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A stunning interior by
Regina Sturrock Design

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REALIZING YOUR VISIONS
Design for Modern Day Family Life

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BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT

A home on the western shore of Lake Ontario illustrates Regina Sturrock Design's reputation for masterfully appointed residences that resonate with the lives of their owners.

BY MARYANNE MCNULTY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROY TIMM



Regina Sturrock

Kitchen Couture

the custom kitchen demonstrates the Sturrock design ethos with its timeless architectural envelope and fresh, modern palette.

► **Top:** Deep crown moulding wraps across the custom cabinets and curved window valance. The soft white palette was kept unified from element to element, giving sculptural interest to the architectural components. A motif of interlacing circles in the glass inserts is repeated throughout the house in transom and sidelight details.

► **Left:** Natural Selection: the home's palette was inspired by the fresh greens and creamy whites of spring blossoms.

► **Right:** Architectural details were layered in throughout the home, as in this exquisite inlaid ceiling relief.



OCCUPYING AN ENVIABLE NICHE WITHIN THE HIGH-END RESIDENTIAL DESIGN INDUSTRY, REGINA STURROCK DESIGN specializes in highly customized, luxury renovations and 'new-builds' amid the patrician residences of the Lakeshore throughout the GTA. "Our clients want very personal, bespoke design" says Sturrock, the owner and principal designer. "Many come to the initial meeting with a bulging folder of images they've culled from various publications, and often there is a scattershot of ideas represented. And that's okay – it's our job to distil their ideas into a workable, integrated and uniquely personal design. Ours is a couture approach that expertly tailors the personal specifications of our clients with the architectural integrity of the home."



▲ *Top Left: Luxurious silk damask drapes shimmer subtly against the dining room's pale celadon walls.*

▲ *Centre Left: Blushing dogwood blooms are a luscious counterpoint to the spring green walls.*

▲ *Bottom Left: Artfully arranged accessories give the living room an elegant glamour.*



▲ *Above: Chartreuse upholstery and drapes are paired with crisp black and white zebra patterned pillows and modern area carpet creating a fresh, unexpected palette.*

For Sturrock, a well-designed home goes beyond immediate visual appeal to evoke an emotional response – a profound sense of well-being and comfort. It is based on an intrinsic understanding of space, balance, proportion and form and the symbiotic entwining of the human element with its environment. “This holistic direction results in well designed, luxurious, yet ‘real’ living spaces for our clients, infused with their spirit and incorporating all the things which make them happy.”

“Good design evolves from a dynamic, undiluted artistic vision rather than a slavish adherence to rules and trends. For instance, it was a longstanding trend in kitchen design to pair light perimeter cabinets with a contrasting, dark island, often with a different stone countertop as well. I wanted to wrap the entire kitchen in a warm white so that all the architectural elements would have a sculptural feel, so instead of the ubiquitous contrasting island, we made an interesting feature out of the refrigerator door. We wanted to evoke old French farmhouse architecture and to that end we paired rustic panel moldings and carvings with antique hinges and door handles, and painted and patinaed the

whole to a softly weathered grey. It’s a beautiful feature, but it doesn’t overwhelm.”

Sturrock asserts that effective communication with her clients is the most important ingredient for a successful design project. To that end, each project involves multiple meetings with the clients around various aspects of the design: client intake, initial assessment of architectural plans, space planning, finalized layouts and millwork details, reflective ceiling plans, material selections and so on.

Sturrock’s overarching vision drives the design of all interior appointments, including custom kitchen and bathroom designs carefully tailored to fit the lifestyle of the clients. Built-in cabinetry and millwork are closely linked with the architectural envelope. The design of these elements is therefore keenly tailored so as to unite function with the desired aesthetic. Every design element, both interior and exterior, is considered in association with the whole. The result is a cohesive and seamless experience; a natural synthesis of concepts and materials.

“For this particular project, we layered in a



▲ Above: Haute couture details in the master bedroom include a deeply coved ceiling inset with delicate tracery plasterwork, a luxuriously padded headboard, custom bedding and Parisian inspired furnishings. Billowing sheer draperies soften the glass doors without distracting from the view.

number of architectural elements to evoke an aura of updated classicism, and subtly repeated a motif of interlacing circles and ovals in the various elements for cohesion. Throughout the main level, we added leaded glass transoms and sidelights to transitional archways so that the rooms beyond unfold with a sense of destination. In the dining room, we designed a robust oval ceiling coffer to pull the motif through and reflect the oval dining table below. To enhance the restful, romantic mood in the master bedroom, we designed an appropriately delicate relief pattern to enliven the tray ceiling. In this house, as for all our projects, we wanted to create the optimal envelope before moving on to furnish the space.”

To produce work of this calibre, Sturrock has put together a design team with an extensive architectural and millwork knowledge base, able to work in close conjunction with architects, builders and trades as integral members of the project team. “Each of our designers brings a special skill set to the table,” says Sturrock. “As a result, we can offer our clients full-service design and oversee each project through all its stages, from concept to completion.”

When it comes to design excellence, Sturrock feels luxurious design is less about subscribing to the “it’s expensive therefore it’s desirable” mindset, and more about appreciating and understanding good style as it pertains to the intended individual and lifestyle. “Everyone has a different perspective on good living and beautiful design, but this should never be generic, based on the perceived value of pricey brands,” she states. “Exclusive design, in the guise of un-signed and artful ‘one-offs’, is the kind of luxury we subscribe to.”



▲ Practically perfect: A shelving niche was incorporated into an adjacent wall to provide convenient and stylish storage next to the stand-alone tub in the master en suite.