

HOME is where the HEART is



THEY SAY HOME is where the heart is. From the moment you turn into the driveway and see the family's "Welcome" sign, you know you are somewhere special. Greeting you with the warmest of welcomes are Rosemary and her husband Dale, all big smiles and comforting handshakes. Almost immediately you know which room you really want to see, the space where this home's heart beats; the kitchen, and it is a beauty.

Breathtaking vaulted 13 foot ceilings draw you in to this "gathering space". The family who bought this lovely country retreat 18 years ago fell in love with the home, even the "country, rustic feel of the kitchen" explains Rosemary. "When we bought this home, everything in this kitchen was country charm, and the island was all, ceramic botanical herb tiles. One of the light fixtures actually had a decorative herb painted on it. It was Rosemary of course,

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so that must have been a sign. The floors were old varnished barn wood and I always joked I didn't have to sweep the floor ... everything went in the space between the boards."

Those white tiled countertop days are now long gone and have been replaced with Brazilian granite, characterized by its deep richness and warmth, perfect for spending time around the enormous middle island. "Mike Le, from CounterMar in Vaughan, was instrumental in giving us exactly what we wanted in these countertops" says Dale. "We wanted full slabs, with no seams or joints, and a thickness of at least 3 cm, which was not an easy find". Much like every piece of this project, the owner had a personal hand in not only the demolition but also the installation, assisted by family and friends during this very delicate process, meeting the timeline goal of having the counters installed by Christmas.

Whether for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, or just a regular Saturday, this kitchen was custom made for entertaining, as Rosemary, the head chef and baker, wouldn't have it any other way. "Functionality, was key when designing this kitchen", she explains, "we worked with the very talented Lorie Pessot of kitchENvision, to ensure this kitchen made sense for both our current, and future needs as a family". The gorgeous, cherry wood cabinets that wrap around this space, provided by Tony at LaRocca Cabinets, are designed and installed so that there's no need to get up on tiptoes to reach your bakeware or, your spice racks. They are all at counter height and flow downwards from there, as the owners have organized them so that cooking is easy, and clean up even easier. The owner loves the cabinet drawers, which match the above counter cabinets that have all the storage capacity this family needs. The cabinets all have gorgeous brushed stainless steel hardware, accents that compliment the other colours chosen for this room, including top of the line stainless steel appliances.

The colour scheme in this kitchen screams elegant, with the flooring becoming the shining, finishing touch.

AFTER



The tiles are stunning soft beige porcelain, which along with the cedar ceilings tie the entire space together from top to bottom.

Other finishing touches, like the lighting over the expansive island, the under-mount cabinet fixtures, the windows, doors, and paint colours were all chosen by the owners themselves. "We hold a lot of family celebrations here", explain Dale and Rosemary, "but it was also important that the kitchen worked for the many other gatherings we have here at our home. We have church gatherings and youth rallies, winter backyard bonfires, weddings, and all sorts of festivities that require the space to work for everyone involved". The owners go on to describe that their 75-acre location ideally serves as a place for people to come together, and they would not have it any other way.

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The kitchen is enhanced by its lovely windows and a gorgeous French-style back door, which provides an abundance of light during the day, and lets the sun shine right through to the adjoining dining room. Once again, a clever design aspect feature was to have the wall that separates the kitchen and dining room remain, but with plenty of open space at each end, so you essentially have two separate rooms to entertain in, but never really feel separated.

This “house-proud” couple has done a wonderful job of turning their aged rustic kitchen into a space that is difficult to leave. They are quick to give credit to all involved, including the fact that designer Lorie Pessot project managed the renovation from start to finish. This kitchen is certainly a reflection of the love they have for their family, friends, as well as the rest of this wonderful space inside and out, a space they lovingly call home.

Yes indeed, the home is where the heart is, and this home has it in spades.

AFTER



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