



# family FIRST

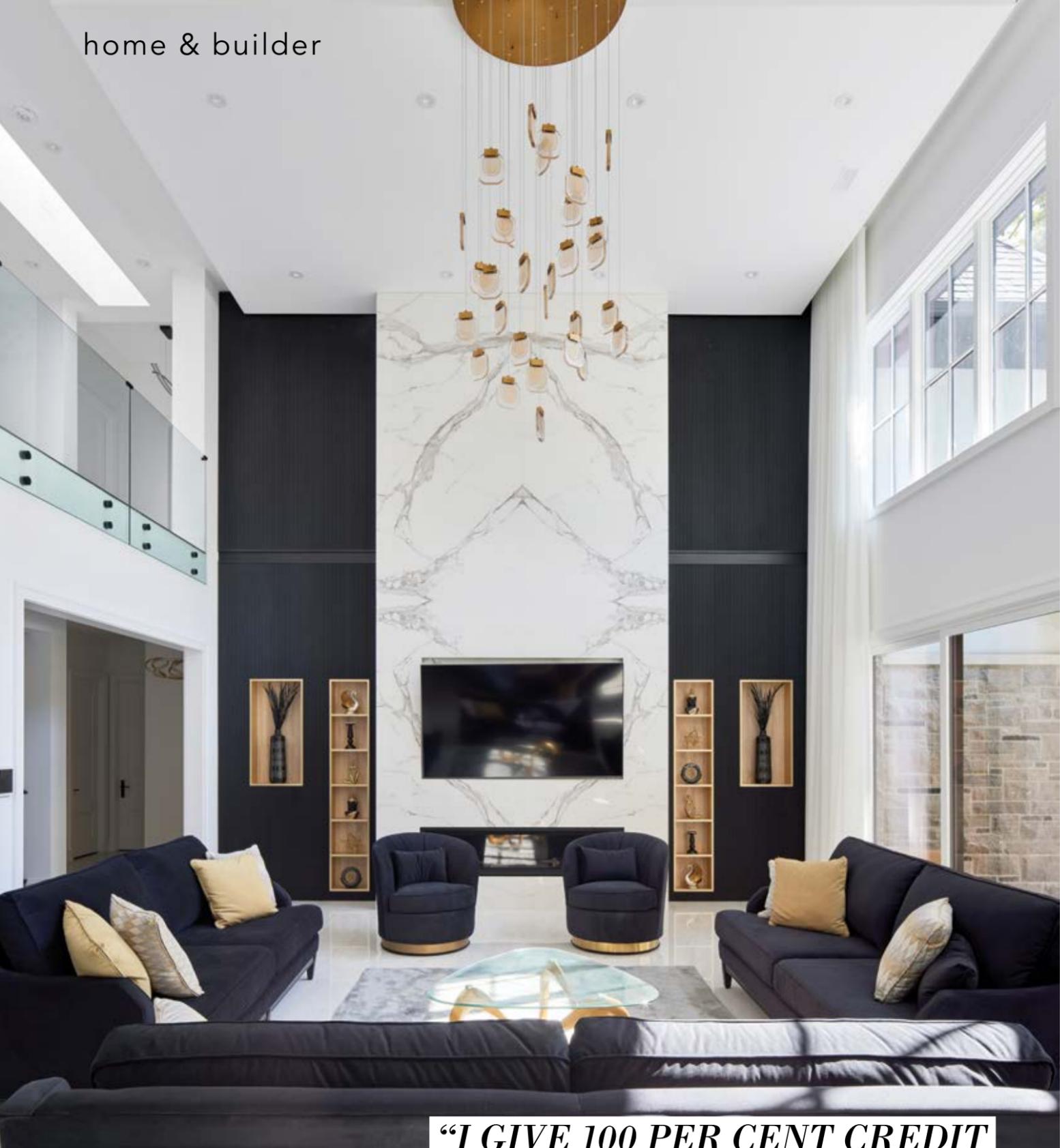
STORY **GABRIELLE TIEMAN-LEE**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



Gold finishing touches were added to the home's neutral palette, complementing family treasures and adding a touch of opulence. **OPPOSITE:** The formal living room overlooks the front of the home and the mature preserved trees that provide shade and privacy.

WHEN SONA AND JAY SAHNI CONSIDERED THEIR FOREVER HOME, THEY IMAGINED A PLACE THAT WAS NOT ONLY A HOME FOR THEM, BUT FOR THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY. "WE ARE A VERY WARM, CLOSE FAMILY," SAYS SONA. "WE LOVE TO HAVE OUR FAMILY VISIT. WE LIKE TO HOST PARTIES FOR OUR FRIENDS. IT WAS OUR DREAM TO HAVE A HOME WHERE EVERYONE FELT WELCOME."

