## home & builder

BY NANCY FORNASIERO PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



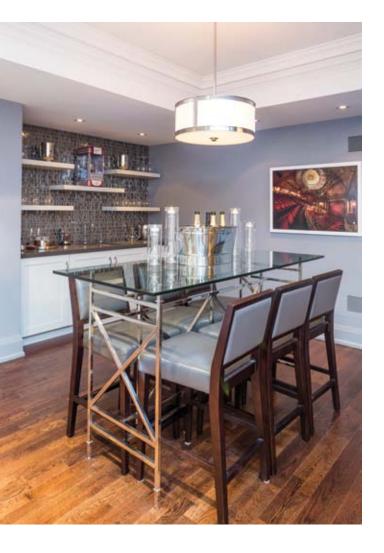
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Start with a prime parcel of Oakville real estate, toss in a multi-million dollar budget, add one superlative master builder, sprinkle in contributions from outstanding artists, retailers and trades. Round it out with an awardwinning interior design team. Blend for about six months. The result? This year's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Lottery home. One lucky ticketholder will get to move into this fully furnished, decorated and landscaped dream residence. Continued on page 38





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Designer Brian Gluckstein and his team designed the ultimate entertaining space.

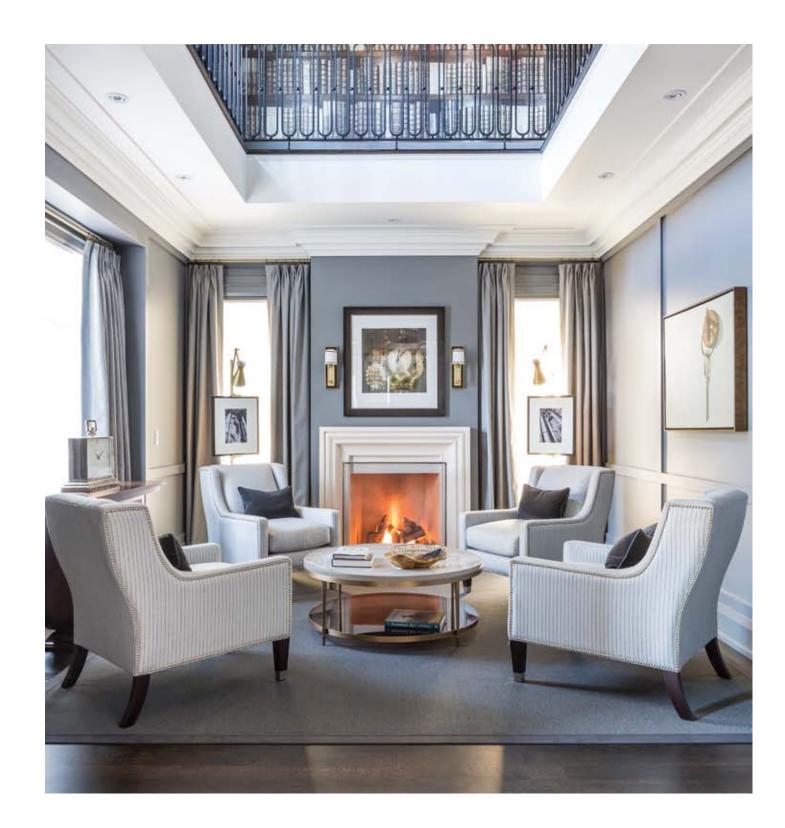
"This is far and away the most spectacular show home that has ever been in a Princess Margaret lottery," says Paul Alofs, President & CEO of The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation. The over-the-top appeal of the property is a testament to the collaborative efforts of Brian Gluckstein, celebrity designer and principal of Gluckstein Design, and local builder extraordinaire, Carlos Jardino, of PCM Project & Construction Management Inc. Each is a perfectionist and creative virtuoso; however, both attribute the home's success to the other's contributions.

PCM, renowned for building glamorous homes, also has a reputation for exceeding quality standards while minimizing start-to-finish timelines. "We have a very methodical approach," explains Carlos, "including complete design reviews with all the trades before beginning – long before construction. We do this for every house we build." Carlos praises Brian Gluckstein and his staff for keeping in perfect sync with his system. "Not only were we totally on the same page, we were on the same line of the same page! That's how well we cooperated."

Brian agrees. "We both had the discipline to create a really beautiful house in probably half the time that it should have taken." He does stress that they had certain advantages. "I was very organized, Carlos was very organized, and don't forget," he adds with a smile, "there was no client!"







With no specific client to accommodate, Brian's creativity could run free, and he used the project to showcase his sophisticated signature style. "I'd say it's a somewhat traditional house with a modern point of view. I like to do houses that have a foundation in traditional architecture, meaning it has crown mouldings, trims, panelling, classical references, but not openly traditional houses." Dozens of unexpected twists – stone-clad walls in the foyer, black-lacquered archways, a glass floor and a kitchen island wrapped in polished marble – keep the home's classic features from taking over and feeling too old-fashioned. The transitional and modern furnishings, mainly from GlucksteinHome, also keep the aesthetic fresh and new. \*\*Continued on page 40\*\*

ABOVE: A roaring fire and elegant occasional chairs make this room the perfect place to get cosy with a book. In a dramatic twist, the ceiling is open to above. OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: The open concept lower level conveniently places the bar area with the wine cellar and recreation room for easy entertaining. BOTTOM LEFT: A computer room tucked into a corner is easily accessible on the main level. BOTTOM RIGHT: The lower level recreation room with its oversize sofa provides plenty of seating for a movie or game night.

