

COME ONE,
COME
ALL

The kitchen's new chocolate and vanilla palette is sleek and modern, but also warm and inviting. The wraparound counter's outer wall holds little-used stemware and a bar. New sliding french doors in the sitting room (background) access the back garden. Kitchen, Heritage Kitchens; cabinet hardware, Lee Valley Tools; sliding doors, Pella; lighting, Universal Lamp; all flowers, Here Toronto; stools, ISA International; sink, faucets, American Standard.

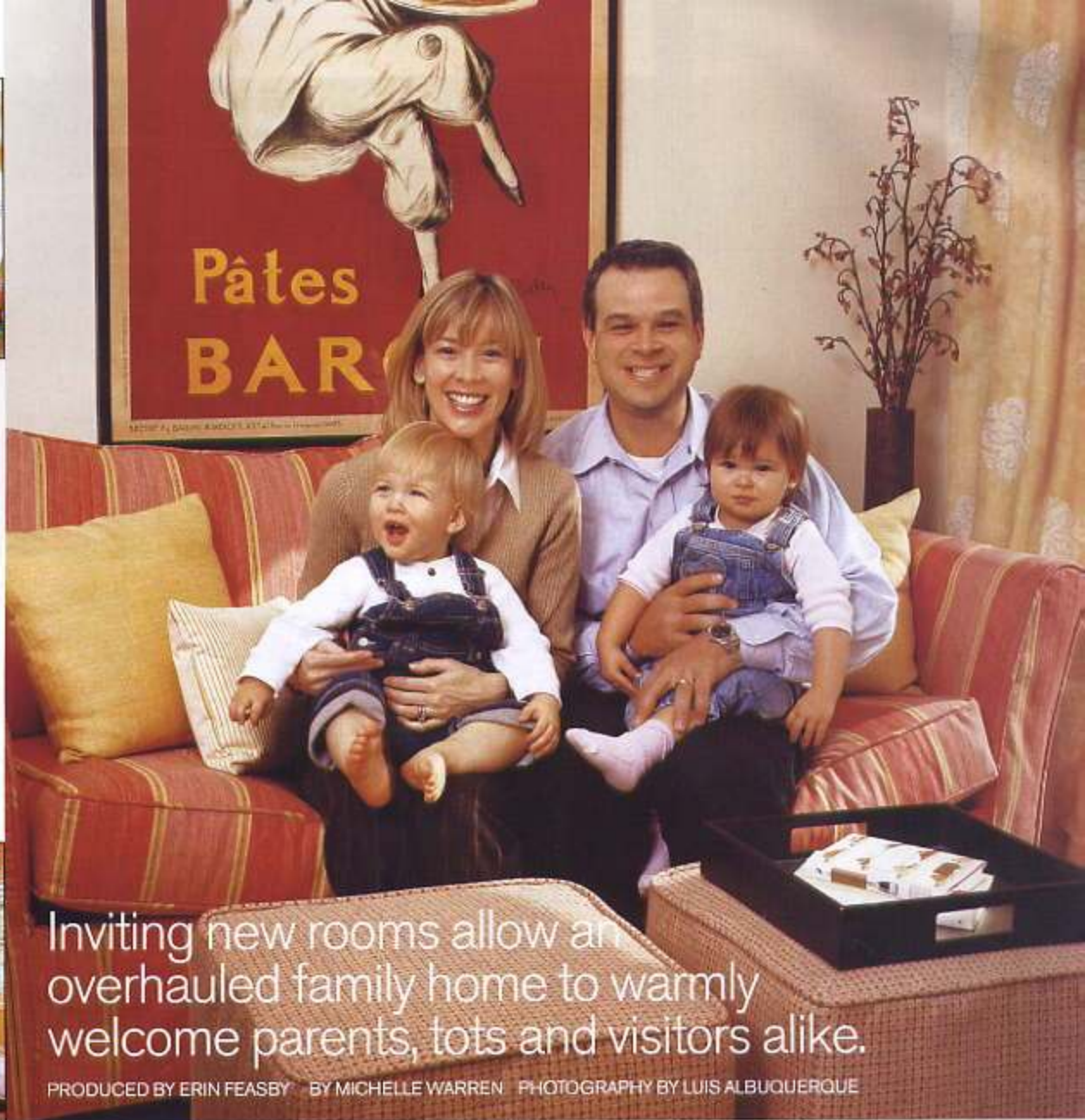
BEFORE



RIGHT: The house was made over from top to toe to suit the needs of Lisa and Mark MacIsaac and their busy twins, Blake and Caitlin, 18 months old. Adorned with layers of pretty fabrics, the sitting room off the kitchen is a cosy place for the family to gather or for the kids to play while parents prepare meals. Contractors, York Contracting; Osborne & Little fabrics, Primavera; all sewing, cube upholstery, We Do Draperies.



BEFORE



Inviting new rooms allow an overhauled family home to warmly welcome parents, tots and visitors alike.

PRODUCED BY ERIN FEASBY BY MICHELLE WARREN PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS ALBUQUERQUE

As parents with twin toddlers, Lisa and Mark MacIsaac had little time to think about renovating a new house. But two years after moving into a traditional-style 1930s stucco home in Toronto, the couple decided it was time to create a space that would better speak to the evolving needs of their dynamic young family.

"I wanted an update that included modern elements and colour palettes, and more storage," Lisa explains.

Lisa turned to friend and *House & Home* design editor Erin Feasby, who helped the couple to bring order to the house, tackling everything from the bedrooms to the basement. While Lisa adores elements of French country style, she didn't want to get completely

BREAKFAST/SITTING ROOM

- 1. Fabric for drapery:** Osborne & Little Stromboli (F1762 in colour 04).
- 2. Carpet:** Romantic Retreat in Ecru, from Liz Claiborne Prestige Collection, Carpet One.
- 3. Fabric on ottoman cubes:** Osborne & Little Nina Campbell Othello weave (F3281 in colour 02).
