



**LEFT:** The open floor plan provides the family with many options for casual dining and entertaining. **BELOW:** Accents, like fresh herbs, bring a hint of organic colour to the space. **BOTTOM:** Finer details, like the intricate mouldings, make the kitchen a showpiece.



The cosy family room brims with warmth, from the linear fireplace to the toasty colour palette in the artwork and furnishings.

# MODERN APPEAL

BY ALAA YASSIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG // FLOWERS BY MAGENTA FLOWERS

Traditional décor can bring classic elegance into any space. A modern flair can add comfort and cosiness. Combine the two and you've got a fabulous transitional style home. That's exactly what one family did with their recent renovation.

After living in their home for eight years, Kelly and her family began to appreciate a more modern style. It was time to bring contemporary flair into their very traditional space.

To help them find and implement what best fit their lifestyle, they

worked with long-time friend and designer **Tracy Ray**, owner of **Unique Ideas**, who collaborated with contractors from **BRS Construction**. "The most challenging part was working in some of the more traditional pieces with the new modern look," says Tracy. *Continued on page 24*





**ABOVE:** Wood panels were added to the office wall for striking visual interest. **TOP RIGHT:** The bright entryway was revamped with a custom door and playful accents like the zebra-patterned rug. **RIGHT:** An elegant desk in the second family room is both beautiful and functional. It's the perfect place to do homework or surf the Internet.

Despite that, elegance wraps this picture-perfect home right from the outside. The mix of greys and earthy tones used around the exterior highlight its trendy style. "We wanted to capture something modern right from the street," says Tracy.

The modern custom-made, frosted glass, double-door entrance by Amberwood Doors Inc., opens into a cosy entryway where lots of natural light shines through. Neutral walls in Benjamin Moore's Hush provide a warm welcome. Stairs lead up to the main living space or down to the lower level.

It was this lower level that initially got the family thinking about a renovation project. "The unfinished basement was really fun to decorate because it was basically a blank slate," says Kelly.

Throughout the home, built-ins by **Top Notch Cabinets** create beauty and function. Downstairs, the mudroom area – adorned with bead board panelling and plenty of room for storage – leads to a guest suite and family room. A guest suite with its own bath in the soothing shade of Benjamin Moore's Revere Pewter adds comfort and cosiness, making it a great space for guests to spend the night.

This is the perfect space for the couples' active children to relax after their favourite activities, like horseback riding. A large screen television integrates seamlessly within the floor-to-ceiling media unit. With a neatly organized toy area nearby, the space is ideal for the entire family. "The zebra print upholstery fabric was chosen first and it inspired the rest



**FAR LEFT:** Soothing colours in the guest suite welcome visitors. **MIDDLE:** A custom mudroom allows the family to stow the gear from activities out of sight. **LEFT:** Fresh and contemporary arrangements by Magenta Flowers make a lovely centerpiece. **BELOW:** A lower level media room allows the kids to hang out with friends or the family to enjoy a movie night.



of the space," says Kelly. The stylish modern furniture was purchased at **Cocoon Furnishings Inc.** Tied in with the same colour palette used in the guest suite, the décor throughout the basement flows from one room to the next. Frosted double doors neatly tuck the storage area out of site.

The tan and grey streaks in the cream-coloured stair runner from **Andersons** run throughout the stairwell, seamlessly connecting the complementary red tones of the oak hardwood floors with the grey palette.

A dark chocolate wood stain was used to dress up the office on the second floor. A full wall of built-in cabinetry functions as a desk. Custom storage panels and modern light fixtures add an executive feel to the office. It's a tranquil space in which to work or relax.

Next to the office, a luxurious powder room is wrapped with Crown wallpaper. A silver geometrical design is infused with a tree branch pattern and complements the silver oval mirror. The clean lines of the rectangular stone sink and dark wood vanity complete the look.

To embrace Kelly's love for an all-natural look, unique floral arrangements are part of the living room décor. Three custom birch planters adorn the dark brown fireplace mantel. To help tie in the existing tan and merlot-coloured furnishings, the couple commissioned three paintings by Tom Schade. Within a couple of these paintings, birch trees are subtly incorporated.

In the kitchen, pendant lighting with soft fabric shades light up the granite island. *Continued on page 26*



## feature

**BELOW:** The warm colour palette continues in the master bedroom with luxurious bedding and pops of red. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The powder room is made pretty with silvery-grey wallpaper. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The wall unit provides plenty of storage for a growing boy and all his interests.



**LEFT:** An oversize mirror reflects the entire main level and adds a little glam.

Traditional-style cabinets, crafted by Downsview Kitchens, add a subtle modern flair to the existing space.

A solid wood dining table with seating for eight, from Elte, separates the open kitchen from the living room. Nearby, an additional enclosed family room sat unused until its recent makeover. "This was an unused space that's now used all the time," says Kelly. The elegant, cream traditional media unit complements the contemporary grey sectional sofa, creating a comfortable place to relax.

"What I love about this house is that it's comfortable and inviting," says Tracy. "We wanted to make it contemporary but keep it cosy." The idea of comfort is really emphasized on the second floor. A sizeable foyer connects all the bedrooms while a large mirror with a unique tangled branches design acts as a focal point. The mirror's silver frame ties the grey palette to the second floor.

The double doors open to a magnificent bed in the inviting master suite. A dramatic tray ceiling provides height, while the colours from the main floor warm the bedding. Furnished with a seating area and a television, this space is ideal for relaxation. Pirouette window shadings by Hunter Douglas cover the large windows, in addition to the heavy dark grey drapes that were added to block the sunlight for mornings of sleeping in.

The family's home is a fine example of how modern trends can be well embraced while continuing to appreciate existing pieces of a more traditional style. **OH**



## ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR HOMES Oakville Burlington Milton is thrilled to introduce *Jennifer Moore, Business Development Manager.*

Jennifer has an extensive background in advertising, sales and business development combined with the ability to build strong client relationships in order to properly position products and services. She is passionate about home design, renovation and building.

**Jennifer Moore**  
o: 905.332.5220 c: 905.320.7818  
jmoore@OurHomesMagazine.com

**ourhomes**  
OAKVILLE BURLINGTON MILTON



Spend less time cleaning this winter and more time doing what you love!



**BUDGET-MINDED CLEANING PACKAGE**

STARTING FROM **\$75.00\***  
\*Plus HST. Valid only at these locations.

Act now and take advantage of the most cost-effective cleaning for your home. Merry Maids is introducing our budget-minded cleaning package that fits everyone's needs. This package ensures that we focus on the rooms of your home that need the most attention. Starting from \$75.00 (plus HST) on a weekly/biweekly basis, this package is the best value for your budget.

To set up your appointment today, please contact us at:  
Milton: 905-875-0391 • miltonmerrymaids@bellnet.ca  
Oakville: 905-845-2210 • mmaids@bellnet.ca

merrymaidsmilton.ca  
merrymaidsoakville.ca

**merry maids**  
Relax. It's Done.®