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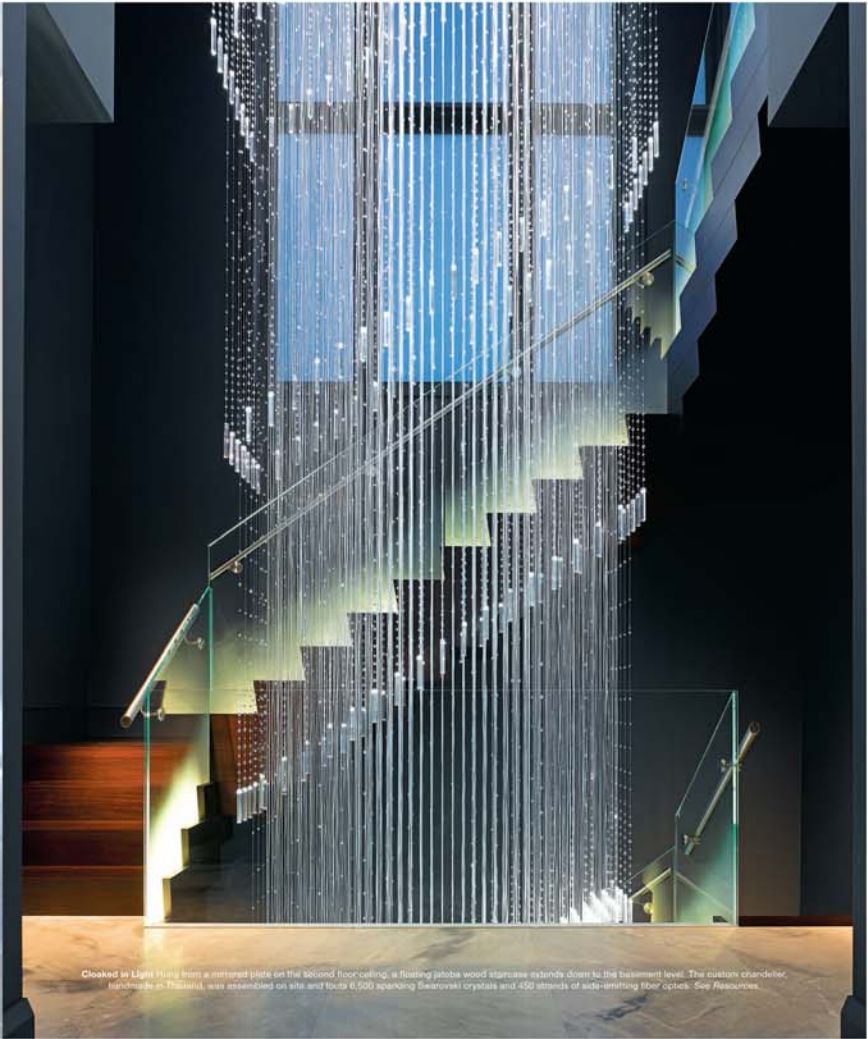


Dining In Carol Brewer designed the Cortan and brushed stainless steel dining room table. The white-lacquered, wall-mounted buffet features acid-etched starphire mirror tops. Lighting is through G2J Design. Chair backs are covered in Innovations Plus Pearl shimmer vinyl... the backs are covered in Knoll Katzome white upholstery with embroidered silver geometric designs. See Resources.

STAMFORD DESIGNER CAROL BREWER CREATES A FAMILY HOME BRIMMING WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND COUNTLESS CUSTOM SOLUTIONS

IN A NEW LIGHT

BY MINDY PANTIEL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN RAHN/A-FRAME INC.



Cooked In Light Hung from a mirrored plate on the second floor ceiling, a floating jatoba wood staircase extends down to the basement level. The custom chandelier, handmade in Thailand, was assembled on site and features 6,500 sparkling Swarovski crystals and 450 strands of wave-emitting fiber optics. See Resources.



UPON APPROACH, THE TRADITIONAL RESIDENCE clad in Indiana limestone nestles nicely in its well-established neighborhood. But don't be fooled by the formal colonnades and manicured landscape. Step inside, and the transformation to the brushed stainless steel asymmetrical benches and a spiral sofa reminiscent of a sexy red lipstick in the entry is akin to joining Dorothy on her abrupt shift from Kansas to Oz. Except you're in Toronto in the 14,500-square-foot home of a young couple whose wish list included modern interiors that would bend to the needs of a growing family.

After purchasing a double lot and tearing down an existing structure, the couple determined the only person who could help them realize their vision was Stamford-based interior designer Carol Brewer. "I had done a previous project with them and really understood the importance of customizing a home to who they are," says Brewer, who commuted from Connecticut to Canada for more than three years to get everything from the oversized French Gris de Savoie marble slab flooring on the main level to the plum-hued velvet seating and mohair pillows in the home theater just right.

