

WHERE QUIRKY MEETS ICONIC

*Designer couple creates stylish
but homey environment*

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(Opposite) The Anacleto's found this black-and-white piece hanging in their stairway in a small home store in Picton. They keep it in a high-traffic area, having adopted its words as their family credo.

SO WHAT DOES HOME LOOK LIKE WHEN IT'S DESIGNED, built and inhabited by the creative power couple behind the striking interiors of many Oliver & Bonacini-owned restaurants? Super-stylish, of course, yet at the same time surprisingly lived in.

Sure, Lindsey and Gerry Anacleto's Etobicoke home has the Eames dining table and Knoll armchairs, but the dwelling is no shrine to modern design. Iconic pieces rub shoulders with scuffed-up sidewalk finds and

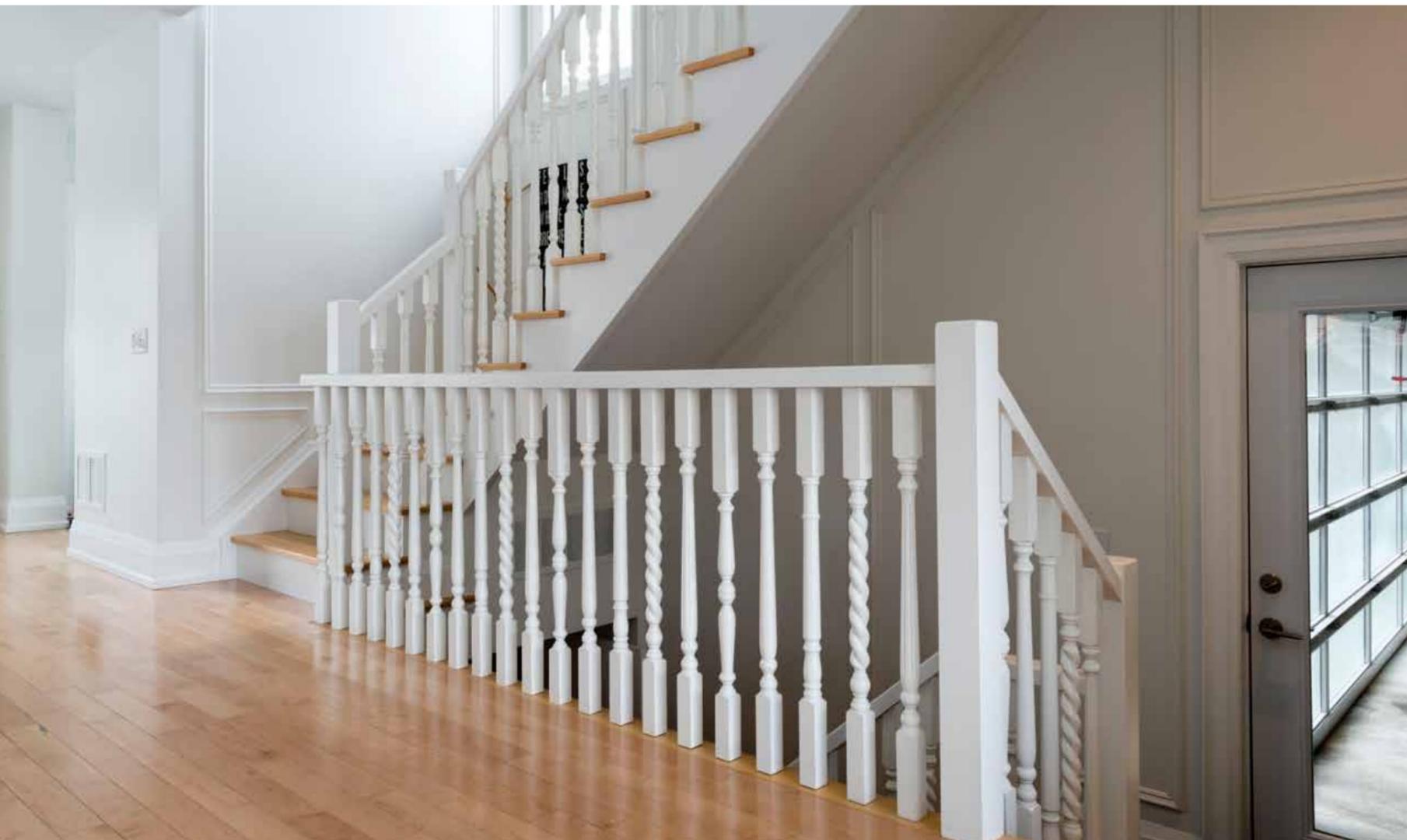
quirky do-it-yourself projects. It's an open-plan house where the couple's ten-year-old daughter, Lina, and her friends can run, play and have fun with feisty little Alice, the family's mini schnauzer.