The family decided to relocate to Mississauga, falling in love with a large lot surrounded by greenery in Lorne Park. "I love this area," says Sona. "Nature is very important to me and here we have the trails, birds, sunlight and trees." The family quickly set to building their home, one that would be cohesive with the neighbourhood but still provide their desired modern aesthetic. Sona knew there was only one person who could help her design her dream – her daughter Sonali, who delayed her travel plans to help her mother. "I felt that I had a good idea of what everyone needed," says Sonali. "An interior designer can come in and tell you what looks nice, but it's vital to truly understand the practicality and know what a family requires. There are so many little touches that we added that are unique to us as a family." *Continued on page 49*



Sonali and Sona Sahni

From the street, the new 11,000 sq. ft. home looks like it has been there for years. It's a grand, stone faced, two-storey home framed by mature trees. It has a traditional iron gate from **BTL Railings Inc.** The interior is a bright, open-concept modern masterpiece – with soaring ceilings and oversize windows by Kolbe Windows & Doors that give panoramic views of the private backyard. To execute their vision, the family partnered with architectural technologist **Richard Kossak** of **New Age Design** and **Peter Giampuzzi**, principal builder with **Ornella Homes**.

“We were very blessed to have a very good designer in Richard,” says Sona. “He was amazing and very familiar with Mississauga and the houses. We wanted a house from the outside that worked

with the neighbourhood and landscape, but inside, we wanted to completely change that style.”

“The homeowners wanted a design-focused home that fit with the traditional aesthetic of the mature, old growth neighbourhood without being too flashy,” says Peter. “We are a hands-on project management company. Our goal is to help the homeowners materialize their vision.”

Inside, rooms branch off from the foyer with an office to the left, showcasing treasures in built-ins by **Magnum Millwork Inc.**, and a formal living room to the right. It opens into the heart of the home, an opulent open-concept living room, kitchen and dining area shining in a palette of white, black and gold. The space is flooded with natural light that bounces off the bright tiled floor from **Ciot**. *Continued on page 50*



The kitchen was built for practical use. An expansive island, top-of-the-line appliances and black Dekton countertops were all chosen to support Sona's love of cooking.

**“I GIVE 100 PER CENT CREDIT TO ORNELLA HOMES, THEY WERE AMAZING TO WORK WITH. THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WANTED.” ~Sonali**

Natural light was a strict requirement when designing the home – 20-foot ceilings, skylights and sweeping windows were added to ensure the contemporary home feels warm and bright.



**OPPOSITE & LEFT:** Each family member's bedroom was outfitted with its own en suite and walk-in wardrobe, uniquely designed to suit individual styles. **BELOW LEFT:** The primary en suite features a stand-alone tub and spacious walk-in glass shower. **RIGHT:** Custom walk-in closets were designed with the family member in mind, featuring specific shelving for shoes, hats, purses and collectibles.

"A lot of people think modern means dark and not fresh," says Sonali. "I feel with the added light you are able to have both – a modern interior and warmth."

The kitchen was built for practical use. Sona chose black Dekton countertops and a coordinating veined backsplash from **Apex Custom Fabrication** to surround the cook space. The expansive island was topped with quartz for additional prep space.

"We chose black Dekton because we use a lot of spices in Indian cooking," Sona says. "We use a lot of turmeric and it can stain. So it was in our minds that we have to be careful."

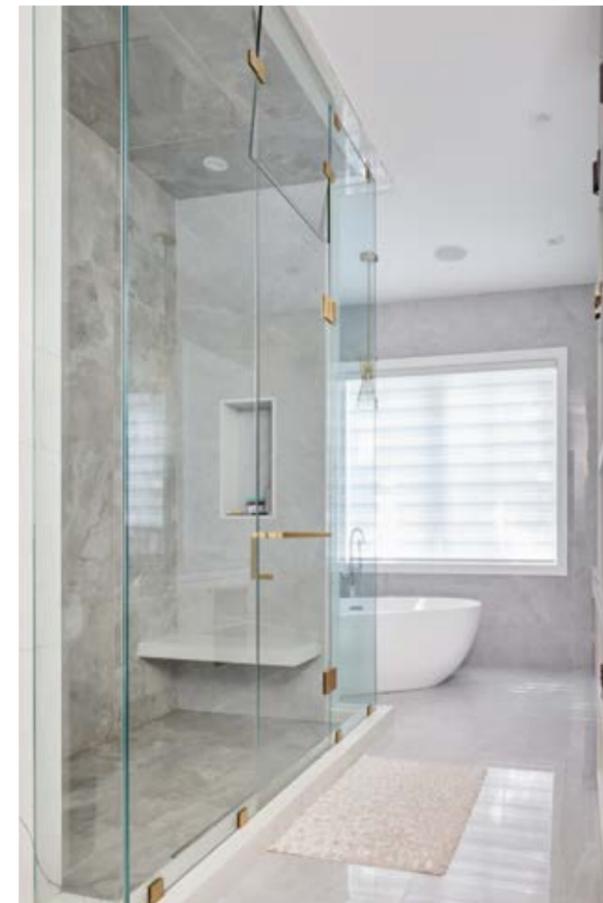
The living room is the heart of the home and the family's favourite space with soaring

