



The sunken patio surrounding the pool gives the backyard a variety of levels and seating areas from which to enjoy the stunning views of Lake St. Clair. Both the landscaping and hardscaping were done by Landscape Effects. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Bob and Jenn Boughner. **MIDDLE:** Stylish stripes and colourful geometric cushions add flare to a summer afternoon. Jodi Mason of Urban Home supplied the outdoor accessories and was on hand to style the home the day of our shoot. **BOTTOM:** The Boughners love to entertain outdoors during the summer months.

MEANT TO BE

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Some things really are meant to be and the story of how Bob and Jenn Boughner found their home is a perfect example of one of those serendipitous moments. Two years ago, just as the Boughners were preparing to build a new home on a lot they had purchased, friends introduced them to a couple who wanted to buy the very home the Boughners wanted to sell. As if that wasn't convenient enough, the prospective buyers were living in the exact home the Boughners had dreamed about building.

"It was amazing," Jenn Boughner says as she pulls out clippings from her "dream file." "The photographs I'd been tearing out of magazines looked exactly like the rooms in this house." Indeed, the old-world inspired, stone home the Boughners acquired is uncannily like the house Jenn had imagined. Jenn toured the house first. Then Bob, who was working for the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets and was in Sweden for a week coaching at the time, did a walk-through when he returned home on Thanksgiving weekend 2010. Jenn says, "I had a feeling this was the house for us. It had everything I wanted and would have been almost impossible to reproduce." *Continued on page 22*





"It didn't take me long to know this home was perfect for our family," Bob agrees. "It took a few days, but we worked out a deal to "swap" houses and here we are."

Here we are, indeed. Although the home is grand, the sense that a real family lives here is the overriding impression. The scent of freshly baked muffins fills the air. Emma, 13, works on a school project at the granite island in the kitchen. Lola, 10, is busy completing a jig-saw puzzle on the dining room table, and Jenn shows us samples from her supremely tempting business venture, Dip Stix – pretzel sticks coated in a variety of delicious and creative toppings. Introduced publicly at a recent charity event, the Stix were so well received that Jenn, who had been making them just for family and friends, began getting orders from local businesses and from companies as far away as Toronto. "It's exciting," she says about the success of her entrepreneurial adventure. *Continued on page 24*



The kitchen features lighting from the Lighting Boutique and Appliance Shoppe, a beautiful granite island from Palazzi and cabinetry from Windmill Cabinet Shop. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Jenn Boughner's custom gourmet pretzel arrangements, Dip Stix, have met with great success. Order some at jeboughner@yahoo.ca **TOP RIGHT:** The home is grand yet warm and welcoming. **BOTTOM:** The views from the family room's floor-to-ceiling windows are gorgeous. The area rug is from Palazzi Bros.

feature



LEFT: The indoor lap pool features a resistance current so swimmers get a good workout. **BELOW:** A sitting area in the basement family room features a selection of Bob Boughner's retired jerseys. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The downstairs bar is perfect for the many gatherings the Boughners host. The dramatic black granite is from Palazzi Bros. The basement was built by Dave Kolody of Kolody Custom Homes. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Just outside the basement family room's sliding glass doors is the grand entry - a perfectly appointed seating area. "The bright yellow cushions look warm and summery against the natural stone," comments Jodi Mason. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The four Boughner children enjoy a friendly game of cards.

Situated on the water, the three-storey, 12,000 sq. ft. home gives the impression it has been there forever. Its classic façade, graceful gothic-arched windows, stained glass, wood-burning fireplaces and hand-cut, natural-stone walls give it a sense of grandeur and permanence that is rarely seen in new homes.

The entryway leads into an expansive living room where a soaring, limestone mantel dominates a space framed by banks of floor-to-ceiling windows. The room is flooded with natural light and the view onto a sunken pool, a sandy beach and Lake St. Clair is beyond magnificent. A wrought-iron railing festooned with white lights leads to the grand entry and sunken courtyard off the basement family room.

