



# Warm & INVITING

BY MARTHA ILBOUDO & LISE LAROCQUE // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM COCHRANE

Caroline Castrucci is no stranger to the design process. As part owner of Ottawa's **Lauryzen Kitchens Ltd.**, she has been involved in hundreds of custom design projects for a long list of clients. When it came time to build a home for her family, she and her husband Giuseppe knew exactly what they wanted. The Castruccis hired architect Gerhard Linse of **Gerhard Linse Design Consultants** and enlisted the help of family members at **Holitzner Custom Homes** to project manage and help realize their vision in a beautiful wooded community in Ottawa's west end. "We love the area and the house," says Caroline. "It's a great place for our family."

Surrounded by mature trees on a five acre property, the 6,000 sq. ft. executive home includes a large paved game pad for their three children and their friends to play their favourite sports. The couple also recently added an outdoor swimming pool to further their enjoyment of the exterior space. Inside, the house features five bedrooms and an array of amenities, including a home gym, a stunning library/home office and as you might expect, a gourmet kitchen that is second to none.

As you open the large doors to the home's front entrance you immediately sense the personality of the homeowners. The walls are painted in a warm shade of autumn gold which acts as the perfect backdrop for original artwork by Ottawa's own **Ben Babelowsky**. Large limestone tiles by **Emerald Tile and Marble** cover the floor and extend throughout most of the home's main floor living space. To the right of the foyer is the family's much used dining room. "We love to entertain," says Caroline. "Part of the fun is getting the table set for dinner." *Continued on page 36*



**ABOVE:** A seasonal arrangement by Trillium Floral Designs complements the home's grand exterior.

**TOP RIGHT:** Homeowners Caroline and Giuseppe Castrucci.

**LEFT:** The home features a stylish library with row upon row of books in rich cherry wood shelving.

**BELOW:** The homeowners love to entertain. "Part of the fun is getting the table set for dinner," says Caroline. (Flower arrangement by Apropos)

**RIGHT:** The large open concept kitchen boasts solid wood cabinetry in a rich shade of cherry chestnut and a polished granite backsplash and countertops in tones of tropical sand.

**TOP RIGHT:** The dining room's most prominent feature is the large trestle table made from a single plank of wood cut from an African bubinga tree.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A dishwasher is concealed inside each of the two kitchen islands; one for crystal and china, the other for everyday use.



The room's most prominent feature is a 10-and-a-half foot long, 52-inch-wide trestle table made from a single plank of wood which was cut from an African bubinga tree. The wood's rich colour and live edge make it a unique addition to the space. Caroline found the table while on a trip in San Francisco. "I was looking for small coffee tables for the living room," she says. "When I spotted the large plank of wood I knew it would be perfect as a table for our dining room."

When it came time to choosing a seating option for the table, the Castruccis enlisted the help of **Luc Crawford Design Planning Designs By 2** to create dark brown tufted low back leather dining chairs to

complement the beautiful wood.

Artwork by local artist Philip Craig (**Terrance Roberts Galleries**) and a sleek light fixture with matching wall sconces by **Arevco Lighting** provide the perfect finishing touch to the room.

Bridging the dining room and kitchen is a tiny hall that cleverly incorporates a built-in coffee and cappuccino station. "It's handy to have the coffee maker there when we're entertaining guests," says Caroline.

A few steps beyond the coffee station is the Castruccis' gourmet kitchen. Designed by Caroline and built by Laurysen Kitchens Ltd., the large open concept space boasts solid wood cabinetry in a rich shade of cherry

chestnut, a polished granite backsplash in tones of tropical sand by Emerald Tile and Marble, two islands, top-of-the-line appliances from **Universal Appliances** and a large table with plenty of seating for family meals.

There is no shortage of functional appliances in this kitchen, including a built-in stainless steel steamer, microwave and a large warming drawer, all by Miele. Another appliance that sees plenty of use is the dual fuel range by Wolf with convenient pot filler. "My husband is of Italian descent, so we eat a lot of pasta," says Caroline.

The large kitchen islands have plenty of practical storage space and each features a stunning hammered copper sink with oil rubbed bronzed

faucets. Each of the islands also has a hidden dishwasher; one for everyday use, the second is designed specifically for use with china and crystal and is positioned in the island closest to the dining room for easy clean-up when entertaining.

Adjacent to the kitchen is the family's great room; a grand inviting space divided in two main seating areas and which features cream-coloured coffered ceilings.

On one side of the room is an inviting sectional velvet couch (by Luc Crawford) in rich autumn tones of brown and burnt orange. The wall features a large custom wall unit designed by Caroline and Laurysen

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## WHAT IF A REFRIGERATOR DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE A REFRIGERATOR?



Kitchens to house a large television set and home entertainment components from **Signature Audio Video**. “I always loved watching old movies where they used to have these grand rooms,” says Caroline. “I really wanted something here that was elegant and still very comfortable – comfort is a big thing.”

The opposite side of the room features a cosy sitting area in front of a stunning floor-to-ceiling Realstone Systems feature wall by **Merkley Supply Ltd**. A mantel made from a 200-year-old wooden beam adds to the incredible character of the fireplace. A tiffany-style glass screen from **Living Lighting Home Décor** in shades of cream and blue picks up the detail in the intricate Persian rug, which was passed on to Caroline by her parents. Four comfy chairs and a handcrafted redwood burl table welcome guests to relax and share in conversation.

Beyond the great room is a sleek powder room and a large bedroom wing that completes the first level of the grand two-storey home.

Up the solid cherry staircase by **Ottawa Classic Stairs & Bannisters**,

to the home’s second floor, is the couple’s home gym and Caroline’s favourite room in the house – a stylish home office and library with row upon row of books in open cherry wood shelving.

Plenty of natural light filters through two large windows from **Golden Windows**, which were strategically placed on either side of the room’s main focal point, a beautiful Victorian coal-style natural gas fireplace. Complete with his-and-hers desks and two comfy leather chairs positioned by the fireplace, the library makes for an inviting place to curl up on a cool day.

“I love my library,” says Caroline. “I can just sit there and enjoy a book in front of the fireplace... it’s like my own little sanctuary.” **OH**

**TOP:** The family’s great room features a cosy sitting area in front of a stunning floor-to-ceiling Realstone feature wall.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** This unique sectional can easily accommodate the entire family on movie night.

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