# 20 FABULOUS FEATURES

# THAT MAKE THIS OAKVILLE HOUSE A HOME

STORY JOYCE TURNER-GIONET | PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

Trite, perhaps, but true: Life is a journey.

Most of us don't live in the same house our entire lives. In Pam and Vern's case, their ravine home, built into a hill on the banks of the Credit River, sat on more than half an acre of forest with terraced gardens. After many years, it was time for a change.

Before giving you a close-up on their new home's stand-out features, a bit of background. The home was the creation of builder **Pat Gasparro** 

of **Gasparro Custom Homes** and custom home designer **David Small** of **David Small Designs**. The bright, contemporary, open-concept space and manageable lot appealed to the house-hunting Pam and Vern. The only thing needed was their personal stamp on the interior. With enough energy for two people, a pronounced artistic streak and help from decorator **Michelle Berwick** of **The Mirror and the Drape Design**, Pam took it from house to home in under eight weeks.



# The home designer's take: David Small

"Pam and Vern's home epitomizes transitional design, it's a balance of modern and traditional in both the details and overall composition," says David.

"The front facade is traditional – peaked symmetrical rooflines with curved dormers. The rear elevation is contemporary – clean lines, rows of windows and connections to the exterior."

The home transitions from traditional to contemporary as you move through the space. Modern details on the facade, like the dark-framed recta-linear windows, no shutters or gable adornment and a boxed portico, hint at the contemporary journey you embark on when you open the front door."

# The builder's take: Pat Gasparro

Notice the creamy crown moulding underscoring roof peaks. It emphasizes the multi-tones of the Wiarton stone. With a hint of French country, it's a classic exterior that will never go out of style.

"We saved the two gorgeous old sycamore trees. Their soldierly positioning, flanking the property, is picture perfect – we couldn't have done it better if we'd planted them," says Pat.

A beautiful outdoor living space is a hallmark of Gasparro Custom Homes. The covered porch has an outdoor kitchen and gas fireplace. Indiana stone on the floor and dove-grey-stained cedar on the ceiling add rustic appeal. It's a space for entertaining, so porch depth is six inches larger than standard with doors from Pella Windows & Doors that open wide.

The Velux skylight – dual panels in a non-vaulted design – spills light across both upper and lower levels.





Millwork panelling is wood, not drywall. Benjamin Moore furniture paint was used to achieve the high-end furniture finish. Continued on page 44

> Old meets new in the dining room where elegant new drapes and lighting blend well with the timeless dining set.



### home & builder

The master bath speaks to luxury, particularly the heated Statuario Venato polished porcelain tiles. "I added a fullwidth window and avoided the typical tub-in-front-of-thewindow placement, which would have broken the room's beautiful lines," says Pat. "It has a luxury 24-by-24-inch Zuchetti rainhead shower."



#### The decorator's take: Michelle Berwick

It wasn't in with the new and out with the old. "Pam had many beautiful pieces and lots of memories in photographs and accessories she wanted to showcase. We used about 90 per cent of what she had, with just a little recovering and refurbishing and a few special purchases," says Michelle.

Thinking outside the box! A spare room was turned into Pam's dressing room. An oversize white filigreed mirror leans against a wall, a focal point in the feminine space. "Down the road, I'll add a chandelier," laughs Pam. 15 Vern's main floor office is a masculine space with dark wood built-ins that contrast well with the new lacquered zebra desk from Martin Daniel Interiors. The floor's South American stitched patchwork cowhide lightens the space.

16 Think "mud lounge," because the word "room" doesn't do it justice! Bench upholstery is from Tonic Living in Snow Leopard Silver with a shimmer. Colourful piped cushions stand up to grandkids and Byron, the couple's pretty pampered poodle. Continued on page 48







Kaundry is a lovely affair in this spacious alcove.



Pam doesn't "do stuffy" and bold graphics on the living room's scoop armchairs from The Art Shoppe are a testament. Brass lamps are Barbara Barry. Brought out of storage, the 35-year old glass-top table is still en vogue. The Ethan Allen horse was picked up on a road trip, years ago. "Decorating should tell personal stories," says Michelle.

The family room, on page 45, takes its style cue from Wayne Mondok's acrylic beachscape... watery glass accessories and sea foam green, olive and gold perk the neutral palette. Ottomans are from J & J Made Studio. Sidetables are from Urban Barn. Drapery panels are motorized - a hit with the grandkids who take turns with the remote. Continued on page 50



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## The homeowners' take: Pam & Vern

"David is a wonderful home designer and Pat builds a beautiful home. Together, they gave Vern and me a timeless foundation," says Pam. Michelle has layered family life on top of that foundation. Now it's time to sit back and enjoy. "I have my spaces, Vern has his and we have spaces where we come together as a couple and with our children, grandchildren and friends. There's still work to do, but it already feels like home." он





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