

Refined DESIGN

STORY **GINA MAKKAR**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



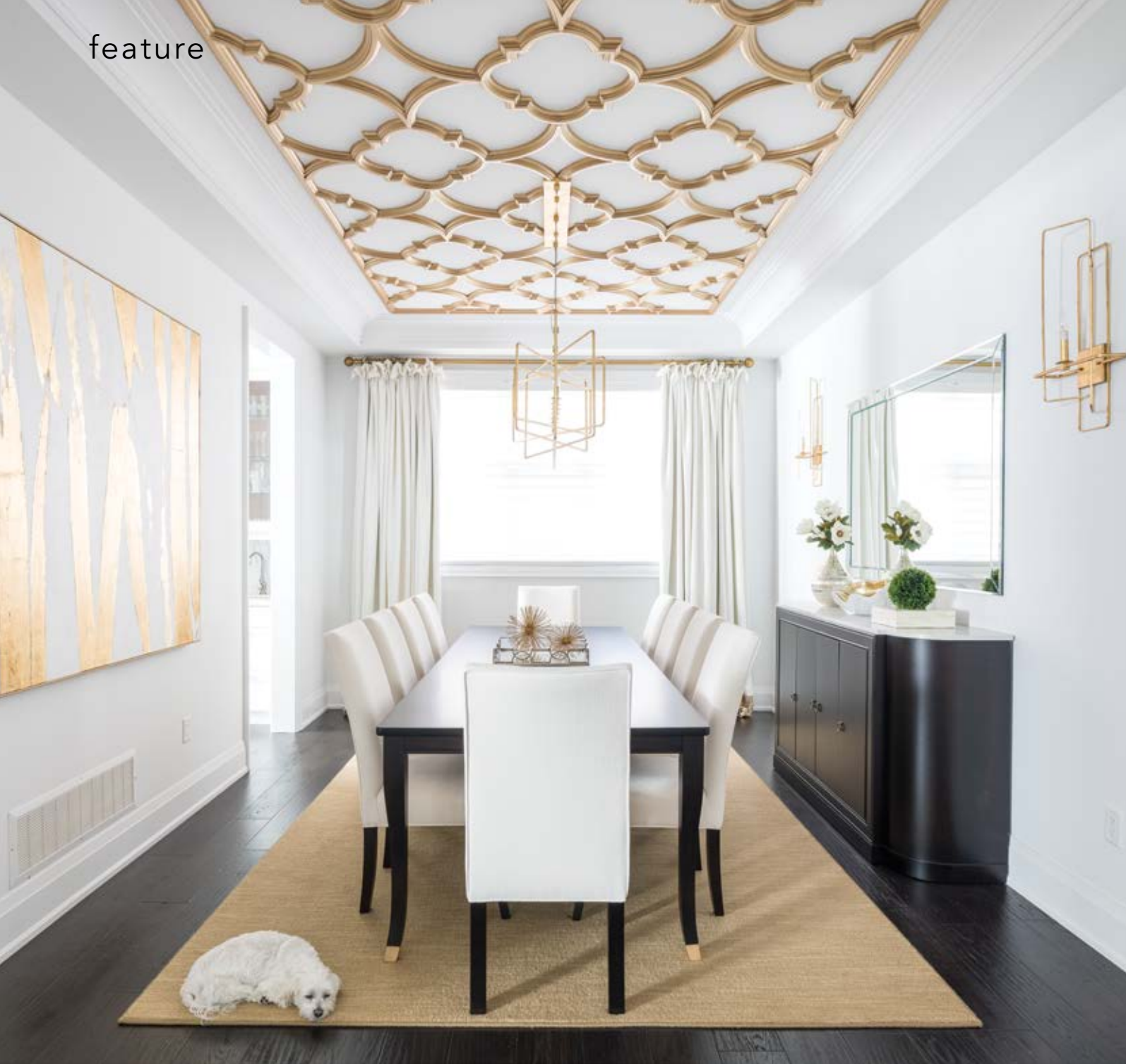
Effortless style. It's a blend of interesting architecture and smooth transitions. It's the layering of colours and textures. It's bold choices and soft features that dance in perfect harmony.

For Jas and Shelli's Oakville home, an astute sense of style and a little help from a friend blended to create a beautiful interior. *Continued on page 30*



The unique floor plan is what initially drew Jas and Shelli to the home. **LEFT:** Custom touches in the library design elevate the space and make it functional and beautiful. **ABOVE:** Millwork and wallpaper help create an entrance that's fresh and inviting.





No strangers to design, the couple customized two prior homes, their taste evolving with each new project. “We are not indecisive, and we make decisions extremely quickly,” says Jas. “Some may argue too quickly, but we are confident in our tastes and always go back to our first instincts, whether it’s buying a chair or choosing a tile or drapery fabrics, we always go back to our first choice.”

The home that caught their eye was a **Mattamy Homes** build in Oakville; a 4,000 sq. ft. model with a unique floorplan. Early in the build process, they called on friend and designer **Toula Piliouras** of **Toula Interiors**. “We worked with Toula to help guide us based on what we wanted out of this home,” says Jas. “Her cabinetry designs from both an aesthetic and practical use are fantastic. She played a big role in our

family room furniture, which is something we use and appreciate daily.”

