



STORY MORGAN BARNES
PHOTOGRAPHY JESSICA DEEKS

CALIFORNIA DREAMING IN KANATA



The exterior of the home shines in the summer sun and creates the perfect place for Elizabeth and her two boys to relax and play.



The chic white welcome area is situated between the dining room and living area. BELOW: The door greets guests with elegance.



two sons, Anders and Johan completed their family, with dog, Corona, becoming the last furry addition.

Smart and business savvy, Elizabeth set about planning the interior and exterior design of her home, and made some wise decisions early on. “Before choosing a contractor, do your shopping around and get quotes,” Elizabeth says. “I recommend getting an itemized contract so you and your contractor are clear on what you’re paying for. An itemized contract ensures there are no surprises at the end of the project.” She also notes that you should be prepared to walk away if your first impression tells you so.

Wise advice because Elizabeth has a hands-on approach and worked closely with designers and trades people. Throughout the process, Elizabeth infused everything with her passionate approach to modern style and her love of rustic pieces.

Using the same philosophy Elizabeth uses when choosing contractors and vendors, she approached her front door remodel knowing that first impressions are important. She chose Quebec company, Les Portes Bourassa. The custom mahogany Tudor-style door is a grand artistic statement with decorative glass, wrought-iron panels and beautiful embellishments. “I’ve had the door almost four years now and I couldn’t be happier with the workmanship and customer service I received from them,” Elizabeth says. “They were wonderful collaborators who genuinely care about their work and your happiness.”

Sitting pretty but on an empty two-acre lot, the property needed a landscaping design plan. Elizabeth turned to designer Alistar Johnston,

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The modern dining area is the ideal spot for entertaining. ABOVE: The marble staircase sweeps up to the top floor where rooms are finished with windows and balconies that overlook the main floor.



The pink California-inspired home in Kanata north, with the terracotta roof, captured Elizabeth Figueroa’s heart immediately. But it was what was beneath the surface that confirmed that this was where Elizabeth and her family would plant their roots and make a home.

Having recently moved to Ottawa after a decade of living in places like Texas, Ohio, Florida, and yes, California, Elizabeth was looking for a home that wasn’t just beautiful, it had to have strong character. Before purchasing the 7,000 sq. ft. house, which was incomplete at the time, she brought in engineers to confirm that the investment was worth it. Elizabeth and her husband,

Peter, were pleased to learn that the previous owner had built a solid foundation with above-average amounts of concrete unseen in a residential build. In fact, they told her, the house was so strong that she could build a seven-storey car park on top of it.

A native of Puerto Rico, Elizabeth met her husband in Ottawa and the couple travelled North America together for his work. Soon,

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a partner at Strybos Parron King Landscape Architecture from Toronto to create the luxurious landscaping that surrounds her home. The result is breathtaking foliage made possible with careful selections of a wide variety of bushes, trees, plants and other natural elements like hefty boulders. The perfect mix provides privacy, shade and charm.

She turned to Kanata-based **Thunderbolt Contracting Ltd.** to create the luxurious pool landscape, including the stonework around the show-stopping swimming pool by Ottawa-based **Pool Builders Inc.** Elizabeth says that the family owned and operated business provided exceptional customer care and service. At the time, it was the largest pool that the company had done. “It’s my favourite place because it reminds me of Puerto Rico,” Elizabeth smiles, noting the warm beautiful coastal country of her birth. “We built it for the kids, but in all honesty, I’m a water person and it reminds me of home.”

The patio furniture is a collection of finds Elizabeth picked from Home Sense and **Hauser**. Details matter to Elizabeth, so she reworked the pieces with new Sunbrella fabrics so that they more closely represented her personal style.

Inside, the house seems to be lit from within thanks to the copious amount of natural light streaming through the home’s numerous windows. The gleaming marble adorning the main floor and stairs is nothing short of palatial. The expansive entry features an elegant cathedral ceiling with beautiful wood accents and details. A seating area directly ahead features four modern but stylish white and chrome Barcelona chairs overlooking the magnificent view of the backyard and swimming pool – compliments of glorious floor-to-ceiling windows.

Her partner throughout the interior design process was **Brian McCourt** of **Brian McCourt Designs**. “I love working with young people because they’re passionate and have fresh

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OPPOSITE: Elizabeth coordinated the design of her home including this luxurious kitchen. **LEFT:** There is lots of seating for family and guests throughout the home, including this island breakfast bar. **BELOW:** A comfy living area can be seen from the dining room and kitchen creating a continuous flow. Flowers from Tivoli Florist.



feature

A perfectly symmetrical bedroom, complete with modern en suite, creates the ideal place to relax.



ideas,” Elizabeth says of Brian. “He made choices I never would have dreamed of. He’s a talented renovation specialist.”

To the right of the sunroom, a breathtaking cream-coloured rock fireplace from **Merkley Supply Ltd.**, instantly warms the living room, grounded by a chocolate leather sofa. Soft-white shaded lights from **Living Lighting** gently illuminate the space and were also purchased for the dining room and kitchen.

In the chef-worthy kitchen, cabinets were selected through **Direct Buy** and customized to the space. Elizabeth was impressed with the high-end options, inexpensive consultation service and says the club saved her tens of thousands of dollars in renovation

costs. Beautiful backsplash tiles and exquisite marble countertops are courtesy of **Emerald Tile + Marble**.

The Benjamin Moore paint selections are warm throughout the home, serving as the perfect backdrop for the vibrant Latin-American artwork Elizabeth loves and collects. The original works from the likes of famed artist Joselito Sabogal and curator Lilia Faulkner adorn the home and serve as conduits for Elizabeth’s self-expression. She credits her family for her love of art and uses them to make some of her boldest design statements.

Upstairs, in addition to glorious balconies with stunning vistas, the window seat Brian designed and built in her son’s bedroom

provides a safe and optimal vantage point for wildlife sightings and boyhood daydreaming.

Perhaps the most desirable room in the home is the en suite bathroom that features an extra-large shower with glistening glass doors from **Prestige Glass** and sparkling creative tile and marble flooring selections from Emerald Tile + Marble. The creative marble mosaic that runs along the floor harmonizes the space and cleverly ties together the colour scheme perfectly. It’s a day at the spa.

Elizabeth believes in creating your own style. “My mom says you have to have conversation pieces,” Elizabeth says of her home and décor. “It’s not enough to have beautiful things if they don’t have meaning or you don’t express your true self.” **OH**



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