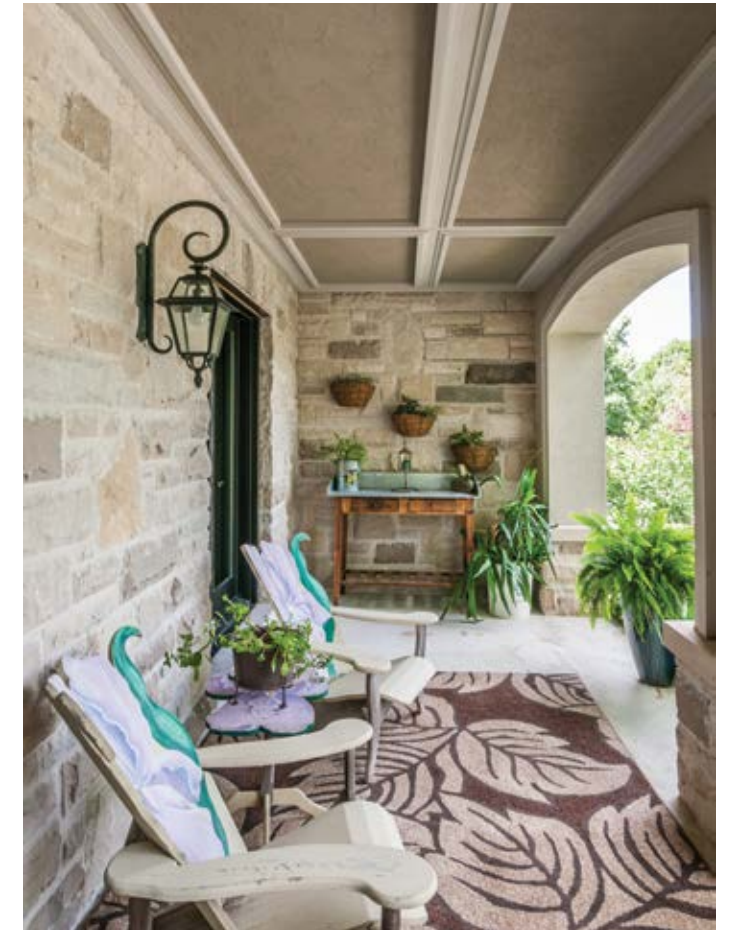




VALLEY. *view*

STORY **JOYCE TURNER-GIONET** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY** | FLOWERS **TERRACOTTA HOME & GARDEN**



Relaxation is just steps away with a lower-level indoor pool that opens to the backyard oasis. **TOP LEFT:** The jewel of the main floor is a sitting area with a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and walnut floors set in a herringbone pattern. **TOP RIGHT:** Surrounded by nature, the backyard seating area is reminiscent of an Italian villa. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Columns, eyebrow dormers and a blue roof steep the home in character. **BOTTOM:** Plenty of windows reveal magnificent valley vistas.



The large kitchen is cosy with woven-top barstools, oil-rubbed bronze hardware and antique-brown granite. **RIGHT:** A sunlit breakfast nook is tucked just off the kitchen.



neighbourhood, as if it had always been there. As one walks indoors, the initial thought is: This is an entertainer's dream. Mirna and Joe are Italian. Family is the priority and entertaining happens regularly. It took more than two years to finish the house and people were fond of asking her: "Mirna, what's taking so long?" She laughs: "Look around! The time was in the details."

The kitchen was done by Perola Kitchens & Interiors Ltd. "I gave up the upper cabinets – they're not really French country anyway

– for more light since the kitchen sits in the middle of the house." Tall palladium windows from **Concord Windows & Doors** spill light everywhere. Frames were stained espresso on both sides so that no colour change interrupts the sightline. Intricate coffered ceilings, the living room fireplace and crown mouldings throughout the home are by Ontario Design Moulding Inc.

The layout wasn't conducive to French country's open shelving, so Mirna had two-sided plate pantries built to frame the opening

that separates the kitchen from a quaint breakfast nook. Diamond-shaped insets on doors inspired the evolution of everything else in the space. The built-in chef's pantry resembles an old French wardrobe.

Over the range, colourful mosaic tiles are from Olympia Tile + Stone. "I wanted them to look like a farmhouse picture," says Mirna, so local stone specialists **Marble & Marble Ltd.** bevelled the antique brown granite to frame the mosaic.

Oil-rubbed bronze hardware is

Continued on page 40

Some people can do it all, and Mirna Colasanto is one of those people. "As a real estate agent, I've worked with builders for 20 years, so I didn't need an architect," she says. "I knew what I wanted for this house."

She worked with a designer to put plans for the 10,000 sq. ft. home on paper, and then acted as the general contractor. She also designed the home's interior.

Mirna and husband Joe are fans of French country. The exterior is a monochromatic blend of limestone and stucco by **P&P Masonry**. "One of the things I love about French country is its lack of symmetry," Mirna says, pointing to the mix of sloping, oval, ellipse and dormer windows across the front. Over the entrance, the birdhouse architecture is fanciful. It evolved from the look of a European steeple. The marvelous sky blue roof is shot with black. "Are you sure you want blue," the roofing guys asked, more than once. It was the one element that Joe pushed for, and it was inspired.

