



**“DO IT YOURSELF”** generally evokes the image of a household handyman (or woman) fixing things up as best they can after a visit to the reno centre. But as we show in this issue of Toronto Home—Spring, the fixer-upper season—there is a higher order of doing your own thing.

Four of the houses we’re featuring have been repurposed or built by their owners, all of whom are top-end designers. Each had a different vision, but the end result in all instances has been a show-stopper home.

Take, for example, Rose Barroso of Barroso Homes. As a mother, uppermost in her mind was to create a home that would be a maximally comfortable place for a growing family to inhabit. “I think of myself living in every home I build,” said Rose, “and about my kids’ lives and how a family uses their home.”

For David Small of David Small Designs, an appreciation of Modern design led him to update the iconic look with his own flourishes, making his Mississauga home more liveable and loveable than is found in this sometimes-austere style. “Since my home was completed, we have taken on many projects where people say they don’t want just any Modern house, they want my Modern house,” said David.

Lindsey and Gerry Anacleto’s design for their Etobicoke home also riffs on the idea of updating Modern. In this house, their thought was to mix the high-art appeal of Modern with quirky touches of their own, including items they found on the street.

Meanwhile, Irene Gankevitch was inspired by the natural setting of her home in the Mineola West area of Mississauga. She wanted “to combine three styles—traditional, contemporary and some rustic elements—in creating a serene environment.” As you can see in an article we are calling Home, Cottage, Castle, she has succeeded.

Speaking of castle-like homes, in a bit of a departure for the magazine, we’re taking a look at the grand prize in the Princess Margaret Home Lottery. Usually we wait until homes are occupied to review them, but in this instance, writing about the Vaughan house was irresistible because of its impeccable styling and the worthy cause it serves.

Finally, we’d like to introduce two new faces to the magazine, contributor Margaret Fehr, and Debbie Travis, who will be providing a guest column called Debbie Travis Travels, which as the name suggests discusses interesting places the celebrated designer has visited.

**BRYAN DEMCHINSKY**

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.