

# HARMONIOUS HOME

*A new Craftsman-style house in Richmond takes its place in a peaceful setting*

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BY SUSAN KELLY // PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL GRDINA // STYLING: SARAH GALLOP



**CREATING HARMONY WAS IMPORTANT** to Julia Liu as she eyed her property in the Sunnyside area of Richmond. She especially loved the mature trees and rows of cedar hedges defining two sides. “I wanted to build a new house there that would fit the peaceful, beautiful setting,” says Julia, who is a director of an agricultural import business. “Something traditional that looked like it has been there 100 years, but was fresh and modern at the same time.”

Work on the 18-month project began in December 2013. The Craftsman style, which is important to the heritage of the area, was selected for the 3,600-square-foot home. Its simplicity and clean lines make it adaptable to a contemporary or Asian aesthetic. “We used as many traditional finishes as possible on the exterior, such as cedar shakes and corbelled beams,” says the home’s builder, Steve Kemp of Kemp Construction.

Underneath the heritage look, energy-efficiency was paramount, so highest-rated insulation and solar-energy reflective windows were installed.

Balancing different tastes was also important inside the five-bedroom, four-and-a-half bathroom home. The refined and feminine touches Julia prefers would not necessarily appeal to her 13-year-old son and parents, who also live there. “For the interior, we decided to go with a soft, natural palette for the walls,”








says Sarah Gallop, owner of Sarah Gallop Design Inc. and lead designer on the project from the initial house design to the final throw pillows. “It’s a very timeless-yet-contemporary look, and it helps create the light, airy feel she wanted.”

To further unify and ground the space, deep-toned African mahogany hardwood floors from Mirage Floors extend throughout the open-plan main storey. Gallop worked with a subtle colour palette that takes its cues from nature. Shades of blue, brown and

cream predominate, with punches of green.

Clean-lined Shaker-style cabinetry in the open-concept kitchen creates a backdrop for the centre island. Custom-crafted of solid walnut, it was designed to be an imposing presence. The white quartzite top is close to 10 feet long and five feet wide, providing ample preparation space and seating for six people to gather around. The carved legs are a traditional touch and give it a furniture look, according to the designer. 

*The open main floor receives ample natural daylight. Inset lighting in the soaring coffered ceiling and under cabinets ensures ambience by night. Distinctive pendant lights and chandelier: Cyan Design. Wolf dual-fuel range (gas cooktop, electric conventional/convection oven), Sub-Zero panel refrigerator, Panasonic microwave.*









*The family room (left) and living room (right) epitomize the owner's taste. The serene colour palette is inspired by Julia's love of nature. Accents such as tufted upholstery and crystal chandeliers add glamour while deep-seated furniture invites lounging.*



*The lower level contains a private suite designed with the future needs of Julia's parents in mind.*

*The bedroom (opposite) has French doors that lead into the garden.*

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For more drama, she added the backsplash's custom glass tiles, with a striking Chinese coin-like pattern. "The intertwining curved design is so special and is echoed throughout the house," says Gallop.

Sinuous motifs can found on the leaded glass cabinet windows in the kitchen and master bathroom, and on the molding that embellishes the living room ceiling.

In the kitchen and living room areas, striking coffered ceilings help define the space, each

with its own distinct pattern. They also bring the eye up and create the illusion of more space.

Originally, the television and media centre were to be confined to the more informal family room, a comfortable and cozy area. But it turns out, family and visitors alike gravitate to the more formal living room, so a wide-screen television was added. "There are a lot of subtle details, like the subtle texture on the wallpaper and with the creamy colour palette, make it a very pretty room," says the designer. *SD*







An avid reader, the owner says she spends the most time in the small second-storey study adjacent to the master bedroom, where the windows and skylight provide good lighting and the built-in cabinetry offer a hiding place for clutter. She also appreciates—and her friends envy—the two spacious walk-in closets found between the study and master bedroom. Julia did experience some trepidation the day

an eminent feng shui master dropped by. While she had worked with Gallop to incorporate some principles of the ancient art of placement, most of the home's elements were chosen for their beauty or function. Would they meet the master's high standards for a harmonious dwelling? "I was so relieved when he had no suggestions for improvement," Julia says. He also confirmed what she already knew. "It's a very good house for me." ☛

*(Opposite) This outdoor living area features a built-in barbecue by Wolf.*



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