



The House That
**CHAOS
BUILT**

FROM CRAMPED CONDO TO CUSTOM DREAM
— A HOME FIT FOR A LARGE FAMILY

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For Lina and Fady, mornings often felt like an obstacle course as they navigated life with five kids in a 1,000 sq. ft. condo in Toronto's Liberty Village. "One morning, my husband was tripping over the kids to get out the front door and decided it was time to move," says Lina.

The couple knew they wanted to be close to the lake, good schools, shopping and the highway. The Mineola neighbourhood in Mississauga checked all the boxes. After countless open houses failed to meet their needs, a chance turn onto a quiet, tree-lined street changed everything. They were drawn to the mature trees and charming homes, and it was there they decided that building from scratch was the only way to create a home that truly fit their family.

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TOP: Ornella Custom Homes achieved a timeless New England aesthetic with a gabled roofline and classic combination of natural stone and vintage brick. **ABOVE:** The large family enjoys spending time outside under the covered patio. The outdoor fireplace extends the outdoor season. **LEFT:** Ash hardwood flooring from AA Floors & More Ltd. was used throughout both storeys for a cohesive, casual feel. **OPPOSITE:** Unique overhead lighting and coffered ceilings define each area across the open-concept main floor.

“THE OVERSIZE KITCHEN ISLAND IS GREAT FOR ENTERTAINING.” –LINA



The multi-generational home was designed specifically with the family in mind. The pair called on **Richard Kossak of New Age Design** and **Peter Giampuzzi of Ornella Custom Homes** to bring the architectural details and home-build to life. “They wanted a home, not a house,” says Peter. “A place where their children could grow and have their parents under one roof. They did put a lot of thought into colours, flow and aesthetics, but not at the expense of functionality.”

Lina spent months inking out main-floor designs on graph paper. “I am truly thankful to Richard for making my sketches into real design

plans,” she says. The family was hands-on from the start, helping with everything from construction projects to painting and cleaning. “Lina was very hands-on with the design process and did a superb job sourcing materials, working with our suppliers and pinpointing the exact vision she had for the home,” says Peter.

The exterior achieves its goal of a timeless New England aesthetic. A gabled roofline adds traditional charm. Peter notes that the home’s exterior palette of natural stone and vintage brick, sourced from **Mason’s Masonry Supply Ltd.**, and window trim in a soft, muted



LEFT: The kitchen was designed for gathering, especially around the large island. **RIGHT:** Lina worked with Magnum Millwork to create a corner desk area in the kitchen that's become the hub of the home. **BELOW:** Custom cabinetry conceals a spacious pantry.



hue offers a timeless contrast to the darker windows and black accents of contemporary design. A grand front door from **Master Doors** and expansive windows from **Pella Windows & Doors** provide beautiful views of the backyard at every meal. An outdoor covered patio allows the family to sit by the fire from spring to fall. “Peter also modified our plans during the building process and designed a built-in barbecue and pizza oven,” says Lina. *Continued on page 45*



“I FEEL LIKE OUR HOME IS UNIQUE IN THE SENSE THAT IT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR A LARGE FAMILY.” –LINA



On the inside, after years of living in tight quarters, the homeowners had a clear vision of how to design a space that truly works for a large family. A mudroom with direct access to both the garage and side yard features individual cubbies for each child to tuck shoes and backpacks out of sight. A washer and dryer were added to the mudroom, so school and sports gear can be cleaned as soon as the kids walk through the door.

The craft room is the brainchild of Fady. What was originally intended to be a two-storey ceiling in the family room evolved into one of the home's most inspired spaces. The loft-style space provides a desk for each child and a quiet space to focus or get creative. One of the home's more playful features is a custom slide that goes from the main floor to the basement. "I feel like our home is unique in the sense that it is specifically designed for a large family," says Lina. "We pride ourselves in being able to design and build a home that is timeless and elegant yet kid-friendly at the same time – meeting the needs of our five children."

