



The light, airy entrance hall was created from a desire for both a vestibule and a mudroom. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** John and Sarah with their two sons. **OPPOSITE FAR LEFT:** The arts and crafts inspired exterior features a beautiful verandah. (Arrangement Trillium Floral Design)

BACK IN *familiar* TERRITORY

BY JULIA ESKINS & LISE LAROCQUE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZANNE BIRD

Where you live is often as important as how you live. When Sarah Stuchbury and John Pundyk were deciding on the best location for their family's next move, they decided to come back to familiar territory in Ottawa's McKellar Park.

As luck would have it, a home came up for sale, one that was fairly familiar to them. While Sarah and John did not know the home's seller, they did know one of its previous owners. "We knew exactly what to expect when this house came on the market," says Sarah. "It had belonged to a friend of mine a few years earlier. We loved the large lot and wanted to come back to this neighbourhood, so we put an offer on it practically sight unseen."

With a strong design sense and a degree in architecture/art history to guide her, Sarah had a vision for improving the structure and set out to alter it to better suit her family's needs. She and her husband decided to team up with builder Brian Drury from **Fine Spaces Construction** and gained a little more from the process than they initially expected.

"We became good friends and neighbours," says Sarah. "Brian is also our son's hockey coach and our children are in the same grade at the same school. Not only did he build us a home, he made us feel welcome to the neighbourhood."

Expanding the original 1940s structure from 900 sq. ft. to over 3,500 sq. ft. was no easy feat. Sarah and John chose the house for its lot but they also wanted to preserve as many of the original home's features as they could, including the sturdy floor joists, foundation and wood burning fireplace.

After the family moved in to its rebuilt home last April, Sarah's focus switched to furnishing and decorating. "The exterior is really Arts and Crafts and I wanted to match the inside and outside in colour palette and style." *Continued on page 40*





She used the exterior's grey tone Arriscraft stone from **Merkley Supply** in Ottawa as a starting point in choosing colours for the home's interior. As you open the front door and enter the home, one can see where practicality meets sound design. The light, airy entrance hall was created from a desire for both a vestibule and a mudroom.

Sarah's favourite piece of furniture, an "elephant chair," brought from India to England by her great uncle during the First World War has found a new home in the front hall. "Elephants are a symbol of wisdom and are famed for their memory and intelligence," says Sarah, who incorporated various elephant references throughout the home.

To the right of the entrance hall is the original part of the house, which is now the dining room. Decorated in a palette of silvers, greys and classic white, the room has a fresh, elegant appeal.

Beyond the dining room is an inviting open-concept great room with nine-foot ceilings, double French doors and large windows (**Bowen Windows**) that flood the space with natural light. *Continued on page 42*



TOP LEFT: The home has an inviting open-concept great room that is flooded with natural light. **TOP RIGHT:** The Miele coffee station is a great place to easily prepare a morning espresso. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** An art piece by Odette Lanthier hangs above the gas fireplace. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The dining room is decorated in a palette of silvers, greys and classic white. **OPPOSITE:** The home's gourmet kitchen is outfitted with a large island that doubles as the family's kitchen table.





TOP LEFT: The walls of the master bedroom were adjusted to accommodate the couple's existing bedroom furniture. **TOP RIGHT:** The en suite features a soaker tub from Mondeau and a beautiful Capiz shell chandelier. **RIGHT:** A large glass enclosed shower with tile from The Tile Center and a stylish double sink vanity complete the en suite. **FAR RIGHT:** Light pours into the space through the atrium on the second level.

A large masculine sofa from the Ralph Lauren collection is complemented by softer, feminine elements including silk drapes and a Parisian neoclassical chandelier. The sofa faces a full wall of custom built-ins that incorporate a large screen television and gas fireplace (**The Fireplace Center & Patio Shop**). On display are pieces that speak to Sarah – elephant figurines, art glass and a hand-carved bird by a Zulu craftsman, a piece from Sarah's childhood in South Africa, where she was born.

Opposite the great room is the heart of the home, a bright gourmet kitchen, outfitted with a large island that doubles as the family's kitchen table. Complete with Viking stainless steel appliances, including a large state-of-the-art gas range, wine cooler and Miele coffee station from

Universal Appliances, this room has all the essentials for preparing and enjoying a family meal.

The kitchen is designed in stations, including a breakfast/bar area, a prep area, a baking area, a coffee station and a clean-up station. "We love to entertain," says Sarah. "One of the best features of the large open area is being able to close it off from the rest of the house while entertaining." Sarah chose marble for her kitchen countertops. "I love the character and natural patina they get over years of wear and tear," she says.

When it came time for cabinetry choices, they decided to work with **Louis L'Artisan**. "They did all the cabinetry for the bathrooms, laundry and kitchen," says Sarah. *Continued on page 44*

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“They were awesome to work with and listened to what I wanted.” Beautiful tile from **The Tile Center** completes the overall look.

The stairs to the second level (left in their original place) ascend to an airy, open-space area, a meeting point for the four bedrooms, family bathroom and laundry room. Light pours into the space through the atrium, a last-minute modification the couple asked the builder to incorporate. At the front of the home is the master suite. Sarah confides that the walls of the master bedroom were adjusted three times to accommodate the bedroom furniture.

The two children's bedrooms are exactly the same size, as requested by Sarah, who never had the “big room” growing up. The boys' closets have a tunnel to each other's rooms, a detail suggested by Fine Spaces Construction that is quickly becoming a cute signature.

The boys also have plenty of room to spread out in the finished basement. Sarah managed to incorporate a play area/library, TV room, gym, guest room and full bathroom in this space.

Even though they have only lived in the house a few months, the home has a definite warm feeling to it. But their work isn't done. Sarah's design wheels are turning again, as she happily announces plans for her next project; converting the fourth bedroom into a nursery. “There is always something to do,” she smiles. **OH**

The finished basement has a play area/library, TV room, guest room, full bathroom and gym which features detailed trim work and doors from Frank Building Supplies and Sales.



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