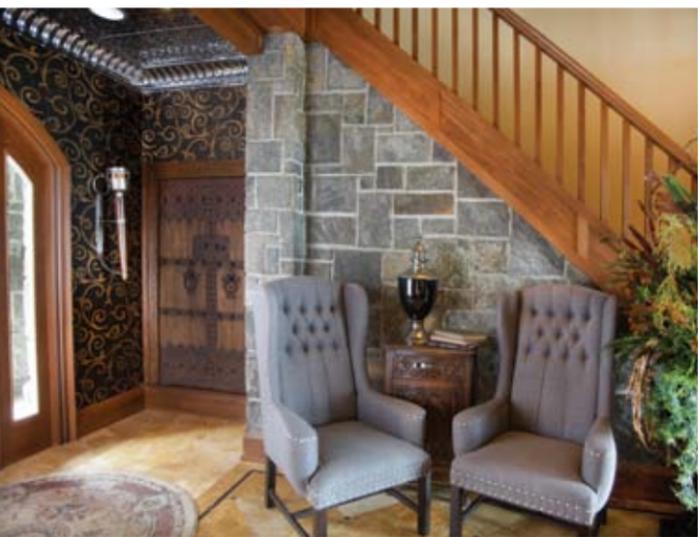


The downstairs family room started life as Bob's man cave but soon became a hang-out for the Boughner children, particularly Brady, 16 and Molly, 15 who regularly use it to host parties for their friends. It features a wood-burning fireplace and a wet bar with a granite island and leather bar stools. One corner, featuring Bob's retired hockey jerseys and other memorabilia, is a salute to his action-packed career in the NHL. On the other side of the bar, a hall, again with a selection of jerseys representing the many teams Boughner played for, leads to an indoor lap pool. Tucked behind the floor-to-ceiling fireplace is an exercise area, change room and sauna. *Continued on page 26*



feature

RIGHT: The dining room, with its arched windows, dramatic coved ceiling and herringbone patterned floor sets the tone for the manor-like feeling of the entire home. **BELOW:** The hallway is cathedral-like with its succession of gothic arches, stone details and recessed display nooks. **BOTTOM:** This casual seating area is reminiscent of a grand English country home.



On the main floor, the kitchen is equipped for the professional-level cook that Jenn is fast becoming. The kitchen truly seems to be the heart of the home for this down-to-earth family. The eat-in area leads to a covered patio, another wood-burning fireplace and the pool area.

The dining room, which is off the foyer, is reminiscent of life in *Downton Abbey*. Another grand fireplace sets off the room and a medieval tapestry hangs on the wall opposite a bank of arched windows.

Cathedral-style arches are a large part of the home's charm. The long hallway, which separates the living room and kitchen from the foyer and dining room, is constructed with a series of arches set off by recessed, wooden display areas, and stone columns. The exterior and interior stone is identical, marrying the outdoor grandeur with interior architectural detailing.

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RIGHT: The Boughner daughters have recently completed a redecoration of their bedrooms. Purple is Lola's favourite colour. **BELOW:** Green and airy with a shabby chic elegance is Molly's style. **BOTTOM:** Dramatic red with French accents like a Toile de Jouy upholstered love seat suits Emma to a T.



Indeed, the architectural details throughout are incredible. From the coffered ceilings, to the domed stained glass window above the foyer, to the herringbone parquet wood floor in the dining room, there is a sense of stepping back to a time when craftsmanship was paramount.

It's clear that for Bob, who is well-known in the community as an owner, President and Head Coach of the Windsor Spitfires, as well as for his philanthropy, family life is a true joy. "I grew up on the east side," he says. "My parents still live there. Family is everything."

"We used to walk around this neighbourhood and we always noticed this house," Jenn says. "And now, when I set the table in the dining room for a family gathering, I have a sense of déjà vu. I love looking inside when the lights are on and seeing everyone gathered around the table. It feels like it was meant to be."

I think it's safe to say, that for the Boughners – the day Jenn started her "wish book" – the stars were definitely aligned. **OH**



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