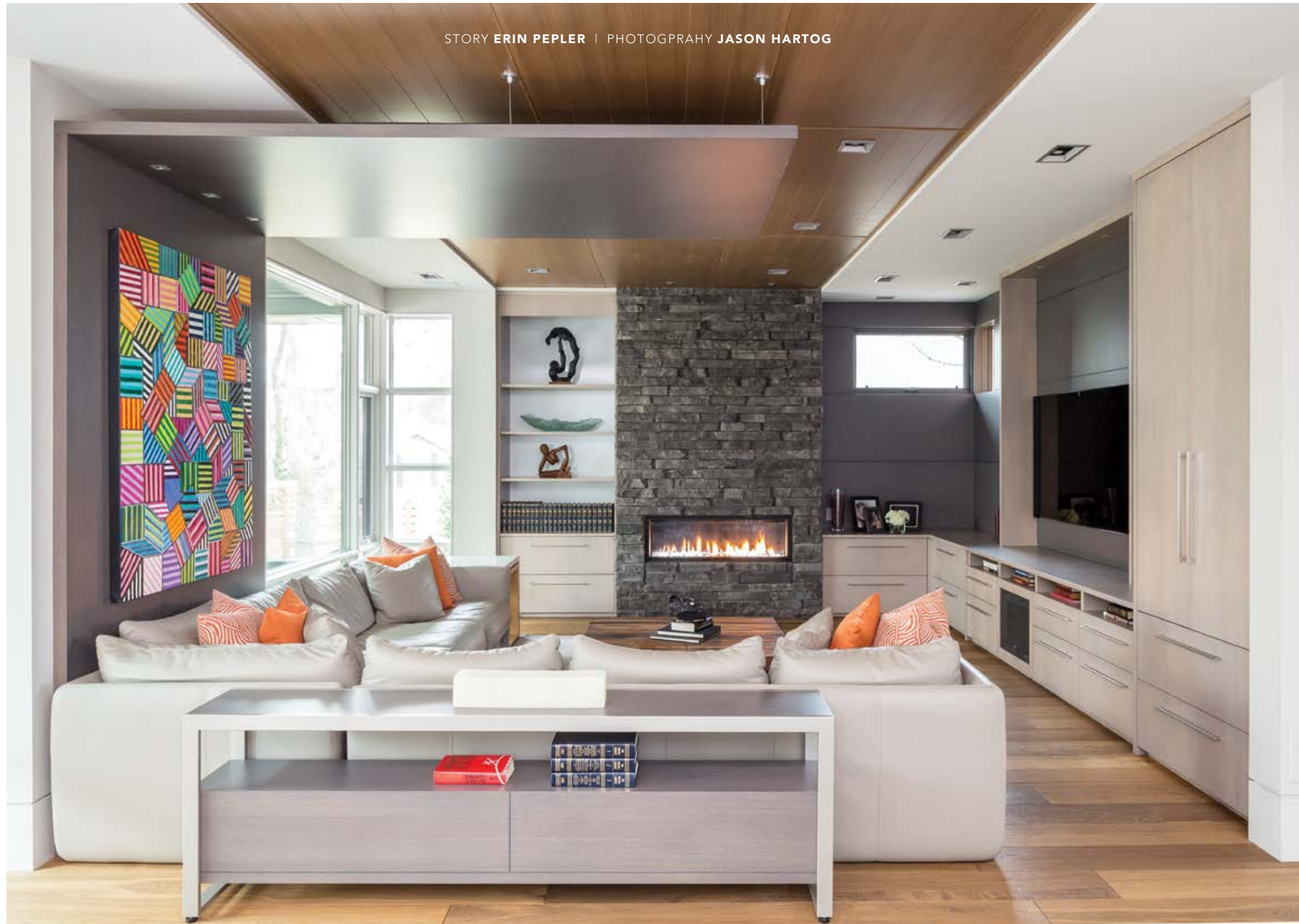


MODERN FAMILY



PHOTO: SARAH EYBEL

STORY ERIN PEPLER | PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



It's not easy to stand out in a neighbourhood as beautiful as Aldershot South, where dozens of gorgeous homes sit along winding, tree-lined streets. From historic Indian Point to North Shore Boulevard and LaSalle Park, the area is home to a spectacular array of heritage homes, charming mid-century bungalows and stately new builds. Minutes from the amenities in downtown Burlington and close to the lake, it's one of the most attractive neighbourhoods in the city.

