

SPRING 2015

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

ourhomes

VAUGHAN AND THE TOWNSHIP OF KING

LUXURY

IN KLEINBURG

OUTDOOR
PROS

A TUSCAN
paradise

GLORIOUS
GARDENS



CHALK BOARD
CREATIONS

feature



LEFT: The dining room is a Tuscan escape with the warm tones of walnut and sienna. **BELOW:** A games room is a great place to retire for an evening of entertainment. **BOTTOM:** The office is enclosed with glass french doors to keep work neatly tucked away.



In the dining room, silk drapery in a sienna colour adds depth and drama and walls in a spice shade keep the room cosy and intimate. A custom table in solid walnut gives a relaxed, country feel and the upholstered chairs in a chenille damask pattern invite lingering over wine and multiple courses.

Dark-stained hickory hardwood floors by **Gemini Designs Inc.** add warmth and provide continuity throughout the main floor.

The home's colour scheme, furnishings and lighting help provide flow throughout the house. "The chandeliers, for example, aren't the same in every room, but they're similar

enough in style to work together. We selected colours and furnishings that would flow from room to room." While some of the lighting came from **Prima Lighting**, Lumar Interiors sourced much of the lighting and furnishings.

The great room – the family's main indoor living space – presented Luisa with a challenge. "The thing about really large rooms – and this room is big and about 20-feet high – is that it can be difficult to make them welcoming," says Luisa. By using warm colours and soft fabrics, including velvet, silk and chenille, Luisa helped the homeowners create a cosy space.



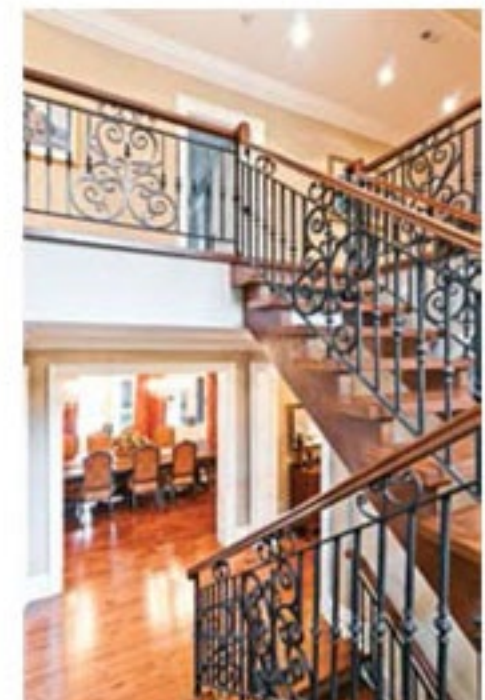
The master retreat is decorated in soothing neutrals. "We selected a neutral and monochromatic colour scheme for the bedroom. Less contrast in colour creates a more soothing and relaxing space," says Luisa.

In the master en suite, a spectacular claw-foot Victoria + Albert bathtub is framed by a large window that overlooks the wooded property. A striking pattern in the tiled floor adds texture.

The homeowner remembers the moment Luisa was hit with design inspiration for the room. "We were standing there, looking at tiles, then all of sudden it was like she went into a trance," says the homeowner, with a laugh. "I said, 'What?' because I didn't see anything. She said, 'I just had the greatest idea!' She was trying to explain it to me and I had no idea what she meant. But I love how it worked out!"

While the bathroom design is striking, it's also classic. Nothing about it will seem aged or dated any time soon, says Luisa. "Classic was the theme for the whole home," she says. "When you're building and designing a house this size – it's about 6,000 sq. ft. you're not

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TOP: Tall windows create a spectacular focal point in the great room. Cozy furnishings and an additional area with a bar are perfect for relaxation and entertainment. **LEFT:** A rock-and-roll bedroom is true to style with framed artwork and an edgy motif. **ABOVE:** Like a work of art, the open staircase includes intricate wrought-iron railings.

feature



Soothing earth tones blend with the view to the beautiful outdoors. **BELOW:** A framed medallion and footed tub are lovely additions to the en suite.

going to go with what's trendy and hot today. You want to go with what's going to appeal to the homeowner for a long time."

In this case, the homeowners connect with the old-world look of Tuscany. "That appeals to them and makes them feel good," says Luisa. "Will they like it in 20 years? Absolutely, because it's what makes them feel good." **OH**



ASK A DESIGNER

Luisa Maringola and Marisa Lupo of Lumar Interiors answer our questions about how to create a cohesive design for your home.

What do you recommend people consider before deciding on a particular look for their homes? They need to think about what each room will actually be used for. Is this going to be a space where family is going to hang out, watch TV, or read a book? Is it going to be a space for entertaining? Then, dig a little deeper. If you plan on entertaining, is it formal or casual? Do you need enough seating for a large gathering, a formal dinner or a more casual style?

Do you have any tips for someone struggling with too many options? Think about how a particular style makes you feel. If it makes you smile or makes you feel good, then it's a good choice. If not, leave it behind. We tell people to go through magazines and clip pictures of things they like, whether it's the colour, the objects in a room or the mood of a room. A picture can tell us more than words. Sites like Pinterest.com, Houzz.com (and ourhomes.ca) are great sources of inspiration.

What are some common mistakes to avoid? One mistake people commonly make is with scale and proportion. It's important to map it out on a floor plan to see how everything will fit in the space. In this large home, we had to ensure the furniture, lighting and accessories were the right size for the space.