

manor RE-BORN



STORY **NANCY BELGUE**
 PHOTOGRAPHY **STEVE POMERLEAU**
 STYLING **PHILIP CHOUINARD URBAN HOME**

Having literally just completed a total renovation, the homeowners fell in love with a grand manor-inspired house that had recently come on the market.

Realizing they couldn't pass up the opportunity to live in this once-in-a-lifetime property, they bid a fond farewell to their makeover and re-hired designer **Jodi Mason of Urban Home** to make the new home "their own."

Wanting to create a modern, coastal vibe, Mason changed the original gold colour palette to soft grey/blue/taupe and white. She also replaced the floors and countertops but was able to repaint and glaze the original kitchen cabinetry. The oversize island was resurfaced in granite. "We had to find a piece of granite that was big enough for a five-by-10-and-a-half foot island," Mason says. "And we needed a slab large enough to accommodate the island without a seam." During a sourcing mission for the home in the Greater Toronto Area she came across a beautiful piece of quartzite. **Roma Tile** brought it in, cut and installed the slab. "The homeowners love it. It's a nice feature to suit a busy, large family," Mason says. Indeed, the kitchen and island are command central. It's where the children sit at the end of the school day while Mom cooks. Guests gravitate to it when the couple entertains.

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TOP: Mason decorated the main entry of the home with a trio of shield-shaped mirrors to accommodate the expanse of the wall. **ABOVE:** Jodi Mason of Urban Home was the homeowner's go-to designer for both of their recent renovation projects. **OPPOSITE:** The parlour, with its grand fireplace and chain-crafted light shades, adds to the home's edgy drama.



For the kitchen's eat-in area, which is tucked into a grand bay window that overlooks the pool, Mason chose a hand-scraped, charcoal-coloured, acacia wood harvest table. The table seats 10 and the chairs are solid-wood, Canadian-made and upholstered in charcoal leather with silver, nail-head details. "Jodi has outdone herself," the homeowners say of their new kitchen. "We couldn't have asked for a better space."

Adjoining the kitchen, the family room also emphasizes the homeowners' convivial, family-centred design choices. Here, Mason's mandate was to create a relaxed place for the family to "hang out and be together." Mason delivered with a "nice, big, comfy, Canadian-made sectional to accommodate the entire family." She chose an L-shaped, 12-by-12-foot sofa and upholstered it in charcoal-coloured, distressed Italian leather so it would be both elegant and hard-wearing. Featuring extra-deep (46 inches) down-wrapped foam, the sofa literally envelops whoever sits in it. Two occasional armchairs, upholstered in fully-tufted Belgian linen add style and flair. Lambswool toss cushions introduce texture and a sense of whimsy, as does the footstool, upholstered with same lambswool. Floor-to-ceiling built-in bookshelves are accessorized with a metal ladder lending the space an old-fashioned, library feel.

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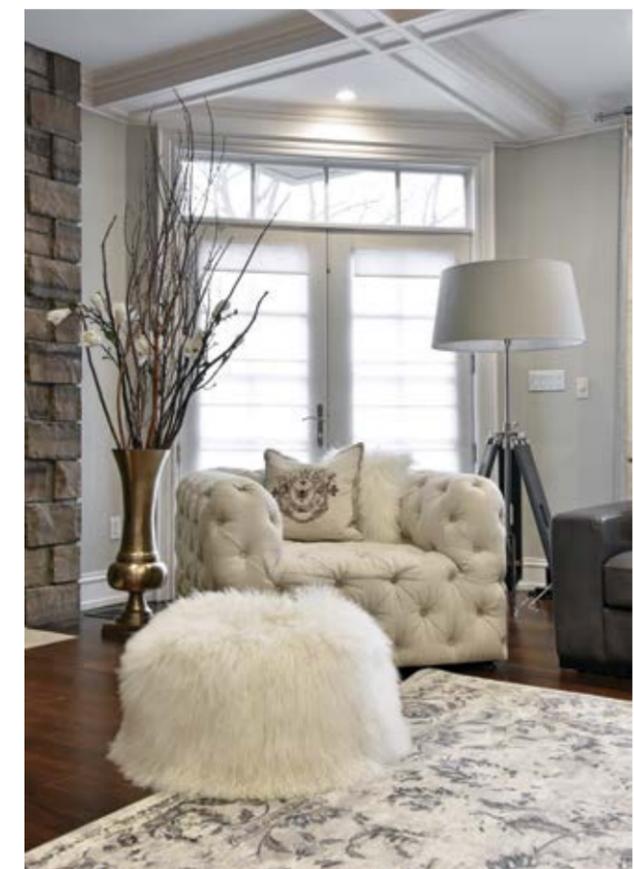
Mason was able to work with the kitchen's existing cabinetry but did create a large island for conversation and convenience. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The console table and matching ottomans feature wood stencils over mirrors. Practical as well as beautiful, the tops come off for storage. **BOTTOM:** The kitchen eat-in area is as lovely as the dining room.