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Carlos and architect **Michael Pettes** envisioned a family-style home, one with at least two children and possibly a nanny, translating to a 4 + 1 bedroom plan. Each bedroom has its own TV, luxurious en suite, and even its own personality thanks to Brian's eclectic design.

An entertainer's paradise, the house has an open, effortless flow with the rooms all "visually connecting," as Brian describes it. It's perfection for parties. This focus on entertaining also accounts for the huge central dining room, deluxe kitchen from Downsview Kitchens and Fine Custom Cabinetry, and lower level complete with wine cellar, bar, state-of-the art media equipment, and the longest, comfiest sofa you've ever seen.

Carlos knew from experience what suburban families look for in a dream home, so no detail was overlooked. For example, he insisted on the decked-out basement. "Parents want a place where kids can bring their friends and they can keep an eye on things. Why would young people go somewhere else when they have this? They have privacy with their own walk-out; they have every comfort they could want."

As for the design, Brian couldn't know what the eventual winner's taste might be, so he found inspiration elsewhere. "There are so many different types of people who view the house, so we wanted to appeal to a broad audience. We took our cues from the architecture and designed a home for today's lifestyle. One that's elegant, but also approachable and unpretentious."

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RIGHT: A cathedral ceiling, pendant lighting and an indoor garden table create a dramatic passage way in the upper hallway. **BELOW:** A mix of fabrics and textures, from the soft floor-to-ceiling drapes to the clean lines of the leather chairs, creates an inviting family room. A contemporary art wall integrates the television.



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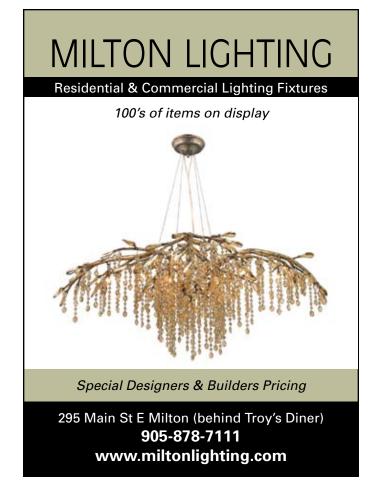
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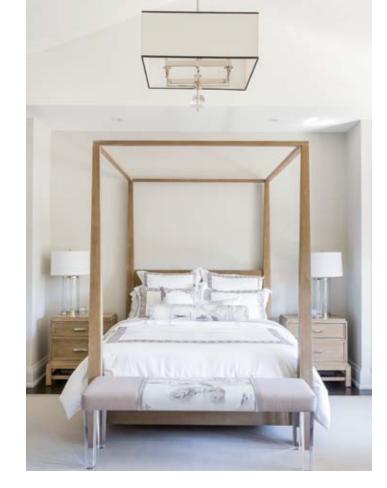












ABOVE: A tranquil colour palette and canopy bed make the master bedroom a serene retreat. TOP LEFT: The intricate diamond mosaic pattern in the flooring is reflected in the mirrored face of the tub. A spectacular full-height bookcase above the tub is integrated on a wall between the water closet and shower. BOTTOM LEFT: The mirrored his-and-hers vanities and waterfall marble countertops add sleek sophistication.

One of the elegant touches is a two-storey library. "I have a library like this one in my own house," says Brian. "It's nice to vary ceiling heights to break up the volumes." Opposite the library is a serene living room with silver-leaf, mirror-topped tables that "add real sparkle." Brian is also proud of the breakfast room with its enormous, plate-glass window. "I love looking down the main hall into the garden with that unobstructed view. I think that's really a wow feature."

Among all these expansive and stylish rooms, it might seem surprising that both Brian and Carlos call the master bath their favourite. Custom vanities designed by Brian are topped with quartz countertops. Beautiful fixtures, a marble tub deck, chic Roman blinds, mosaic floors, original artwork and built-in shelves stacked with books complete the look. "I love designing master bathrooms," says Brian. "I don't just see them as utility spaces. I think of them as somewhere to go to relax, take a bath, read a book, watch TV, whatever..."

If your ticket isn't drawn on the big day, don't despair. Brian feels that designing this home was as much about delighting the happy winner as it was about inspiring the visitors who pass through. "That's why we used a lot of GlucksteinHome pieces. We didn't want people coming in and saying, 'Oh, everything is so beautiful but I could never afford any of this.' I want to show that you can have the glamour, the comfort, the sophistication, all at an affordable price. That's a message I'd really like to communicate. Anyone can have this look."

Sounds like a recipe for fine living – lucky ticket or not. OH



