



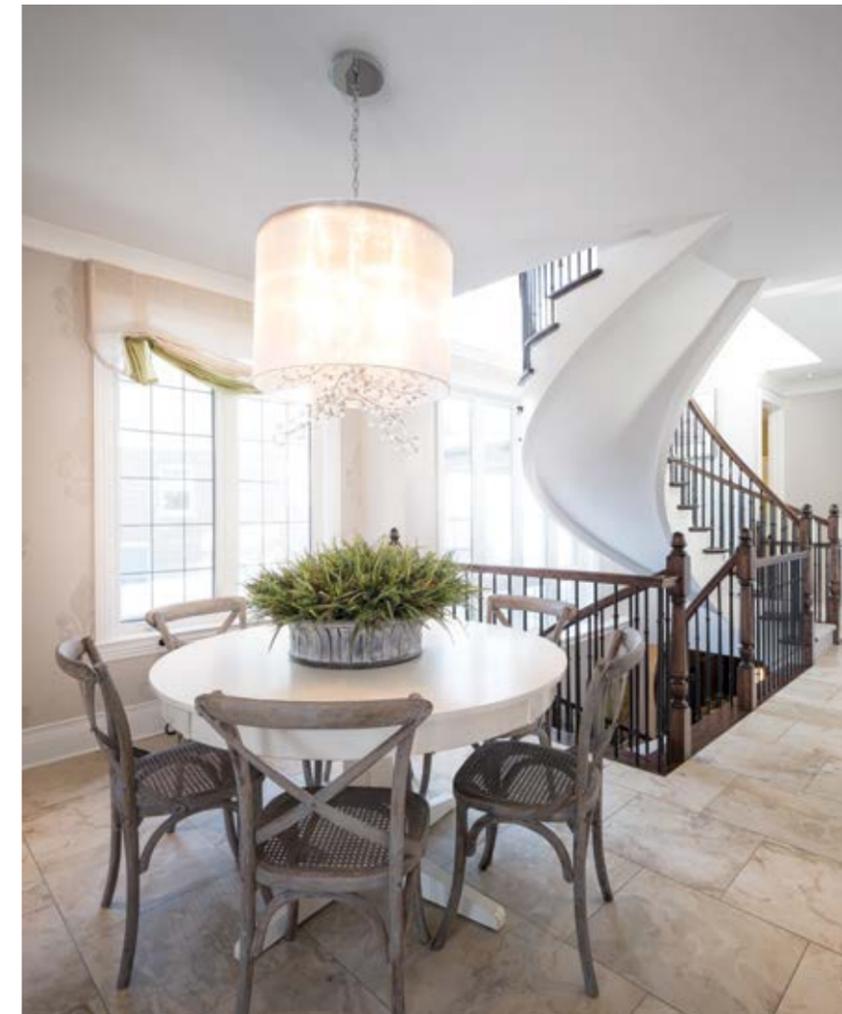
CREATING SPACE WITH PURPOSE

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 PHOTOGRAPHY **JUSTIN VAN LEEUWEN**
 STYLING **DONNA CORREY AND TRACEY WOODMAN**

Nestled just south of the village of Manotick, Minto Communities' new development, **Mahogany**, captures the village atmosphere, but injects a sense of the contemporary with clean architectural lines. It draws its name from local history, including Mahogany Harbour and the bustling trade that once took place on the nearby Rideau River.

The community construction started about a year-and-a-half ago and includes on-site family amenities such as two parks.

The Poplar (at just over 4,000 sq. ft., is the largest home available in the development) is modelled after a French countryside home. Clever details like a stately stone exterior (**Merkely Supply Ltd.**) combined with an authentic French balcony (**Fred Welding & Machine Shop**) evoke vistas of the French countryside. *Continued on page 26*



OPPOSITE: A unique wall tile complements the light kitchen. **ABOVE:** A more formal breakfast nook is bright and inviting. **RIGHT:** Cupcakes for spring.



home & builder

This was one of the intentions of this home, says Brent Strachan, senior vice-president, Ottawa Minto Communities. “We wanted to offer something a little different, by blending the charming village lifestyle with the contemporary.” Minto also wanted a home with a presence that wasn’t dominated by the garage. Builders placed the garage at the back, favouring an elegant porté cochère at the front instead.

The design also appeals to the growing trend that sees homebuyers seeking “space with purpose.” While homeowners still value wide-open spaces and flowing floor plans, there is a return to a slightly more formal space. This is what is offered in the Poplar, with a defined formal living room and dining room. A well-positioned, well-proportioned study at the front of the house hints at a number of different possible uses. Upstairs are four large bedrooms and a loft that is open yet cosy.