- 4. Wall and cabinetry paint:** Elephant Tusk (OC-8).
- 5. Trim paint:** Marble White (OC-34).
- 6. Fabric on love seat:** Osborne & Little Constanze (F1431 in colour 030).
- 7. Solid fabric on throw pillows:** Osborne & Little Sakura Linen (F5210 in colour 09).
- 8. Ribbed fabric on throw pillows:** Osborne & Little Dorsey (LF4322 in colour 07).

All fabrics from Primavera Interior Furnishings; all paints by Benjamin Moore.





BEFORE

In the breakfast/sitting room, new french sliding doors were installed on the back wall, so this side wall, previously a doorway, could be filled in and used for a display/storage unit. The display isn't overwhelmed by the LCD television, which swivels for easy viewing from the kitchen or breakfast bar. Baskets placed at a level accessible to children help

keep toys tidy. TV, Panasonic; built-ins, designed by Erin Feasby, built by Robertson Custom Woodworking; hardware for built-in, Lee Valley Tools; Osborne & Little fabrics, Primavera; canister, pewter footed bowl, silver pitcher, woven box, Dolce Vita; iron birds, Babcock Zanner; baskets, Pottery Barn; boxes, Constantine; tulip prints, red vase, Artocracy; cream plant pots, Hardware.





The pairing of an intricate formal chandelier and a rustic harvest table in the dining room sets the tone for the open-concept main floor. To add sophistication, a chair rail was installed, and the walls were painted in two muted tones. The collection of art was carefully hung to balance an off-centre window. Made of sheer

linen, simple roman blinds block an unsightly view. Painting, *Cellophane Man* by Shiray Langley, Painted City Gallery; framed print, Coconstantine; framed wine labels, Living2; chairs, Pottery Barn; table, Calder's Antiques; chandelier, Universal Lamp; mirrors (on table), Scantrade; silver bowl, Dolce Vita; all trim carpentry, John Ragana.



caught in the trappings of a uniform look. Erin responded by taking design cues from the MacIsaacs' dining room, where a country-style harvest table is paired with clean-lined black chairs. And so throughout the redecorated home she juxtaposed rustic elements and warm colours with contemporary touches that suit Lisa and Mark.

