

Renaissance

REVIVAL

BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

This prominent palazzo-style home commands the attention of passersby in a quiet Kleinburg neighbourhood. Its grand design married with superior quality materials and unique features make this an extraordinary home for a family that loves to entertain.

High expectations are set from the moment you verge on the property through one of two iron gates. A large stone semi-circle drive, met with a bold stone staircase, leads to the towering front doors of this phenomenal home – reminiscent of Renaissance Revival style.

Staying true to its 16th century inspiration, windows and garages flank the arched portico entranceway. Top-floor windows with carved stone arches give the home a balanced symmetrical façade.

Built by **Pencor Construction Inc.** using an architectural plan by Cassidy & Co., this home is a work of art. Every detail from the outside in was carefully thought out, planned and completed by **Josie Abate** of **Ambience Interiors.**

“I felt excitement and trepidation simultaneously upon seeing the plans for this vast but lovely home,” she says. “I am not the kind of person to walk away from what I felt was an insurmountable challenge.”





Abate and her design team were involved in every phase of this project – stretching more than 9,000 sq. ft. They selected all exterior and interior finishes and did all of the interior decorating, from placing existing furniture to choosing new furnishings, window and floor coverings and accent pieces.

“The architectural plan was the canvas on which we were going to apply our talent and expertise in order to realize our client’s vision of the perfect, comfortable, functional and beautiful home,” explains Abate.

In the end, she was successful. “Josie’s ideas were great and so was her taste,” says the homeowner. “We especially liked her drapery (**Famous Swiss Bedspreads**), designs and fabrics. We are very happy with the outcome.” *Continued on page 20*

ABOVE: The family’s formal dining room showcases the traditional style of the home - complete with crystal chandeliers and a double-sided fireplace.

FAR LEFT: The exterior was built to resemble Renaissance Revival style with masonry work done by Medi Group and copper work done by Giancola Aluminum Contractors Inc.

MIDDLE LEFT: This traditional Tuscan-style kitchen features top-of-the-line appliances and a large granite-topped island to gather around.

LEFT: A grand entranceway sets the tone for the home.

feature



TOP: The great room at the centre of the home is a fabulous spot for entertaining with one of many gas fireplaces, a grand piano and soaring ceilings with plenty of light.

BOTTOM: The ebony and gold wrought-iron staircase paired with marble floors that feature glass mosaic inserts accentuate the grandness of the main level.

The grandness of this home is brought indoors with interior stonework completed by **GCAT Stone**. A custom marble mantel serves as a focal point in the main entrance, while a circular medallion in the centre of the marble floor (**Rivalda Ceramic Tiles**) sets a formal and elegant tone. Eyes are immediately drawn to the ebony and gold wrought-iron railing (**Maks Ironworks**) of the regal staircase (**Stairfab Manufacturing**) set in the centre of it all.

A caramel and soft green palette is used to create a warm and inviting space punctuated by dark, Moroccan cherry floors seen throughout the main level (**Weston Flooring**), and gorgeous built-ins constructed from mahogany (**Angelo Travunut Millwork**).

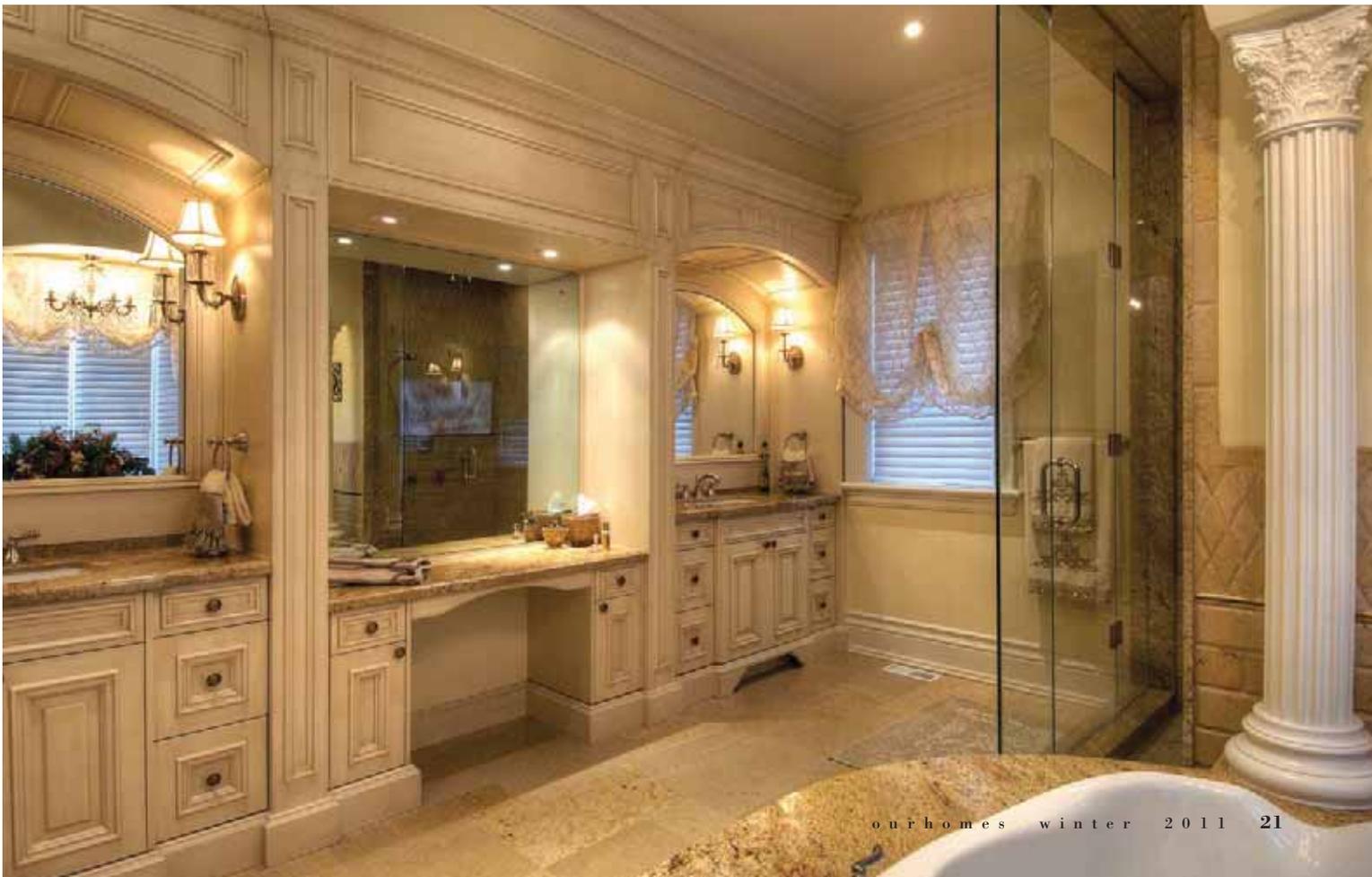
All doors in the home (**Doorland 2000**) are made from quality cherrywood, which adds to the sophisticated feel. The gas fireplace in the great room (**National Home Comfort**) is just one of many providing elements of warmth and intimacy.