The window treatments in a neutral-toned crushed velvet add warmth and soften the space. “Again,” Mason points out, “it’s an element of texture.” To inject a touch of glamour while maintaining the casual feel the homeowners wanted, the ottoman was upholstered in the same Italian leather as the sofa, and tufted like the chairs – only with Swarovski crystals instead of buttons.

The natural stone fireplace with its wood-burning hearth is the room’s undeniable focal point. “It’s just what the homeowners were looking for,” Mason says of the family room. “A cosy space for the family to relax, read or watch TV.”

The homeowners also wanted an inviting sitting area in the home’s entryway. Mason delivered by furnishing the area with a hard-backed, bench-style sofa, end tables and lamps. “It is meant to be where you sit and put your shoes on,” she says. Ever mindful that the devil is in the details, Mason designed the end of the sofa so that the tufting would tie in with the furniture in the family room. *Continued on page 34*



ABOVE: The grand family room is the most-used space in the home. **LEFT:** The oversized tripod light creates an interesting visual accent in a large space. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room is elegantly appointed for a family dinner.

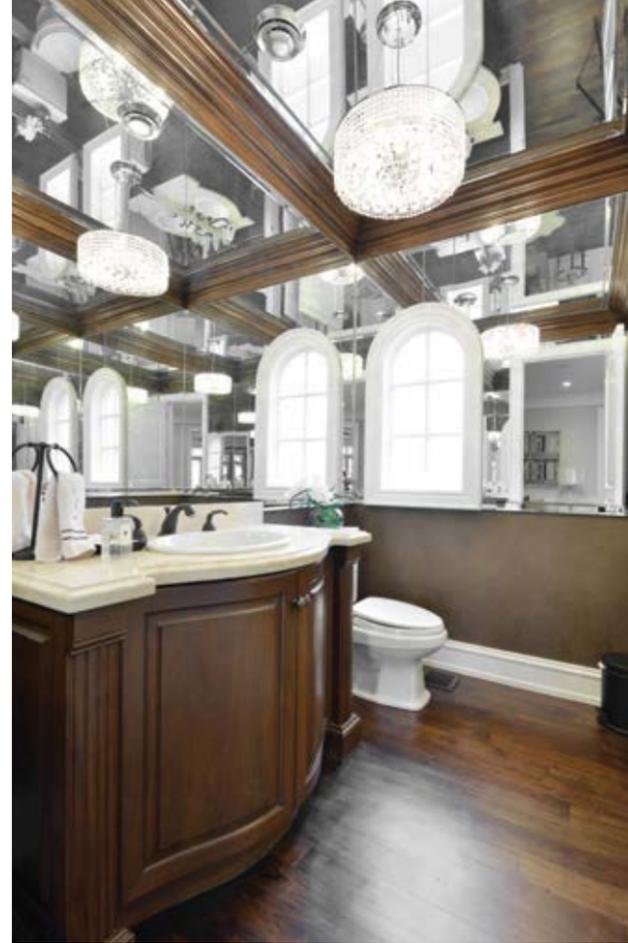
feature

She also created a stunning wall treatment with mirrors that are duplicated 10 times over to create impact and interest. The art on the wall facing the sofa is a series of vintage-inspired, architectural renderings of old mansions. To complete the new entryway, Mason outfitted the powder room with mirrored walls and ceilings that give it “elements of infinity.”

The dining room is papered in a graphite-coloured, glitter-embellished wall covering. The velvet window panels, another acacia-wood harvest table, and eight tufted, curvaceous, button-back, crushed velvet chairs strike the perfect balance between glamour and functionality.

At the end of the hall, the homeowners created a room they refer to as the parlour. It is a sitting area and a music room as well as an elegant gathering space. Dominated by a grand, hand-carved mantel, the room seemed to cry out for oversize and sophisticated furnishings. Mason chose matching sofas, a glass and chrome coffee table and a pair of

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LEFT: The reflective elements of the crystal light, working in concert with the mirrored ceiling give the relatively small powder room a sense of grand proportions. **BELOW:** The homeowners wanted the office to function as a more intimate TV area. Organic accents like a hide rug and root coffee table go with the wood panelling and beamed ceiling.



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floor lamps with shades crafted from chains. It is an element that is at once surprising and inspired and brings a touch of industrial chic into an otherwise sophisticated décor.

The renovation completed, the homeowners are now settling in to enjoy the results. "It was important to us to feel that our home was unique," says the homeowner. "Jodi made that happen. She's a problem solver and a great listener. My experience with her and her team has been one of comfort, ease and pleasure. I would recommend her to anyone." **OH**



LEFT TO RIGHT: To balance the home's neutral interior palette the pool and patio were done in fun, colourful colours. A series of five furniture groupings in different zones accommodates a variety of social situations.

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