The open-concept main floor — encompassing living and dining rooms, powder room, kitchen and breakfast/sitting room — takes centre stage in the new design. While the living room needed little attention, the main floor's overall design presented a number of challenges, not the least of which was two aesthetically unappealing support pillars in the dining room/hallway. The pillars compromised traffic flow and made for an awkward layout with the powder room opening just off the dining area. To rectify the problem, Erin turned the pillars into a wall, which provided direction by creating a separate dining room and hallway, which in turn leads to the powder room. "It makes the dining room much more intimate," Lisa says.

The key to the main floor's transformation was the kitchen. "That was the biggest project," Lisa says. "The kitchen was really cramped, and I needed more storage." To give the room a bit more space, a six-inch-wide

TOP LEFT: A new wall built to separate the dining room from the front hall houses a "family board," a spot for notes, displays and stashing mail. It's recessed so it won't dominate the hall. Made of metal, the chalkboard can hold magnets, too. Activity board by Shaun La Foucade, Ideal Ideas; ribbon, Mokuba.





Black honed-granite counters play off the creamy cupboards and marble backsplash. The wraparound counter houses the sink, which is fitted with stainless brushed-chrome faucet and taps. Its bar ledge is topped with creamy honed marble. Low open shelves on the back wall keep everyday dishes readily accessible. Cabinetry, Heritage Kitchens; hood, microwave, Frigidaire; counters, York Marble, Tile & Terrazzo; sink, faucet, American Standard; marble mosaic backsplash, Saitillo Imports.



KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM

1. Marble mosaic tile in kitchen: Crema Marfil, Saitillo Imports.
2. Custom stain on wraparound counter: Heritage Kitchens.
3. Marble countertop: Botticino Fiorito, York Marble, Tile & Terrazzo.
4. Fabric for dining room roman blinds: Nina Campbell Lido (F3521 in colour 04).
5. Fabric on dining room chairs: Osborne & Little Stromboli (F1762 in colour 05).
6. Carpet in dining room: Liz Claiborne Prestige Collection, Carmella in Crimson, Carpet One.
7. Granite countertop: Nero Assoluto, York Marble, Tile & Terrazzo.
8. Paint on dining room trim and kitchen cabinetry: Marble White (OC-34).
9. Paint on dining room upper wall and kitchen walls: Elephant Tusk (OC-8).
10. Paint on dining room lower wall and chair rail: Butter Cream (CC-260).

All paints, Benjamin Moore; all fabrics, Primavera Interior Furnishings.

To achieve a calm, sophisticated new look in the master bedroom, the walls were painted a soft blue. The handsome wooden bed is a bold contrast. To give the built-in cupboard an elegant presence, moulding was added to its doors, and it was painted crisp white. Airy new curtains, hung on a cable so they don't block the cupboard door, soften the look. A small armchair was reupholstered in a deep blue and set alongside the bed, and framed photographs were hung over the bed.

Side table, Accents de Ville; chair upholstery, Plush n' Plump; drapery hardware, Umbra; duvet cover, clock, Pottery Barn; framed photos (above bed), Constantine.



band of space was "stolen" from the powder room. Though this had little impact on the powder room, it makes a world of difference in the kitchen by accommodating an oversized refrigerator and allowing for a wider passageway — and, thus, better flow — between a wall and the corner of a new wraparound counter.

Previously, the bulk of the kitchen cabinets had been lined up along one wall, with the counter curving into an L-shape near the sitting room. The rest of the room was a throughway: in essence, wasted floor space that made the kitchen feel unfinished. At first, Lisa and Erin planned to stick with the old cabinets and just add a new island, but in the end, Lisa and Mark opted to spend a bit more on the renovation and create a kitchen design that would have more longevity, as well as better reflect their sense of style.

A wraparound counter anchors the new kitchen and makes great use of the wasted floor space. On one hand, this new floor plan creates a barrier, separating children at play from the work area, but it also makes the room more inviting for socializing: something that's important to Lisa and Mark. The counter's raised ledge — "It's almost like a drink ledge," Erin says — is perfect for friends to sidle up to for a chat while the cook's at work. (In addition, this high ledge conceals dirty dishes, stacked near the sink, from view.) At the far end of the wraparound, the ledge widens out into a table that, with new stools set out on the far side, serves as a breakfast bar.