Drawing on her worldwide travels for inspiration, the designer infused every room with something memorable, starting with that eye-popping sofa. "I saw it in a hotel in Barcelona and immediately called the management to get the plans," says Brewer, a South African native who designed 42 pieces for

Outdoor Living On the outdoor terrace (above), the etched glass table and slate mesh chairs are from Richard Schultz Design's Mateo collection. Modular seating from Oaseq (left) has silver-coated frames and is topped with Sunbrella cushions through Restoration Hardware. David Sutherland pillows are in assorted Perennials outdoor fabrics. The coffee table has a white powder-coated aluminum top, and the floor is Eramosa limestone. The rear of the house (opposite page) features mahogany-framed thermal windows from Tradewood. Eramosa stone pavers surround the hot tub (opposite page), and massive slabs of Muskoka rock provide privacy. See Resources.





Modern Materials
 (clockwise across areas above and left) The white lacquered custom cabinetry is by Daniel Popescu for Biotta Kitchens of New York. The sink is Franke. The Gaggenau cooktops are along the wall with Glass Blanco backsplash tile from Porcelanosa. In the entry, etched tile mirrors hang above stainless steel benches. Six OrO wood blocks with silver leaf by Oakville, CT, based Pitta-Thompson complement the lighted domed ceiling in the anteroom and frame the dramatic red spiral sofa beyond. In the library, the Baker ottoman doubles as a coffee table. The sofa contains a sixteen wool frame with corded velvet cushions, both from Donghia. Pillow fabric is from the Calves Klasi Home collection for Kravet. The white leather Spinnaker chairs are through Dennis Miller. A glass art installation by artist Freddy Chandra adds color in the library. Black crocodile Motivo by Caesarstone is the backdrop for the glass Vitraform sink in the powder room. See Resources.





“The glass mosaic mural in the pool area [a collaboration with architect Rene Gonzalez] was inspired by Monet’s *Water Lilies*.”

the house. “The metal on the exterior of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao gave me the idea to do brushed stainless-steel walls in the family room, and the glass mosaic mural in the pool area [a collaboration with architect Rene Gonzalez] was inspired by Monet’s *Water Lilies*.”

Brewer also joined forces with New York City–based lighting experts at G2 Design for an illuminating scheme that incorporates state-of-the-art technology. In the formal dining room, programmable, color-changing LED lighting and 15 handmade crystal raindrop chandeliers allow the owners to change colors to suit the occasion or their mood. “Their little girl loves purple. So on her birthday, the room glowed in violet,” notes Brewer.

But the tour de force is in the staircase, where the floating jatroba wood structure with LED-lighted balustrade is clad in 450 strands of side-emitting fiber optics with custom-made glass prism end pieces and features 6,500 Swarovski crystals. “In the last 40 years, nothing in the design world has changed like lighting,” says Brewer. “There are so many exciting things



Cool Pool An African sculpture cast from Cobalt stone (above) watches over the indoor pool where the glass mural is lit with cove lighting. (Inset, top to bottom) **Home Movies** A custom sofa and three chairs all covered in plum-hued velvet. **Sunbrella** fabrics provide seating in the dual-level theater where the walls and panels are upholstered in gray tones. **Gathering Place** Shades of purple repeat in the family room, where the sectional topped in Donghia mohair velvet was inspired by Italian design. Pillows are covered in fabric from Designers Guild. The embossed leather and white lacquered coffee table doubles as an ottoman. A custom-dyed Tibetan mohair rug through Etie warms the marble slab floors. **Summer Nights** In the sunken patio area, the fine pit casts a glow on the glass sculpture garden. The wood slat fence by NAK Design Strategies is backed with bronze plate. See Resources.



True Blue A shimmering blue silk Philip Jeffries wall covering, blue mohair velvet Kratz bench and sea blue lacquered cabinetry set a serene tone in the master bedroom. The dark-stained oak, wall-mounted headboard is made with charmed white vinyl, and the oyster-finished embroidered silk/cotton blend draperies are Larkspur. Pierre Frey velvet tops the Baker chairs. See Resources.



En Suite In the master bathroom (above), the vanity and tub deck are covered with Blue Cielo marble. The white lacquered cabinetry is designed by Daniel Popescu for Biotta Kitchens. The neutral vanity chair wears Suddern vinyl from Maharani, and the radiant-heated floors are covered with slabs of Bianco Sivec marble. See Resources.

you can do with the current technology, and it's all so much more efficient." The energy-saving lighting is a small part of the environmentally conscious construction that features solar panels, geothermal heating, multi-glazed thermal glass windows and radiant-heated floors. "The children love to be able to walk barefoot in the winter when there's so much snow outside," notes Brewer.

For continuity, the paint palette ranges from pale grays and blues to more dramatic dark charcoal. In the dining room, the brushed stainless-steel table bases with white Corian tops and chairs upholstered with shimmering white and silver fabric follow the established scheme, and the u-shaped family-room sectional sporting a luxurious subergine mohair velvet complements the brushed stainless fireplace wall.

Like most homes, the kitchen is the heart of this one, and Brewer mixed white lacquer and Wenge cabinets with pure white quartz countertops. The custom barstools wear squid-ink sludge vinyl. "Chic and practical," she says.

"When you spend as much time with a client as I did, you are able to tailor everything to suit—from how they function in the morning to how they work and play all day," says Brewer. "In the end, it's the difference between buying off the rack at Bloomingdale's or getting the kind of fit that can only come from a custom-measured garment." ■