



Stained-glass pocket doors are a unifying element between the master ensuite and bedroom. The inspirational tapestry hangs boldly in a simple gallery frame over the large, mahogany sleigh bed. Rich, layered fabrics and smooth, sculpted lines add an elegant dimension perfect for rest and relaxation.

History & Romance

Boasting a palette of neutral yellows and rich mahogany, this second floor master redesign gave the homeowners a European spa suite at their Ancaster home. Principal designer Regina Sturrock of Regina Sturrock Design weaves the story of how a tapestry inspired the space's regal elegance.

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Bathed in a warm, amber glow, it's hard to believe this master ensuite is found in a two-decade-old family home on a tree-lined Ancaster cul-de-sac. Instead, the luxurious fabrics, deep, detailed wood, gold fixtures and modern amenities would make you believe you were visiting a European spa. Which was exactly what the homeowners wanted.

The bedroom and ensuite were typical of most homes of the era. A tiny, walled-in shower stall, a Jacuzzi tub and deck consuming one wall, a simple single-sink vanity and too much ceramic tile. The vision for the space was ambitious, and included a new dressing area with built-in his-and-her's closets, a furniture-quality double vanity, a romantic bathroom and a serene bath oasis, complete with a luxury steam shower.

"Creative planning was essential to the success of this project," Regina Sturrock of Regina Sturrock Design explains. "We closed off an entrance to an unused small bedroom and opened it up to the adjoining ensuite with a large pocket door. The two small closets that took up valuable real estate in the ensuite were eliminated, giving us additional space to work with."

No longer underperforming, the space today is full of details, inspired from a tapestry the couple brought back from their most recent travels. Everywhere you look, Sturrock's attention to detail and keen eye for luxurious design is evident. Simple variations on a theme — rich woods, classic panelling and semi-precious stones

— are complemented by modern nods and mementos from the family's world travels.

The entire space is bathed in a warm palette of yellow onyx, soft cream and rich gold. The tone-on-tone is both neutral and regal, lending the perfect backdrop for the deep wood tones and layered, luxurious fabrics. "The window treatments are a layered compilation of lace, silk-linen, linen sheer and metal trim. At a glance, the treatment is sculptural and ties in with the architecture." Looking more closely, metallic thread running through the paisley patterned fabric glints in the sunlight, adding a lightness to the heavy drapes.

From the bed, the clients are reminded of their travels through a wall of evocative black and white prints floating in oversized frames. The gallery-inspired wall lends a moodiness to the space but also serves an important function. "We answered the eternal question of how to dress a wall with a big-screen TV," muses Sturrock. "The central art piece is actually a retractable, framed silk screen that hides a flat screen TV." In this space, the end result is a beautifully appointed suite with spaces for everything to be either displayed or stored away when not in use.

"It's always a journey when weaving the soul of the client into a space. Along with their history and experiences, there are many layers that settle in and become the signature of the person who lives there," Sturrock explains. "Of course, function and practicality play integral roles." This is perhaps most evident in the adjoining dressing room.





The once small and unused spare bedroom has been completely re-invented and custom-designed to suit the clients' wardrobe and particular requirements. Bathed in natural light streaming through large windows, the dressing room is the perfect space for the homeowners to start or end their days.

"The most beautiful feature is the makeup vanity," says Sturrock. "Although built into the panelled wall, we designed it to stand out as a beautifully crafted mahogany furniture piece complete with elegant turned legs. The top is a Nacarado quartzite. It's so beautiful. I love the gold and copper veining which runs through it." The integrated oval mirror over a large panel-framed mirror adds a dramatic element to the space. A custom-design concept, Sturrock loves the result.

From function to aesthetics, today the clients bathe in luxury. "There's been a sea of change in the bathroom design since the original-to-the-home bath was fashionable," says Sturrock. Maintaining a focus on function, the space was designed to serve both the couple's daily needs and well-deserved retreats. "A sculptural tub, complete with heated backrest and hydrothermal massage, is the central focal point of the master ensuite."

The eclectic mix of millwork, furnishings and finishing pieces throughout the redesign were integrated for their old world charm and craftsmanship. The end result? History and romance. "The suite is filled with empirical reference," Sturrock reflects. "Tapestries of the court, elegantly ornate fabrics, gold fittings, semi-precious mosaics and jewellery-quality lighting provide a romantic and regal glamour."

There is a nuanced layered beauty to this space. "There are so many exceptional details in this space. Like the over-scaled and bejewelled wall sconce that reigns with regal glamour over the vanity," Sturrock explains. "It's a statement and an unexpected one at that. I love to infuse my spaces with at least one outstanding piece that brings uniqueness and personality."

And how did the clients react? "There were a few happy tears on reveal day," says Sturrock. "It was an emotional and long-awaited day after an intense four-month renovation of the second floor."

ABOVE Custom millwork in the spacious dressing room has a space for everything – including the client's collection of couture purses. The built-in vanity has the appearance of a piece of furniture, keeping in style and feel with the rest of the redesign. **LEFT PAGE** Amber and gold stained glass flank the large window and sculpted tub. Rich gold fittings and a crowning band of layered lace, embroidered velvet and metal chain bullion juxtapose with a simple vase of cherry blossoms. An over-scaled sconce of semi-precious stones defines the vanity. The large steam shower is the showpiece of the space. This glass-enclosed modern luxury has a wall of semi-precious tiger's eye mosaic.



Regina Sturrock Design Inc. was founded in 1996. With projects extending internationally, the firm specializes in highly tailored renovations and new builds in the luxury home market. reginasturrockdesign.com