basement also provides an oasis for those looking to unwind. There’s a large workout room with top-of-the-line fitness equipment, a pool table and a corner couch facing a large-screen TV, gas fireplace and beautiful stone mantel. Arriscraft stone was used to cover the building’s exterior.

The home also features a three-car garage, located just off a nice-sized mudroom and near the large laundry room that’s equipped with plenty of cupboard space, a washtub and a Whirlpool washer and dryer.

Continued on page 38

ABSOLUTE CABINETS



Interior Design by Madison Taylor Design

Jasmine Hemsworth: 705-220-0766 jasmine@absolutecabinets.ca | Troy Paterson: 705-727-6542 troy@absolutecabinets.ca
www.absolutecabinets.ca www.facebook.com/absolutecabinets

Branding Integrity!



Ostaco
WINDOWS & DOORS

Rest assured, when you choose an Ostaco window or door, you will have a lifetime product that functions perfectly and meets your every expectation.

Ostaco – Building EnerSensibility in any Colour, Shape or Size

DECOLA
WINDOWS + DOORS

SHOWROOM: 41D Commerce Park Drive, Barrie
705-725-8111 | www.decola.ca





There's abundant storage space on all three levels, including a neat hideaway spot off one of the boy's bedrooms where Joan says young Alex used to create his Lego masterpieces.

And with forests surrounding the area, seeing a wide range of wildlife is a regular occurrence with foxes, rabbits and even an owl dropping by on occasion.

But despite all of the good times and warm camaraderie, the couple are now looking for something new, perhaps near the water.

The Chilton Team, Royal LePage First Contact Realty is listing the home this spring.

"We just don't need as much space anymore," Joan says. "But it's not a hardship living here while we're selling."

Prior to putting the home on the market, the couple enlisted the help of **Linda Stewart of Madison Lane Designs**.

"The agents brought me in to do a home-staging consultation and we ended up doing some painting and added a frosted door and transom between the en suite and the master," Linda says. "Joan and I also went shopping together, adding some furniture and accessories."

Joan says working with Linda was a very positive experience.

"John and I are so busy so it made our lives so much easier," she says. "We could have as much input or as little as we wanted in the process." **OH**



Inspiration
is now waiting for you



Quality, Professional and Affordable Renovations

Whether you dream of a stunning stone fireplace, updating your kitchen or bathroom or replacing your flooring, A Gallery of Interiors is truly your one stop Barrie and area design centre, featuring a showroom, direct from supplier buying power and our very own line of flooring. We work strictly with professional trades to provide expertise, reliability and functional design solutions to captivate everything you have imagined for your renovation to become a reality ... on time and on budget.

230 Bayview Drive, Unit 7, Barrie ON **705.727.0229**
For additional inspiration, visit our website: **www.agalleryofinteriors.com**

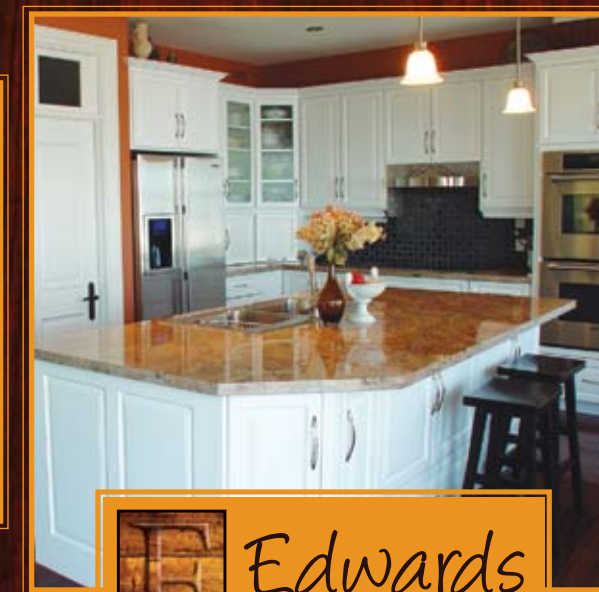
A **Gallery**™ of Interiors
the DESIGN centre

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • FLOORING • STONEWORK • RENOVATIONS

The huge lower level is where the boys gather with their friends for a movie or a game of pool.



Building perfection ... every time ... for over 20 years!



Edwards
CUSTOM CABINETS

KITCHEN | BATHROOM | FURNITURE

Vasey, ON | edwardscustomcabinets@bell.net | www.edwardscustomcabinets.com | 705-835-6846 | 705-333-3611