

SUBURBAN *surprises*

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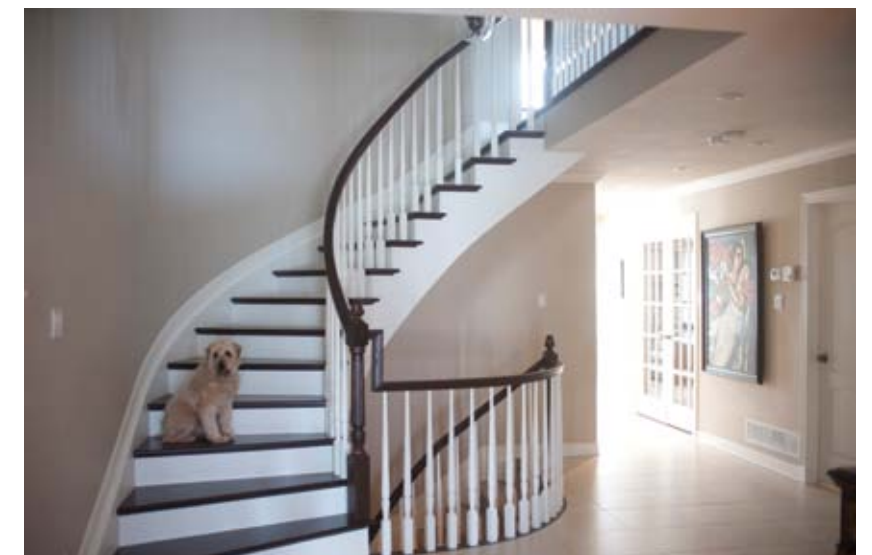
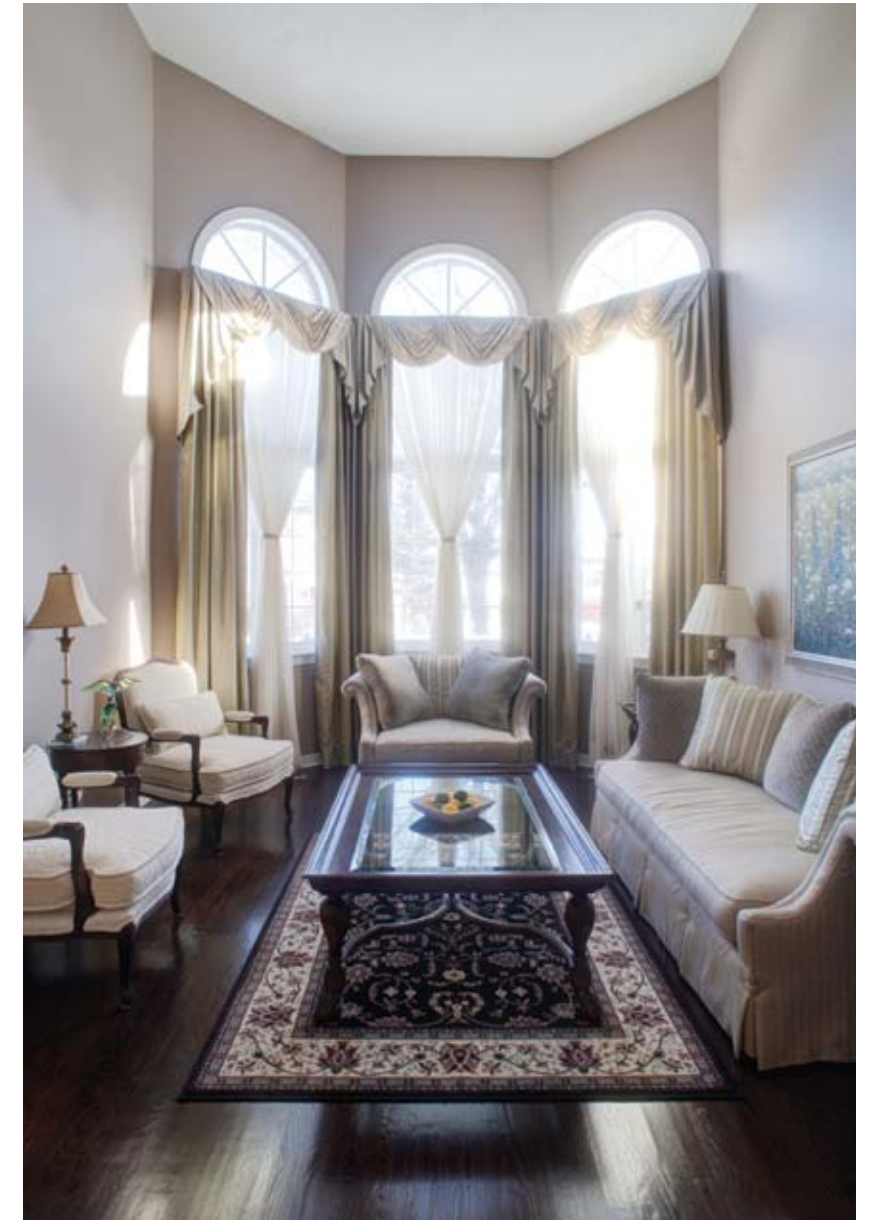