Just off this living area is the hub of the home. A modern approach to a Tuscan-style kitchen (**Downsview Kitchens**) provides the homeowners with a spectacular space complete with a large granite-topped island (**Technotile Granite**), top-of-the-line appliances from **Tasco**, refrigerated drawers and a unique walk-in pantry that looks like nothing more than a tall cupboard from the outside. *Continued on page 24*



The luxurious main-level master bedroom features a built-in canopy above the bed and boasts a great view of the backyard.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The master en suite is opulent with his-and-her vanities, a magnificent soaker tub and best of all - a TV built into the mirror



feature



Walking through these stained glass doors is like entering an Italian tasting room. Stone archways on the left frame a beautiful mural of a gorgeous vineyard.



TOP: A second, more contemporary kitchen on the lower level is used mostly for entertaining and serving drinks to guests.

MIDDLE: This cosy living area with coffered ceiling offers a less formal atmosphere for the family to lounge and spend time together.

BOTTOM: A favourite room shared by all is the fully upholstered theatre, complete with soft velvety recliners and a large projection screen.



While this family usually enjoys casual meals at the island or kitchen table, a formal dining room is just steps away for special occasions. Two crystal chandeliers paired with a double-sided fireplace (shared with the entranceway) make this a traditional and stately room to serve meals to guests.

Also on the main floor, down a corridor to the left, is the master bedroom. Keeping with the overall style of the home, this room features a built-in canopy finished with pot lights and framed with detailed corbels. A large bay window offers a great view to the extensive backyard where the family spends lots of time swimming, barbecuing and entertaining at their fully equipped outdoor cabana.

The master en suite leaves little to be desired with a large soaker tub, his-and-her sinks, a great glassed-in shower and best of all, a mirror television. On the upper level, both children also have full en suites to suit their styles and tastes. With a total of nine washrooms (**Atlantis Bath Centre**), no one in this home ever has to wait their turn.

A line forms often though at the home theatre on the lower level. This is a favourite room shared by all – even Abate, who says she took this particular project to heart.

“It was the artful mix of architecture, lighting, furnishings and acoustics that created an unmistakable environment,” she says, and goes on to explain that a talented upholsterer by the name of **Massimo Demontis** padded the walls in velvet fabric to soundproof the room. This soft velvety texture is carried over to the large recliners, strategically placed so not to block viewers from any seat.

If there’s nothing showing on the large projection screen, there’s a good chance this family is entertaining friends and family on the rest of the lower level. A second, more contemporary kitchen, also by Downsvew Kitchens, boasts a great bar area with a slate wall fountain and a winding, trough-style prep sink.

Just a few steps from this fabulous kitchen, through stained glass French doors, is an incredible wine cellar (**Rosehill Wine Cellars**) that immediately takes you to traditional Italy – to a vineyard like the one that’s painted on the wall. An old wine barrel with tabletop makes a great tasting centre to gather around.

Top to bottom, inside and out, this home has it all. Meticulous planning and expert design brought 500-year-old style together with modern conveniences to give this family a marvellous space to live, love and share. **oh**

