

feature

SUBURBAN CHIC

BY CHRISTY LAVERTY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

When Milena and her husband moved into their home, they loved their new suburban space but felt challenged by a new build. Like most brand new homes in suburban developments, basic builder's beige, large empty rooms, and bare-bones lighting were all part of the deal.

Continued on page 30



Some simple upgrades to the kitchen makes the view from the family room feel like a custom home. Neutral colours make Rodney's exquisite choice of furniture stand out.



The formal dining room and servery off to the side are the perfect setting for an elegant cocktail or dinner party.

BELOW: The main floor office serves as a work space and also a library to retreat to for solitude.



Milena had made some smart choices in the finishes, like upgraded tiles, countertops and kitchen cabinets. The house had a great layout and architectural details to work with but they were unsure what to do with it. “It was extremely overwhelming due to the size and newness of our home,” relays Milena. “We needed everything – space planning, furniture, rugs, lighting, paint, artwork. It became a time consuming project, and as the months passed, we became frustrated with the amount of time and energy we were spending on shopping for home items that didn’t seem to work.”

They reached out to designer **Rodney Deepröse** after visiting a neighbour’s house. They loved how the interior was designed and hoped Rodney and his team could help them pull their house together and make it a showpiece.

Rodney has been in the design business for years but ventured out on his own about five years ago, opening **Rodney Deepröse Inc.** He specializes in custom, high-end residential design. Rodney says referrals are the best way to meet new clients. “When clients see my work, they get what my work is about,” he says. “They have faith in my abilities. Interior design is intangible. You are selling people a concept. They have to be able to trust me.” *Continued on page 32*

feature

When it came to Milena's house, Rodney says she just wanted the spaces pulled together, to be flowing. "To create an entire household in a palate in each room that feels different and individual but is exactly the same is a challenge," divulges Rodney.

Rodney met the challenge, working closely with associate Chris Ferreira to bring their design talents to the entire main floor – the television room, the kitchen, the den and the living and dining room. Rodney mentions that many suburban homes have a living room and a dining room and they are often spaces that rarely get used. So Rodney and Milena worked toward furnishing and filling the living room so that it felt like a formal space but, because it wouldn't be used every day, wouldn't blow the budget. It has one sofa, one chair, one coffee table and one end table, and Rodney points out it doesn't take a lot to make a room feel full and furnished.

All the pieces in the home are investment pieces. "This is their first home," says Rodney. "Their intention is to eventually move on and build a custom home in the future so we wanted to ensure that we had pieces that would work in different sizes and scales of rooms."

Most of the furniture in the house is classic with a touch of contemporary, to make the home look opulent but also up-to-date and current. Rodney added a more contemporary edge with some selections of artwork and accessories so the home has youth and vitality. All the draperies were custom and locally manufactured by **KLB Interiors**. All accessories, lighting, artwork and rugs were all sourced and supplied by Rodney. *Continued on page 34*



The formal living room is elegant, but contemporary art and silver fixtures keep it from looking too stuffy.

ABOVE: Rodney's use of black and dark woods adds a dramatic effect against the other neutral colours throughout the home.

feature



LEFT: Rodney erected a wall in the master bedroom to create intimacy and a separate dressing area.

BELOW: The walk-in closet is perfectly organized with a tailored space for everything.

BOTTOM: The master bathroom is spacious and Rodney's choice of lighting adds just the right touch.



There are no children in the house so Rodney was able to use more luxurious fabrics that might not be practical for everybody. The dining room chairs are silk, as is the window seat in the master bedroom. All the draperies are either silk or linen.

On the second floor of the home, Rodney significantly overhauled the master suite. The room was unusually large, and although a large master is nothing to complain about, it created a space that was too big and awkward, even with a sitting area. Rodney worked with Robert Di Lorenzo of **Link Building Group Inc.** to divide the space by adding a wall to create a more intimate sleeping area and an elegant entrance and dressing area. "By creating the wall partition, we were able to put a television and a fireplace in," imparts Rodney. "It actually made the proportions of each space perfect and made it a much grander and luxurious suite."

Milena's house has been transformed. Once through the front doors you notice there is nothing standard about the interior of Milena's house. Each elegant room flows into the other but has its own distinct feel and look. The home has different shades of neutrals, from taupe to mushroom to khaki. A little black and white creates a contrast that make the spaces stand out against the wood, stone and metal finishes. Each room has personality, character and elegance.

Milena says one of the benefits of using Rodney as their designer is he helped them create a look that was a mix of her and her husband's style. "We enjoy coming home and are very proud of our home now," Milena says with a smile. "It really feels like our personal space. Rodney created rooms based on how we personally make use of them. We have more time to enjoy our home as a result of working with Rodney." **OH**