

Modern Family: A mid-century bungalow
Extraordinary design continues to wow

The view looking back from the studio entrance to Jerome's office



Top The kitchen mixes high and low, with a warm wide-plank oak floor setting off glossy Ikea cabinetry. Orange makes the room pop — eye-catching Eames stools and a retro-cool tile backsplash using Clot porcelain tiles

Above The studio loungers are so comfortable that Jerome says he often sits in one with his laptop, working by the light of the large window

On a quick walk through the neighbourhood, you might miss this most extraordinary renovation. And that's just the way Jerome and Nisha Scullino want it. "We didn't want our expansion to change the look of the street," explains Jerome. "We saved the wow factor for the inside."

There is a street that looks like so many developed in Ottawa in the 1950s and early 1960s: generous tree-lined lots populated with modest brick bungalows. Indeed, Applewood Acres, a tiny neighbourhood located in the southwest corner of Alta Vista, was one of the first projects by developer Robert Campeau, who would go on to shape large swaths of the city.

The Scullinos, who run a busy portrait photography business, had long harboured visions of moving their studio into their home, but their plans truly coalesced in 2014 when they got to know the three young architects at the fledgling PLOTNONPLOT architecture firm, which at the time was operating out of the house across the street. "We wanted to create something beautiful, and they understood that right away. They came up with an extraordinary design," says Jerome.

That design sees a cedar-clad addition on the back of the bungalow. Jerome's modern photography studio fills the basement, while on the main floor the added space allows room for a dining room and a master bedroom. The architects — Rebecca Fernando, Grant Oikawa, and Mark Rosen — worked with the couple to rearrange all the interior spaces to make the most of the extra square footage. They, along with general contractor Trent Baumgarten, also embraced Jerome's vision for modern interiors that paid homage to the home's mid-century provenance. That meant pairing truly modern design themes with iconic mid-century furniture pieces from Herman Miller, often upholstered in a joyful orange.

While the front entranceway is often used to set a grand tone, the Scullinos saved the best for their clients. Arriving

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through the side door that opens into Jerome's photography studio, clients enter a corridor that resembles a cathedral, the ceiling soaring to 23 feet, the passageway lit with an array of glowing Bocci pendants. The studio doubles as a gallery space, the lighting designed to allow Jerome to show his work to full effect when he chooses to mount a display. The overall feeling, though, is both professional and warm, with a textured concrete floor and sleek yet comfy couches and a couple of fun Swoop loungers. "We are a professional photography studio, not weekend warriors, and we needed the studio to reflect that," says Nisha firmly.

Other standout areas in the house include the kitchen, which mixes high and low: a wide-plank oak floor is juxtaposed with glossy Ikea cabinetry. Again, the couple has opted for orange to make the room pop. The family eats most of their meals at the counter, perched on the eye-catching Eames stools and looking across at the retro-cool tiles that make up the backsplash. The shower room, while also modern in tone, has a very relaxing, spa-like feel, with a luxe shower and a soaker tub — the two signature elements. Inspired by time spent in Japan, Jerome knew he wanted to separate the toilet from the shower room and install a tub that would be a pleasure to relax in.

Just over a year since the renovation was completed (construction took place between October 2014 and June 2015), the Scullinos say they still find themselves overwhelmed by the beauty of their new home. "After a few days away, when I come home I still take a deep breath and think, Wow," says Jerome. "My clients are happy, we are happy. It's such a pleasant space to work and live in. Everything we created is beyond my expectations."



Above The shower room, which includes a soaker tub, was inspired by bathing rooms Jerome experienced in Japan. The toilet is housed in a separate room

Left Clients visiting Jerome's photography studio enter the house through a side door that opens into a corridor with ceilings soaring to 23 feet. The passageway is lit with an array of glowing Bocci pendants

Below The studio doubles as a gallery space, the lighting designed to allow Jerome to show his work to full effect when he chooses to mount a display



Light Fantastic
The couple fell in love with the sculptural beauty of the glass pendant lights designed by Vancouver-based Bocci. When grouped, as they are in the entrance to Jerome's studio, the lights become an artistic installation



Sitting Pretty
While Jerome does classic photographic portraits, the studio is also becoming known for his encaustic works. To create the painterly effect, layers of melted beeswax are applied by hand over the original photograph to build up a textured surface, then the wax is sculpted and blended with oil pigments and resins to create a painterly effect

details

Sweet Seats

In the studio, two Swoop chairs from Herman Miller (below) speak to Jerome's appreciation for mid-century-modern furniture and the couple's love of orange. "It's the only colour we agree on," says Nisha with a laugh. The couple add a pop of bright orange-red to their kitchen with three classic Eames stools (left)



Matching Extension

This backyard view of the construction zone gives a sense of the size of the basement addition that became Jerome's new studio space. The extra space on the main floor is now taken over by the family's dining room and the Scullinos' master bedroom

