

# BLACK *beauty*

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Although there is plenty of black in this master suite, hits of camel plus mirrors, pattern and sparkle prevent it from feeling dark. Instead, it feels rich and regal. **TOP RIGHT:** The master en suite is lighter but incorporates the same colours. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The homeowner displays her collection of antique perfume bottles on a dressing table. Her father finds new and interesting additions in his travels.





*“Home is a refuge, not only from the world but a refuge from my worries, my terrible concerns. I like beautiful things around me. I like to be beautiful, because it delights my eyes and my soul is lifted up.”*  
— Maya Angelou

Margaret Newell first heard this quote when Nate Berkus gifted Oprah Winfrey with a plaque donning the same words. “That’s how I feel about a house too,” says Newell. “I need to get my own framed copy. If Oprah can have it on her wall, so can I!”

When Newell and her husband James moved to Kitchener a few years ago, they purchased what had once been an **Adelaide Custom Homes** model in Deer Ridge. Other buyers hadn’t seen its potential (some called it too small, but once the basement was finished, others called it too large) but the Newells knew they could transform it into the right home for them and they’ve been working at doing just that since moving in.

To help pull everything together, Newell enlisted **Carolann Mackie** and her team at **The Frugal Decorator**. “She seemed to connect with what I like,” says Newell, “and she works with my taste. She gets me.”

They used the kitchen, which was finished by **CW Kitchens Inc.** and already to the Newells’ tastes, as a starting point. It features cream-coloured cabinets, dark finishes and a large, bold range hood over the stove.

From there, The Frugal Decorator team tackled the living space, which opens right

off the kitchen. It already had a fireplace, which became the focal point of the room. The addition of great seating, a large ottoman, a television and a desk off to one side makes everything work in the space. The whole room opens up to the backyard through tall sliding glass doors.

Mackie and her team carried the black and camel colours through most of the main floor. “The whole house has continuity,” says Mackie. Newell had **Rita’s Painting Co.** take care of applying all the right Benjamin Moore colours to each wall.

“It was very clear to me that we needed to go with a very traditional look in here,” says Mackie, “but it’s a traditional classic with a twist of old Hollywood and surprise vintage.” She achieved this by layering patterns and textures. “Tone on tone can get boring quickly without pattern,” says Mackie, who also incorporated plenty of warm metals and sparkles. *Continued on page 28*



The statement range hood in the kitchen was a starting point for the design on the main floor. **FAR LEFT:** The old Hollywood glam style is most evident in the living room, where Mackie and her team used layers of textures and patterns to achieve the look. **LEFT:** A painted damask pattern on this dark side table adds visual interest. It’s one of the first pieces people see when they walk in to the living area.





"Marg is a classic type of beauty and her home really reflects that," says Mackie, who says Newell has a "regal spirit." This doesn't mean the décor is uber-feminine, though. The camel and black colour scheme appeals to masculine tastes, as do many of the textures, such as the living room chairs Mackie covered in a dark herringbone pattern. She topped them off with damask cushions.

The all-around favourite space, though, is the master bedroom. It has similar layers of fabrics, patterns and textures all in the same palette. In lieu of a traditional headboard, Newell hung a mirror she'd found a few years ago and had been saving for just the right space. This rich bedroom with a black ceiling is it, although Newell admits she was hesitant to paint the ceiling so dark. "I knew I wanted a dramatic colour so I trusted Carolann and in the end I absolutely love it."

The valances, Newell's charming collection of antique perfume bottles and a beautiful light fixture from **The Lighting Shoppe** are just some of the details that come together to make this bedroom such a masterpiece. The en suite is light and bright and features a built-in mirror with an ornate frame and a glassed-in shower, both installed by **St. Jacobs Glass Systems Inc.**

"People are afraid to say they're traditional these days," says Mackie. "Everyone wants to be contemporary but everything is coming full circle. I think this style could work for any age group."

There are two other rooms at the front of the house – a parlour and a dining room – which Newell and Mackie haven't yet tackled. "I have big plans for those rooms!" laughs Newell.

There are also two spare bedrooms on the main floor, on the opposite side of the living space from the master. Each has its own unique features, including sentimental elements such as a photo of Newell's mother as a young woman. *Continued on page 30*



**TOP:** A gallery wall with a variety of frames and mirrors hangs above the bed in this spare bedroom. **ABOVE:** Down the hall, another spare room features a completely different colour scheme. Here, the focal point is a glamorous photo of Margaret Newell's mother when she was young. **RIGHT:** Designer Carolann Mackie (left) sits down with homeowner Margaret Newell.



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The basement is the home's entertainment centre, featuring comfy seating, a fireplace and bar area. There is also an office, a spare bedroom and a large washroom for guests.

The basement, on the other hand, is the party space. “We have a group of neighbours we do wine tastings and progressive dinners with,” says Newell. “We always end up down there.” And it's easy to see why: with some renovation help from **Mike Couto** of **Couto Interiors**, the Newells divided the space into different zones, starting with a sitting area with a sectional couch (from **Cornerstone Home Interiors**) aimed at the television and a charming gas fireplace installed by **Comfort Plus Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.** Beyond that, Newell has set up a

round table with elegant chairs that is perfect for a small group eating a meal or playing cards. Finally, there's the main basement gathering point – a built-in, stone-faced wet bar by CW Kitchens stocked with all the fixings.

Away from the entertaining space they also have a lower-level office, a spare bedroom and another large washroom.

All of these rooms, put together with such care, create that beautiful refuge Newell sees when she hears Maya Angelou's gentle words. **OH**



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