

A NATURAL beauty

BY LISA MACCOLL
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG
 STYLED BY ALISON HABERMEHL

“We drew the plans for this house on a piece of paper. We wouldn't change a thing.”

Jen and Perry had a specific vision for their Laurelwood home. With their builder, **Dave Wilton**, they took their plans to home designer **John DeVos of DeVos Design & Drafting** to ensure it met building code requirements. “We didn't know about the width of hallways or stairwells and John brought our vision to life. By designing it ourselves, we could include details like separate walk-in closets or a storage area for my extra dishes. We had a good idea about what we couldn't live without,” says Jen.

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EXTERIOR PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONARCH LANDSCAPE



TOP LEFT: The home's beautiful backyard seating area was created by Monarch Landscape. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Solid stairs flanked by large planters connect the upper and lower levels of the yard. **LEFT:** The home's bright kitchen is both inviting and functional. **ABOVE:** A large dining room, just off the kitchen, is ideal for family gatherings and formal meals. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Inside the front door, the homeowners have created a gallery wall with photos of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, some of which they collected from other family members. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The floor pattern in the parlour is repeated in the dining room and great room, all on the main level.



Built by **Wilton Custom Homes Ltd.**, the house backs onto Laurel Creek Conservation Area and overlooks a pond and woodlot. **Monarch Landscape** took care of all the landscaping, which includes privacy features such as a curtain that can be pulled across the lower-level seating area. Stone walls and wooden lattice panels child-proof the space. The property features a two level deck and patio, including a built-in stone “man-becue” accessed from the kitchen door. “Monarch was great to work with. They listened and created a space that fit our needs,” says Jen.

Panagos & Van Flooring provided and installed all the flooring. The main floor hallway, kitchen, sunroom and bathrooms are finished in travertine. The great room, living room, dining room, hallway and office feature Lauzon hardwood floors with a contrasting inlay. The inlay and flooring colour in the living room and the great room are reversed to add visual interest. The pattern of the inlay is also mimicked in the tile mosaic backsplash in the kitchen above the stove. The kitchen features granite countertops, cabinetry by **Olympia Cabinets K-W Corp.** and French doors that open right onto the upper deck.



Soft and comfortable décor in the master bedroom creates a warm, calming space. **TOP LEFT:** The bird and butterfly patterned wallpaper between the master bedroom and bath is a favourite feature for both Jen and Alison. **BELOW LEFT:** The landing at the top of the stairs is open and airy with built-in shelving and a reading nook.

Alison Habermehl from **hd Style Studio** helped the homeowners find just the right item to hang above the fireplace in the great room, a wrought iron piece from **Artefacts Salvage & Design** in St. Jacobs set between wood shutters. **ABOVE LEFT:** Jen, the homeowner, sits down with Alison for a visit in the conservatory. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Every piece of art and décor was carefully hand-picked by Alison and Jen to complete each and every space.



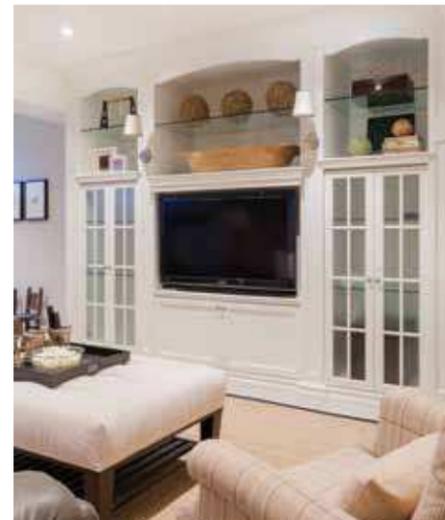
Once the structural details were tailored and in place, Jen and Perry were ready to translate the individual rooms into an extension of their style, ready to make it their home. They hired interior decorator **Alison Habermehl** from **hd Style Studio** to create a space that met the needs of the couple and their young children. “We balanced child-friendly spaces with a space they could entertain in,” says Habermehl. “We also wanted to showcase their curated collectibles and art collection.” They created different zones and made use of built-in shelves and display units.

The great room is one of the most-used spaces in the home. It features a two-storey vaulted ceiling, skylights and a striking fireplace topped by shutters and a wrought-iron decoration custom made for the space by **Artefacts Salvage & Design**. **hd Style Studio** designed a tufted ottoman with storage for the kids’ toys and books. Some of the couple’s artwork, including an abstract painting by family friend Patrick Bugeja and a painting by Charles Sucsan, decorates the walls.

From the great room, three sets of French doors open onto the adjoining sunroom. The doors can be opened to add space for parties or to provide air flow in the summer. “The great room was more of a challenge than I expected,” says Jen. “**Riley Painting Corp.** did a fabulous job, but I would get a phone call and have to decide how far up the wall I wanted the main colour to be in the great room while people stood on a scaffold waiting for me to decide. The perfect accent for the fireplace took time, but was worth the wait.” *Continued on page 40*

feature

BELOW: The guest bedroom (inspired by Jen's blue and white dishes) in the lower level gives visitors their own space. **RIGHT:** Jen can create beautiful things in a beautiful room, thanks to her specially-designed craft area. **BOTTOM:** The lower level living space is designed for adults and kids alike. A children's play space off to one side balances out the stylish "play" area for adults.



Jen admits the chaise in the sunroom is her favorite place to sit and read. It looks out on Laurel Creek Conservation Area, and it is a serene and inviting space. The chairs and chaise were specially designed and provided an inspiring starting point for the seating areas outside on the patio.

Personal touches reflect Jen and Perry's practical attention to detail. A sitting area at the top of the stairs has a good reading light and a basket of books so that Jen can sit and read while her kids drift off to sleep.

Jen has her own space in the lower level, too. At the bottom of the stairs, she has a cosy, functional craft room. Around the corner, her collection of blue and white antiques inspired the décor for the spare bedroom. It features an antique white wrought iron bed. Custom made shelves by Artefacts Salvage & Design display Jen's antique blue-ware plate collection. "We started out needing a place to showcase my plates, and ended up with a room that is fresh and inviting," says Jen.

The main space includes a play area for kids and comfortable chairs for adults. The chairs and games table by the fireplace are from **Cornerstone Home Interiors**. The built-in shelves on either side were designed by hd Style Studio and created by **Mike Bebenek Carpentry**. On an opposing wall is a set of framed bird prints that Alison says took a great deal of time to choose. "Jen and I chose each picture individually, and considered things like what direction each bird was looking so that each print worked perfectly with all the others."

Alison describes the home as intimate. "Everything in the home has been personally chosen," she says. "The collections are curated and every detail has been carefully thought out."

Jen calls it a classic country home with modern touches. "At the end of the day, it's our home and we wanted to be comfortable living here and I wouldn't change a thing." **OH**

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