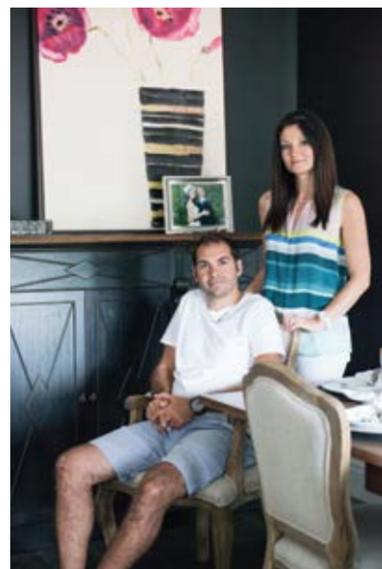


# home TO stay



STORY ADRIENNE BROWN  
PHOTOGRAPHY TARA WEST



Good things come to those who wait. Danny Epifano, owner of **Alta Drywall Solutions Inc.**, purchased land in Cambridge when he was a bachelor. He didn't immediately know what he was going to do with it, but knew he wanted to hold on to it until the time was right.

A few years later, he and his fiancée Caroline knew it would be the perfect place to build a custom home and put down roots.

They lived in Danny's previous house, then later with his parents after they sold it, while they carefully planned their home (and their wedding!), tailoring it exactly to their tastes and desires. They were able to move in July 2011. "We wanted to build our dream home," says Caroline. "And we only wanted to do it once so we can spend the rest of our time enjoying it."

Caroline says they had envisioned an "old rustic manor-type home" and she brought some

elements from that exterior style inside, too.

Danny's skill with drywall and building is matched by Caroline's skill with interior design. She calls it her "outlet" and would love to someday work in design full time. She calls herself a proactive person and loved the process of decorating her home.

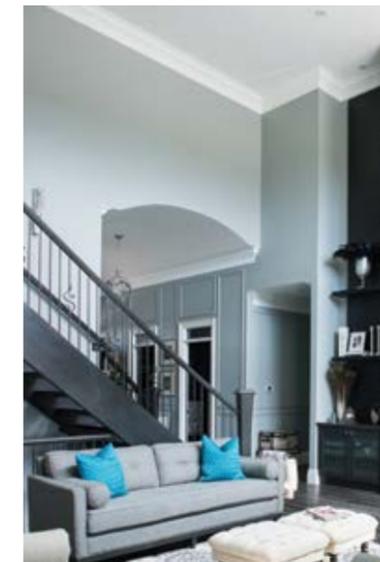
"We use every room," says Caroline. Flow through the entire home was very important in the design process.

The first room they tackled was the kitchen. Caroline loves to cook and knew exactly what she wanted in the space she knew she'd be using every day. She did quite

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FRESH FLOWERS BY PINK POPPI



**LEFT:** A dark island top breaks up the bright white cabinetry in the kitchen. The Epifanos accessorize with pops of colour to add seasonal interest. **TOP:** Caroline designed the gently-curved staircase leading upstairs from the main entertaining space. **ABOVE:** The stove is Caroline's favourite part of her kitchen. Not just for show, she uses it to cook up real meals for friends and family.

**TOP:** The Epifanos designed their stunning home to be immediately approachable, from lots of parking out front to a beautiful foyer for welcoming guests. **ABOVE:** Danny and Caroline Epifano in the dining room of their custom home.



High ceilings and a tall stone fireplace are the focal points in the living area, which includes a walk-out to the back yard. **TOP RIGHT:** A large family demands a large dining space! Caroline opted to decorate her dining room, just off the foyer, in slightly more traditional neutrals. **RIGHT:** Not one to omit colour altogether, Caroline chose a beautiful sky blue for her laundry room. “Doing laundry isn’t so bad in here!” she says.



a bit of research, selecting just the right appliances and “finding the balance between what we need and what we want.”

She opted for a Viking Professional gas stovetop and electric oven combination from **Goemans Appliances**, along with a pot filler above the stove. **CW Kitchens Inc.** did the millwork outside of the kitchen and **Allwood Kitchens Inc.** took care of the cabinets.

“My kitchen isn’t just a showpiece,” she laughs. “I actually use it!”

Just like the kitchen, the main-level laundry room also has lots of counterspace topped with granite, a deep stainless-steel sink and looks out to the backyard. Caroline says there’s no reason not to enjoy a laundry room, even if it is made for chores. She painted hers, appropriately, in a cheerful blue from **General Paint** called “Spa.”

The staircase in the middle of the home was a particular challenge to get just right. Built by **Gillies Lumber Inc.**, Caroline had a specific vision and she worked with the company to come up with the design, even if it meant changing her mind on the staircase, banister and pillars a few times to achieve the perfect gentle feminine curve. In the end, she drew out the simple shape and curve she had in mind and although the company hadn’t previously offered anything like that, it works so beautifully they now offer the style to other customers.

