



# at home IN ROSELAND

BY JOYCE TURNER-GIONET // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

In 1926 George Burns married Gracie, Henry Ford announced the 40-hour work-week and Eaton's was selling mail-order homes. In Burlington, the Roseland community was taking shape. A real estate ad enticed new homeowners: "These homes and many more, all equally fine, are now occupied by as fine a type of residents as any man could find for his neighbours." Dawn and Trent's house was one such home.

It started life as a Stockbroker Tudor, a term for homes owned by men who made fortunes in the stock markets in the early 1920s. Tudor-style homes were synonymous with success. Asymmetrical in design, the stone, brick, timber and stucco house is adorned with leaded windows and topped with a steeply pitched gable roof. Unlike today, where great rooms and open-concept living are in vogue, smaller, separate rooms with no centre hall were the fashion. Fast-forward more than 80 years.

*Continued on page 36*



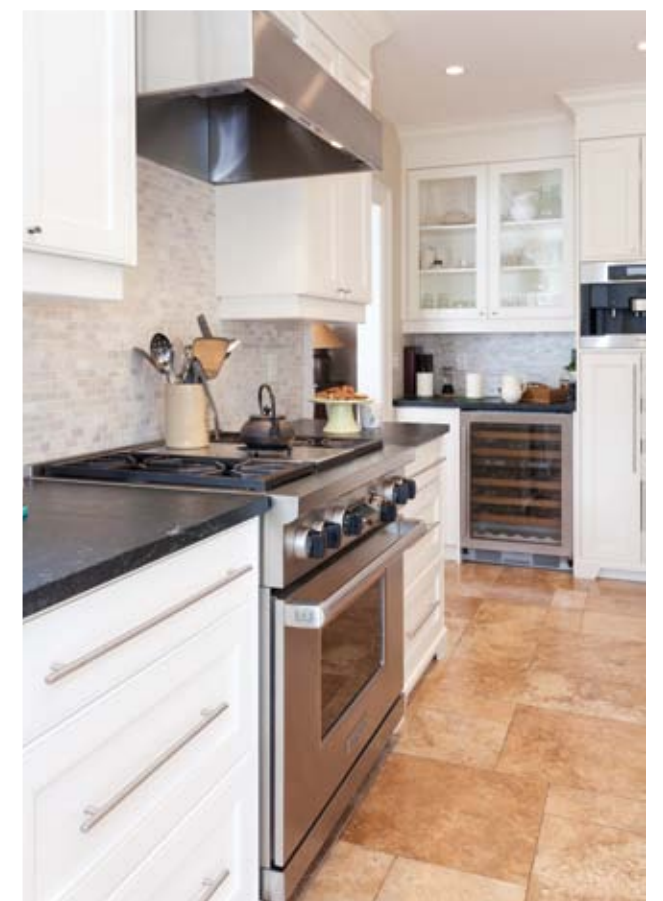
**BELOW:** The spacious counters provide the perfect perch for relaxed summertime entertaining. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Bold red chairs nestled in a corner of the kitchen provide a comfortable place to enjoy the woodland view with a morning cup of coffee. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The great flow of the home continues with a built-in butler's corner conveniently located by the dining room door.



**OPPOSITE TOP:** Custom home builder Michael De Jong of Michael De Jong Homes stands on the well-designed covered porch.

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The home's dramatic transformation seamlessly marries newer elements with the old-world charm of original features, like the bay window.

**ABOVE:** Oversized sliding doors bring the outside in and brighten the newly expanded kitchen. Flowers by Brant Florist add a simple and elegant finishing touch.







**ABOVE:** The dining room's eclectic mix of old and new elements creates a warm and intimate backdrop for a host of special occasions. **TOP RIGHT:** The gleaming honey-coloured front door is a welcoming glimpse of the warmth and relaxed allure that pulls guests into the rest of the home. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Unique pieces of art leap from the rich red walls in the living room.



Tree branches touch across elegant Roseland avenues. The house has undergone many changes but possesses as much character as in 1926. One of the first changes Dawn and Trent undertook was to refresh the exterior in what **John Williams of Williams Residential Design** terms a lipstick makeover – reshaping and retexturing details. Williams was hired for his expertise in adapting traditional architecture to modern sensibilities. “The key is maintaining correct proportions while preserving details, and in this case, without compromising an interior layout that was working well,” says Williams. The outcome is Arts and Crafts style with contemporary appeal. A softened roofline, painted shingles, wood and stucco contrast the Owen Sound ledge rock. The original oriel window, bay window and garage (an addition in the 1950s) were preserved. Tiny diamond-shaped windows Dawn calls “house jewelry” were included. A stunning Douglas fir front door was brushed with a honey stain, a patina that will only look better with age.

