



The living room's focal point is a large fireplace with stone chimney. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Special attention was paid in designing the foyer. The staircase (Ottawa Valley Handrailing) was deliberately placed to the side as not to detract from the view of the living room. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Homeowners Serafina and Marc Trudel.

MEET THE HOMEOWNERS

BY LISE LAROCQUE // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZANNE BIRD

What should you do when you shop and shop but still can't seem to find the perfect home for you and your family? One approach would be to build your ideal home from the ground up. That's exactly what Marc and Serafina Trudel did back in 2003 when they tired of viewing home after home that simply didn't meet their needs. "A lot of the time the issue was the layout," says Marc. "We could never find a plan that was just perfect."

A project of this scale could be daunting for many, but for the Trudels, owners of **Trudel Home Hardware** in Kanata, it was a simple matter of tapping into their own experience and knowledge of helping homeowners in order to realize the vision for their ideal living space.

"We pretty well knew what we wanted," says Serafina. "I had cut pictures out of magazines and put a thought book together of things we liked," she says. They decided to call upon the services of David Mailing

and Jim Bell of **David Mailing Architect Associates** to come up with a plan that would weave their ideas into a beautiful custom home.

The Trudels asked Serafina's uncle, Joe Bueti (who at the time had a contracting business) to be general contractor for the building project. The only big question left was where to build the home. When a lot with mature trees became available in Kanata's Beachvale Estates, they knew it would be the perfect place for their custom design. *Continued on page 41*





The large kitchen features maple cabinetry in Tuscan finish and expansive granite countertops. **LEFT:** The island countertop was raised to minimize the view of the busy kitchen while entertaining. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Crisp, seasonal vegetables await their transformation. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A large DCS range sees plenty of use in this home.



The plans for the home included a walk-out basement, one of the top things on the Trudels' wish list.

The basement has large windows and doors that open to a beautiful patio area with in-ground swimming pool and a private yard. Mature trees stand tall and add a serene feel to the landscape. "We see deer, bunnies and the occasional fox," says Serafina. "When we first moved in, our two boys Thomas and Andrew were quite young and they just had a field day with the frogs and turtles!"