Lindsey and Gerry met as young colleagues at the international design firm Yabu Pushelberg. Since 1998, they have run their own highly successful commercial and residential design-and-build company, Anacleto Design.

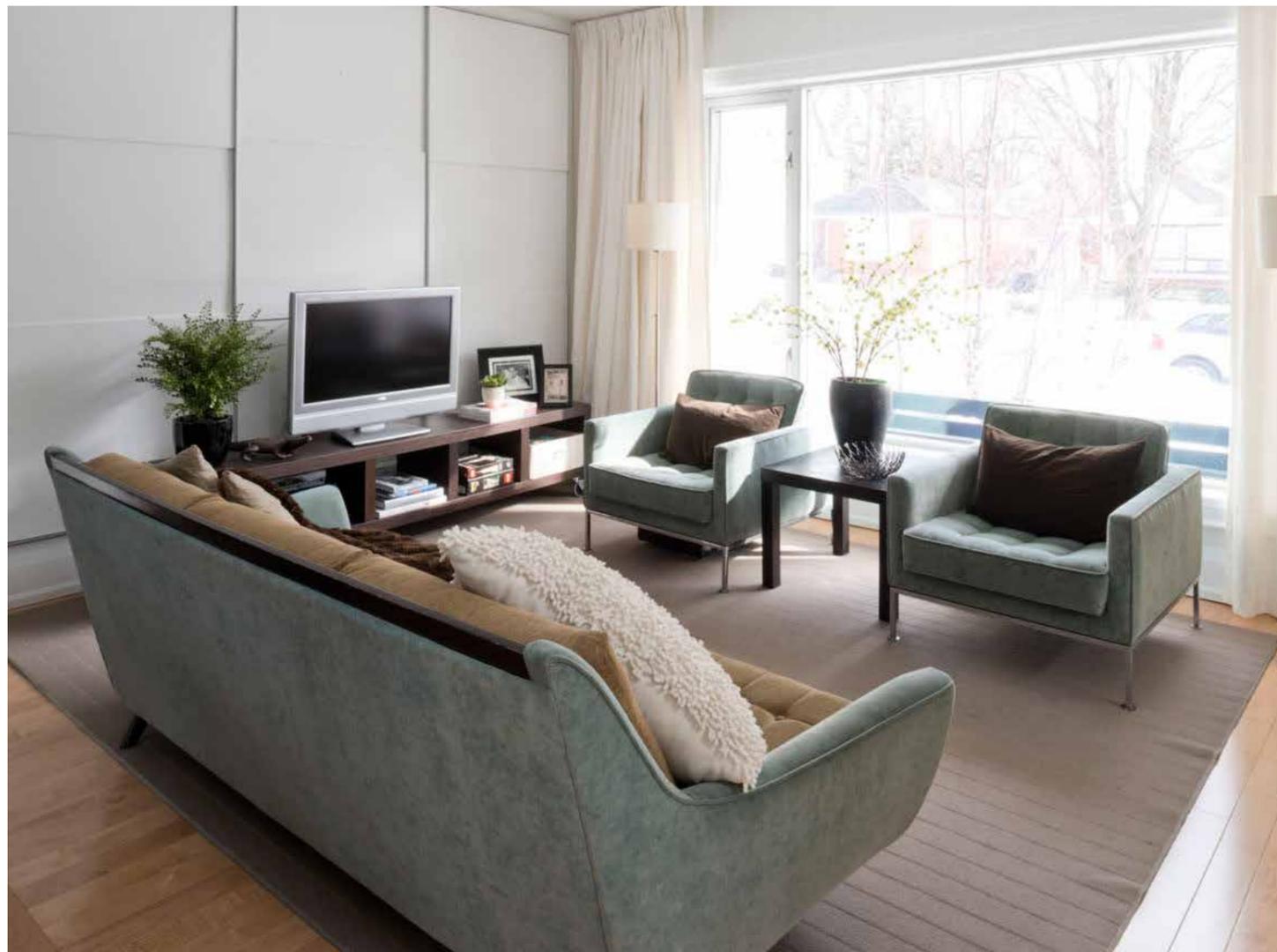
On buying this post-war bungalow, Lindsey and Gerry stripped it down to the bones, put in a new top floor, and added a two-car garage and a heated pool in the backyard – all this in just three and a half months! 

