

APPETITE FOR *design*

STORY DENISE WILLSON | PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

This modern bungalow was not merely built, but lovingly designed — curated from homeowners Marsha and Ted Matthews' appetite for design and nature. *Continued on page 80*



Bringing the outdoors in was paramount to Marsha and Ted. Soaring windows were chosen for sweeping views of the ravine and harnessing natural light all day long.



LEFT: Unique light fixtures complement the contemporary home. **BELOW:** Powder rooms were designed with unique patterns, tiles and colour drenching. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Chic flat-black cabinets, by Trevisana Kitchens & Interiors, add ample storage and discreetly hide appliances. **BOTTOM:** A 16-foot tower of windows in the foyer creates a tunnel of light.



“WE LOVE THE ARCHITECTURAL GENIUS OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT,” says Marsha, speaking of the American architect and designer known for his organic style, creating buildings that harmonize with their environment. “We also took elements from various houses we’d designed over the years.” Marsha is retired, but for years she was a designer by trade, so the couple knew exactly what they wanted as they took on most of the design work for their new home.

In 2021, Marsha and Ted were looking to relocate from a townhouse in Toronto to the Mineola area of Mississauga, where neighbourhoods boast an assortment of home styles surrounded by mature trees. They immediately fell in love with the half-acre property nestled amongst

parkland and a deciduous forest teeming with life. But the existing house didn’t meet their needs. “The property felt like home,” says Marsha. “We easily envisioned what we could build there.”

Their passion was contagious. **Peter Giampuzzi** of **Ornella Homes** immediately understood their vision. “Marsha had spent a year cutting out pictures of architectural elements she and Ted liked,” says Peter. The couple had lived in the existing home for over a year, so they had a good feel for the property and area. “They didn’t want the home to feel like a museum,” adds Peter. “They wanted it livable, warm, modern and not showy.” As an award-winning builder, Peter is involved in every stage, helping homeowners with the design process, project management and sourcing high-quality materials. Architect



Richard Kossak of **New Age Design** brought Marsha and Ted's vision to life on paper. The designs allowed them to move things around while Peter made suggestions to best meet their lifestyle. The existing house was removed, and the new house was then built from scratch on the property.

The result is 2,900 square feet of contemporary main-floor living and a cozy 2,900 sq. ft. lower level. Soaring windows by **WD Craftline Windows and Doors** offer sweeping views of the trees while welcoming in sunshine throughout the L-shaped open-concept living, dining and kitchen areas. The ceiling heights range from nine to 12 feet, and a 16-foot tower of windows in the foyer creates a tunnel of light. "We love the open space and how all the glass windows overlooking the ravine make you feel like you're living in the great outdoors," says Marsha.

The expansive entrance opens to the glass-enclosed foyer, with an office tucked to the side. The state-of-the-art kitchen is outfitted with discreet, tucked away appliances from **Tasco Appliances**. Ted and Marsha love to cook and host their family. A double oven and additional small appliances are in the adjacent pantry, keeping everything out of sight from the main living space. A veined, white quartz waterfall island by **Aurivia Stone Design** provides guests with the perfect gathering spot when the couple entertain. Paired with striking flat-black cabinets, designed and installed by **Trevisana Kitchens & Interiors**, the kitchen's elements combine to create a dramatic backdrop in the serene space. "The millwork is amazing," says Peter. "An automotive paint finish was used on the cabinetry for durability, and every joint was measured to perfection." The fridge and freezer disappear into the cabinetry and a walk-in butler's pantry offers lots of open shelving while housing two ovens and keeping smaller appliances out of sight.

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“Special events and holidays are celebrated at our house,” says Marsha, noting how the family’s dynamics were important when designing the layout. The couple’s grown children and their families live within walking distance, and the grandkids, ages five to 12 are over often. “We wanted everyone to feel comfortable,” adds Marsha.

The living room wall is complete with custom cabinetry by Trevisana Kitchens & Interiors and 24 by 48-inch porcelain tiles from **Ciot** – housing a fireplace from **Walltek**. Nine-inch wide white oak engineered wood flooring on the main floor and carpet tiles that cover the lower-level floors were supplied by **Squarefoot Flooring**.

The main level primary bedroom and en suite are separated by elegant glass doors. The unique light fixtures were found at **Robinson Lighting & Bath** and **Watts Current** in Mississauga. The walls, trim and ceilings are painted **Benjamin Moore** Pure White to highlight the black accents and allow the couple’s stunning art collection to take centre stage. “We’ve been collecting art for years,” says Marsha. “We wanted each piece to make a statement.”

A **BTL Railings Inc.** stairway leads to the lower level, complete with a laundry room, gym, recreation room and two bedrooms to welcome their grandchildren and guests. A large studio was also included for Marsha, which will convert to a caregiver’s suite when Marsha and Ted are older. *Continued on page 84*



TOP: An open-riser stairway leads to the spacious lower level. **ABOVE:** The rec room, which showcases the family’s art collection, is a comfortable space for enjoying hockey and puzzles. **RIGHT:** A pop of marigold tile brightens the lower-level laundry room.

Trevisana G30 system. Finishes: Nobilitato Bianco OMF; Nobilitato Noce. Photography by Austin Galli

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Outside is an oasis for entertaining, with landscaped surroundings and a 12 by 30-foot inground pool. **BELOW:** A special European light fixture from homes past has found a place in Marsha and Ted's new abode. **BELOW RIGHT:** The primary bedroom's natural palette and organic touches complement the exterior landscape.



As the house was designed to accommodate Marsha and Ted for many years, partnering with high-quality tradespeople was vital. “We talked to other builders but we loved Peter’s work ethic and personality,” says Marsha. The couple respected how Peter and his trade professionals do not take shortcuts, ensuring their home doesn’t just look beautiful but lasts for generations.

Outside, **Delco Contracting** orchestrated the landscaping, utilizing plants and flowers from **Dutchmaster Nurseries Ltd.** A 12 by 30-foot inground pool completes the oasis.

The entire build took exactly one year. For a couple with a vast amount of design experience, it was a year of creativity and excitement – which is often the case when homeowners have an appetite for design. **OH**

