

MAKING MERRY

STORY ANNETTE MCLEOD
PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANIE BROWN



Subdued Kelstef sofas provide a backdrop for stunning cushions that are the jewelry of the living room. **TOP:** Designer Kate Turtle of Endless Ideas made the homeowner's first professional design experience one she'll always treasure. **ABOVE:** Great accessories can come from anywhere – a Crystal Head vodka bottle is an unexpected touch that goes perfectly with other transparent details in the space.

For one north Whitby homeowner, what started out as a scary prospect has resulted in cherished memories of working with a professional designer for the first time, and a comfy home big enough for everyone. “When I come downstairs, I still get butterflies,” says the happy homeowner, but the process of getting here is still fresh in her mind.

While she says she was happy in her previous, much smaller home, her husband had other ideas. “He is six-foot-three, so maybe I can understand why he felt a little cramped, and yes, we couldn’t be in our en suite without elbowing each other or have more than two other people over for the Super Bowl. Perhaps our furniture hadn’t been updated in over a decade and maybe our basement ceiling wasn’t much higher than he is,” she says with a smile. Although they looked at many homes, it wasn’t until she saw this one that she started to embrace the move.

“We knew when we walked in. My husband walked around with his arms out as if to show me, ‘Look, I can move around in here with the wingspan of an eagle and hit nothing!’”

“Grey, grey and more soft greys on the walls with comfy couches and layered with more grey was all I could imagine,” she says of the vision that started to take hold.

With a wealth of new rooms to fill and very little furniture, the couple turned to Brooklin designer **Kate Turtle** of **Endless Ideas**. “I was excited and nauseous at the same time,” the homeowner says. “I called Endless Ideas because I truly needed endless ideas!”

She says she knew when Kate visited their old home that they’d get along famously, and had similar taste. “Kate understood exactly what I was looking for,” the homeowner says. “She’s a mom, a wife, and she understood all the necessities of family, but at the same time, she’s stylish, hip and fabulous. I knew she would know how to marry functional with spectacular.”

Because the home is so open, the dining room, living and great room needed a cohesive look, and the soft grey in the homeowner’s imagination was the ideal place to start.

The mix of cool and warm greys helps provide visual interest – cool paint throughout the space, with a warmer tone for the furniture. “Although the colour connects the living and great rooms, we had fun with patterns and textures,” Kate says. Dark touches are a smart way to add some punch while keeping the space neutral. “They’re something to draw your eye around a room,” she says, pointing out the same draperies used in the living and great rooms. “We bounced the fabrics back and forth, which helps create balance.”

In the living room, the wall colour is carried up onto the ceiling, then to the tray detailing craftily painted white to draw the eye up.

Kate used some of the homeowner’s existing furniture, but gave it an entirely new look, like the wing chair in the living room that was originally plaid. Kate’s love of things “organic and leafy” helped decide the plant motif throughout, another small touch that, when creatively sprinkled throughout the space, helps it feel cohesive. Her eye for fine details is apparent on the nailheads of the living room sofas. “And the cushions are the jewelry of the space,” Kate says. Luxurious touches like the embroidery on those in the living room, and the bead detailing on the great room’s velvet ones, elevate their design.



In the living room, draperies made with dark fabric draw the eye to the windows, so the television is a less prominent element.

The great room was of primary importance to the homeowner. “I told her it was where everything was going to happen,” the homeowner says. “It would be the room the three of us would flop in. Literally. I said it had to be cosy, a touch masculine and a place

where the three of us could converge and watch Shomi, eat popcorn, entertain, dance, have parties and nap. This was the hub.”

With its smart layout, fireplace focal point, and perfectly executed dark details, the television virtually disappears. “If you put

light drapery in there, the TV would really stand out,” Kate says.

Kate says she liked the antique-mirror-topped table so much, she drew inspiration from it when choosing the other accessories, a mix of items that keeps the neutrality of the

palette but brings a touch of whimsy, like the giant jacks on one sofa table. Because of the openness of the space, clutter control was top of mind, too, so the table features deep storage.

One of the most striking items in the entire space is the dining room light fixture.

Continued on page 34



Kate says because the house was so well-lit naturally, the fixtures themselves became sculpture. “If you’re looking at the wing chair, you can see through the pass right into the dining room, so you get this really nice piece of art to look at.”

The marriage of practicality and beauty were always on their minds. “They wanted something comfortable to sit on for hours,” says Kate of the upholstered dining

room chairs. “These are also extremely high-wearing.”
 “I love every fabric, every finial, every throw pillow – everything!” the homeowner says. “I trusted Kate through the whole process. She gave me the home I never thought I’d have and that my husband says he always knew he wanted. Every free weekend now is an opportunity to invite a slew of friends over to eat, drink, be merry and enjoy this space.” **OH**



TOP LEFT: A striking Robert Abbey chandelier over the dining room table becomes a work of art, as it should be, because the open floorplan makes it visible from the living room and great room. **TOP RIGHT:** Designer Kate Turtle used reflective elements to keep the grey-painted space neutral but still give some visual interest. **ABOVE:** A variety of patterns including organic, leafy shapes and geometrics like this one work well in this open-concept space because the colours are kept consistent.

Royal Windows & Doors

- Free in-home estimates
- Serving the Durham Region area for 18 years
- Canadian made products
- Financing available



We have moved! Come visit our expanded showroom:
 1380 Hopkins Street (Entrance from Industrial Drive)
 Unit 2A . Whitby 905.427.1877 | 905.720.1818



www.royalwindowsanddoors.ca

Advertise in
 our **Spring
 Issue** & get
 noticed!



Give **YOUR BUSINESS** the benefit of
 premium exposure to our
 extensive targeted readership!

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES & SALES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jamie Jefferson • 705.730.3827
jamie.jefferson@ourhomes.ca

Annette McLeod • 647.330.3634
annette.mcleod@ourhomes.ca



Branching Out
 for all your holiday needs
Voted Port Perry's Best Florist

Cannington 14 Cameron St. E. 705 432-3340	Port Perry 158 Water St. 905 985-3033
---	---

branchingoutflorists.com