Two-and-a-half times more living space was created after building a second floor above a new double-car garage (On the far right of the staircase bannister).

“If you read it at a quiet time alone, it puts a big lump in your throat.”



When the four trees in the front yard are in bloom, they fill the entire living room window, creating a secluded, forest-like space with gentle light filtering through the leaves.



“We like to tie an entire house together through the surface finishes for continuity.”



Sunlight streaming through the patio doors floods the dining area and bounces off the glass-topped dining table and crisp white walls. This bright space is made still more inviting thanks to a selection of family objects displayed on a vintage iron warehouse shelf unit. Among these articles is a manual sewing machine that was a childhood gift from Lindsey’s grandmother; a model Volkswagen camper van (a father-and-daughter weekend assembly project); and a model of the Empire State Building that’s part of the family’s ever-expanding Lego architecture collection.

Lindsey and Gerry love preparing food together, and they’ve even taken cooking classes in Italy and Portugal. So they intentionally placed their kitchen at the centre of the living area to make it the heart of the home. “Often all three of us are here,” said Lindsey. “Lina might be doing her homework at one end of the table while we’re setting it at the other end and making dinner.”

The dark, glossy kitchen cabinets and pale grey marble of the work surfaces are repeated in the upstairs bathrooms. “We like to tie an entire house together through the surface finishes for continuity,” explained Gerry.

In the living area, the powder-blue sofa radiates chic, both in colour and form. It was rescued from the street and reupholstered to match the steel-legged armchairs. But if you get up close, you’ll see the spots where Lina has absentmindedly picked off sofa buttons while watching TV or where Alice’s claws have got the better of the fabric. “It’s weathered,” said Lindsey, smiling. “It’s a family sofa.”

“We were choosing spindles, and I asked the railing guy to bring me a ton of different kinds.”

The couple created texture on the wall with painted MDF panels set at different depths—an easy yet effective do-it-yourself piece that they originally made for their first office. The Anacleto home is full of such unique touches. This is nowhere more apparent than in the staircase: The spindles are a repeating pattern of five different styles.

“We were choosing spindles, and I asked the railing guy to bring me a ton of different kinds,” said Gerry. “When we saw them in the back of his truck, we said, ‘Maybe we should just do all of

them.’ It started out as a joke, but then we realized it would make for a fun architectural piece.”

At the top of that quirky stairway hangs the largest piece of art in the home, a symbol of the family’s love and respect for the natural world. It’s called The Prayer of the Woods. Gerry carved it on a piece of spruce for Toronto’s interior design show IDS. He found the one-thousand-year-old text of the prayer on a plaque in the woods in northern Ontario. The text later became all the more meaningful when he

