

INNER *Beauty*

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A simple, elegant dining space opens to the kitchen creating an inviting entertaining area and a natural spot to spend time with family.



Situated in a quiet neighbourhood, Crocetta Accardi's home is a thriving example of just how deceiving looks can be. On an otherwise traditional suburban street, Crocetta's doors open to a beautiful haven of natural, earthy materials, smooth stone and a plethora of light that showcases how true beauty is often found on the inside.

The home is a testament to the power of family values, with much of the luscious wood furnishings having been handcrafted by Crocetta's father, who made a living as a furniture maker. The dark maples and oaks are smooth as silk to the touch and in pristine condition. The details are delicate but unified, with each piece in every room complementing the other.

It is these notions of family that found Crocetta wanting to create the perfect home for herself, her husband Umberto and their two young daughters. After falling in love with their neighbour's renovations, the family enlisted the same contractor, Joey Quintieri from **North Hill Contracting** to help create their beautiful home.

"From the street, you don't visually understand what goes on in here until you walk in and it really explodes," Joey says. "Most homes have good potential and it's there, you just have to discover it in your property."

Joey's motto when it comes to renovations is, "Do it once. Do it right." Natural light was at the top of the list, so they worked to tear down entire walls in order to open up the house exponentially and maximize the light. The family chose various blinds from Brading Specialty Shades in soft hues that the company colour-matched to the unique trimming (Emery Woodworking), a signature touch of Joey's. They chose gorgeous lighting fixtures and chandeliers from Union Lighting, complemented by island

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TOP LEFT: Joey Quintieri of North Hill Contracting. **TOP RIGHT:** The main hallway features a lovely table by **Harvest House Craftsmen**. **LEFT:** A minimalist approach to the living room gives the space a more open, airy feel. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room, styled by Strawberry Fields Interior Decorating, is both formal and cosy with a two-sided fireplace surrounded by intricate stonework.

pendants and bathroom sconces by Eurolight. To add elegance, the walls were painted in “Natural Linen,” a soft cream, with crisp white trim in “Timid White” by Benjamin Moore. The open concept kitchen and dining room features a gorgeous table and chairs from **Positive Space Interiors**, who also made their custom TV stand.

The flooring was next. For the family room they chose distressed oak, a unique floor with smooth grooves in the wood that provides a warm, cottage-like feeling by **Green Valley Flooring**. Upstairs, the floors are comprised entirely of deliciously dark walnut by **Vaughan Hardwood Floors Ltd.** For the kitchens and bathrooms though, Joey introduced the family to the beauty and potential of limestone, sourcing breathtaking tiles from **Ciot** and Stone Tile International, and creating a kitchen floor that Joey calls a personal best in his contracting career. The tiles weave beiges and browns and connect all the natural elements beautifully.

“We were looking for something that’s unique, but not crazy and this

worked well. We were in love with the colour and the matte finish right away,” Joey says.

The counters are comprised of various granites and marbles that sparkle in the light creating an exotic and luscious ambience typically reserved for the lavish and elite. The bathroom counters are a rich “Antique Brown” Crema Marfil by **Marble and Marble Ltd.**, and the kitchen features shimmering granite from **Mondial Granite & Marble**. Walking through the house, you can’t help but touch the smooth materials and glide your fingers along the perfect surfaces admiring their crisp construction and the overall beauty of nature’s resources.