The couple held on to their existing stainless steel appliances, but they decided to rework the main cupboard wall and had new



MASTER BEDROOM

1. Fabric for Euro shams: Designers Guild Lafon (F978 in colour 04). 2. Trim and cabinetry paint: Cloud White (CC-40). 3. Wall paint: Polar Sky (CC-790). 4. Fabric for throw pillows: Osborne & Little Kanto (F5200 in colour 14).

All fabrics, Primavera Interior Furnishings; all paints, Benjamin Moore.



CAITLIN'S ROOM

1. Fabric for floral drapery: Cath Kidston Flowers Print White Cotton (FC67461). 2. Oilcloth for floral floor cushions: Cath Kidston Flowers Print White Oilcloth (FC67478). 3. Oilcloth for polka-dot change pad: Cath Kidston Bubbles Print White Oilcloth (FC67430). 4. Paint for polka dots: Sapphireberry (light blue, 2063-60), Rose Parade (red, 2086-20), Stem Green (2029-40), Pink Innocence (2082-60), Sailor's Sea Blue (dark blue, 2063-40). 5. Paint on window wall: Ivory White (CC-130). 6. Existing wall paint: Hartington (P1024-4), Para Paints. 7. Fabric for throw pillows: Designers Guild Poppy Patch (D811 in colour 02). 8. Fabric for polka-dot throw pillows and floor cushion: Cath Kidston Bubbles Print White Cotton (FC67423).

All fabrics from Primavera Interior Furnishings; all paints (except 6) by Benjamin Moore.

LEFT: In Blake's bedroom, a star-shaped light plays up the room's sheriff theme, established by playful fabrics and wallpaper. A faux roman blind hides a roll-up blind, which is more practical for darkening the room during naps. The crib skirt was designed so that it can

also be used on a twin bed later on. In both kids' rooms, simple wooden shoe racks were painted and used as benches/windowseats; they keep toys within easy reach. Star light, Quipus Crafts; chair, Pottery Barn; desk, Calder's Antiques; blow-up cube, rug, bench, Ikea.

BLAKE'S ROOM

1. Fabric for sheriff throw pillows: Designers Guild Quick Draw (D1040 in colour 01). 2. Blue wall paint: Whipple Blue (HC-152). 3. Wallpaper: Designers Guild Quick Draw (P366 in colour 01). 4. Plaid fabric for throw pillows: Designers Guild Arjuna (F1088 in colour 04). 5. Fabric for drapery, bedskirt, roman blind accent: Designers Guild Jinsha (D1084 in colour 03).

All fabrics from Primavera Interior Furnishings; all paints by Benjamin Moore.



BEFORE



RIGHT: Floating shelves in Blake's room house treasures like letters that spell out "Cowboy," one of the room's several Wild-West elements. Ageless pieces like the desk and chrome lamp blend easily with

childhood staples like a Cookie Monster doll. Letters, car and boat prints, tin carousel, Kids at Home; desk cubbies, lamp, clock, Pottery Barn; metal star, Hardware; desk, Calder's Antiques; shelves, storage boxes, Ikea.





To complement the fun fabrics chosen for Caitlin's bedroom, polka dots were hand-painted on one feature wall. Erin coordinated the new look with the existing apple-green walls and ticking-stripe blinds and bedskirt. The change pad was covered in oilcloth for easy cleaning; it can be used as a windowseat cushion in later years. Grown-up touches,

such as the chandelier, have lasting appeal. A simple rocking chair is timeless: first as a place to give a bottle, then as a spot to read storybooks. Dresser, Calder's Antiques; bench, Ikea; hand-painted letters, toys, Kids at Home; flower table, lamp, Pottery Barn; chandelier, Consumer's Lighting and Lamp; rocking chair, Poof; sewing, We Do Draperies.



BEFORE



ABOVE: A mantel-like built-in was added in the basement for storage and display. The awkward window above was framed in moulding to make it look like part of the unit.

