



The entry to the music room showing the home's impressive millwork and herringbone-pattern floor. The Missoni throw, custom ottoman and chrome accent pieces are from Façade Interiors & Furniture.



HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

STORY **NANCY BELGUE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**



TOP LEFT: Anthony and Doris Lapico. **TOP:** The Fornasetti wallpaper features 19th-century Italian soprano Lina Cavalieri. The artist created over 500 variations of her face on over 11,000 items. **ABOVE:** The media console is like a graphic novel.



The modern, low-slung, great room furniture is from a line called Central Park and can be sourced through Façade Interiors & Furniture.



The dining room features banquette seating. The classic ghost chairs done in a black finish are another creative touch.

Rock n' Roll meets too-cool-for-school meets boutique hotel. Although Doris and Anthony Lapico's new home defies easy classification, one thing is abundantly clear, it is full-on spectacular.

Early on, the Lapicos knew they wanted to make living with art the focus of their new 6,000 sq. ft. home, and each of their carefully curated, European-informed choices of furniture, rugs, accessories and even wallpaper has honoured that intention. From the moment you walk through the front doors with their massive handles (**Portani**) into the dramatic foyer, it is clear you are in for a treat. Everywhere you look, there is a witty, dramatic or original element to delight the eye.

The foyer is a case in point. From the gauze-covered zeppelin of a chandelier that was outsourced from New York to the custom-made, oversize hall bench that is covered in navy blue mohair, the foyer welcomes and stimulates at the same time.

To the immediate right of the foyer is a music room with an entire wall of floor-to-ceiling shelving (**Pinpoint Cabinetry**) that was custom built to house the couple's extensive collection of vinyl records. The room



LEFT: A corner of the dining room. The silver framed art gives the room a touch of old-world luxury. **BELOW:** The home's dramatic entryway shows the exceptional millwork. The custom rug features a scroll design inspired by one that Doris saw in a NYC boutique hotel. **RIGHT:** The Lapico's go-to designer, Francesca Fregapane of Façade Interiors & Furniture. **FAR RIGHT:** The lounge area outside the main-floor powder room features a classic army green Jonathan Adler sofa, a two-tiered, vintage-inspired end table and dial phone.



brilliantly combines classic elements like a herringbone-patterned wood floor and a black marble mantel along with trend-inspired touches like a black and white rug graphically printed with the name of one of the Lapicos favourite cities, Paris.

To achieve the eclectic, artful vibe they were looking for, the home is a combination of custom-made pieces and random finds that Doris and Anthony have picked up on their travels. The couple also worked extensively with designer and retailer **Francesca Fregapane (Façade Interiors & Furniture)** to outfit the home. "This was an amazing project to work on," comments Fregapane. "Doris and Anthony are willing to consider everything. This house is a blend of traditional, art deco and rock n' roll with touches of punk. It's fantastic."

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The kitchen island is a show-stopper in white marble. The eat-in area features chairs covered in 1970s-style pop-art fabric and a silver-leaf table. **LEFT:** The piano bar's brick wall was painted a "vintage" pale white. The Tibetan lamb cover on the piano bench is the kind of unique accessory that Fregapane excels in finding. **BELOW:** The ceiling-high, glass-fronted cabinets were inspired by cabinets in French fruit cellars.

The sightline from the foyer celebrates the home's hipster vibe. It is like looking into a New York stand-up piano bar. The photograph (**Tony Koukos World Travel Photography**) above the bar was one of the main sources of inspiration for the house, according to Doris. "It is like graffiti art," she says. More than one guest to the home has commented on how much the photograph resembles Doris herself.