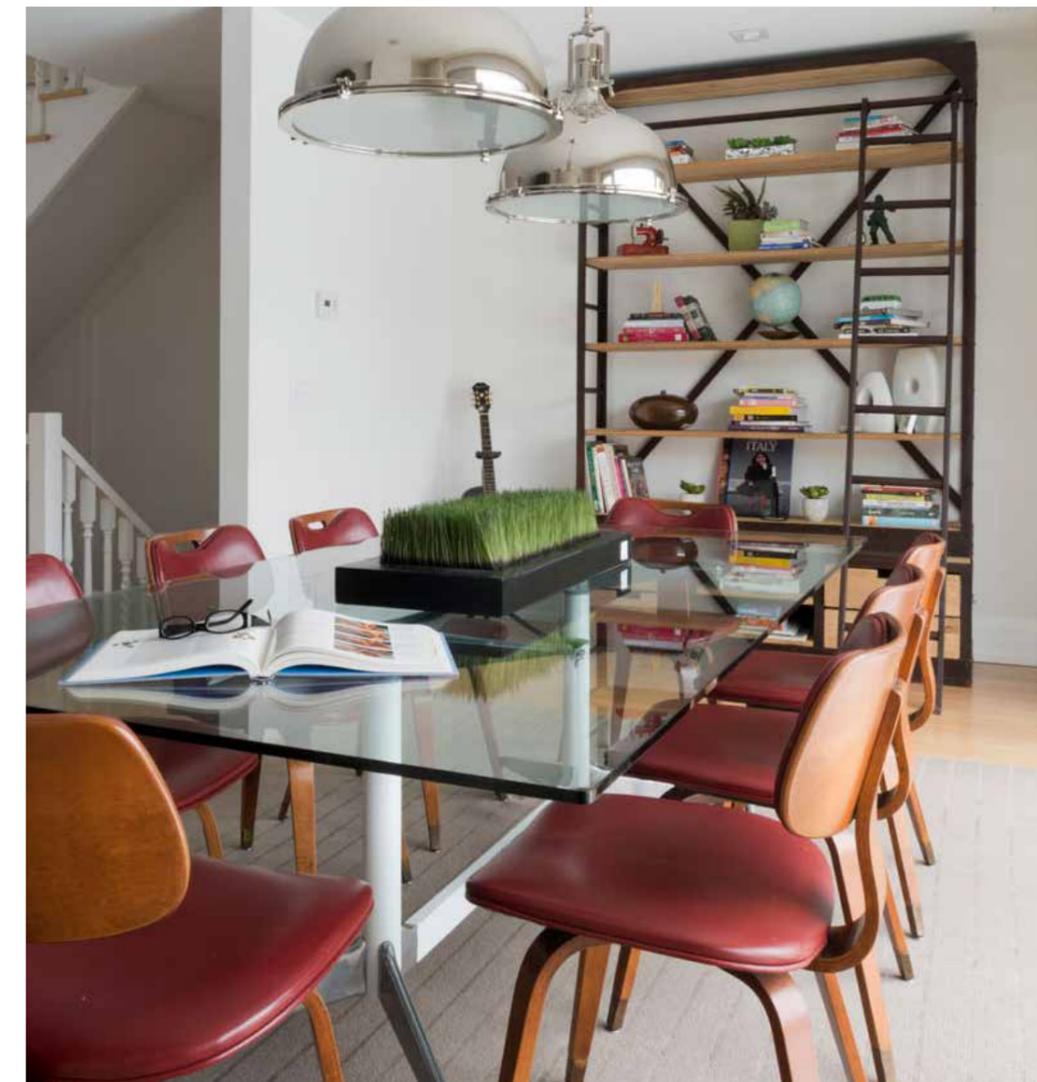
discovered that it was posted in forest reserves all over Portugal—his parents’ country of origin.

“If you read it at a quiet time alone, it puts a big lump in your throat,” said Gerry. When designing their home, the couple created a large wall space in the stairwell with this piece in mind.

On the upper floor, the master bedroom sits directly above the garage, which gives it the generous footprint of the two-car parking space. Crisp white walls and gauzy drapes across the six-foot by 16-foot floor-to-ceiling windows create