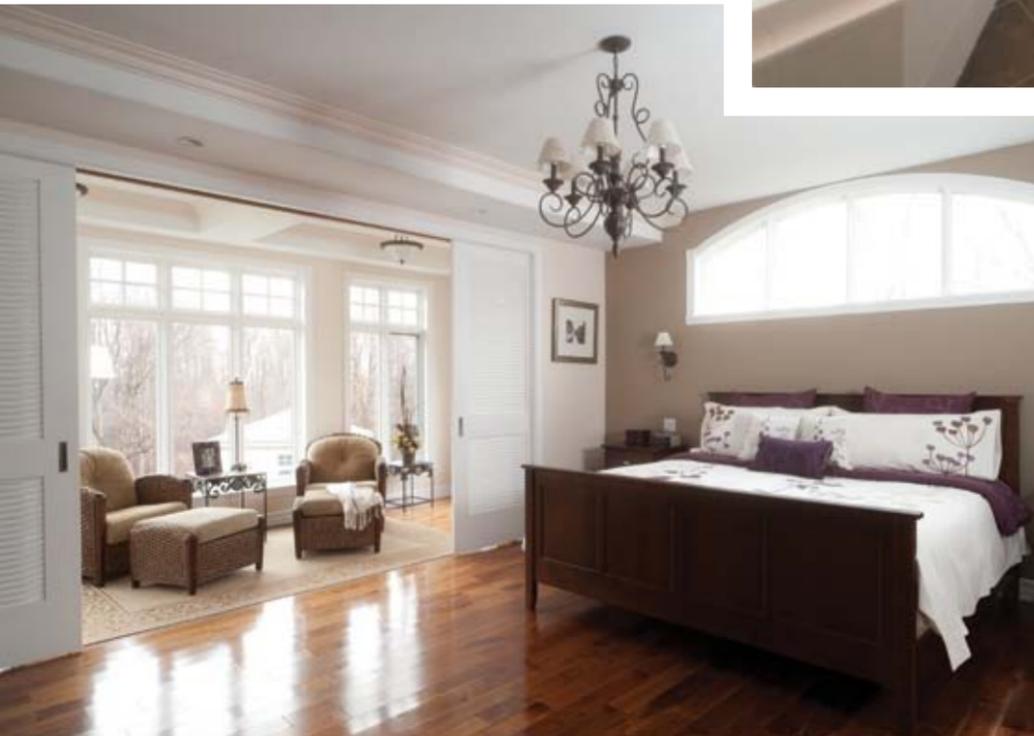
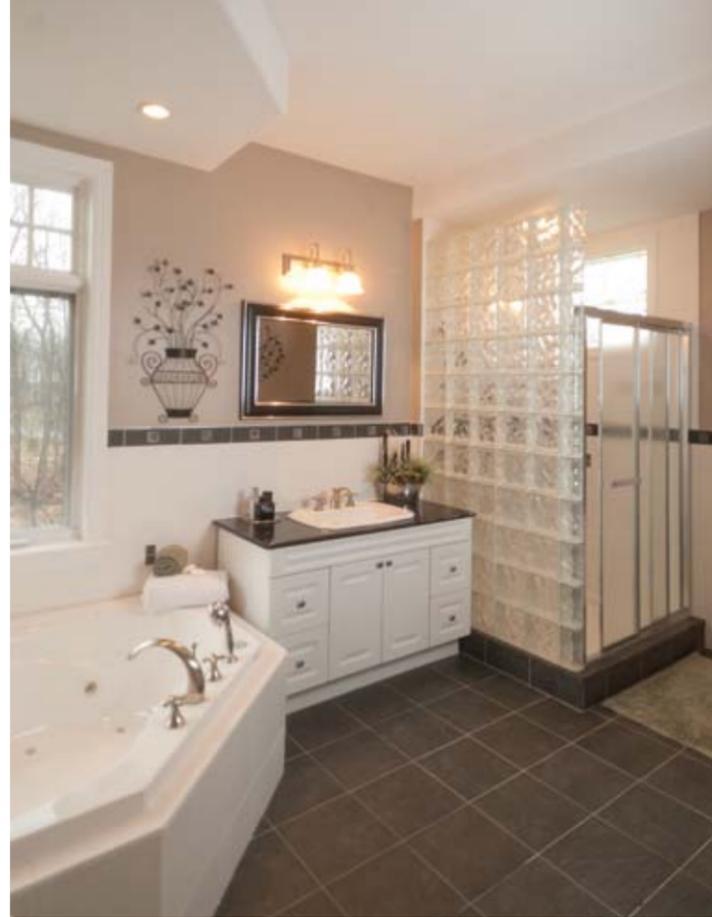
One thing the Trudels say they were careful not to do was over-personalize their home with permanent custom features. "I thought you can tweak it as

much as you want for yourself, but eventually you will move out of that home," says Serafina. "It has to be something that will appeal to others as well."

The home has a grand feeling but manages to maintain a sense of warmth. As you enter the large open-concept foyer, your eye is immediately drawn to the large living room with its picture windows (**Bonneville Windows**) that frame the beautiful yard beyond. The living room's focal point is a large fireplace from **The Fireplace Center** with Real Stone from **Merkley Supply Ltd.** A teak horse sculpture stands elegantly above the fireplace inside a custom wood cabinet made by Marc in his very own home workshop. *Continued on page 42*

feature

RIGHT: Serafina enjoys a quiet moment in her sitting room. **FAR RIGHT:** The ensuite bathroom has a large glass block shower wall (Glass Block Solutions) that allows the light to flow throughout the room. **BELOW LEFT:** The large master suite features a sitting room that leads out to a balcony that overlooks the treed yard. **BELOW RIGHT:** Little details add personality to the space.



To the left of the living room is a large kitchen with maple cabinetry in Tuscan finish from **Kitchen Craft**, and granite countertops from **Capital Granite**. “We wanted this big open concept area that connected to the kitchen,” says Marc. Serafina, who is of Italian descent, credits her mother with being a tremendous cook and passing on the love of creating traditional favourites such as lasagna, manicotti and lentil soup. “You can’t avoid being in your kitchen when you are entertaining,” Serafina says. “So it’s nice to have that interaction with your guests,” she adds, referring to the open concept living space. In order to minimize “the chaos” of the kitchen, they raised their

island countertop to obstruct the view. The kitchen features a DCS range from **Corbeil Appliances** and range hood from **Home Hardware**. Another important element they strove to achieve in their design was privacy. Serafina and Marc’s bedroom is in an opposite end of the home from their teen sons’ bedrooms. The master suite boasts a bright sitting room with a balcony that overlooks the yard and connects to the kitchen. “I really like the idea that my husband and I have our own private area on one side of the house and the kids have their own little area just for them and yet they’re just a shout away.” *Continued on page 44*