The couple bought the lot because of the beautiful ravine property, which is why almost every door leads outside. The local landscaping company built beautiful walkways and driveways. "We wanted tumbled grey Courtstone for the driveway, a raised island and steps in the rear of the property leading to conservation land," Mirna says. "The rest, we left to the experts." The only stipulation was that all stone work had to help the new house mesh seamlessly into the established

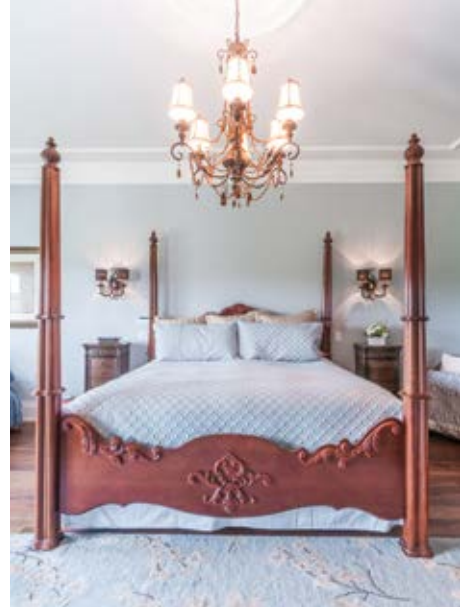


The burled walnut walls from the original home were saved and used to create cabinet inserts in the home office.



TOP: The loft bathroom is alive with dramatic dark finishes. **ABOVE:** A garden door in the side hallway is family dog Loki's favourite spot to sit and watch the world go by. **RIGHT:** Spectacular mouldings and a round table create a beautiful room for evening gatherings.





LEFT: A lovely four-poster bed adds character to the master bedroom. **FAR LEFT:** A rectangular tub in front of a window provides a tranquil view. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The floating vanity is set within floor-to-ceiling mirror and adorned with sparkling sconces.

from Emtek. Bronze wire pendant lights over the island are from Eurofase Lighting. “As soothing as monochromatic is, the eye picks up nothing if everything in the room is the same,” Mirna says, pointing to the addition of polished nickel in the main faucet from **Amati Bath Centre**.

The dining room’s waffle ceiling is a beauty, but the standout is the panoramic view of the valley. The round mahogany table with brass panel tips came from Elte and is paired with simple Parsons chairs. Overhead hangs a sumptuous chandelier that Mirna calls “Cinderella’s carriage.”

The family room colours are muted. Textures derive from nature, like the barn board mantel. Faux ceiling crossbeams are from a design Mirna saw years ago. “I kept the picture on my phone, knowing I’d use it eventually,” she laughs. The beams are balanced by the natural walnut floor’s criss-crossed pattern. The stain on Perola’s maple built-ins is called Elephant Skin and was rubbed for a distressed effect.

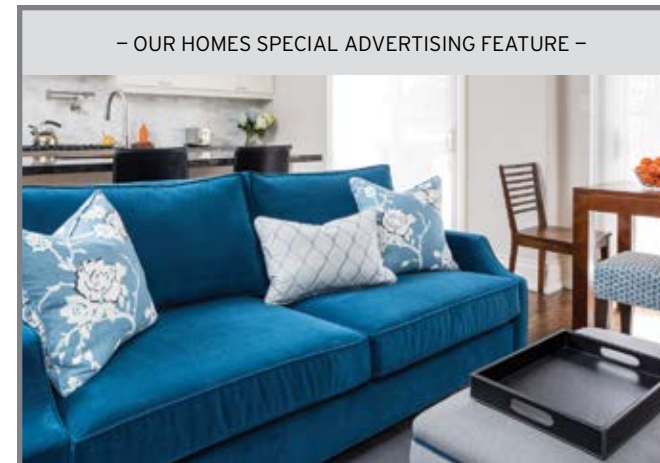
In the library, burl walnut panel inserts on cabinetry were on the original office walls. Mirna had the burl peeled and saved when the original house was torn down. Burl, also known as burr, is the deformed outgrowth of a tree trunk; its rounded grain – thin, delicate and difficult to work with – is rare and expensive.

The master bedroom, at the back of the house, is simply decorated. “It takes the ‘big’ out of the house,” laughs Mirna. “I originally painted the walls cream, but it was boring, so I changed midstream to a blue that reminds Joe and me of the south of France.”

In the en suite, polished nickel faucets are from Perrin and Rowe, Bianco Carrara marble on the floor is heated and glass shower tiles are a blue/green. **Umberto Paoletti**, Mirna’s dad, did all the tile work. The sensational marble-mosaic tile carpet is from Saltillo Imports Inc. and is full of life and movement. The pattern was the inspiration for the bathroom. For Mirna, entire rooms often evolve from a simple design element. The window is covered with linen-and-lace squares that Mirna made from sheets, originally a wedding present.

So what does a person do with a million-dollar view like this one? Enjoy a morning coffee on the rooftop patio? Wander through the garden on the lookout for deer? Take a dip in the indoor pool? Chances are, Mirna does all of those things, but more than likely, it’s while she’s mulling over the details of a brand new challenge she’s set for herself.

The house is currently for sale with Tony Azan, Woodsvie Realty Inc. **OH**



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