

Toronto HOME

DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE

THE SPRING ISSUE

FIT FOR A PRINCESS

Lottery prize features impeccable design for a good cause

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

Designer mom always has family in mind

DOWN-HOME MODERN

Wright's Prairie House style updated for comfort

CELEBRITY GARDNER

Why Kathy Ireland gets her hands dirty





BUILDER MOM DOES IT ALL

When it comes to family-oriented design, she knows best

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DESIGN
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IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THIS HOMEOWNER'S favourite accent colour is red. When entering this contemporary home's two-storey foyer, you immediately stare upward to the sparkling Murano lighting fixture with its mix of clear and bold red pieces.

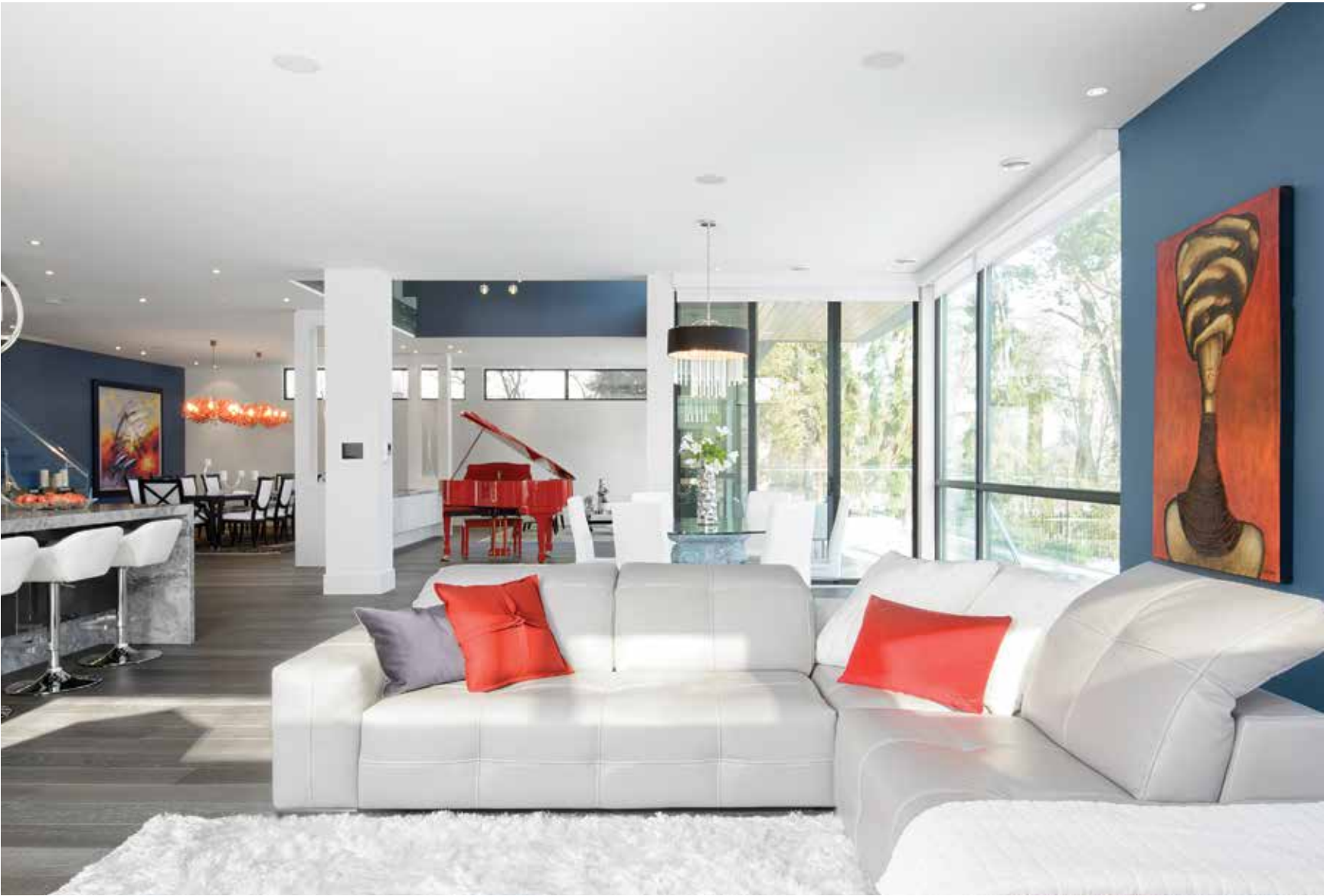
Constructed and designed by Rose Barroso of Barroso Homes, in collaboration with her architect Ali Malek-Zadeh from Urbanscape Group, this state-of-the-art house in the King-sway neighbourhood serves two purposes—as

