



As you flip through the pages of interior design and home décor magazines do you wonder whether to wait until the kids grow up to redecorate? Can upscale design survive sticky fingers, messy spills and pint-size winter boots leaking snow across hardwood? The answer is yes. Family-first was the mantra behind every aspect that upped the design ante on Bruce and Bonnie Jean MacDonald's 5,000 sq. ft. home. The results coexist happily with the non-stop busyness of the couple's three little girls.

They hired designer **Brenda Routery** of Burlington's **Interior Works Inc.** to take their home to the next level. "Brenda is on our design speed-dial. After working with us on a number of projects, she knows us so well that she'll often anticipate our needs," says Bonnie Jean. Very important to the couple are the expert trades with whom Brenda has long-established relationships. Interior Works specializes in space planning, design and renovation. **Dave Routery**, Brenda's partner in business and in life, brings his extraordinary custom millwork, woodwork and furniture design talents to the table. The synergy ensures streamlined project management.

"Bruce and Bonnie Jean have different tastes," says Brenda. Bruce leans toward the traditional while Bonnie Jean's taste is contemporary with a penchant for bold colours. The couple hails from Prince Edward Island and the red soil, green fields, azure sky and ocean are prominent in the home's colour palette. *Continued on page 39*

QUALITY. BY *design*

BY JOYCE TURNER-GIONET // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



The St. Regis style sitting room is all things sophisticated with gilded accents, charming wainscoting and a soft palette of colours and textures. **OPPOSITE:** Left, Interior Designer Brenda Routery stands with homeowner Bonnie Jean MacDonald. Seated is Interior Design Consultant Krista Salter.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: (1) Aspiring artists can practise and perform in the piano room located at the front of the home. **(2)** A sectional sofa, club chairs and a built-in window bench provide plenty of seating for gatherings in the family room. **(3)** Dark furnishings and neutral bedding complement the barely-there blue paint from Benjamin Moore. **(4)** A slim upper cabinet stretches to the ceiling to provide more storage in the en suite. White Italian Calacatta marble countertops provide a lovely contrast to the dark cabinetry.



The St. Regis Room, Brenda's nickname for the sitting room, is the home's most formal space. A Regency style hotel room at the St. Regis in New York caught Bruce's fancy while travelling. Inspired, he snapped a photograph so Brenda could research period pieces. Khaki, red and orange-striped armchairs from Whittington & Company reflect the era. Panel wall mouldings are papered in a delicate stripe, and though the period called for a chandelier, Bruce found it too fussy and formal. Brenda's alternative was a hand-painted opaline silk Venetian Fortuny lamp. Wingback chairs in a tangerine geometric deliver a one-two punch of colour and contemporary contrast.

The creamy antiqued velvet sofa is lined with tangerine silk cushions. Unable to find the mirrors she had in mind, Brenda gilded a set with gold leaf. A Stanton wool rug from **Anderson Carpet and Home** allows a skirt of hardwood to flirt with the room's perimeter. "You gave me exactly what I wanted in this room," said Bruce to Brenda – what she considers to be the ultimate compliment a designer can be paid.

Off the sitting room, the 17-by-13 foot music room with sandy white walls says simple elegance. Architectural mouldings serve as art. Hosting daily visits from three budding pianists, the room had to be fuss-free. The piano sits atop a geometric-patterned rug. A tall étagère from Anderson Carpet and Home displays family collectibles. "Every room can use an étagère. It's my favourite room accessory because it's so versatile," says Brenda.

In the family room, a nine-foot coffered ceiling was a fabulous canvas for the bold splashes of colour to come. Fine art by Bruce's uncle **Robin Grindley** adds a pop of colour and visual interest in the kitchen. A built-in desk allows mom to keep an eye on homework. A deep window seat and cosy cushions offer a spot for quiet reading. Floor-to-ceiling built-ins, crafted by Dave, flank the window and provide storage. Crema Marfil marble replaced the original low-key fireplace surround. A colour block in dark chocolate wakes up the creamy frothiness of Benjamin Moore's Barely Beige on the walls. The dramatic triptych over the sofa was crafted by local artist **Linda Holmes** of **Design Illusions**. *Continued on page 40*



ABOVE: The award-winning design springs to life in the lower level bar area. American cherry, a coffered ceiling, and recessed lighting helped pull the look together and create Bruce's vision of a Dublin Temple Bar pub. **LEFT:** The 600-bottle wine cellar was designed by Ian McClelland of Ian McClelland Associates Ltd. It features Warton limestone floor and walls. The white oak timbers are from a barn taken down in Eramosa Township. A map of Middle Earth from the Lord of the Rings trilogy adorns the ceiling.

Brenda and Dave won gold in the Canadian Decorators' Association Decorating and Design Competition for the home's 1,700 sq. ft. lower level. General contractor **Paul Fittler** of **Fittlers Custom Interiors** was called in to prepare the space. Ductwork and mechanicals were spoiling sightlines and the stairway opened into the middle of the room. Bruce smiles when he says, "The easy route would have been to tile the floor, add a pool table and stop there." However, his heart was set on a Dublin Temple Bar pub, a style that incorporates leather, wood and loads of atmosphere. The nine-foot coffered ceiling clad in American cherry houses recessed pot lights that spill a relaxed ambience onto the Cambrian black granite bar top. Fabricated and installed by **Custom Granite & Marble Ltd.**, it features a leathered finish. Sconces and table lights were hardwired into the bar. *Continued on page 42*



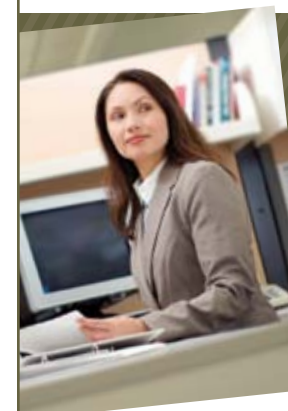
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High coffered ceilings and plenty of lighting create a bright media area in the lower level. Custom built-ins, a textured rug and hints of orange and teal tie the space together. **BELOW LEFT:** The stage is the perfect place for the family's three gregarious girls to express themselves! **BELOW RIGHT:** Wall sconces and a simple oval mirror illuminate dark textured wallpaper for a hint of glam.

Authentic down to the smallest detail, faux-leather ladder-back stools from **Highland Chair Co.** tuck into a chrome kick plate that runs the width of the bar. Rich American cherry built-ins are trimmed with pewter hardware. On the floor, the dark brown and deep blonde hues of the engineered Brazilian walnut play nicely with the close grain and fine texture of the cherry wood. California shutters are cleverly placed to give the illusion of full-length windows in a space that is actually below ground. Tucked into a corner, a marvelous removable stage provides a space for the

children to put on plays or sing karaoke, although Bruce mischievously admits it's played host to more than one four-piece Irish band on UFC nights. Brenda's seamstress designed authentic velvet stage curtains and a whimsical crowd silhouette was added to create a backdrop.

When it comes to interior design, achieving the perfect balance between family and fabulous is all about finding the right interior design team. When you do, the interior works and the results will keep you coming back for more. **OH**



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