Tucked on a quiet street just blocks from the prestigious Burlington Golf and Country Club, the Mattina house is a spectacular feat of design. Cars regularly slow down to take in the contemporary, linear façade of black granite with integrated wood and glass elements. Designed by **Darren Sanger-Smith** of **Structured Creations** and constructed by custom home builder Vince DiPietro of Angelica Homes, the property is different from anything else in the area. It's exactly what homeowners Joe and Andrea Mattina envisioned. *Continued on page 23*



TOP LEFT: The addition of stone and wood softens the clean lines of the exterior. **LEFT:** The family room is made warm with a wood ceiling, stone fireplace and a cosy sofa. **TOP RIGHT:** Stone-clad walls create a spectacular welcome in the two-storey entry way. **ABOVE:** Darren Sanger-Smith of Structured Creations brought the homeowners' modern vision to life.

feature

RIGHT: The fresh white kitchen sparkles with quartz counters and glittery pendants. **BELOW:** The integrated wine cabinet is a striking feature. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The wood and stone continue in the backyard, creating a cohesiveness indoors and out. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The sleek mudroom incorporates innovative cabinetry and a coat rack as art. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room is a glamorous backdrop for entertaining.



PHOTO: SARAH EYBEL



A stone walkway allows guests to admire the impressive exterior before reaching the main entrance. A neat, understated garden by Parkside Landscaping blends seamlessly with the home's forest-like surroundings.

The design evokes aspects of West Coast style and the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. "It's hard to categorize, and I don't think you have to. I want the home to speak for itself," explains Sanger-Smith. "There are Frank Lloyd Wright influences in the large overhangs. It's linear and has a very intentional centre line that flows from the exterior through to inside the home. There is intentional division and placement everywhere, but we've made a point to keep it warm with wood tones that contrast with the dark stone."

While the house is remarkable aesthetically, it's also functional. With two young children at home and a previous custom build under her belt, Andrea knew exactly what was needed to make contemporary design work for a young family. She and Joe worked closely with Sanger-Smith and their interior designer, **Tara Jarvis of Tara Lee Designs**, to ensure the house was tailored to their needs with subtle, style-conscious conveniences. "Andrea and Joe were very specific about the functionality of each space and how they would use it," Tara shares. While the visual impact of each room is impossible to ignore, there is often more than meets the eye. A dedicated space to hang children's coats and sports equipment doubles as wall art, and built-in drying racks quickly appear and disappear into the wall.

A spacious mudroom flows into a laundry room located behind the kitchen. A walk-in pantry is accessible from a servery tucked between the kitchen and dining room – another example of function masterfully hidden from sightlines. Off the laundry room, a two-piece bathroom provides access to the resort-like backyard, which features a pool, ravine views and an expansive outdoor kitchen. "We live outside in the summer," Andrea explains. "The kids can run into the bathroom without going through the house."

Inside, the principal rooms are open plan with warm-wood ceilings. The space flows effortlessly, and lends well to both entertaining and family life. **Automated Media Solutions** integrated everything from lighting to music. Built-in televisions and hidden speakers preserve the home's minimalist aesthetic, and everything is



controllable with Apple devices.

Large, brightly-coloured abstract paintings are displayed throughout the home, along with complementary wood and glass art pieces handed down from Andrea's parents. A gas fireplace with a natural stone surround adds comfort to the family room. "We wanted the

house to be modern, but cosy, not bare. We love contemporary design, but it couldn't be cold and stark." Andrea notes that they were deliberate in their use of a warm, almost rustic, wide-plank hardwood throughout. "We were careful not to use too much tile. It would have changed the entire feel of the home." *Continued on page 24*



The clean, bright kitchen was constructed by Multiflex Custom Cabinet and Millwork Solutions, and features a full range of luxe appliances. Contemporary chandeliers add sparkle over the island. A quartz-topped island overlooks the family room, allowing Andrea to spend time with her children while she cooks. A beautifully integrated 45-bottle glass wine cabinet is a favourite with guests. "Wine is for drinking," Andrea laughs, noting that they weren't interested in a traditional wine cellar. "We aren't collecting; we're entertaining friends and enjoying it."

In addition to the kitchen cabinetry, an extensive amount of millwork and custom

furniture was provided by Multiflex, which created everything from the dining-room table to built-in beds, closets, interior doors and vanities. Décor accents throughout the home include custom textiles by **Girgenti**. The home's centrepiece is a spectacular floating staircase flanked by Owen Sound black granite feature walls. It leads to an interior balcony overlooking the front foyer where four geometric lights make a statement. "A photo of a staircase in this style was the first thing we showed Darren," Andrea says. "It really inspired the whole home."

Andrea is more than satisfied with the final product, and quick to compliment everyone involved. "Everyone was amazing to work with

and passionate about the project." Looking around, she feels that the design accurately represents both her wishes and her husband's. "It's a true reflection of who we are," she says. "The house is exactly what we both wanted. It's practical and beautiful." Is this their forever home? "We haven't decided yet, but for now, we are definitely enjoying it." **OH**

TOP: The exquisite design and contemporary furnishings give the master retreat a luxe hotel feel. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Built-ins are complemented with pretty pink accents that are easily interchangeable as a little girl grows. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The use of blue is a masculine yet understated addition to a little boy's room.



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