a showcase of her skills as a builder and designer, as well as a home for her family of four.

Wearing many hats—from builder to mom—Rose built a home with details to make her family's life easier as well as luxe amenities of stylish living in the 21st century.

"I think of myself living in every home I build, and about my kids' lives and how a family uses their home," said Rose, explaining her building philosophy for the dwelling she calls Art House7. 

Natural light floods into the main floor entry and great room, highlighting the contemporary furnishings and the home's sleek lines.



Repeated finishes, such as the natural stone, link the sitting area to the spacious kitchen which provides a place for cooking and socializing with kids, family and friends.

The main floor is the heart of the home—a spacious open plan that is the daily meeting place for the family. The foyer leads to a staircase connecting the three levels and garage access, as well as a powder room, walk-in closet and entry into Rose’s office.

Built-in shelving showcases her collection of Buddha statues, books and family photos with an oversized glass desk that she designed. It’s a light-filled room overlooking the street, perfect to tackle work details and to host client meetings.

Floor-to-ceiling glass walls border much of the main floor, with a formal dining area, access to the back deck and yard, family dining area, TV area and an expansive kitchen. A dark wood table that seats 10, a mirrored sideboard and a pair of Lumin Center Italia Coral light fixtures in red dominate the dining room. The nearby seating area features a pair of white leather chairs and a black leather settee. Traditional silk Persian rugs underscore both areas. They feel so good underfoot, it’s like “getting a spa treatment,” Rose said.

The east side of the main floor is divided by a row of storage cabinets between pillars, a perfect spot to keep toys, games and school supplies as well as three bio-ethanol-fueled fire accents on top, which add sparkle when entertaining. But it’s the Ferrari-red Knabe piano that is an attention-getter. A lucky find at Robert Lowrey Piano Experts, the piano had been brought in on special order but the buyer ultimately decided not to purchase it. Rose claimed it immediately, not just to be showcased in her home, but as a tool for her child’s burgeoning musical skills.





The spacious master suite, with its view of the treetops, provides plenty of storage for the couple's essentials as well as a restful and romantic escape after a busy day.



A circular cement pedestal table, glass-topped, which seats six, is used for daily meals. The adjacent media area with an 80-inch Sharp flatscreen TV and Natuzzi leather couch is the hangout space, while the Barroso-designed kitchen is the link between the two areas. A 19-foot natural stone island with storage along the interior is bordered by a set of six bar stools. All the appliances are Gaggenau, German-made, from the espresso coffee bar to the gas cooktop with side steamer and Teppanyaki grill, and surrounded by eco-friendly Polygloss cabinetry produced by the German company Neimann and constructed by Perola Kitchens in Toronto.

Rose's design cues throughout the house can be seen in the use of stainless steel, natural stone, contemporary light fixtures, reflective surfaces, geometric shapes, wide baseboards, custom doors and the repetition of materials and styles.

The grey-brown wood-plank flooring is always warm thanks to radiant heated floors throughout the house, and it complements the wood and leather furniture. But don't think everything in the house is new. Several pieces have been moved from previous homes or reinvented in this house, like the formal dining table with a newly created natural stone leaf.