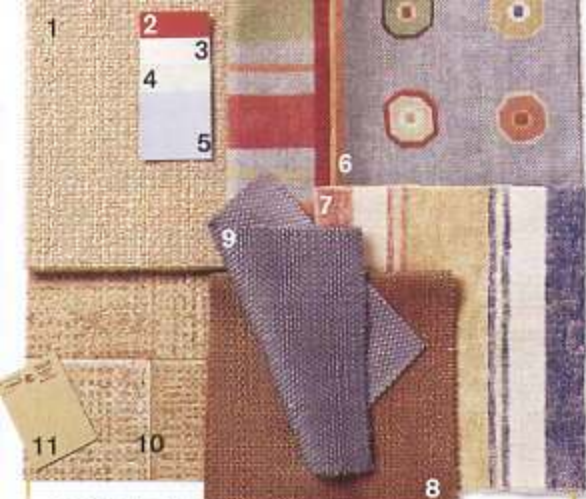
and pretty sconces draw attention away from it. The walls here were panelled. A boxy sofa contrasts with the curvy armchair. TV, Panasonic; chair, sofa, ottoman, Whittington Furniture; lighting, Universal Lamp; *Four Women Shoppers* by Shirray Langley, Painted City Gallery; tulip prints, Artocracy; hardware on built-ins, Lee Valley Tools.

cabinets installed. By sacrificing a bit of upper cupboard space on the back wall, Erin turned the stove area into the room's focal point by adding a handsome hood and open shelves that show off appealing dishware.

Behind the kitchen, a sitting room offers a casual place to lounge, enjoy morning coffee or watch TV. Originally, windows along the back wall and doors on the side dominated the wall space. To make the room more functional, Erin replaced the back windows with french doors and closed off the side doors to make room for

a built-in unit, which houses display shelves and concealed storage. "We have a really pretty back garden, and before the reno, we didn't have a good view out to it," Lisa says. "The new french doors open it right up. Now it's much more usable." Inside, a love seat and two ottomans offer plenty of seating. "The intention was to create a comfortable space where people could just hang out," Erin explains.

The goal for the basement was much the same. Although it was outfitted with toys, and a sofa and TV, it just wasn't a room where



BASEMENT

1. Carpet: Liz Claiborne Prestige Collection, Pitter Patter in Wheatfield. 2. Red accent paint in children's built-in: Rosy Apple (2006-30). 3. Paint on trim, built-ins, columns: Elephant Tusk (OC-8). 4. Wall paint: Monroe Bisque (HC-26). 5. Paint on blue accent wall: Colorado Gray (2136-50). 6. Fabric on ottoman, throw pillows: Osborne & Little Abacus (F1813 in colour 03). 7. Fabric for skirt on children's built-in, throw pillows: Osborne & Little Lampedusa (F1761 in colour 05). 8. Fabric on sectional sofa: 3906 in colour 5, Whittington Furniture. 9. Fabric on armchair: 3906 in colour 4, Whittington Furniture. 10. Vinyl flooring (in play area): Liz Claiborne, Fresh Meadow (8231) in Sesame. 11. Laminate countertop (in craft area): Cardboard Solidz (7813-58).

All fabrics, Primavera Interior Furnishings; all paints, Benjamin Moore; carpet, vinyl flooring, Carpet One; laminate counter, Formica Canada.



The basement has two distinct personalities, with a line drawn between adult and children's spaces by architectural details, like two columns, as well as the furniture arrangements. The colour scheme — featured in the dot pillows, blue walls and striped curtains — maintains a connection between the two areas. Decorative board, Wattle & Daub.



the family felt comfortable. "I never went down there," Lisa says. It was a drab blank slate; old carpeting, a tiny window, a low ceiling, bad lighting and an awkward pillar posed design obstacles. Erin revamped the room by breaking it into two areas: a casual adult space with a smart built-in entertainment unit, and a fun children's play area with built-in shelves for toys and supplies. The polka-dot fabric selected for an ottoman was the inspiration for the basement's colour scheme. The majority of the room is done in a warm soft neutral, but the back wall is painted blue, and a wall in the children's shelving unit is painted red. *CONTINUED ON PAGE 152*

BEFORE



LEFT: In the basement play area, a new wall unit offers loads of toy storage and a craft centre — with an easy-clean laminate counter and tough vinyl flooring. Curtains were used in lieu of cabinet doors to cut expenses. Built-ins, Robertson Custom Woodworking; hardware on built-ins, Lee Valley Tools; toys, books, letters, Kids at Home.