

**Oakville, Ontario
Mid-Century Modern
Design/Build
Upside Development**

By Kim Laudrum

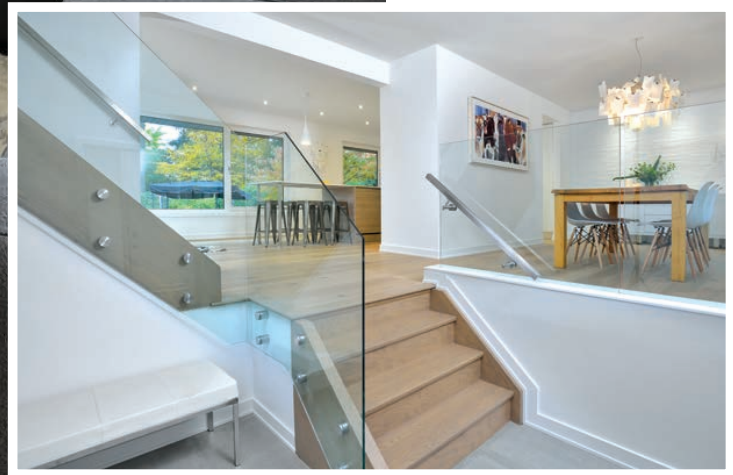
The homeowners of this 2,400 sq. ft. house located on a tree-lined ravine in suburban Oakville, Ont. were inspired by mid-century modern design following their travels in Scandinavia. It's light, spacious, uncluttered and highly functional.

They contacted Upside Development of Toronto to manage the design/build function. Incorporating their clients' vision, Upside Development created a new exterior and contemporary interior with Scandinavian flare.

The challenge was to convert the conventional four-bedroom side-split, which included large spans and different elevations, to create a continuous open concept design. Space constraints inspired creation of an open concept master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a main-floor integrated office. To achieve the look it was necessary to customize extensive feature built-ins, including bars, a concrete bio-ethanol fireplace, brick wall, desk, floating vanities and an entertainment wall.



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All Photos: Larry Arnal Photography

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Blending materials, including birch wood and glass, enlarging rooms and widening windows, all helped bring in light and the spectacular ravine views. Other

European-inspired materials were used as well: glass railings, Italian kitchen porcelain counters, specialty lighting, and French linen draperies.

The predominant wall colour is white, used throughout. Yet in the guest and children's rooms, a jolt of fuchsia in the art work and bed textiles, or peacock blue on a feature wall, enliven the space.

The ensuite bathroom in the master bedroom includes a shower stall in an area adjacent to the bed. Coral pink refreshes the guest bathroom wall, as does the stunning scrunched paper motif.

The sum is a light, open, and spare but welcoming aesthetic.





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This project shows early modern influences such as Frank Lloyd Wright's idea that dwellings should merge into their natural environments – and that interiors should also operate as a single flow. Upside Development removed bulky walls in this home and installed glass to maximum effect.

You can see all of this openness and flow in the master bedroom design here. The home's natural ravine setting bursts with life through the panoramic window. A window which overlooks a bath tub in the corner of a bedroom? Well, why on earth not? It looks naturally perfect.

Finally, the monochromatic white paint scheme of this house, very Scandinavian but also very Canadian, enhances the feeling of openness and reflects light into the house.





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