20-foot ceilings and a gas fireplace by **The Fireplace Company** at the centre, rising the full height of the room. Windows and patio doors sweep the full length of the back wall, giving access and views to the private backyard, covered patio and pool to anyone enjoying the family room.

"It is a really peaceful area and so sunny," says Sona. "This is why we added so many windows and a skylight. I want all of that positivity in my house."

Designed for longevity and aging years, the primary suite, complete with en suite and walk-in wardrobe, was added to the main floor to maximize living capabilities for the future. An elevator by **RAM Elevators** was also added for accessibility. *Continued on page 52*

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK MODERN MEANS DARK AND NOT FRESH. I FEEL WITH THE ADDED LIGHT YOU ARE ABLE TO HAVE BOTH – A MODERN INTERIOR AND WARMTH."**  
 ~Sonali





“I give 100 per cent credit to Ornella Homes, they were amazing to work with,” says Sona. “They understood what we wanted. I liked that the designing was done by us, but Peter guided us along the way.”

The open-riser, glass-and-iron staircase by **mrail** winds its way through the home and acts as functional art. Each step was constructed using black Dekton – similar to the kitchen.

“If someone is wearing heels, you cannot slip on these stairs,” says Sona. “We were so blessed to work with such great tradespeople who guided us when picking materials.”

Upstairs, an additional 7,400 square feet splits to create a private sanctuary for Sonali and her brother and a retreat for guests. Each bedroom has its own palette and personality – each outfitted with an en suite and walk-in closet, custom to the needs of the family member.

The guest rooms, tucked away at the end of the open corridor lit by a skylight, allow visitors their own privacy. No detail was overlooked. A coffee bar was added upstairs for early risers. *Continued on page 54*



**TOP LEFT:** The open-riser, glass-and-iron staircase by **mrail** winds its way through the home and around the glass elevator. **TOP RIGHT:** A skylight illuminates the upper-level walkway leading towards a coffee bar for early risers. **LEFT:** Each bedroom was given its own unique palette and design details to reflect the family member.



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The lower level was designed for entertainment and fun. A beautiful bar is at the centre, designed around a backlit onyx crystal stone from Apex Custom Fabrication and a warm walnut finish. A gym, equipped with a sauna and jet tub bookends one side of the space while a prayer room and additional bedrooms flank the other.

“Everyone lives in their home, but we really wanted to enjoy it,” says Sonali. “Everything was thoughtfully curated for current and future comfort.

“I know how hard my parents have worked to get to a place where they can make their dream home a reality, and this will be their forever home. To help create that and bring out its full potential, it means a lot,” Sonali says. **OH**



TOP LEFT & RIGHT: No detail was overlooked. Picture-frame mouldings, custom built-ins and gas fireplaces add personality and warmth to the rooms. ABOVE: Each bathroom was given contemporary and practical finishes. RIGHT: The custom backlit onyx crystal stone bar is the centrepiece of the lower level's entertaining space and a family favourite.

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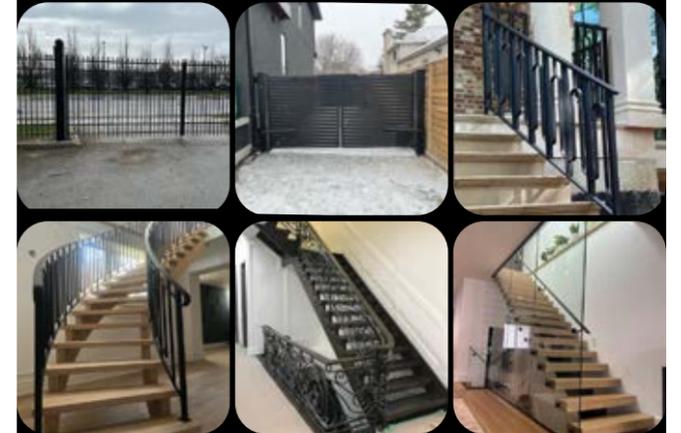
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