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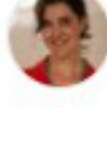


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A New Look Readies a Home for Gracious Entertaining

The expanded kitchen, elegant living room and stylish family room prepare this home for frequent guests



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Photos by Jason Hartog Photography

Living Area at a Glance

Who lives here: A couple with four grown children

Location: Thornhill, Ontario

Designers: Luisa Maringola, lead designer, and Marisa Lupo, both of [Lumar Interiors](#)

This home outside Toronto got a makeover that included a renovated kitchen and decorative changes to the entire first floor. The homeowners called on Lumar Interiors, the design firm that helped them renovate the kitchen and family room in the home 25 years ago.

This time around, the designers helped the homeowners expand

their kitchen, knock down the wall between the living and piano rooms, replace the flooring and choose new furnishings and soft goods. In addition, an upstairs bathroom got a down-to-the-studs makeover.

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This photo and the previous one show the formal [living room](#), which had been used as a [home office](#).

The homeowners wanted the space to feel like a chic boutique hotel yet still have classic style.

“She wanted a very elegant yet calming room,” lead designer Luisa Maringola says of the wife. To that end, the walls, [rug](#), sofa and side chairs are all in neutral tones. The designers added color via the floral and plum throw pillows, which help bring richness to the room. “That was a color the husband said he liked and wanted to see in the house,” Maringola says of the plum.

The furniture in this room was all custom made, and the designers

selected the art. They also added the ceiling treatment and the crystal chandelier. This photo shows the area where a wall previously separated this room and the piano room; the wall was directly behind the black-and-white armchair, where you see the flooring pattern change.

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Here’s a look at the new kitchen, which was completely redone with custom cabinetry, counters and backsplash.

The traditional-style cabinets are finished in an off-white paint with a gray undertone that might be described as a cream-gray.

“They didn’t want the typical white kitchen,” Maringola says.

“They didn’t want a gray kitchen.” The cabinet paint is Silver Satin by Benjamin Moore.

The island cabinetry is stained a custom deep blue-gray, and the counter is engineered stone with subtle gray veining. On the side of the island opposite the stove (not pictured), a beverage refrigerator and coffee maker, as well as the glasses needed for

those drinks, make a convenient entertaining hub.

The backsplash features white and gray marble [tiles with an arabesque shape](#). Lumar designed the corner area of open shelving to display cookbooks and decorative items.

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The dining area beyond the island was added on to the home as part of the kitchen remodel.

The flooring consists of 32-by-72-inch porcelain tiles that the designers sourced in Italy.

[When Bigger Is Better: The Dramatic Look of Large-Format Tiles](#)



The family entertains often, both formally and informally. The designers outfitted the dining area with a 10-foot-long, live-edge table with a chrome base that can accommodate a dozen people. The chairs are custom.

The window wall overlooks the sunny backyard and pool. Sheer linen drapes add flexibility: If the homeowners want less light coming in, they can draw the drapes.



The family room got a completely new look, starting with soft blue paint and a new dark stain on the wood floors, which previously were mahogany-toned. New furniture and accessories complete the look.

The built-ins are also new. The room has ample seating to accommodate family gatherings as well as guests. “Their wish list for this room was to make it very comfortable, very cozy,” Maringola says.



The homeowners wanted the family room color scheme to feel relaxing and soothing. Grays, soft blues and cream fit the bill. The wall color is Cloudy Sky from Benjamin Moore.

The coffee table is burl wood on a brass stand; the area rug is made of wool and silk.

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The custom built-ins feature the same stain as the kitchen island, helping to create a sense of continuity between those rooms, which are separated by a pocket door.

Patterned draperies add visual interest to the space.



This room was used as a playroom when the couple’s children were small, but now that they’re grown, the homeowners wanted to turn it into a study. It too features custom built-ins, as well as mauve-plum wallpaper that adds texture to the space.

Pro tip: Maringola suggests that when new clients first meet with their designer, they come prepared with an idea of what their priorities are for the project. “Sometimes people have a few rooms to furnish and decorate, but they’re not all priorities,” she says.

It’s also helpful to have an idea of which decor style you like, even if it’s in the broadest of terms, such as “light and airy,” “dark and

dramatic,” “rich and bold.” For inspiration or even to get a sense of your own taste, [browse the many photos on Houzz](#) and [start saving favorites in an ideabook](#). Don’t worry if your preferences are all over the map — a good designer can help you tease out what you’d ultimately like best for your project.