The latest reno adds square footage to the rear of the house. Plans were drawn by Williams and executed by local custom designer, builder and

renovator, **Michael De Jong Homes**. The goal was to harmonize the interior and exterior as a seamless living space. “The biggest challenge was dealing with what was already there,” says De Jong. “Although the house had great bones, everything was old and not particularly level, flush or plumb – thank goodness for my trades people, the challenge didn’t faze them.”

De Jong created a new 20-by-20-foot kitchen and relaxed the flow by removing the kitchen’s entire south wall and installing 12-foot Kolbe Garden-Aire™ sliding doors that lead to a new, elegant covered porch and multi-tiered ledge rock terrace. An exposed aggregate patio stretches down to a restored concrete pool by **Oasis Pools**. In addition to the kitchen and porch, De Jong handled an extensive renovation of the upstairs main bath and laundry room and lower level wine cellar.

“You get to know people well when they are in your home day after day, and so do your neighbours. Working with Michael and his crew was a great experience. In addition to being friendly, helpful and respectful of our home, their skill and knowledge coaxed a little gem out of this old house,” says Dawn.

*Continued on page 38*

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## INSIGHT – MICHAEL DEJONG

- MICHAEL DEJONG, DESIGNER/BUILDER
- OWNER: MICHAEL DEJONG HOMES

Michael DeJong Homes has been providing exceptional renovations and custom builds to the Oakville/Burlington area for over 30 years.

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Michael’s experience comes from a tradition taught to him by his father as well as years of schooling, apprenticeship and training. Over the past 30 years, Michael has attained a vast knowledge and understanding of design AND construction,

allowing him to bridge the gap that typically exists in construction projects. His warm personal style and desire to educate and inform has won him many accolades from both clients and suppliers alike.

### CONTACT

If you would like to talk to Michael about a future renovation project, or would like to schedule a free initial consultation/estimate you can contact him directly at:  
[info@dejonghomes.com](mailto:info@dejonghomes.com) [www.dejonghomes.com](http://www.dejonghomes.com)  
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## home & builder

The kitchen is all about classic lines and casual comfort. Tall shaker cabinets are painted white and punctuated with a mix of stainless-steel knobs and pulls. Dawn opted for no table. Instead, a large island with centre sink is topped with a slab of American walnut from **Exotic Woods**. It serves as prep space or a place for guests to chat and enjoy a glass of wine. Inky black soapstone and Carrera marble also share the space comfortably, a testament to the skill of local designer **Ramona Pringle** from **Of Finials and Folds**. All appliances, including Dawn's "can't-live-without-it" Miele coffeemaker, are stainless steel. A conversation nook with bold, red floral armchairs nestles into the southeast corner. Heated floors in a rustic pattern tether the elements. Creamy fabric drum lights lend soft, natural nighttime ambience.

A Cary Grant approach to a signature look – never look like you've tried! The home's interior is a poster child for the approach. The living room's vibrant red wall supplies knock-out drama against the original refinished light oak floors. Rather than hanging, artwork often rests against spaces. Photographs are layered, one peeking from behind another, prompting a second look. Heirlooms and family history are everywhere. Pen and ink drawings in the living room were torn from Dawn's grandmother's sketchbook and framed.

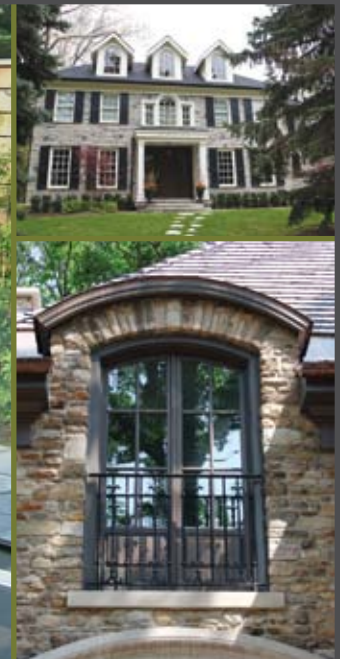
In the dining room, host to numerous Robbie Burns nights, windows are left sans treatment, showcasing the woodland. Cove moulding adds height. Family treasures like a Waterford crystal decanter and silver candlesticks share space on the French cherry-wood sideboard. The dark-wood dining room table seats 14 – a second-hand-shop-find in Ottawa, years ago. Custom parson chairs are a recent addition. Dawn laughingly refers to herself as a collector of stuff but in essence, she's a storyteller. Her words are in the colours, textures, patterns and delightfully artful way that objects, both old and new, are displayed.

A well-executed reno often makes the most of a space instead of adding more. Despite many changes, the house remains very much at home in Roseland. The team did something right because passersby regularly stop to admire the house. On occasion, a note in the mailbox asks if they are interested in selling. "We're not," says Dawn with a smile. "We still have lots of plans!" **OH**



**ABOVE:** New fixtures and finishes in the renovated main bath provide the family with a vital update that now easily meets their needs. **LEFT:** The family room is a peaceful place to get lost in a selection from the substantial library of books or curl up and enjoy the fire while watching a movie.

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