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*family***

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STICKING *together*

STORY **DENISE WILLSON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Several years ago, Nina Singh's parents purchased their dream property in Mississauga, close to Port Credit. Like many in this Mineola East neighbourhood, they loved the magical seasons in the quiet area just minutes from the city centre. They were excited to renovate, to make the small 1950s bungalow into a home to gather their children and loved ones. "Dad was the family glue," says Nina. "His dream was for his kids to live close." He wanted a front row seat to watch his future grandkids grow and thrive. *Continued on page 70*

The open-concept kitchen spills into the great room. It's the hub of the home and a favourite spot for the family to gather.



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THE DAY THE HOUSE purchase was finalized, Nina's father passed away. His wife, Nina's mother, moved in,

renovated, and in doing so, brought her late husband's vision to life.

Shortly thereafter, Nina and her husband, Aman, bought a house the next street over. Nina's sister bought down the street. Just recently, Nina's brother, newly married, purchased a bungalow only one street away. "My father would be so proud of us," says Nina. "He used to say 'It takes a village' to raise kids. Now we're together, close, just like he wanted, and we help each other a lot." The Singhs have two young children, Sahil, 5, and Dhaya, 3. Nina's sister has a daughter the same age. "We are always at each other's houses," says Nina. "And we feel like our father is with us."

When Nina was ready to follow in her father's footsteps and build, she and Aman knew exactly what they wanted. "Our previous house was your typical survey home," says Nina. "It had no personality."

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A VAULTED CEILING ADDS A LITTLE DRAMA, GIVES A ROOM AN AIRY FEELING AND ADDS MORE LIGHT.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: The butlers pantry bridges the kitchen and the dining room and houses plenty of storage.
FAR LEFT: The home embraces family and allows Dhaya, Meher and Sahil to spread out and play comfortably.
LEFT: Attention to detail ensured beautiful sight lines.



ABOVE: Details blend softly into one another, creating a beautiful exterior aesthetic. **LEFT:** The living and dining room at the front of the home are flooded with natural light. **BELOW LEFT:** The mudroom and laundry room combo on the main floor keeps the mess contained. **BELOW RIGHT:** Graphic flooring adds detail to the clean lines in the powder room.

We wanted to build from scratch. We wanted a house that suits our family – the entire family.” The couple turned to **Peter Giampuzzi** of **Ornella Homes**. “Peter could read our minds,” says Nina, laughing. “He could see our vision of the house, and his door was always open to discuss new ideas.” The Singhs talked to homeowners who had previously built with Ornella Homes. “Everyone spoke highly of Peter. Now that our home is done, we know why. Peter is patient, creative, and an amazing homebuilder.”

The 3,700 sq. ft. home features classic lines with modern finishes. The exterior is a combination of hand-chiseled Indiana limestone and stucco done by **DePasquale Stone Works**. **DeMedicis Roofing** added the roof as well as the leaded copper that gives the house a unique look. The stunning entrance door and floor-to-ceiling black framed windows from **Ostaco Windows & Doors** come alive against

the white stone and grey moulding. The clean lines are mirrored in the interior. Wide plank, white oak floors from **AA Floors & More**, whitewashed walls and custom cabinetry from **Perola Kitchens & Interiors Ltd.** add to the soft, monochromatic aesthetic of black, white and grey. “We love the open-concept family room and kitchen,” says Nina. “It’s the hub of the house.” **Perola Kitchens** was also responsible for the laundry and bathroom built-ins. Granite counters were provided by **Premium Marble & Granite**.

The homeowners also adore the finished lower level. The television room and bar are great for entertaining, and the kids have room to play. “The kids love their space,” says Nina, referring to the kids’ playroom and bedrooms. “The rooms have shape, cubbies and character. They are rooms kids can grow into.” With a smile Nina adds, “My daughter thinks her room makes her a princess.” With soaring ceiling heights

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Colour and texture provide warmth in the master en suite. **RIGHT:** Wood adds definition to the master bedroom and brings the outside in. **BELOW:** A glass, walk-in shower creates a sense of space in the master en suite.

and vast, open space, the entire family feels like royalty. The bathrooms boast large marble slabs, glass shower enclosures and freestanding tubs from **TUBS**. Patterned floor tiles and backsplashes from **Rivalda Tiles** add bling, and the stairway, by **Pro-Stair & Railing Inc.**, is a showpiece. The design pulls cues from the modern light fixtures provided by **Lando Lighting**.