Finishes were carefully chosen for both form and function. Porcelain tiles offer the beauty of marble without the maintenance. Ash hardwood flooring was selected from **AA Floors & More Ltd.** to add character and maintain the casual feel. Quartz was used throughout for both durability and beauty. In the powder room, a backlit mirror creates a soft reflection in the floor-to-ceiling square marble tile. Lighting throughout is from **Lando Lighting**. *Continued on page 46*

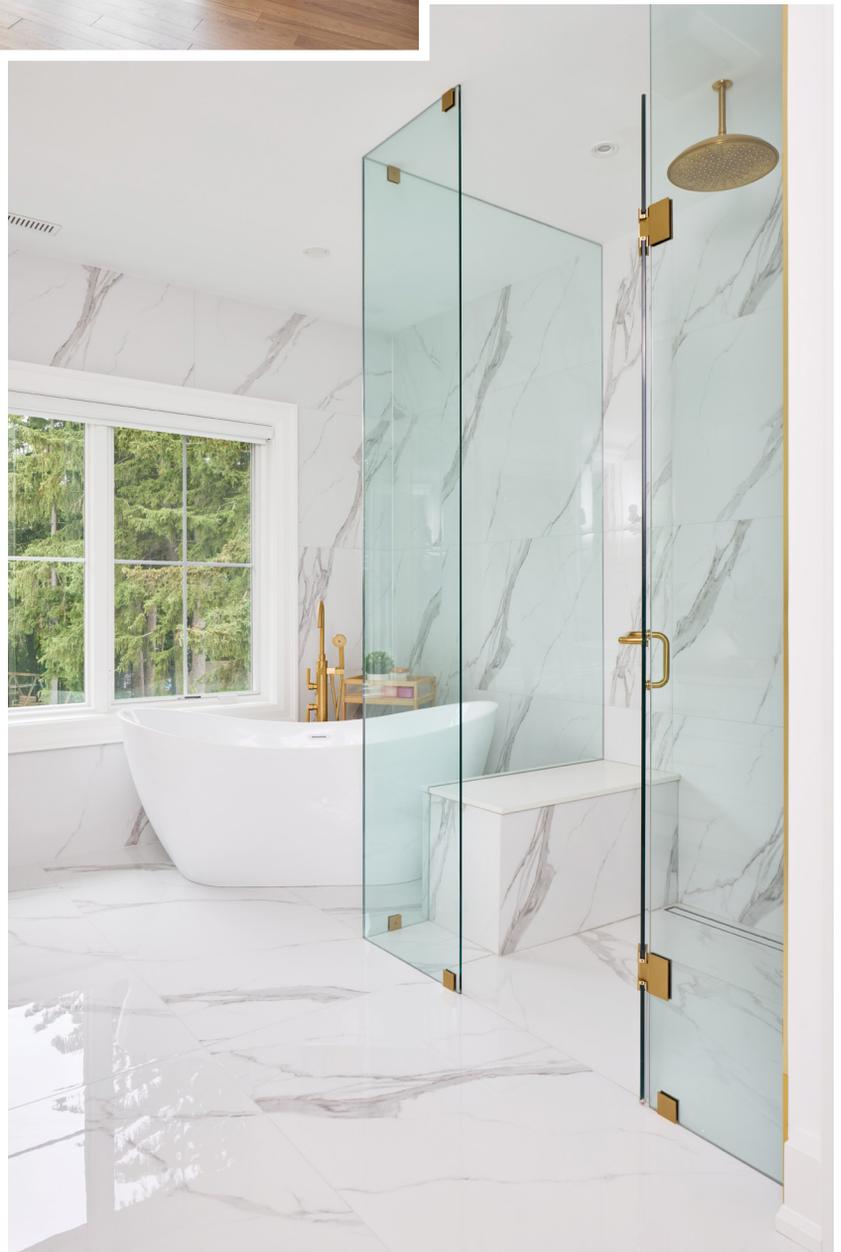


ABOVE: Roes Stairs Corp. built a stately colonial staircase with traditional wood pickets and stringers. **FAR LEFT:** Pops of colour and soft backlit mirrors define the powder room. **LEFT:** A traditional office, finished entirely in wood, is made bright with soaring ceilings with inset lighting. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The loft-style craft room provides a desk for each child and a bright, quiet space to get creative. **LEFT:** With five children, organization is paramount. Custom storage in the mudroom created space for shoes, backpacks and more. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The home boasts two laundry rooms, one in the mudroom for dirty outdoor gear and the other nestled in the bedroom wing for easy upstairs access.