This story proves that if you've got your heart set on a location, and if you look hard enough, your dreams will come true.

For Jackie and Ian McCarthy, high school sweethearts now married for 17 years, there was never any question that they would settle anywhere other than Kanata. They wanted to settle here with their two children Georgia, 11 years old, and Morgan, eight years old. Jackie has family here. They know the area well and love the convenience factor – the shopping, the parks, and the schools.

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LEFT: The dark wood dining room shines with an elegant chandelier. Flower arrangements by Trillium Floral Designs. **ABOVE:** Jackie and Ian enjoy their dream home. **RIGHT:** The tall windows in the sitting room create a sophisticated feel that continues with the winding staircase.





“Our goal was to find a house with a big backyard on a quiet street, and it took us two years to find it,” says Jackie, who’s worked at NAV CANADA for over 25 years. “Now we have all the things we want.”

Clearly it was worth the wait. After months of pounding the pavement, they received the inside scoop about a house near their realtor’s. Apparently the owners were ready to sell, but hadn’t put their home on the market yet.

“It was the kind of home that had served its purpose well,” says Ian, who works for Statistics Canada. “The previous family had two kids that had grown up here and were off to university. The couple had become empty nesters. They were ready to move on.”

It was close to perfect for this family of four, but not quite.

“We looked at the house and just loved it,” says Ian. But it also had a lot of dated features: bleached oak floors, old fixtures, even a pink sink in the kitchen.

It took about a year to overhaul. Some interior walls were removed to

open the space up, and the cabinetry, the floors, and the finishings were all completely updated.

“We changed the front door, the back door, and everything in between,” laughs Ian. “We personalized it and made it our own.”

One of the family’s favourite places to hang out in is the kitchen, which opens to a family room. This area benefitted from the bulk of the changes.

“The kitchen was completely gutted right down to the floor, all the walls and ceiling torn out,” recalls Ian. “Everything is brand new.”

Catherine Pulcine (CPI Interiors) designed the kitchen. It was Jackie’s wish to have creamy tea-stained cabinetry. It’s warm, and it’s comforting.

“It’s timeless,” says Jackie. “At least with this colour we can easily change the handles and change the feel.”

Their choice of hardware takes a traditional design and turns it into something that’s more contemporary and upbeat.

“We had to be careful not to go too country,” adds Ian. *Continued on page 27*



OPPOSITE & FAR LEFT: The bright, spacious kitchen, fully equipped with Maytag appliances and a large island, is perfect for entertaining. **TOP:** The family’s favourite room in the house opens up into a warm and comforting family room. **LEFT:** Jackie proudly displays her grandfather’s medals alongside a framed picture of him with James Cagney during the filming of “Captain of the Clouds”. **ABOVE:** Her grandfather’s propeller takes pride of place in the family room.



