

feature



# HOLLYWOOD *glamour*

BY NANCY BELGUE // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX WEDGE  
STAGING BY JODI MASON, URBAN HOME





Stepping into the foyer, you can almost hear the tinkling of crystal champagne glasses and the cool sounds of hot jazz. You might find yourself thinking you've wandered onto the set of an old Hollywood movie. As you walk across the polished "absolute black" granite tiles you might even wonder if Fred Astaire lives here.

This is exactly the feeling Joe and Alyse Presti set out to create when they built their home just outside of Windsor. "We wanted a home that had an Art Deco sensibility combined with a Humphrey Bogart flair," comments Joe. "We researched the Art Deco style for two years. Alyse always loved the old Hollywood era and the glamour exemplified by the deco homes in South Beach, Florida." *Continued on page 53*



**TOP:** The pillars that hold up the staircase are covered in curved, hand-cut marble tile from Plaza Ontario. **ABOVE:** The Presti family enjoys a family story hour. **RIGHT:** The shape of the hand made two-sided stone fireplace was inspired by the Sears Tower in Chicago. The oval cut-out builds on the theme of ovals that inspires the home's overall design. The mini Swarovski crystal chandelier is an unexpected touch of whimsy. **OPPOSITE:** The oversized paintings were commissioned from a variety of artists specifically to reflect the warmth and colours throughout the home.





Possibly the most glamorous kitchen OUR HOMES has ever seen, the opulent materials positively glitter. The butterscotch leather barstools on stainless steel frames provide a tailored counterpoint to the richness of the mahogany, granite and gold. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Gabriella and Anthony share some play time in Gabriella's pretty pink bedroom. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The home is all about old Hollywood and as an homage to the movie palaces of a bygone era, Joe built a home theatre complete with gold-leaf mouldings and burgundy velvet curtains with gold fringe.

To realize their vision, the couple settled on two themes common to Art Deco architecture. "It is a house of exotic woods and ovals," says Joe. "There isn't a right angle anywhere." Many other Deco trademarks are evident throughout the home: dramatic opulence, consummate craftsmanship and high glamour. It begins in the foyer where a chandelier floats overhead, like some kind of marvelous sea creature – its delicate stainless steel tendrils studded by tiny lights.

Beyond the foyer, a floating three-story staircase crafted from over one ton of stainless steel and trimmed with exotic African Sapele wood dominates the 4,800 sq. ft. open-concept main floor. "The types of woods found throughout the home are the types of wood used in the dashboards of Rolls Royces," says Joe.

To the right of the foyer on a raised floor of Sicilian marble (**Plaza Ontario**), the dining room table shimmers with fine Versace china. The chocolate and cream damask wallpaper is imported from England and, literally, sets the stage for the quiet earth tones that create the perfect backdrop for the richness of the home's building materials, custom designed furniture and Swarovski crystal-studded chandeliers and window treatments.

The black and brown granite kitchen backsplash, gilded with 18 karat white gold leaf tiles, shimmers under the 375 pot lights that sweep across the ceiling like a constellation. Above the curved island, three cognac-coloured Swarovski crystal pendants showcase the exquisite grain in the Philippine mahogany. The professional stainless steel appliances (**The Lighting Boutique and Appliance Shoppe**) allow Joe to indulge his passion for cooking (as does the indoor greenhouse in which he grows figs, lemons, bananas and basil). *Continued on page 54*





The king size bed is built onto a raised platform. The frame is crafted from African Sapele wood and the headboard is upholstered Ultrasuede. **TOP LEFT:** The master bathroom repeats the curves evident everywhere in the home. The oval Jacuzzi tub is inset in a marble slab encased in curved, bird's eye maple. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The walk-in dressing room features two walls of custom closets and an Ultrasuede upholstered bench. The closet doors are made of frosted glass with hand made brushed stainless steel pulls.



The home's north wall comprises two rows of custom fiberglass windows (**D&M Glass & Mirror**), creating a beautiful spill of natural light into the family living area. Elegantly furnished in Italian inspired, contemporary design, the room is, nevertheless, family friendly with its Ultrasuede upholstery and taupe palette accessorized with pops of eggplant and cream. The family room is divided from the more formal living room by a two-sided, two-storey gas fireplace. The living room is an elegant blend of silk, six-foot, polished chrome table lamps and Swarovski crystal-encrusted draperies.

With their dream fulfilled, the couple is looking forward to manifesting their next project. "I love the idea stage," says Joe, "and every artist has to do another painting." When asked how he could possibly outdo himself, Joe is full of ideas. "I'd like to build a home with an elevator to the roof with a swimming pool and a rooftop garden," he says. "I like to push the envelope." **OH**

# Bay View

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