Ornella Homes is known for custom homes that focus on architectural design. Peter works closely with architects and technologists to achieve the homeowners' vision. "**Richard Kossak** of **New Age Design** was instrumental in the build of this house," says Peter. "He is a multi-dimensional thinker who balances a sound understanding of design with the technical, planning and municipal components of the building process," explains Peter. "To top it off, he's a pleasure to work with." *Continued on page 76*



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The process wasn't always easy. "Before we started," says Nina, "we didn't realize how much time was required to design and build a new house." The couple spent countless hours poring over ideas online. Peter had water to contend with. The area has a significant amount of groundwater, requiring several pump systems and interior and exterior weeping tile to keep the basement dry. City proposals and permits took time. They also had to work around mature trees and older homes. "The designer was super-important in this regard," says Peter. "Even though the city recommended we cut down a large, old tree, we designed around it, and even planted five more in the process. Richard is a master at honouring the natural environment of the neighbourhood while creating a timeless yet unique home."

There is no doubt Nina has done her father proud. "My father always said he was the happiest man on earth," says Nina. "He said us kids made him feel that way." He's still the glue that holds his family together. **OH**



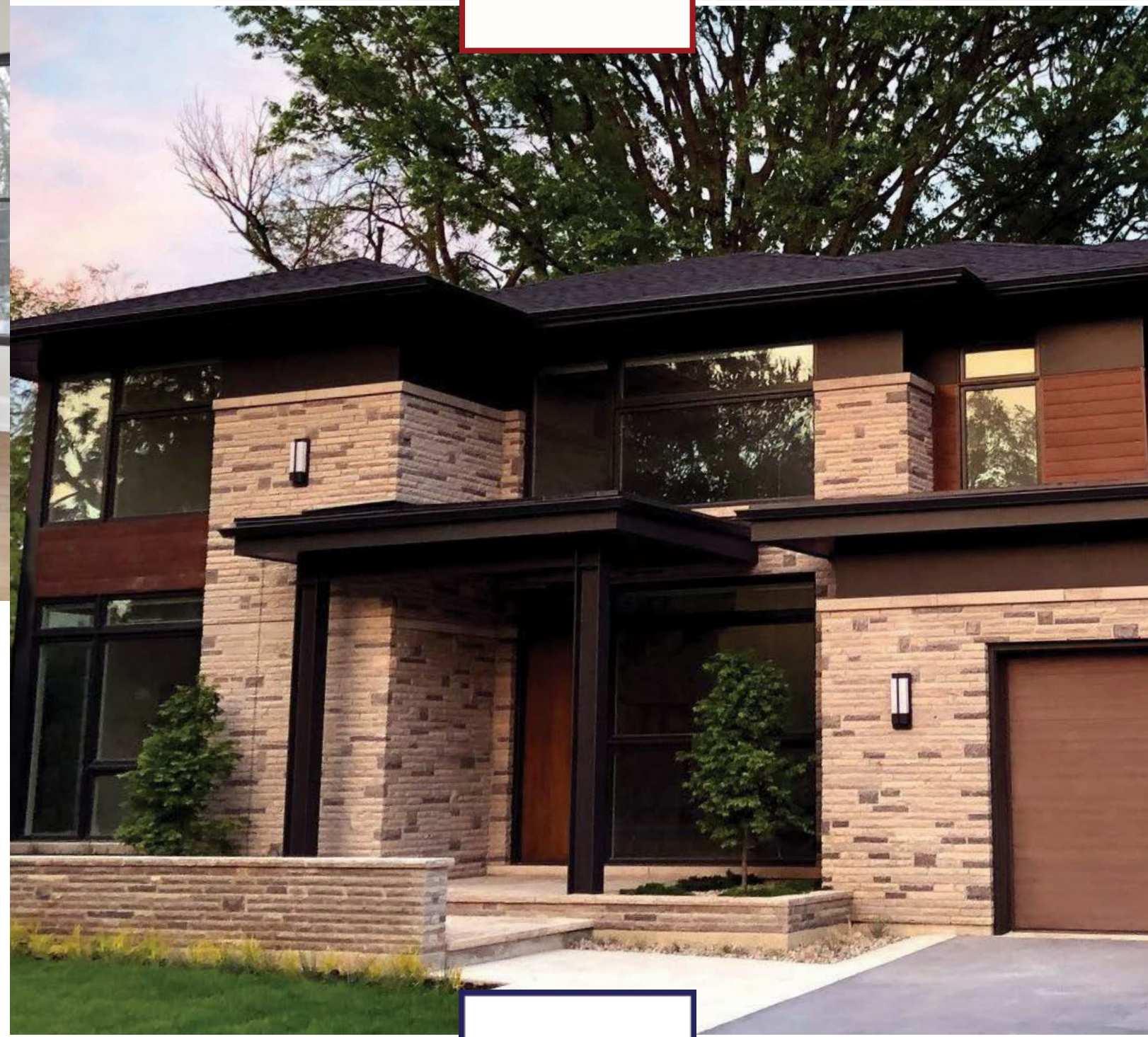
The kids' bedrooms are designed to grow as they do. **RIGHT:** Pretty details make this bedroom the perfect palace for a princess. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Open risers add visual interest in the stairwell.



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