

# TAILORED *fit*

BY LISE LAROCQUE // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZANNE BIRD  
STYLED BY SARAH STUCHBURY

When Manish and Sharmila Mistry set out to build a new home for their young family, they had but one guiding factor in mind: functionality. They wanted a home that was tailored to their lifestyle; a home that was comfortable and stylish but above all practical. “It wasn’t about how most people would use the space, but how we would use the space,” says Sharmila.

Thinking through what “functionality” meant to them was indeed a process. The couple spent countless hours visiting model homes and perusing the pages of home design magazines, noting the bits and pieces that would best suit them. When it came time to finally set the building wheels in motion, they turned to Roberto Campagna of **Roca Homes** and residential designer Arnaldo Adamantino. The result – a spacious custom-built home filled with light and style.

Set on a picturesque tree-lined street in McKellar Heights, the home’s exterior offers a beautiful blend of contrasting textures. Creamy coloured brick, stone and stucco with rich stained hardwood accents add an overall sense of sophistication and character to the structure.

Manish and Sharmila say the building process really made them think honestly about how they use their living space and what choices were truly important to them in a layout. One such choice was the omission of a formal dining room. “We consciously decided not to have a dining room because we never really used a dining room,” says Sharmila. “An eat-in kitchen was more functional for us, so we stuck to that.”

Sharmila is a passionate cook, so of course, the kitchen design was at the top of her priority list. “From the smallest detail, my personality is in every nook and cranny of that kitchen,” she says laughing. When thinking through the design and finishing touches for the space, Sharmila would imagine how she cooks and what she likes to have nearby when cooking.

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Large windows in the back of the home make for a bright, airy eating area. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** The home’s contemporary exterior offers a beautiful blend of contrasting textures. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** Stone steps lead to the backyard. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** A smart addition to the interior design was a sleek, glass panelled staircase.





Ensuring there was comfortable seating at the island for people to keep Sharmila company when she cooked was key. The beautiful hardwood floor from Continental Flooring adds to the overall warmth of the room. **LEFT:** The butler's pantry is ideal when entertaining and allows for easy access to the living room from the kitchen. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Sharmila, Manish and their two children enjoy their new living space. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The living room's focal point is a sleek concrete fireplace built into an impressive custom wood wall.



She took into consideration the usual appliances and kitchen tools that she would want close at hand but also considered things like comfort. "Having a really big island with seating was important because that's where people generally congregate, enjoy a glass of wine and keep me company while I'm fiddling around in the kitchen," she says.

The butler's pantry is another clever addition to the kitchen, a personal touch that among other things helps keep the kitchen countertops clear of small appliances. It also allows for easy access to the living room, which is ideal for entertaining. "Manish and I had seen a couple of model homes with this detail in it and it was kind of love at first sight," says Sharmila.

Keeping the home's layout open and airy was key. **Southam Design** helped tie together the elements for the home's interior design.

Large windows at the front and back of the home help accomplish this, as does a contemporary staircase with large, sleek glass panels that visually extend the space. "Roberto came by one day with a magazine article that showed a staircase very similar to this and suggested it as an option for us," says Manish. "The first things that sprung to mind were: Is it safe? Is it something that we will be able to maintain well and is it something that has a good track history?" Manish says they were comforted by the affirmative answers they received and decided to proceed. "It had seemed so outlandish to me at the time when I first saw the magazine article," he says. "Now that it's in place, it feels like it's a very integral part of the home." *Continued on page 42*





**RIGHT:** The den offers a cosy spot for reading and working. **BELOW:** The powder room is conveniently tucked away to allow for optimal privacy. **BOTTOM:** Custom wood touches can be found throughout the home, including the family room.



Wood is another integral part of the home's styling. Used throughout the interior, it helps ground the eye and adds character and warmth to the space. In the living room, a sleek concrete fireplace by **Threshold Design** is surrounded by an impressive custom wood wall, a feature created by Gregor Bruhn of **Handwerk**.

Up on the home's second level, an initial plan called for an expansive master suite, one that would have incorporated a sitting area and large balcony that overlooked the backyard. Instead, the couple opted for a smaller master bedroom and had the space redesigned to allow for

common access to the sitting area and terrace; something the whole family can now enjoy. "I find the back terrace feels like an adult treehouse because the tree does cover it nicely," says Manish.

For the exterior landscaping, Sharmila and Manish took a more hands-off approach. "We essentially said that we were happy with whatever they would do with the front and we completely left it to them," says Manish. "It was quite interesting to see these humongous boulders being put in place like LEGO® pieces. It was unbelievable." **Falsetto Landscaping** took care of the hard landscaping elements while **Turf's Up Landscaping Inc.** took care of the

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The upper level features four large bedrooms. **LEFT:** The stylish master suite. **BELOW:** The back terrace is reminiscent of a tree-house, something the whole family can enjoy. **BOTTOM:** Pretty in pink.



the soft landscaping, including a deck in the backyard, which sometimes serves as a stage for the kids' impromptu theatrical performances. "Now that the landscaping has been completed, we're finding that being out in the back and sharing the space with friends and neighbours is a lot of fun," says Manish.

Sharmila agrees. "One of the biggest enjoyments for me is being part of the neighbourhood and community," she says. "It's just really nice and welcoming. We've been here for a few years and we feel like we have lifelong friends now. It's been a really good move for us."

Indeed, it's a tailored fit. **OH**

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