



# A beautiful LIFE

STORY ERIN PEPLER

PHOTOGRAPHY  
JASON HARTOG

Nestled on a quiet court in southeast Oakville, the Gasparro home is a taste of luxury cottage living in the city.

Both stately and welcoming, the spacious property sits alongside a large greenspace blocks away from a busy, suburban shopping area. The house itself sits among dozens of mature trees, offering a quiet, tranquil retreat just minutes from downtown amenities. With a gorgeous stone exterior, a grand front entrance and simple, classic landscaping, the look is timeless.

The home was designed by home designer **David Small** of **David Small Designs** and constructed by homeowner **Pat Gasparro** and his team at **Gasparro Custom Homes**. The interior features transitional style with high ceilings, a formal dining room and clean, contemporary design elements. It's bright and open, with oversize windows

by **Pella Windows & Doors** that allow light to pour in throughout the home. "The unique aspect of this home is the merging of traditional and contemporary styles," Small explains. "The front façade is traditional. It blends perfectly with the character of Olde Oakville, respectful of the neighbourhood. As you enter the home, the design style shifts to transitional architecture: open vistas, modern material deployment and an obvious connection to the backyard. The rear of the home is the complete opposite

of the front: all glass, clean lines and contemporary architecture."

The space is as functional as it is beautiful, with plenty of room for Pat, his wife Melissa and their three young sons. In addition to the formal living and dining areas, a playroom is tucked away on the main floor, and a hidden back staircase leads from the mudroom to the lower level. A covered porch with heated Ciot tile floors allows for California-style, indoor-outdoor living year round. A spectacular Muskoka-style family room completes the

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**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** (1) A covered porch, pool and hot tub create a backyard oasis. (2) A Muskoka room with floor-to-ceiling windows and a fireplace allow the family to step outdoors all year round. (3) A traditional stone exterior blends beautifully with the Olde Oakville aesthetic. (4) Doors fold away between the kitchen and the covered porch for a seamless transition between indoors and out.





main level. “It’s very bright with all of the windows – I love the openness of the kitchen and family room,” Melissa says, naming the covered porch and Muskoka room as her favourite elements of the house. “You feel like you’re outside all day when the wall of windows is open – you get the fresh air, the view. And I love the location, being on the court near the forest – it’s really special for the kids.”

Pat describes the house as “a home and a cottage in one,” and Small agrees, “to enter the Muskoka room, you have to walk by the stone wall. The Muskoka room looks onto a heavily wooded park space. When you pass by the stone wall, it’s like you’re entering another world – a cosy environment enveloped by a forest.”

The stone wall is a feat, requiring major structural support from the basement up. Composed of Wiarion Stone in grey-brown tones, it’s both sensational and organic, and makes a statement while blending seamlessly with the home’s aesthetic. The stone wall has become Pat’s trademark. “I don’t like family rooms to be plain – this gives it character. People often see this house and ask for the same design.”

Behind the stone wall is a dramatic staircase made from reclaimed elm to match the gorgeous Northern Wide Plank floors. Looking up, a massive skylight brings in natural light. “The staircase is another



A white kitchen nicely balances the darker elements of the stone wall and the great room furnishings.

**ABOVE:** A spectacular stone wall is the focal point in the great room and can be seen from the open concept kitchen. **RIGHT:** The living room is dressed with elegant, streamlined furnishings and custom cabinetry. **FAR RIGHT:** Large doorways allow for panoramic views of the main floor, like the dining room view to the hallway and the lovely open staircase.



example of the transitional architecture,” Small explains. “Clean lines, open concept, an interior/exterior connection.”

Décor accents from Pottery Barn are found throughout, and furniture was sourced from Restoration Hardware and Direct Interiors. Pat and Melissa consulted with **Laurie Lee Design** in Oakville when selecting paint colours, fabrics and art. The home’s attractive, contemporary lighting fixtures from Lando Lighting, Caesarstone countertops and custom millwork throughout complete the look.

Luxury elements are found in abundance throughout the home, though it maintains

an unpretentious, family-friendly feel. Rustic yet modern touches soften the stark, contemporary design choices, such as custom panelling in the hallways and on the dining room ceiling. The kitchen’s simple, all-white design offers plenty of storage and a butler’s pantry that leads to the dining room. A modern gas range, extra deep sink, double wall ovens and pot-filler add function. Upstairs, the tile floors are heated, and every bedroom houses a generous en suite. The lower level features a media room with projection screen, fitness room, wine cellar and spacious bar area. *Continued on page 40*



So is it a forever home? “My wife says so,” laughs Pat. “I love it, but I’m always thinking about the next thing. I love the design process. Even staying here, I think about adding another bedroom or moving the wine cellar upstairs.” Many people are surprised to learn that before going into construction, Pat began his career as a hairstylist, and owns **Hair Design Company** in Oakville. After completing business school and opening the salon, he became involved in building renovation and design, gradually mastering the trade. He went into business five years ago, building custom homes for clients while keeping a foot in the salon world. “I don’t want to give that up – I love them both for the creative outlet. It’s all coming from an interest in design, aesthetics and wanting to create.”

The desire to make something beautiful is evident in his own home, but as Pat takes on new client projects, he wants to top his own success. “By putting endless time into creating the perfect home for my family, and now getting such positive feedback, it set a new benchmark for me. I want to do everything on this level or better.” **OH**

**LEFT:** Layered textures and fabrics create an inviting space for slumber. **BELOW LEFT:** Floor-to-ceiling marble wraps the master en suite in luxury. **BELOW:** Custom cabinetry and mirrors in a rich, dark colour anchor the lighter tones in the en suite.



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