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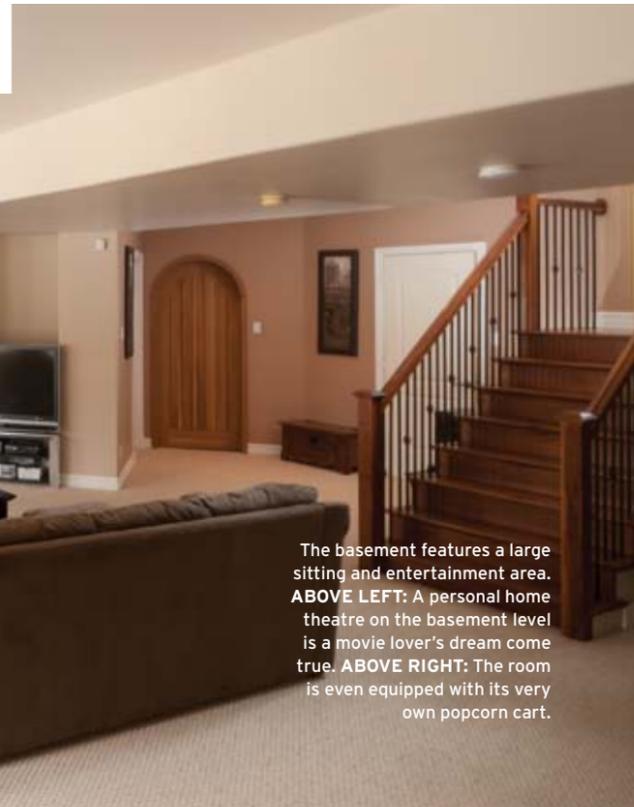
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The basement features a large sitting and entertainment area. ABOVE LEFT: A personal home theatre on the basement level is a movie lover's dream come true. ABOVE RIGHT: The room is even equipped with its very own popcorn cart.

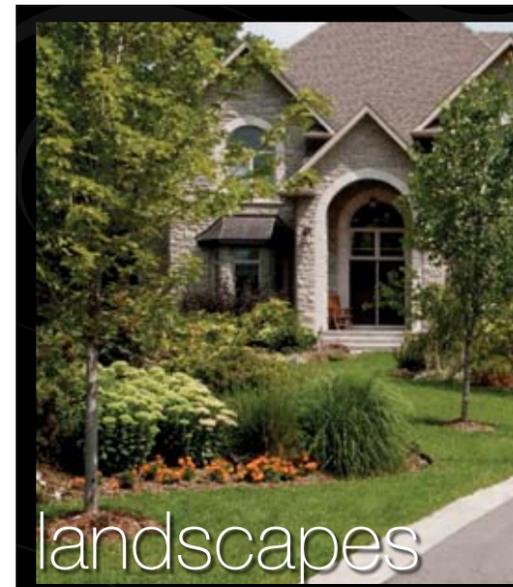


On the basement level there is a charming guest bedroom decorated with antique furnishings, a home gym and large entertainment space perfect for the teens and their friends to play their X-Box and Wii games. But the home's pièce de résistance is a movie lover's dream come true – a stunning home theatre complete with its very own popcorn cart.

Marc explains the design of the room began with the purchase of the plush theatre-style couches. "For furniture placement we ordered the couches ahead of time and then we placed them in the room to try and figure out where to place the step and how high the step needed to be," he says. This allowed for perfect placement and design of the theatre. The

couches are from **Home Furniture** and can be reconfigured. **Signature Audio Video** installed the electronics system, which includes a massive 100-inch screen for optimum movie enjoyment.

One thing that may be a bit surprising is the fact that this home has a "for sale" sign on its front lawn. The Trudels say while they love their home, their needs have changed. With the kids getting a little older and spending a little less time at home, it's time to move on and start a new chapter. "The next step for us is to find more of an existing home and just totally remodel it," says Marc. "That's what we enjoy. And being in Home Hardware we have access to so many things. We really enjoy the process." **OH**



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