

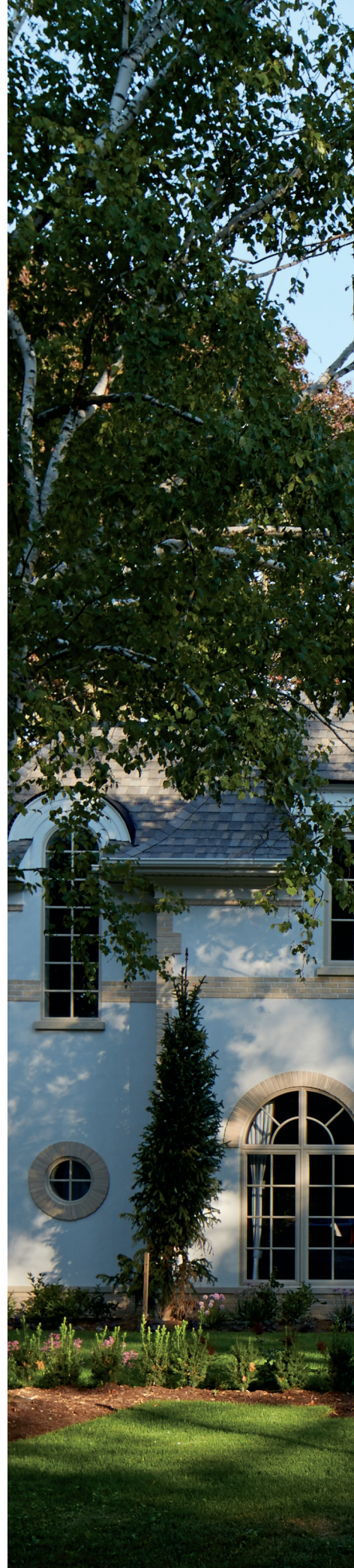


# LUCK *of the* DRAW


Brian Gluckstein's latest showhome is a windfall of inspiration and ideas.

*Text by* SAMANTHA SACKS | *Photography by* MICHAEL GRAYDON

**TOP LEFT:** When designing this year's showhome in Oakville, Ont., designer Brian Gluckstein imagined how a young family would live. **RIGHT:** The showhome's classic stucco and brick exterior has an old world air. **Construction,** PCM Project and Construction Management; **landscaping,** Strybos Barron King Landscape Architecture.







**SURE, SUPERSTAR** designer Brian Gluckstein's \$4.2 million Grand Prize Showhome for the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Welcome Home Lottery boasts a yoga room, musical stage and two-storey library that soars up from the main floor to create a grand backdrop for the second-floor landing. And, yes, the gourmet eat-in kitchen, with its butler-worthy pantry and miles of deeply veined quartzite, is gob-smackingly spectacular. Never mind the thick, rippled mouldings that give the formal living room old world presence, and the teal blue grasscloth that drenches the family room in the colour of a bottomless ocean. Given that this is Brian's fourth showhome for the charity, perhaps we should be so accustomed to his finely detailed spaces that we're a bit blasé?

Perhaps, but such elegant interiors and floor-to-ceiling views make indifference impossible. Most impressive is his idea for the layout of the Oakville, Ont., home. Working with architect Gus Ricci, he pulled some rooms in and pushed others out, a move that created a series of courtyards around the long, skinny 36' x 94' house. The resulting Tetris-like shape of the house means that each room has several walls of full-height windows that look onto green space deftly landscaped by Matthew Regimbal of Strybos Barron King Landscape Architecture and blast the interior with daylight. Even the halls are sunlit.



## SHOWHOME

“Our winters are so long, the courtyards give you somewhere beautiful to sit in the summer and somewhere gorgeous to look out onto when the weather gets cold,” says Brian.

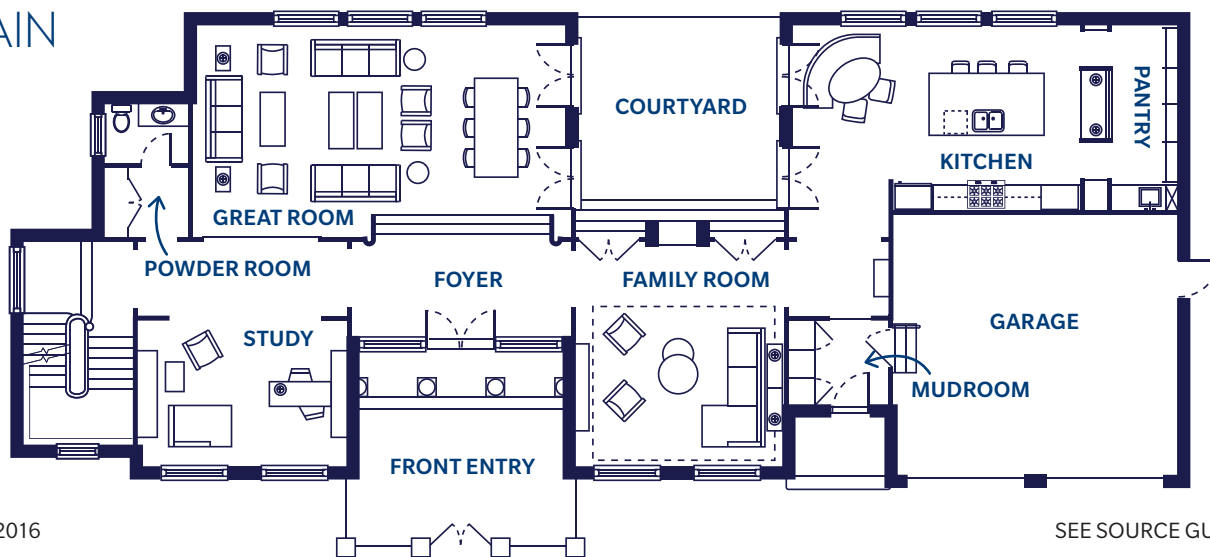
Combined with herringbone-pattern floors in wide-plank cerused oak and arched windows, they also give the home a classically European flair. Add in panelled walls, richly textured fabrics and loads of spots to kick up your feet, and the house strikes an haute note while remaining decidedly family-friendly. “We’re showing people that you can use traditional finishes and still have a contemporary lifestyle,” says Brian. Swish Continental style, loads of light in dark Canadian winters, affordable furnishings that look luxe — with so many great design takeaways, whether or not they walk away with the grand prize, visitors to this year’s showhome won’t leave empty-handed.

