



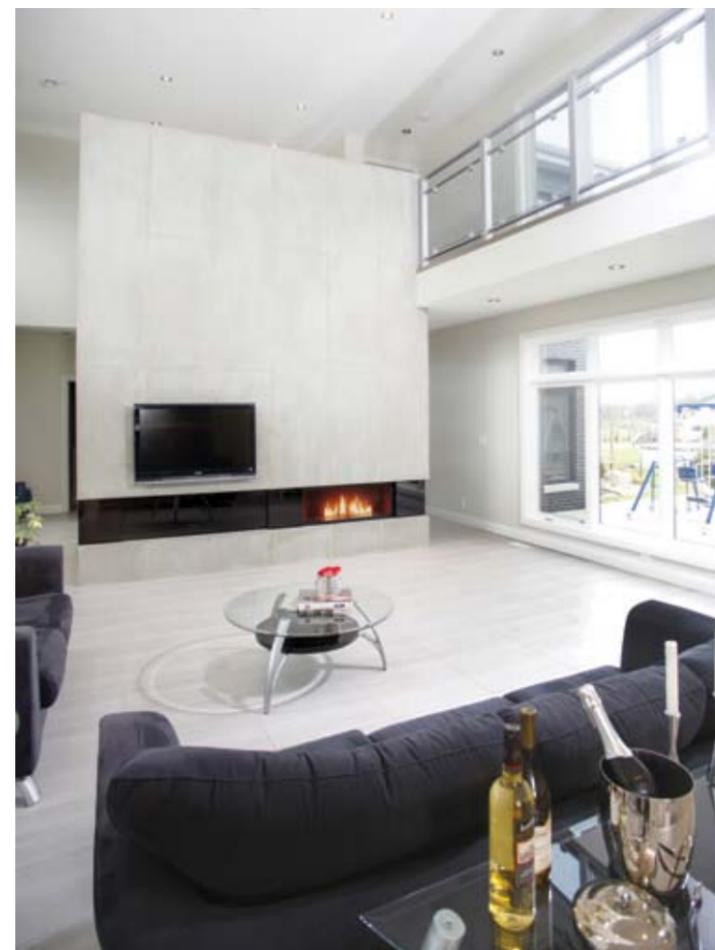
The high ceiling, dramatic windows and white and black colour scheme is everything the homeowner wanted. The 12-by-24-inch porcelain rectangular grey flooring tiles are from Marquis Tile. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** (1) The upstairs hallway perfectly expresses the clean lines and modern thinking in this home. (2) The white fireplace wall, containing all the home's electronics. (3) Lime green accents are used to bring colour to the home. (4) A pinecone adds organic shape and texture to the dinner table.

# MODERN *Family*

BY NANCY BELGUE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX WEDGE

Take a family with two small children and all the attendant toys, fingerprints and clutter that comes with the territory and put them in a modern house that is all glass, chrome and steel and you might well wonder how the two will get along.

If this family is any example, the match is one made in architectural heaven. The new 3,000 sq. ft. house has proven to be a perfect home for this modern nuclear family. The homeowner jokes that when he and his wife began the process of researching their ideal home he told family and friends that they wanted a house that was "cold and unlivable." You might well imagine the reaction this idea generated, especially from the homeowner's father who is a carpenter. "The angular, concrete, stone and brick home is a far cry from how I grew up," says the homeowner. "I grew up surrounded by wood. My father took a while to get used to the idea but he's come around. It's safe to say he sees the beauty in the modern design, even if he sometimes shakes his head." *Continued on page 38*



## feature

Although the homeowner had a clear vision of what he wanted, he and his wife spent many weekends driving around the area, taking photos of “random houses” that exemplified the design features they were looking for. The homeowner purchased a computer program and began putting together his dream design. When he got it to the point that he needed professional plans drawn up, he contacted architectural designer **Les Therrien of Therrien Design**. Ironically, it was when he sat down with Therrien that he discovered that the homes he’d admired and photographed during his “drive-bys” were, in fact, Therrien designs.

Working together, Therrien and the homeowner refined the homeowner’s original ideas. “Les was great. He took my design and added his experience and knowledge. Nothing is symmetrical in the home. It’s a very European esthetic.”

The kitchen was designed and installed by **Vito Mastrorocco of Mastro Kitchen Studio**. “Vito was extremely professional,” says the homeowner. “We had been to three or four kitchen designers but we couldn’t find exactly what we were looking for. Vito took our ideas and tweaked them until we had the perfect kitchen design. His attention to detail was outstanding. He ended up using this exact kitchen in his showroom because he was so happy with it.”

The kitchen cabinets, made from rift cut black oak, are indicative of the details that make this layout both sleek and functional. Hidden touch doors built into the island are “perfect for the kids,” says the homeowner.

The white quartz countertops are from **Marquis Tile**. “We preferred quartz over granite because we wanted the consistency of colour,” says the homeowner. The KitchenAid appliances are top-of-the-line and the convection cooktop has been a particularly pleasing choice because “it heats up and cools down instantly.” *Continued on page 40*



The kitchen is also black and white. Notice the attention to detail – the subway tile backsplash is stacked, not staggered to give it a more modern look. **LEFT:** The eat-in area off the kitchen offers views of the 700-foot deep lot that runs to the river. The homeowner is already planning a golf green so that he “can stand on the back deck and chip a ball.”

feature



The staircase is one of the home's most industrial features. The pillars are made from stucco that looks like poured concrete. The rivets are designed to mimic steel. **TOP LEFT:** The master en suite is simple and unadorned. The couple relies on the rich materials of the home to speak for themselves. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The master bedroom is warmed by portraits of the couple's two children.

