

PRACTICAL *glam*

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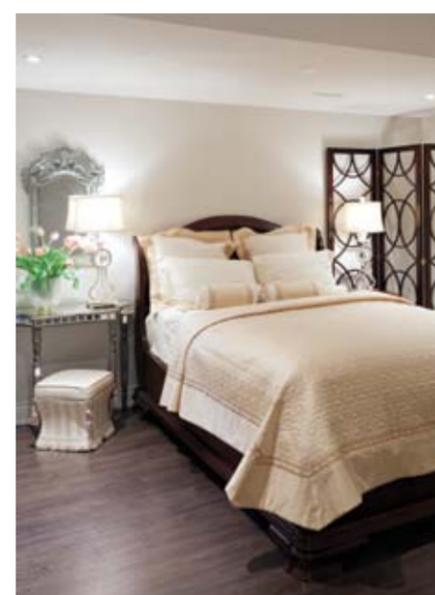


Furry family member Cash dozes amidst a symphony of dark and light elements in the warm and dramatic great room. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) The airy front room is a great place to work or receive guests. (2) Thoughtful accents create an elegant and cohesive great room. (3) Crisp, white marble completes the light and bright kitchen. (4) The large island is perfect for effortless entertaining. (5) The lovely spring backdrop includes a sweet treat from LA Cupcake Boutique. (6) The loft is the ideal location for a tucked-away office space. (7) No space is forgotten. Elegant finishes continue to the lower-level bedroom. (8) A separate room creates a cosy and intimate dining space for guests.



It takes a rare talent to find a diamond in the rough, polish it until it gleams, and turn it into a home. It's rarer still when that unpolished gem happens to be your own home, and that's the journey that Denise de Sousa embarked upon when she and her husband, Paul, purchased their house in Millcroft.

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ABOVE: The centrally located staircase and soaring ceilings create unique architectural elements. The dynamic flow of the home provides interesting vistas. **RIGHT:** Mosaic tiles and a stainless steel vessel sink add a hint of modernity to the pretty powder room. **FAR RIGHT:** Classic meets contemporary with modern wing chairs. The smoky grey palette is the perfect backdrop for entertaining. Flowers from Brant Florist create an elegant centerpiece.



LEFT: Removing the peninsula improved the flow and created a unified space within the principal rooms on the main level. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Denise de Sousa and Bernice Miller, partners at In 2 Interiors. **BELOW:** Well-placed lighting and appliances create an ideal workspace in the kitchen.

Tucked within a winding, semi-private 18-hole golf course community, Millcroft is a stately enclave of detached executive homes and large, elegant townhomes in north Burlington.

As a designer with many years of experience creating beautiful spaces for other people, Denise was immediately drawn to the unique layout of the 2,800 sq. ft. home. With its 18-and-a-half foot vaulted ceilings and towering windows that pull light into every corner of the main floor and up into the lofted area, it was a space she knew she could turn into a home.

"It had nice bones," she explains. "But it definitely needed to be updated to reflect my tastes. It was quite dated and I knew it needed extensive renovation and décor."

In the wake of the floor to ceiling redesign, a calm, soothing space draws one into its warm embrace. With a few well-placed hits of sparkle and glam, it's now truly a home that reflects its owner.

Radiant in-floor heating warms the 20-by-40 inch Crema Marfil polished

porcelain tiles from **Concept Flooring**. Laid on a 45-degree angle, the tiles are digitally designed to look and feel like marble. They make a statement in the foyer and front room where Denise and her business partner, Bernice Miller, often receive clients. A large, rustic round table paired with an elegant chandelier and dramatic mirrors supplied by **Anderson Carpet and Home** creates drama from the moment visitors step through the door.

The inspiring room doubles as an additional dining or entertaining area when Denise and Bernice aren't poring over plans or doing research in the light and airy space.

Marguerite Harrison, designer at Anderson Carpet and Home, says the rustic round table placed next to French doors that lead out to the garden unifies the space and the opulent chandelier and luxurious chair fabrics create a lovely contrast.

Custom-stained Canadian maple hardwood in ash-brown by Concept Flooring runs throughout the rest of the main and second floors, providing



an earthy anchor to the soft grey walls painted a chameleon shade that changes with the light of day. The great room features a grand limestone fireplace surround and floor-to-ceiling windows. Unique curved-front sofas create an intimate and cosy entertaining space. A funky shag rug and oversized cocktail table from Anderson Carpet and Home complete the serene, welcoming room.

Upstairs, bedrooms fit for little boys boast whimsical biplane and motorcycle light fixtures. By contrast, the master retreat features serene and luxurious finishes, such as an upholstered tufted headboard and a two-way fireplace that warms both the bedroom and the master bath. No space is forgotten, including the loft office tucked into a corner of the upstairs hallway. A gleaming ivory enamel desk from the **Barbara Barry** collection at **studio b** provides elegance and sophistication.

The basement is a practical space with laminate flooring and comfy furniture where Denise and Paul's two young sons can run and play.

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While most of the renovations were purely cosmetic, the kitchen was the one space where Denise felt a complete overhaul was necessary. The original layout with its bar-height peninsula required stools that protruded into the family room, and a walk-in pantry took up valuable real estate. With only one entrance into the kitchen area, the space was cramped and impractical for a couple with large extended families.

Denise takes great pride in the new kitchen. "It's much more open, has a lot more counter space and is really good for entertaining," she says. Lacquered, creamy white cabinetry, polished chrome hardware and stacked glass-front upper cabinets give the kitchen a clean, fresh feel. Stainless steel appliances and a calacatta oro polished marble tile backsplash by **Marble Trend** catches light from the dainty but luminous glass chandelier and complements the bright and lovely space.

The showpiece is the 8-by-6 foot island. Delicate grey veining in the white marble countertop has been honed to remove its polish. The result is a durable surface that feels as soft as suede.

The house is Denise's pride and joy, but she is quick to credit **Bernice Miller**, an interior decorator and co-partner in their company **In 2 Interiors** for helping complete the home's transformation. The duo worked together for years before forming their partnership and their teamwork successfully made the vision a reality. Denise's home isn't just a pretty face. It's beautiful but it's also made for living. She knew it had to accommodate the smallest members of her family, yet she wanted to be surrounded by beauty. One of In 2 Interior's greatest challenges was finding ways to avoid sacrificing style for practicality.

Clearly, they succeeded. The powder room looks like a jewelry box with its crystal sconces and stainless steel vessel sink. Every room in the home exudes casual and understated elegance while sparkling with touches of glamour and bling. By incorporating durable finishes and practical pieces into the design, they have created a space that perfectly suits Denise's style and meets her family's needs.

As Denise says, "There's no one right way, there's just the way that's right for you." **OH**



TOP FAR LEFT: An upholstered headboard makes a statement in the master bedroom. **BOTTOM FAR LEFT:** A fireplace and deep soaker tub in the master bath create the ideal retreat to relax and unwind. **LEFT:** Little imaginations can run wild with graphic kid-inspired rugs from Ikea.



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