**RIGHT:** Brian’s skillful layering is on full display in the great room, where panelled mirrors flank an upholstered screen that serves as a dynamic backdrop for photography. Ample seating upholstered in a similar hue as the pale grey walls creates an airy feel. **Photography**, PI Fine Art; **rug**, Elte; **table lamps**, **sofas**, **coffee tables** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson’s Bay; **folding screen**, London Custom Wall Upholsteries; **wall and trim colour**, Stonington Gray (HC-170), Benjamin Moore.



**“FOR MODERN FAMILY LIVING, YOU WANT TO FEEL LIKE YOU’RE NOT CLOSED OFF FROM EACH OTHER, BUT STILL HAVE SOMEWHERE TO CALL YOUR OWN” — BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN**

## THE MAIN FLOOR



Floor plan illustration by Erica Collins





**ABOVE:** With its copper grasscloth walls and sky-high bookcase, the study feels both grand and cosy. A chocolate sisal rug and grey chaise longue add to the effect. **Wallcovering,** Crown Wallpaper + Fabrics; **rug,** Elte; **chaise longue, armchair** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson's Bay; **side table,** CB2; **trim colour,** Bittersweet Chocolate (2114-10), Benjamin Moore. **RIGHT:** Brian took some risks, like a bold floor, in the powder room: "Adventurous choices, like a patterned floor, are easier when you're not staring at it 24 hours a day, seven days a week!" **Trim colour,** Iron Mountain (2134-30), Benjamin Moore; **wallcovering,** Kravet; **vanity, Tiles Plus; sconces,** Universal Lamp.



## SHADES of GREY

Here's how Brian makes this popular shade sing.



### COMMIT TO IT

"Painting mouldings the same shade of grey as the walls creates drama. If you're going with deep grey, bring it up onto the crown mouldings to give it architectural strength."



### LAYER IT UP

"Use grey in loads of different textures — like nubby linens, rich wools and woven grasscloths to create visual interest and depth of tone."



### ADD STRATEGIC HITS OF COLOUR

"In the family room, furniture in shades of grey allows the teal-blue walls to shine."





***“I DIDN’T WANT THE FAMILY ROOM TO LOOK LIKE AN EXTENSION OF THE FOYER, SO WE USED A DEEP BLUE TO GIVE IT ITS OWN PERSONALITY”***

— BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN



**ABOVE:** Symmetry reigns in the kitchen, where two lanterns hover above the island on either side of the sink. The range hood is clad in the same opalized grey tile as the backsplash, and a partly open pantry at the far end offers tons of storage.

**Pendants,** Universal Lamp; **cabinetry,** PM Fine Cabinetry; **countertop,** Bevelled Edge Marble & Granite; **backsplash tile,** Deco-Tile; **stools** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson’s Bay; **wall and trim colour,** Horizon (OC-53), Benjamin Moore.

**LEFT:** The family room’s faux-silk drapes and deep blue grasscloth walls are a luxe backdrop for the mid-century-style furnishings. The pairing strikes an informal yet sophisticated note. **Drapery fabric,** Dann Imports; **drapery sewing,** Cortina Curtains & Shades; **trim and door colour,** Narragansett Green (HC-157), Benjamin Moore, grasscloth wallcovering, Metro Wallcoverings; **rug,** Elte; **sectional, throw pillows, chair** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson’s Bay.





**“BY CUTTING A COURTYARD INTO THE FLOOR PLAN, YOU CREATE THREE WALLS OF WINDOWS AND A PRETTY SPOT TO SIT OUTSIDE”**

— BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN



**TOP LEFT:** A squared-off soaker tub continues the sleek lines in the principal ensuite. “I believe a principal bathroom should be a destination unto itself,” says Brian. “My own bathroom has a library wall, and I wouldn’t give anything less to a client.” Mirrored cabinet doors make the vanity virtually disappear. **Wallpaper**, Metro Wallcoverings; **lighting**, Universal Lamp; **bath accessories, towels** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson’s Bay; **countertop**, Bevelled Edge Marble & Granite; **trim colour**, Dune White (CC-70), Benjamin Moore.

**TOP RIGHT:** A pergola, large concrete pavers, patches of greenery and interlocking stone all work to delineate the long, slim yard into a series of outdoor rooms. **Exterior stone**, Permacon; **pool**, Gib-San Pools; **fence, pergola**, Hurricane Fence Company; **loungers, table, dining chairs** by GlucksteinHome, Hudson’s Bay.

**LEFT:** A window nook in the principal ensuite is a natural spot for a showstopping tropical plant — a big trend in design at the moment. Extending the counter across the opening ensures there’s plenty of room for a couple to share the counterspace.