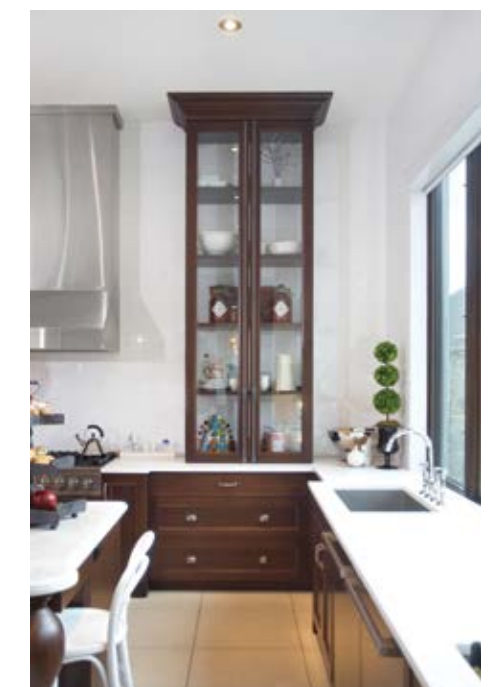
The black and white dining-room wallpaper that Fregapane sourced is from the Fornasetti design studio, as are the matching decorative plates that she mounted sporadically along the wall to achieve a 3-D effect. The surrealistic art, banquette seating and disco-ball lighting do, indeed, give the dining room the feel of a hip international restaurant. And that, according to Doris,

was the intent. "I want to feel like I've gone out for the night," she says. "Like we've gone to a restaurant."

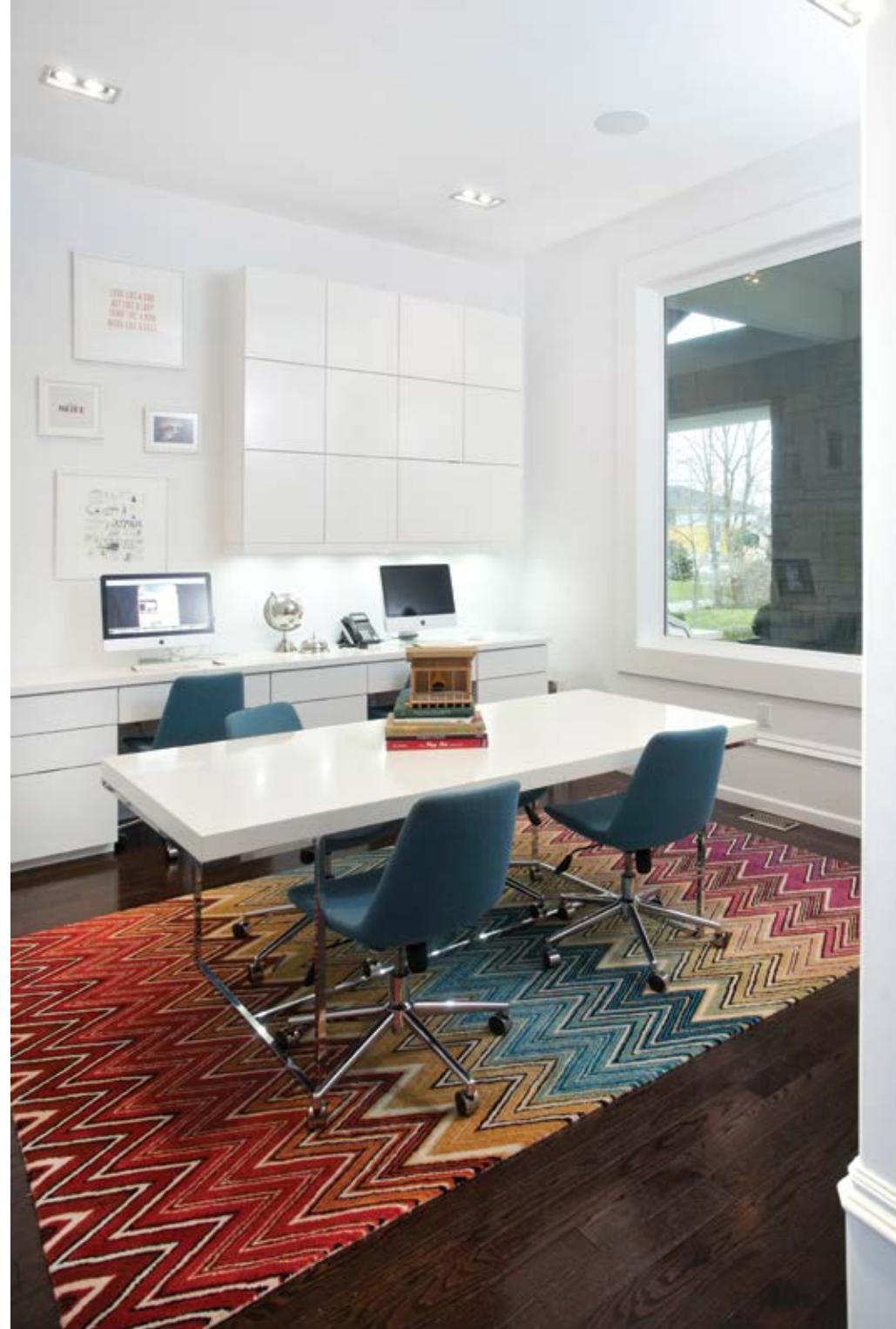
Although sleek and Italian in feel, with its distressed leather swivel armchair and ottoman ("what's a great room without a touch of distressed leather?" Fregapane laughs) and clean-lined sofas, the great room also has its share of artistic touches. The media unit features *Valentina*, a comic strip character known in Italy as the "Italian Betty Boop." It is just another example of the wit and artistic flare prevalent throughout the home. There are surprising creative touches too – like L.A. artist Matthew Heller's graphic interpretation of his poem *Love Lyrics*.