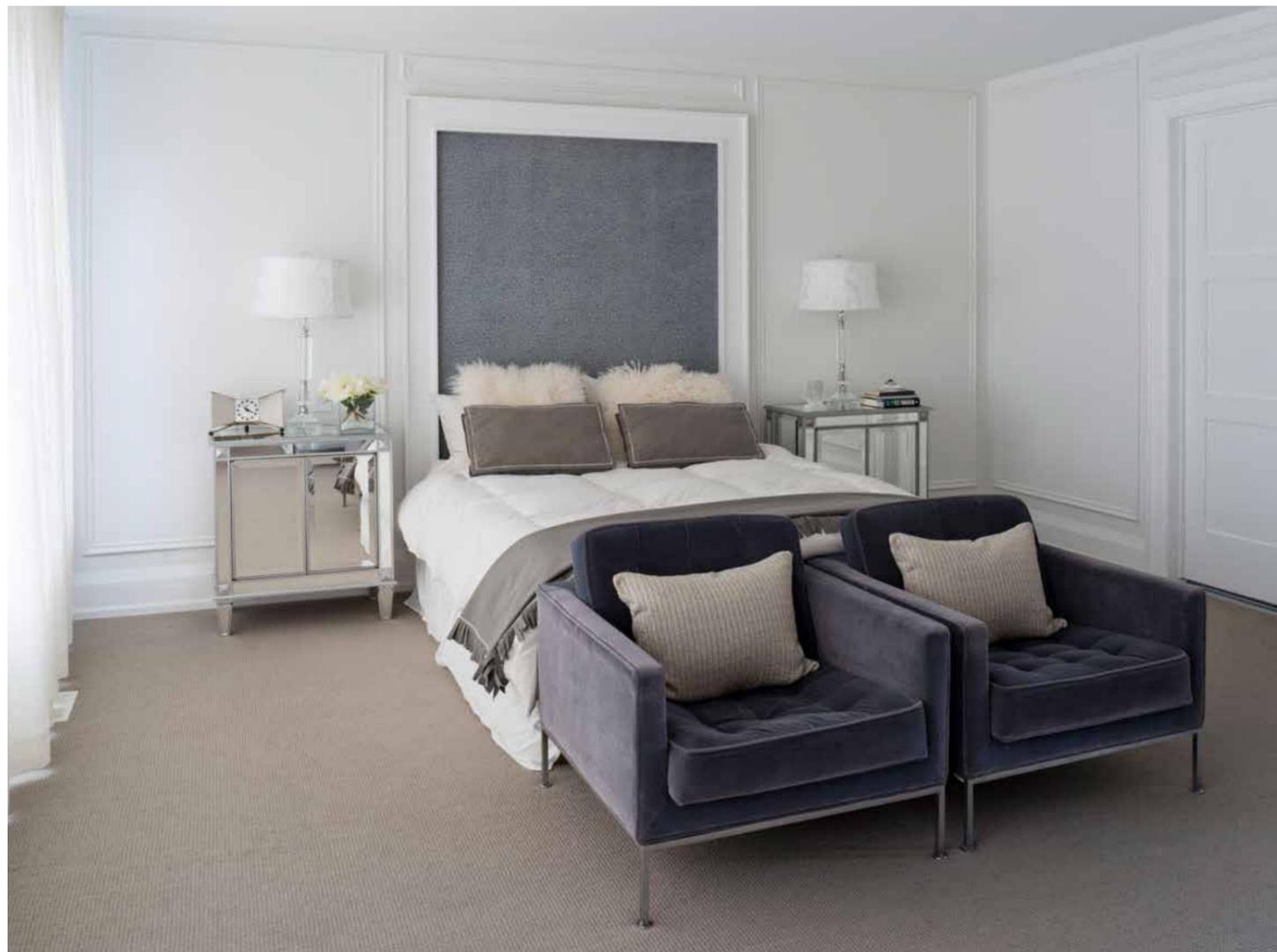
a dreamy space. Plush vintage Knoll chairs in dove-grey velvet (picked up for \$20 apiece), a DIY charcoal-grey fabric headboard along with charcoal grey cushions and throw all work together to create tactile appeal and a cosy vibe. ☞

The kitchen extractor hood becomes a feature rather than something to hide; bold and metallic, it ties in with the statement lights from Restoration Hardware in the dining room. The glass backsplash behind the sink opens up the space and lets sunlight bathe the kitchen.





*‘I don’t hate everything—
I still love my floors!’*



“We didn’t pick any bold colours because I think we would tire of them, and we like things with longevity,” said Lindsey.

Boutique hotels in which the couple has stayed inspired the master bedroom. “If you’re getting ready for a night out in New York or Italy, you feel different,” said Gerry. “When there’s a sense of luxury in the decor, you feel ‘I deserve to look great today.’ ”

The couple talked about their bathrooms in terms of “his and hers.” The dramatic black-walled and dark marble master bathroom is their “masculine” one, while the “feminine” one, which Lina uses, is luminous white.

Gerry’s favourite part of the master bathroom is the under-floor heating. “When you have one of those days when you hate everything in the world, you step in here, and you’re like, ‘I don’t hate everything—I still love my floors!’” he said with a laugh.

The minimalist Philippe Starck-designed fixtures in the second bathroom let the oversized Baroque-style mirror, resting against the wall, grab all the attention. “Everything is so clean in here, and without that piece, it would feel sterile,” said Lindsey. “It brings the fun.”

This house designed with its occupants’ everyday happiness in mind, fun is the one essential. ☛

(Opposite) The gauzy drapes in the master bedroom create soothing shades of white. (Above) The Zen mood of the bedroom carries through to the master bathroom where a stone Buddha bust resides. (Below) The sleek high-gloss cabinetry in the second bathroom repeats that of the kitchen, creating flow throughout the house.