

The attic was transformed into a functional room that can serve as home office, in-law suite, multi-generational living, guest room or second family room.



Recessed ceilings are used throughout the home.



The front foyer exudes spaciousness.

A lofty idea

THE SHOW HOME THAT EARNED THREE DESIGN AWARDS FOR LIFESTYLES BY BARONS

by Laurie Wallace-Lynch

What do you do when you are outgrowing your suburban home but don't have room for an addition? You build up, says Gordon V. Baron, President of Lifestyles by Barons Inc. That's exactly what Baron and his architectural/design/build firm did at a show home in Georgetown. Their innovative attic-to-loft conversion earned the company the first place BILD/Renomark Renovation & Custom Home Award for Most Unique Personalization of Space. The same home also earned Baron the top BILD/Renomark awards in Ontario for Best Kitchen Renovation over \$100K and Best Bath Renovation for the bathroom-to-spa makeover.

Says Baron, "We took an unusable attic and turned it into a highly functional, multi-purpose space. The room can serve as home office, in-law suite, multi-generational living, guest room or second family room. Structurally, the renovation was a significant undertaking involving adding a staircase and opening the ceiling. We were able to add 1,000 square feet of extra living space without changing the building footprint or elevation in any way."

The loft is like a private oasis, boasting a gourmet coffee station, fridge and convection oven/microwave, discretely housed is a servery area with a natural stone backdrop. Thirteen skylights fill the loft with natural light. "When you open one of the skylights, railings automatically pop up for safety

and open the loft to the outdoors," explains Baron. "You are still standing in the house, yet it feels like an outside balcony."

Known for building custom kitchens and baths to complete homes, Baron describes the architectural style of this home as 'transitional', borrowing the best of traditional and contemporary design.

"We used design elements in the front foyer to create a feeling of openness," states Baron. "The oversized natural travertine stone creates the illusion of space. We designed the furniture to float in space by attaching it to the wall to create the illusion of additional space. The ceilings are only nine feet high, but the recessed ceiling draws the eye up and people think the ceilings are about 12 feet high. It's another optical illusion of good design."

The recessed ceilings used throughout the house feature hidden light packages. The uniquely shaped recessed ceiling in the award-winning kitchen mirrors the shape of the showstopping table.

"The custom herringbone design harvest table with unique 45-degree angles is definitely a wow feature," says Baron. "It also has four leaves to seat up to 16 people. The curved island has a built-in banquet for additional seating. The kitchen, pantry and servery is one of my favourite spaces in the house. It is truly the heart of the home, featuring timeless elegance with a focus on practical applications with →

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Above, a spa bathroom features two flat screens and a soaker tub with a built-in self-watering plant feature. Left, one of the home's stunning fireplaces.

→ tons of storage. The market is moving away from buffets and want everything recessed and hidden away. All vertical heights have been utilized to ensure maximum functionality. Hidden push-to-open pantries provide immediate access to key cooking elements, while the three serveries feature floor-to-ceiling cupboards with a gourmet coffee station and bar area.”

Flow and continuity are achieved by using natural elements throughout the home, such as the light grey stone used on the home's many fireplaces as well as one feature back-lighted wall in the spa bathroom.

“It's now a tranquil space to relax and escape,” states Baron. “It's fully automated with lights, sound and all the bells and whistles you can imagine. Two flat screens can be accessed from the shower or the Jacuzzi tub. The soaker tub has a built-in self-watering plant feature filled with tropical plants in addition to a cascading waterfall wall which creates a rainforest feel.”

The home boasts approximately 6,000 square feet of living space including the lower walk-out level, with six bedrooms, five bathrooms, a gym, office, theatre room and the new loft.

This triumph of design takes lifestyle living to new heights—literally.

Reservations are required to view the award-winning North Ridge dream home. For more information visit lifestylesbybarons.com. **W**