LEFT: The perfect spot for Jackie and Ian to retire to. **LEFT:** The beautiful en suite designed by CPI Interiors is simple and elegant. **BELOW:** The girl's bedroom is pretty in pink.

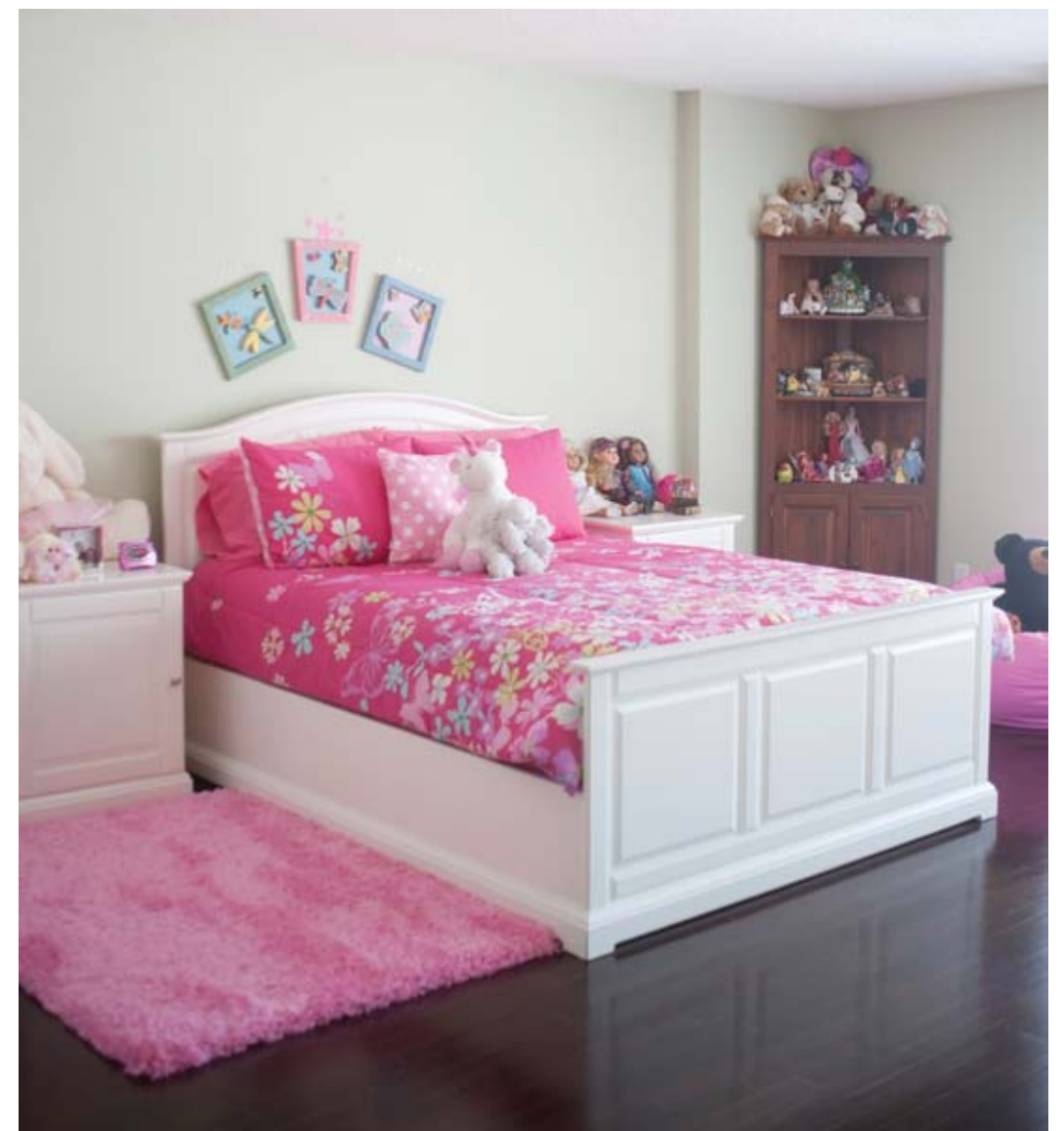
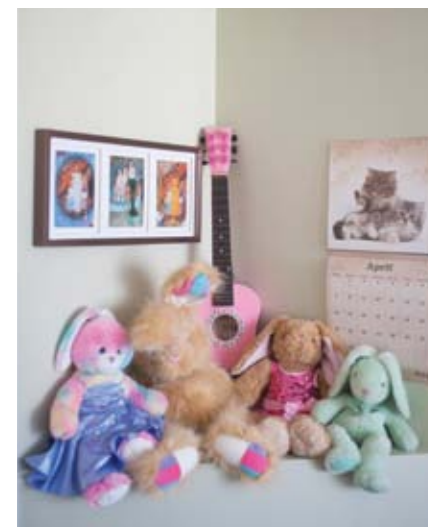
Jackie loves that they added a Corian insert into an existing bay window. It virtually eliminated any annoyance that comes with accidental overwatering of houseplants.