“In today’s market, people are seeking houses with rooms that are sized well, but that don’t waste space. The Poplar is big, but the décor makes it feel even bigger,” he explains. “We wanted to create the country feel of openness and space.” That’s particularly evident in the master bedroom, where windows ([Jeld-Wen United Window Division](#)) in the front and back can be opened to let the breezes flow through. *Continued on page 29*



This is one of the first rooms that you see. It’s an ideal space for retiring after dinner and was styled by Kiss Design Group. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The living room opens in to a fresh dining room for those who love to entertain. **BOTTOM:** This is another room for the family to relax, read a book, or watch some TV in. The library-style ladder adds a touch of uniqueness to the room.



This nook upstairs is in between the master bedroom and the children's bedrooms. **OPPOSITE TOP:** A large en suite bathroom, complete with stand alone bath and hidden shower, is a great place to unwind. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A master bedroom has large windows to let natural light stream in. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The guest bedroom features a unique wall hanging.



So, how do you accomplish a sweeping sense of space when you choose to define some of the space with walls? By taking rooms that are big and making them feel bigger, by utilizing natural light and its relationship with the décor, along with a constant awareness and support of the sightline. This is why the builders took care to ensure that the sightline was direct upon entry. Air and light flow end to end.

Anchoring the floors, from the second level all the way through to the fashionably and functionally finished basement, is a curved staircase from **Ottawa Stairs and Railings** and wood from **Barwood Flooring**. The staircase is a well-positioned focal point against an enormous bank of floor-to-ceiling windows that extend well up into the second storey. It's this portal, as well as a bank of windows in the nearby great room, that flood this space with light.

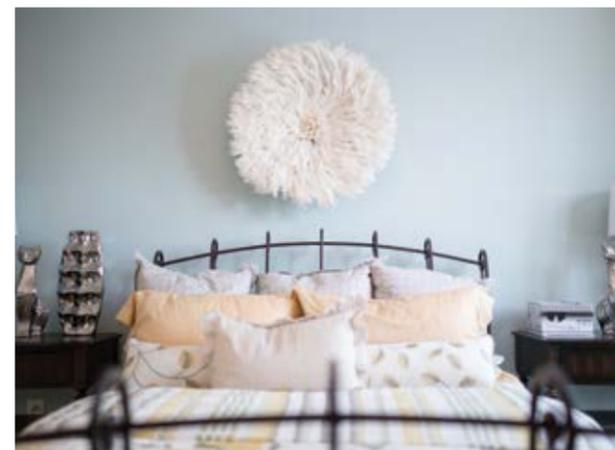
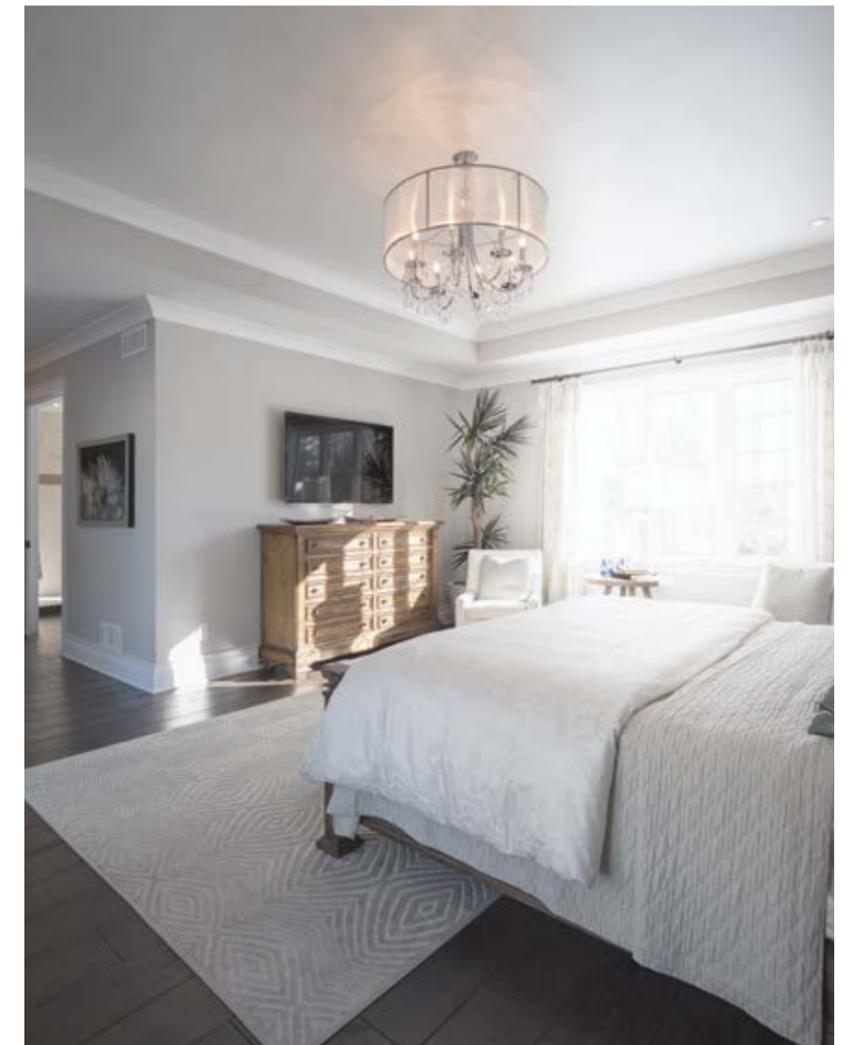
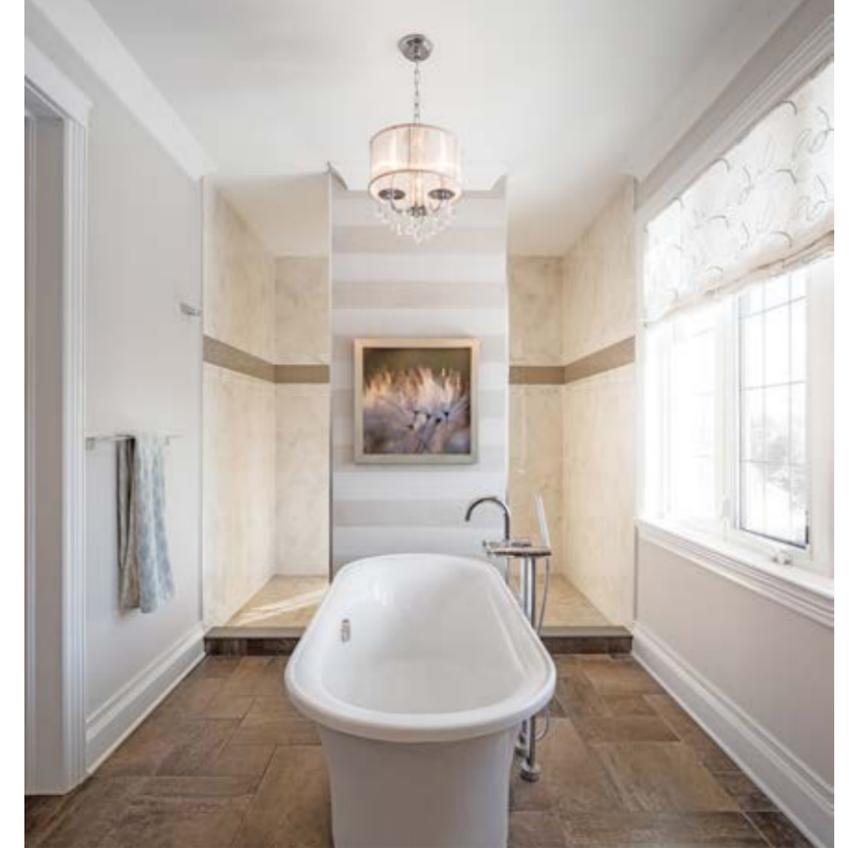
Designer **Donna Correy** of the **KISS Design Group**, who styled the Poplar, was very cognizant of light. She sought to redirect it throughout the space with specific décor choices.

