

HOUSE TOURS
APR 30, 2022

A NEW-BUILD BY TORONTO'S URBAN BLUEPRINT HAS GIVEN ITS OWNERS SOMETHING THAT TRULY TURNS A HOUSE INTO A HOME

By: [Anne Eastbourne](#)



Photography Stephani Buchman

Yes, it's stunning – but this new-build by Toronto's Urban Blueprint has given its owners something that truly turns a house into a home.

Some of the most important design details in Jessica and Kyle Gorassi's home in Toronto's West Rouge neighbourhood aren't obvious. When the couple started working with brother-sister design-build duo Natasha and Luca Penzo of Urban Blueprint, their goal was to build a warm,

chic transitional home tailored to their family (they have two young daughters). They wanted a place where they could entertain their extended families and one that would take full advantage of their east-end property and its views of the city and Lake Ontario. They got that, and a whole lot more.

Their new home – which incorporates spacious family-gathering zones, guest bedrooms, plus fun extras like a rainbow-themed playroom – capitalizes on the unique site, offering spectacular views from the double-height great room, as well as Kyle and Jessica’s bedroom and ensuite. “On a clear day, from the top of our staircase, we can see right to the CN Tower,” Jessica says.

But there’s more to the house than what meets the eye. The picture-perfect kitchen is, of course, kitted out with the latest amenities, and its family-friendly layout works wonders. But the blue-painted kitchen island wasn’t only an aesthetic choice. It’s the exact shade of the siding on the house that previously stood on the property – Kyle’s beloved childhood home, where Jess, who grew up nearby, visited as a teen. Another example: the elegant Ralph Lauren wallpaper in the powder room reminds Jessica of Delftware, which harkens to her family’s Dutch heritage.

Most special of all is Linnie’s Pub, the welcoming entertaining space in the basement that’s a nod to Kyle’s late mother, who always had an open-door policy, including for neighbourhood kids, who could expect snacks waiting on the kitchen counter. Lynn’s ideal of filling a home with friends and family anchored Kyle and Jessica’s hopes for their own home and is one way they plan to carry on her legacy. “We cannot wait to have a party!” Jessica says. “It’s the first thing we’re doing when restrictions allow.”



Photography Stephani Buchman

“This is where Ava tells us her stories and helps make meals,” says Jessica Gorassi (shown with baby Ella, Ava, 5, and family pooch Lola). She and husband Kyle love to cook and entertain, so the kitchen has loads of countertop space, storage and seating. “And we have a full view of the great room, so we feel part of whatever’s going on – a Raptors game or birthday dinner.”

STOOLS, Sunpan



Photography Stephani Buchman

With its towering velvet headboard, fine linens and full drapes, the spare bedroom makes guests feel like they’re on vacation. A plush area rug provides a cushy contrast to the wood floors, and pulls even more focus to the bed.

HEADBOARD, Sunpan