It truly is a family-friendly space. Other well-loved additions in this area included a banquette and homework desk.

The main floor laundry is another one of Jackie's favourite places – something that's not often said about a laundry room. It used to contain the bare minimum, and little thought was given to making it a pleasant space. The McCarthys added a counter, a bench with hooks, and a laundry chute hidden in one of the upper cabinets.

"I like the laundry room because of the colour, and it's so convenient," says Jackie. "Everything is practical and easy in this house, and that's why I like it."

When the McCarthys aren't in the kitchen, they're most likely in the family room. *Continued on page 28*



BELOW: Ian's guitar room is the ultimate man cave for any musician. **RIGHT:** Leather journals are handmade by the couple in an office tucked next to the guitar room in the basement.



Jackie and Ian replaced a solid door going out to the backyard with a large sliding door, and removed a half-wall that framed the sunken family room, which they raised so it was level with the rest of the house. These changes turned it into a much more open space that better integrated with the rest of the home. Although they weren't adding extra square footage, visually, their space seemed to increase, which created a more cohesive and seamless area.

The house is full of interesting little surprises that reflect the personality of its owners.

"I have a passion for aviation," says Jackie. It actually runs in her family. Her grandfather trained pilots during the war and her father also held a pilot's licence.

She had an old one-piece wooden propeller of her grandfather's refinished by Orleans-based **Mick Raicevic**, who added in a **Lee Valley** clock. Now it holds a place of honour in the family room.

Jackie's passion for aviation is also reflected in a small spare bedroom that has big personality. The "aviation room" contains framed photos, awards, old log books, and souvenirs.

As for Ian's favourite place? "I do enjoy my man cave," he jokes. It's easy to see why. It was painted to match one of Ian's favourite guitars and provides a great place to practice his music.

Also tucked away is a room that houses handmade journals (**Old World Book Company**) the McCarthys sell locally and at craft fairs.

Like many home renovators, Jackie and Ian learned some valuable lessons along the way.

"The thing about any renovation is that you have to have a budget, but also be prepared for those special surprises," says Ian.

"They say you should plan to spend an extra 10 or 20 per cent more than is originally estimated and that is absolutely true," adds Jackie.

Both Ian and Jackie agree that leaving room in a budget for furniture and landscaping is a must.

Ian strongly recommends people embarking on their own renovation go with their gut. "If you feel strongly about something, stick with your intuition. You have to live with these things forever... if you're not a hundred per cent comfortable, speak up." **OH**

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