All custom cabinetry was executed by **Magnum Millwork**. “Using Magnum Millwork for all our built-in cabinetry was, by far, the best decision we made,” says Lina. Small corners often go unused, but Lina worked with Magnum Millwork to create a corner desk area that’s become the hub of the home. “This is the home of our family calendar, the drop-off area for papers and books and the charging station for all our devices.”

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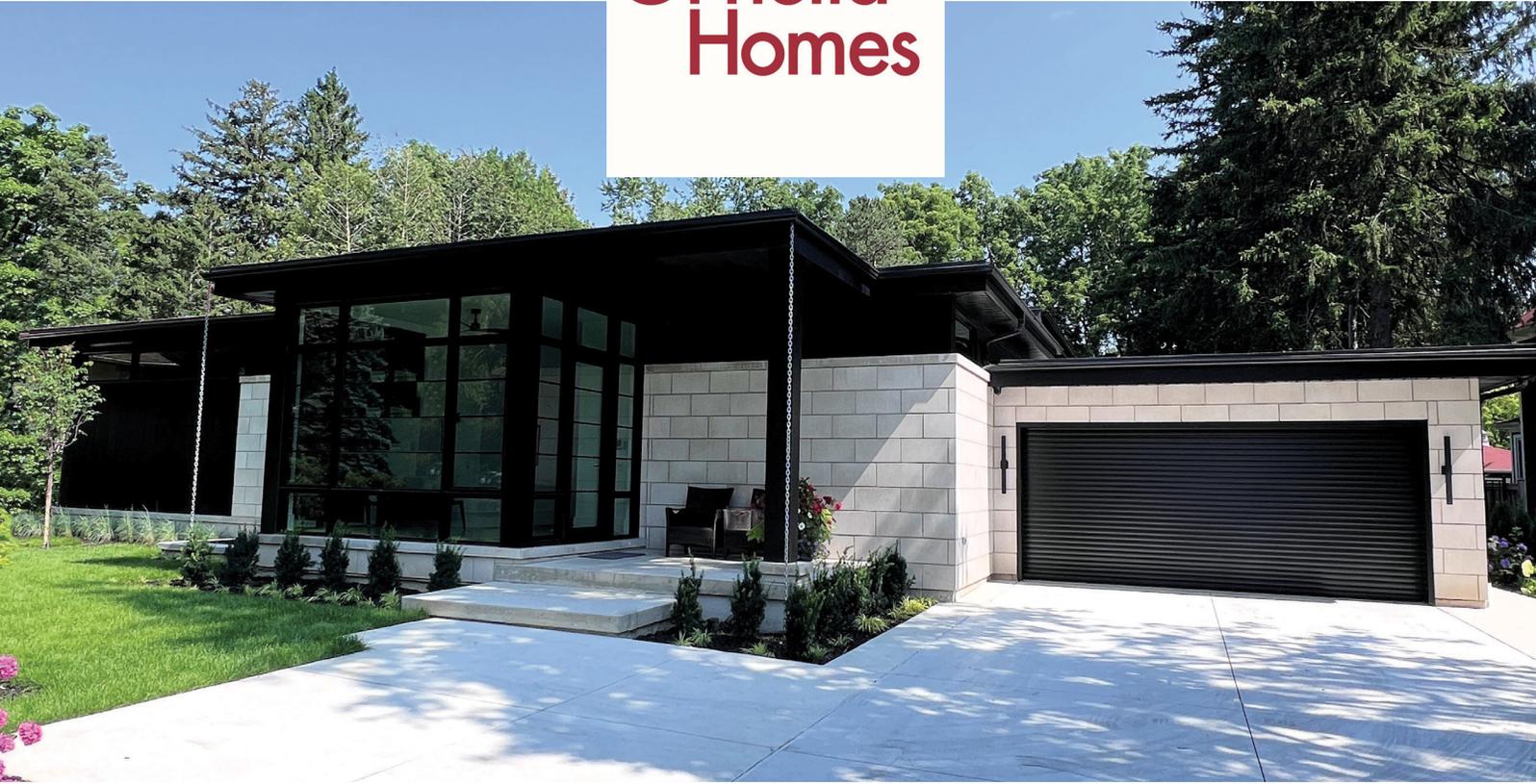


TOP: The primary bedroom is bright and serene, overlooking the expansive backyard. **ABOVE:** Porcelain tiles offer the beauty of marble without the maintenance. **RIGHT:** Gold touches add opulence and pop in the white en suite.

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