"The colours are very light, which creates greater impact, especially in contrast to the very dark staircase," says Donna.

One of the flooring choices, a neutral, light porcelain tile from **Euro Tile & Stone**, spreads its way through the sightline, starting at the front hall. The random shapes and sizes of the tile and the texture make it look like limestone, lending an old world feel in an otherwise contemporary setting, which was part of Donna's overall goal. "I wanted to introduce a modern take on the French country flair," she says.

The kitchen is interesting, because, as Donna points out, there is no window in the room, yet it is light-filled and bright. The Shaker-style cabinetry has definite French provincial

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influence, and is nicely complemented by light quartz countertops (from **Potvin Kitchens & Cabinetry**). Funky light fixtures over the island with translucent mercury glass let the light carry through. The glass mosaic backsplash from Euro Tile & Stone, with hourglass shapes, is a subtle yet key player in setting the tone for the space.

“The iridescent backsplash reflects the natural light that comes in through the staircase. It sparkles, grabs light and redistributes it,” explains Donna.

Many of the light fixtures (**Living Lighting**) are large and textured – a reflection of Donna’s preference for chunky accent and “statement pieces.” They combine sublime fabric with crystals that merge old world styles with modern glitz, which also helps redistribute light, amplifying the sense of space. Upstairs in the loft, a metal star light fixture is an interesting focal point in an open space.

Prominent from various vantage points in this home is one of the marvellous by-products of the relationship between physical design and décor: the ability to create an experience through the manipulation and presentation of space. **OH**



Even the space under the stairs can be used as a bar or games table. **BELOW LEFT:** The teenager’s bedroom is complete with a stencilled wall pattern. **BELOW:** The children’s bathroom sits in between the two bedrooms with access to both.



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