Monogrammed stained-glass panels by **Kara’s Stained Glass** make statements in the transoms above the home office, foyer closet, guest bathroom, the master bedroom and the laundry room.

The formal dining room is dark and rich in contrast with the bright

white kitchen. Caroline picked all of her light fixtures from **The Lighting Shoppe**.

For the main floor master, Caroline used a palette of greys and grey-blues. The bedroom overlooks the pool and walks out to the backyard. Caroline chose a classic lattice-patterned wallpaper she feels will stand the test of time and created a conversation area near the window. She delicately mixed metals for texture and interest.

Both Caroline and Danny are avid entertainers so they dedicated lots of space for fun and games, both inside and out.

In the summer, their L-shaped saltwater pool by **Paradise Pools** surrounded by loungers is popular with friends and family, especially with the cabana they built at the back of the yard. Not only does it have a bar facing the pool and a TV perfectly positioned so everyone can watch the latest soccer match from the water, but inside there’s plenty of storage and a bathroom.

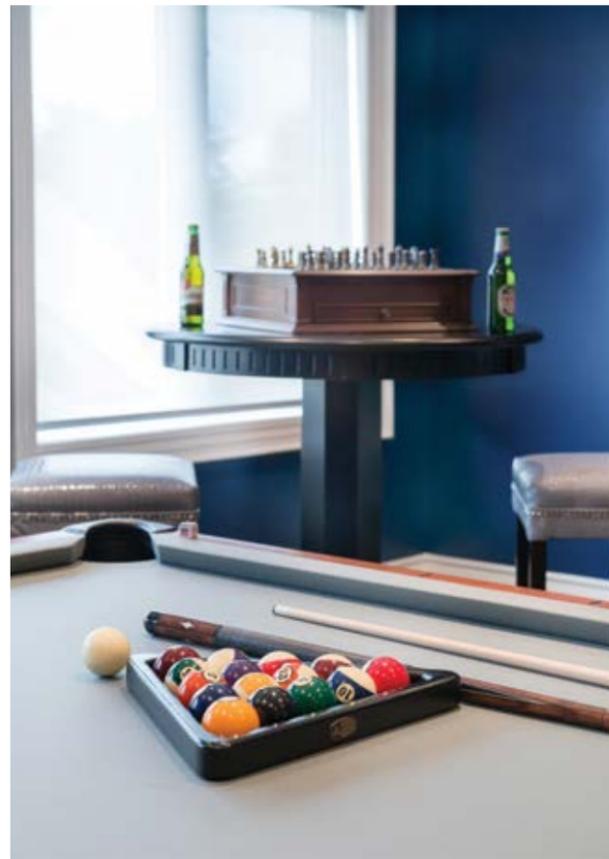
Danny and his friends use the greenspace behind the main yard area to play soccer.

Up closer to the house, the Epifanos built a covered eating area with a built-in barbecue.

**Van Oordt Landscaping** took as much care to beautify the outdoor space as Caroline did inside. *Continued on page 40*



**ABOVE:** Sparkle and mirrors add charm to the master bedroom without making it too feminine. **FAR LEFT:** Stained glass by Kara Derksen of Kara’s Stained Glass, including this monogrammed piece, adorn transoms and cabinet doors around the home. **LEFT:** The master bath is simple and serene with a palette of whites and greys.



“Being in the country is so peaceful and enjoyable,” says Caroline. Back inside, the second floor is where the Epifanos conduct their indoor entertaining, aside from formal dining or impromptu gatherings in the kitchen.

They have three spare bedrooms, all with their own connected baths. One of the bedrooms walks out to an upper-level patio.

But the real feature upstairs is a games room. It’s sporty and masculine with navy blue walls, a pool table, foosball table, poker table and reading nook. Front and centre is a wet bar. Essentially, it’s an upper-level man cave.

In terms of heating and cooling, including their beautiful fireplaces, the Epifanos called on **Hallman and Dittmer Heating and Air Conditioning** to hook them up.

Because Danny works in the construction sector, he knew exactly who he wanted to call for a variety of jobs. It was this attention to detail and care with every step of the design process through building and decorating that everything came together so well. Now the Epifanos have the home they’d always dreamed of. **OH**

**TOP LEFT AND RIGHT:** The Epifanos installed an extra-large patio space with their L-shaped pool so there is plenty of room for loungers and a separate seating area. They say they are constantly entertaining. **ABOVE LEFT:** Just outside of the kitchen, a built-in barbecue and mini fridge are accessible and useful beside a dining area. **ABOVE:** The “upper-level man cave” is a games area with a pool table, cards table, bar and lounge space.

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