Technology embraced makes this home "smart" thanks to a CONTROL4, a centralized system controlled through embedded iPads on the main floor and upstairs. Premier Smart Homes programmed the security system, surveillance cameras, televisions, sound system, HVAC, window coverings, indoor and exterior lighting, music and even the piano— all can be accessed and adjusted with a swipe of a finger, on site or remotely.

The upstairs is the more intimate family zone—bedrooms for each child with ensuite bathrooms, a laundry room, spacious gym and airy master suite. Four hundred square feet is dedicated to a walk-in closet. A central wall is painted in Benjamin Moore's Million Dollar Red. 

*“I think of myself living in every home I build,
and about my kids’ lives and how a family
uses their home.”*



The expansive platform bed with tufted headboard is built-in and offers a restful view of the tall trees bordering the backyard, while the spacious his-and-hers bathroom has a Maax bathtub, two sinks, a LED-lit shower stall and a mix of glass and ceramic tiles, another hallmark of Rose's style. The master suite has direct access to an outdoor deck, which overlooks the swimming pool and backyard lounge areas.

The lower level is multipurpose—a playroom for the kids, office space for the husband, guest

room with ensuite bathroom, a large spa bathroom with steam room and separate dry sauna, mud room, and a vintage Brunswick snooker table refurnished with red felt imported from the U.K. Despite its moniker as the basement, the numerous windows facing the backyard make it feel like you're on ground level.

Another long island is topped with Caesarstone, with storage, small bar fridge, sink and dishwasher underneath. It flanks a 24-foot glass wall behind which are Vintages racks holding a

685-bottle wine cellar. Rose created it, sourcing the accessories separately to create the custom temperature-controlled area, which may be unconventional in design but is easily accessible and protects the family's collection.

The house may feature state-of-the-art design and technology, but it's the small details that make it a Barroso family home. ➤

A bold pink wall is softened by the daughter's favourite things: white butterflies, a sparkly chandelier, quilted linens and the essential stuffed animals.





“DO IT YOURSELF” generally evokes the image of a household handyman (or woman) fixing things up as best they can after a visit to the reno centre. But as we show in this issue of Toronto Home—Spring, the fixer-upper season—there is a higher order of doing your own thing.

Four of the houses we’re featuring have been repurposed or built by their owners, all of whom are top-end designers. Each had a different vision, but the end result in all instances has been a show-stopper home.

Take, for example, Rose Barroso of Barroso Homes. As a mother, uppermost in her mind was to create a home that would be a maximally comfortable place for a growing family to inhabit. “I think of myself living in every home I build,” said Rose, “and about my kids’ lives and how a family uses their home.”

For David Small of David Small Designs, an appreciation of Modern design led him to update the iconic look with his own flourishes, making his Mississauga home more liveable and loveable than is found in this sometimes-austere style. “Since my home was completed, we have taken on many projects where people say they don’t want just any Modern house, they want my Modern house,” said David.

Lindsey and Gerry Anacleto’s design for their Etobicoke home also riffs on the idea of updating Modern. In this house, their thought was to mix the high-art appeal of Modern with quirky touches of their own, including items they found on the street.

Meanwhile, Irene Gankevitch was inspired by the natural setting of her home in the Mineola West area of Mississauga. She wanted “to combine three styles—traditional, contemporary and some rustic elements—in creating a serene environment.” As you can see in an article we are calling Home, Cottage, Castle, she has succeeded.

Speaking of castle-like homes, in a bit of a departure for the magazine, we’re taking a look at the grand prize in the Princess Margaret Home Lottery. Usually we wait until homes are occupied to review them, but in this instance, writing about the Vaughan house was irresistible because of its impeccable styling and the worthy cause it serves.

Finally, we’d like to introduce two new faces to the magazine, contributor Margaret Fehr, and Debbie Travis, who will be providing a guest column called Debbie Travis Travels, which as the name suggests discusses interesting places the celebrated designer has visited.

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