Toula enhanced the design process by providing inspirational images, floor plans and helping select furnishings. Together, they narrowed the choices used in the final design. A blend of elements, including walnut finishings, mouldings and wainscoting, helped create a warm, inviting space.

The interior was customized to reflect the fresh, classic, contemporary aesthetic they were after. “Although the home was new, we wanted to ensure that it had the feeling of a space that was liveable and inviting,” says Toula. “I didn’t want it to scream new and untouchable, I wanted it to be sophisticated and polished but welcoming and durable.”

Inside, visitors are greeted with the unique layout. Oversize entrance tiles from Ciot, tone-on-tone wallpaper from **The Paint People** and a polished nickel pendant create a stylish welcome. The living room, dreamed up by Jas and Shelli, layers soft creams and greys. A tufted sofa with rolled arms, gold and marble lamps and panelling add elegance. Walls are opened with banisters to provide unfettered sightlines to the library above and the bar area below.

Step up to the library where custom, floor-to-ceiling built-ins make use of the soaring ceiling height. Hints of walnut warm the space while a chevron area rug adds dimension. The room was designed around an oversize Buddha painting, an anniversary gift from Shelli’s grandmother and late grandfather.

The main level steps down to a chic bar area where argyle zebra cabinetry takes centre stage. File cabinets tuck away to allow the space to serve double duty as a bar or a home office. It’s Jas’s favourite space in the home. “With my technology craziness, it has everything I need from music to TV, to an additional monitor for my laptop all in one space,” he says. The home’s audio, visual and home automation systems were installed by **Oakville Sight & Sound**. “We took inspiration on the gold in the bar at the 11th hour when we were out on the town one night, and with a quick phone call to Toula asking her to change our look, she was able to make it happen.”

Continued on page 32

RIGHT: The bar area radiates with warm neutral and gold hues. It’s a space made for both work and play. **OPPOSITE:** Gold makes a statement in the dining room. Striking lighting, dramatic artwork and a spectacular ceiling create a warm backdrop for entertaining.





In the dining room, Jas and Shelli added a striking arabesque ceiling detail painted in burnished gold. An area rug and artwork from **Andersons** and lighting from **Gerrie Electric** tie into the metallic elements. The window is swathed in soft fabric panels from **The Drape Lady**. A rich dining table flanked by cream chairs from **Sterling House Interiors** softens the space.

Thoughtful elements create cohesiveness throughout. Additional lighting from Union Lighting adds structure and style. Hand-scraped white oak flooring in Baroque from **Modern Flooring** adds warmth, while Berber carpeting softens the stairwell and bedrooms.

The kitchen is one of Shelli's favourite spots. "Family and friends think I'm absolutely crazy having glass fridges, but

I love organizing and keeping the fridges tidy and visually appealing, and especially showcasing our family's healthy eating habits and love for nutritious foods." Light and airy, white cabinetry by **Landmark Kitchen Concepts** is complemented by a maple island and polished chrome drawers. Statuario quartz countertops add sophistication, as does a band of chrome to highlight the elegant range hood.

The kitchen opens to the family room, where a waffle ceiling draws the eye upward. A cast-stone fireplace is flanked by warm walnut built-ins. A geometric rug adds texture, while furnishings from **Gresham House Furniture** provide a cosy place for the family to relax. Just off the hallway, the mudroom provides an organized place for the family to come and go. *Continued on page 34*



ABOVE: Warm maple and sleek chrome blend for a timeless yet contemporary island. Glass fridge doors are the delight of culinary aficionado Shelli.

LEFT: Toula Piliouras helped her clients conceptualize the finished space from the ground up. **TOP RIGHT:** Hints of chrome throughout the kitchen keep it from feeling stark and white. **TOP, FAR RIGHT:** The mudroom sees plenty of traffic with three children and a dog. **RIGHT:** The family room is an elegant but comfortable space for the family to relax together.





LEFT: A vibrant green-blue and plenty of dolls decorate a little girl's space. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A punch of vibrant pink adds personality. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Vintage hot air balloons add a touch of whimsy to a baby boy's room.

Plenty of personal touches make the house a home. "We chose a lot of artwork that really resonated with us. We have a painting from Turks and Caicos in our family room that was painted by an artist there," says Shelli. "It's our home away from home, so to have this special painting of our favourite beach in our family room is just amazing for us. We love showcasing the kid's artwork and crafts. It builds their confidence as little artists and reflects our love for family."

Décor pieces from **Accents for Living** were incorporated throughout. A custom painting in the upper hallway by Burlington artist **Laura Fedorowicz** of **Elle and Kay Design** incorporates some of the family's favourite colours. "She's so talented and did an amazing job of bringing our vision to life," says Shelli. *Continued on page 36*



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Each of the children's rooms spring to life with personality. An upper level laundry room is practical for the busy family. The master bedroom and en suite provide a tranquil backdrop to begin and end each day. From top to bottom, the home is a reflection of the family, from what they love to how they live.

"As loud and crazy as our home can be sometimes with three kids and a barking dog, we love the serenity and calmness of what we have created here," explains Shelli. "There really is no place like home." **OH**



ABOVE: Tranquil blue walls and warm wood on the vanity create a spa-like en suite.
LEFT: Soft textures and hues bring a sense of calm in the master bedroom.
RIGHT: A geometric backsplash adds a little funkiness in the laundry room.



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