The restaurant style continues into the expansive white kitchen (**Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry**). "I wanted to create a café

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RIGHT: The office is furnished with a Missoni carpet and a Madrid dining room table with chrome base, which is used as a desk. Frank Cremasco custom built the white, touch-front cabinets. **BELOW:** Doris's Andy Warhol soup cans. **BOTTOM:** Good design is found everywhere – even in the popcorn packaging.



vibe,” explains Doris. To get the look she wanted, Cremasco designed a white marble island (**Plaza Ontario Marble & Tile Inc.**), and Fregapane accessorized it with classic French bistro stools. The millwork on the island is unique as well. Each turned leg is three-feet thick and was based on the leg of a table that Doris had seen and loved. The 24-by-24-inch Terrazzo tile floor features tight grout – the “latest trend,” explains Fregapane. The subway tile backsplash,

industrial light fixtures and ceiling-high, café-style, glass-fronted cabinets complete the Parisian feel. “We were inspired by the look of old fruit cellars,” says Doris of the choice of cabinets. They also provide a perfect opportunity to display other objects in the couple’s collection – like Warhol soup cans.

The office is a clean, white space offset by an aqua, taupe and red Missoni carpet. “Carpets are floor art,” maintains Doris.

Even the main-floor powder room is

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LEFT: The home's classic box-style is perfectly accented by the refined landscape design created by Lakeshore Landscaping. The grand front porch provides additional seating. Stucco work is by Abrik Professional Stucco Systems. **BELOW LEFT:** The outdoor kitchen features a wood-burning fireplace. It overlooks a stunning backyard pool that was designed and installed by The Great Outdoors. **BELOW RIGHT:** Classic grey wicker furnishings with pops of turquoise make the back porch a welcoming retreat.

designed like a bistro restroom, complete with a "lounge-style waiting room." The wallpaper for this area was designed by an English artist and is hand-embroidered with text from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The outdoor living space is spectacular. There is a stone, wood-burning fireplace that is perfect three seasons of the year. French

doors from the great room provide access – ideal for entertaining. It's a home that is clearly designed for good times. One can just imagine the clinking of glasses, the ringing of the piano and the smell of wood smoke from the roaring fire on the deck. The art of living well pervades the home's essence. Nothing has happened by accident.

Each object, each accessory, each rug and each clever expression of the homeowner's style gives the home its unique personality. As Doris and Anthony Lapico put it, "we approached the building and design of this house as an art project. We put a lot of ourselves in each and every decision. For us, home is where the art is." **OH**



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