Lighting design throughout the home is by **RE-Lighting Inc.** in Amherstburg. "They were fantastic," says the homeowner. "The owner delivered the light bulbs himself and offered very good design advice." He points to the "domino" placement of the pot lights in the dining room's reverse tray ceiling as an example and credits Les Therrien with the idea of splitting the ceiling into four panels so that the centre lights can be turned on while the others are dimmed for more intimate lighting.

The dining room and kitchen tables are glass (**Guaranteed A Fine Furniture**) and the side chairs are chrome and leather, which underlines the couple's commitment to the clean, modern look they love.

A key design element on the main floor is the stunning fireplace wall featuring grey stucco, designed to look like concrete tile, and a fireplace from **Marquis Fireplaces** set into a strip of black glass (**Bay-View Glass & Mirror**). The wall is cleverly designed to conceal all the electronic

remotes that are part of modern living. The wiring throughout the home – computer, television and audio was done by **Disc 'n Dat**.

The colour palette is dramatically black and white. "You either love it or you hate it," concedes the homeowner. "All the lights are chrome and frosted glass. And everything is square. Even the chandelier in the foyer has square prisms."

One of the home's most outstanding features is the industrial look staircase. Built from powder coated steel with steel cables and glass panels, the staircase links the home's three floors. "We had a number of issues getting the staircase to where we wanted it to be," says the homeowner. "Originally the space between the stairs wasn't to code. We consulted with **Jodi Mason** of **Urban Home** and she came up with the idea of adding the steel cables. That allowed us to keep the open look without sacrificing safety." *Continued on page 42*

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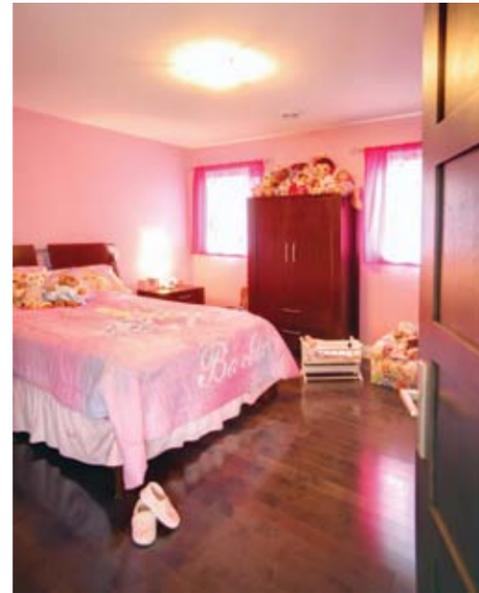
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The main floor playroom - where clutter is controlled by a wall of organizing bins. The map of the world provides a fun and educational wall covering. **TOP RIGHT:** One of the few areas where colour appears in the children's rooms. Here is a pink room fit for a princess. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** The couple's son's room is a vibrant shade of blue. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The pool table was one of the first pieces of furniture the homeowner purchased.

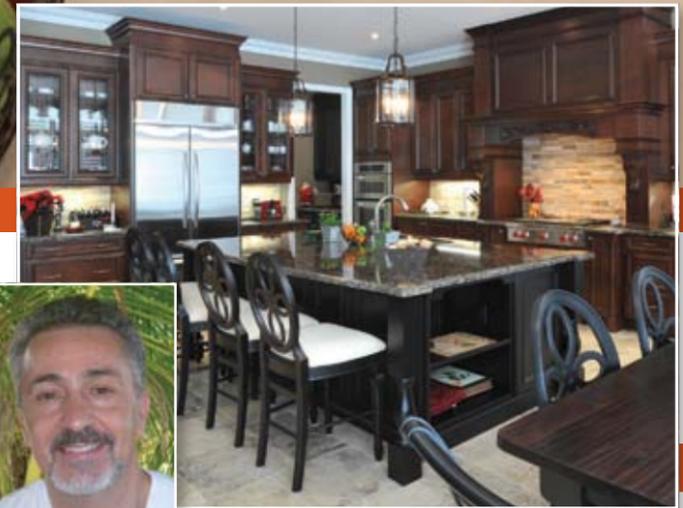


The playroom on the main floor is the one concession to paraphernalia that comes with small children. It is furnished with pint-sized tables and chairs, colourful mats and an entire wall, papered with a giant map of the world. "My wife is a teacher," laughs the homeowner. A self-confessed clutter-phobe, the homeowner ensured that another wall of the playroom is filled with organizing bins.

Upstairs, the master bedroom and en suite continue the home's cohesive design elements. "All the wood, colour scheme and flooring is exactly the same throughout," says the homeowner. "We wanted to keep everything in the same style."

The home looks like something you'd find in a design portfolio for the ultimate modern style. You might suspect it was built in New York as opposed to a lot backing onto the Puce River. Everything about the home is sleek, stylish and modern - including the very lucky modern family who lives here. **OH**

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