Materials are imported from all over the world, but the ones chosen for the family’s fireplace are the pièce-de-résistance. The unique and stunning gas fireplace from Odyssey Fireplaces Ltd. binds the clear attention to detail, the passion for natural elements and the beauty and warmth of the intricate Skyline Mosaic stone. Thinking outside the box, North Hill

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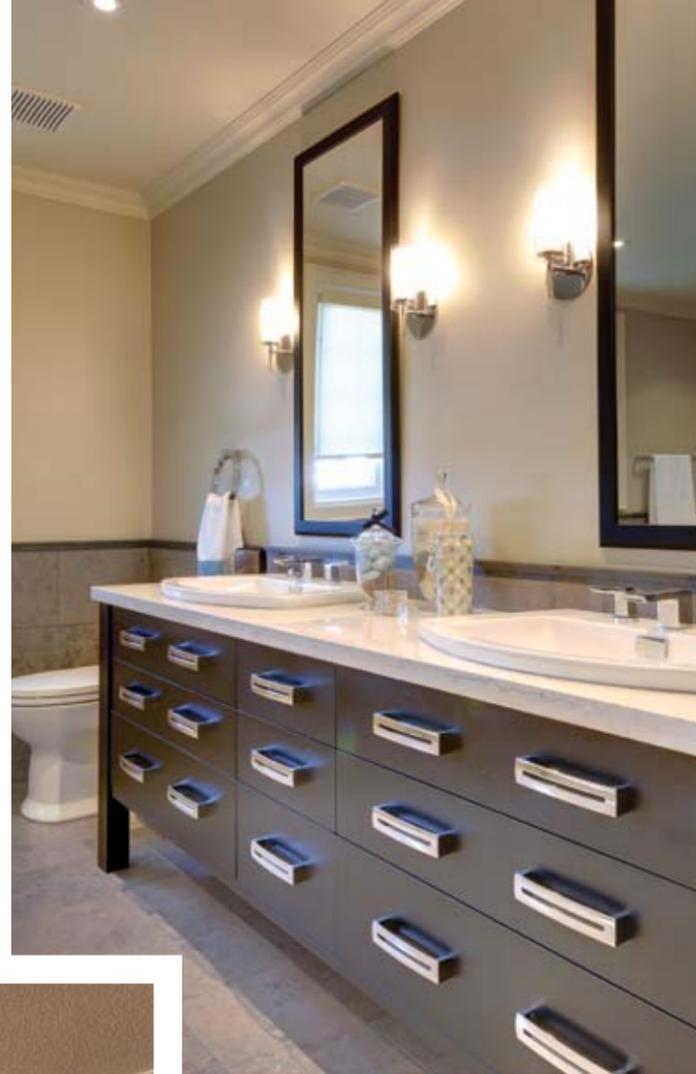
constructed a wall separating the living room and the dining room only slightly and inserted the fireplace in the middle, which actually serves as a window between the two rooms and provides amazing physical and natural warmth.

The stonework continues throughout the house, but can be found predominately in the bathrooms. Downstairs in the powder room, vertical marble-work by Ciot provides the essence of bamboo, while upstairs in the en suite bathroom, the square work provides a mature and clean feel. The modern sinks, faucets and large, deep bathtub from **Atlantis Bath Centre** contrast yet complement the natural elements found throughout the house from the granite shower seat to the glass door by **JeRose Mirror and Glass Ltd.**

To prepare the house for the OUR HOMES photo shoot, Joey's wife Connie Quintieri of **Strawberry Fields Interior Decorating** outfitted the kitchen and master bedroom with elegant lace throws and delicate decorative accessories in neutral colours and mint greens from **French Feathers Home Décor & Accessories**.

After spending the morning walking through the home, it is clear that the family's eye for detail and appreciation of natural beauty helped turn what Joey calls a previously boring house into an inviting and lush urban sanctuary.

"My goal during the renovation was to create an oasis for myself," Crocetta says. "My surroundings often affect my mood, so it was important to me to have visually calm and serene surroundings. I think the colour, clean lines and lack of clutter on the main floor achieve that for me. At the end of the day, I find myself looking around, taking a deep breath and saying, ahhh. **OH**



ABOVE: The master en suite offers a private getaway for the busy couple with a stylish glassed-in shower, a large soaker tub and double sinks. **LEFT:** A romantically decorated master bedroom features furniture handcrafted by Crocetta's father.

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