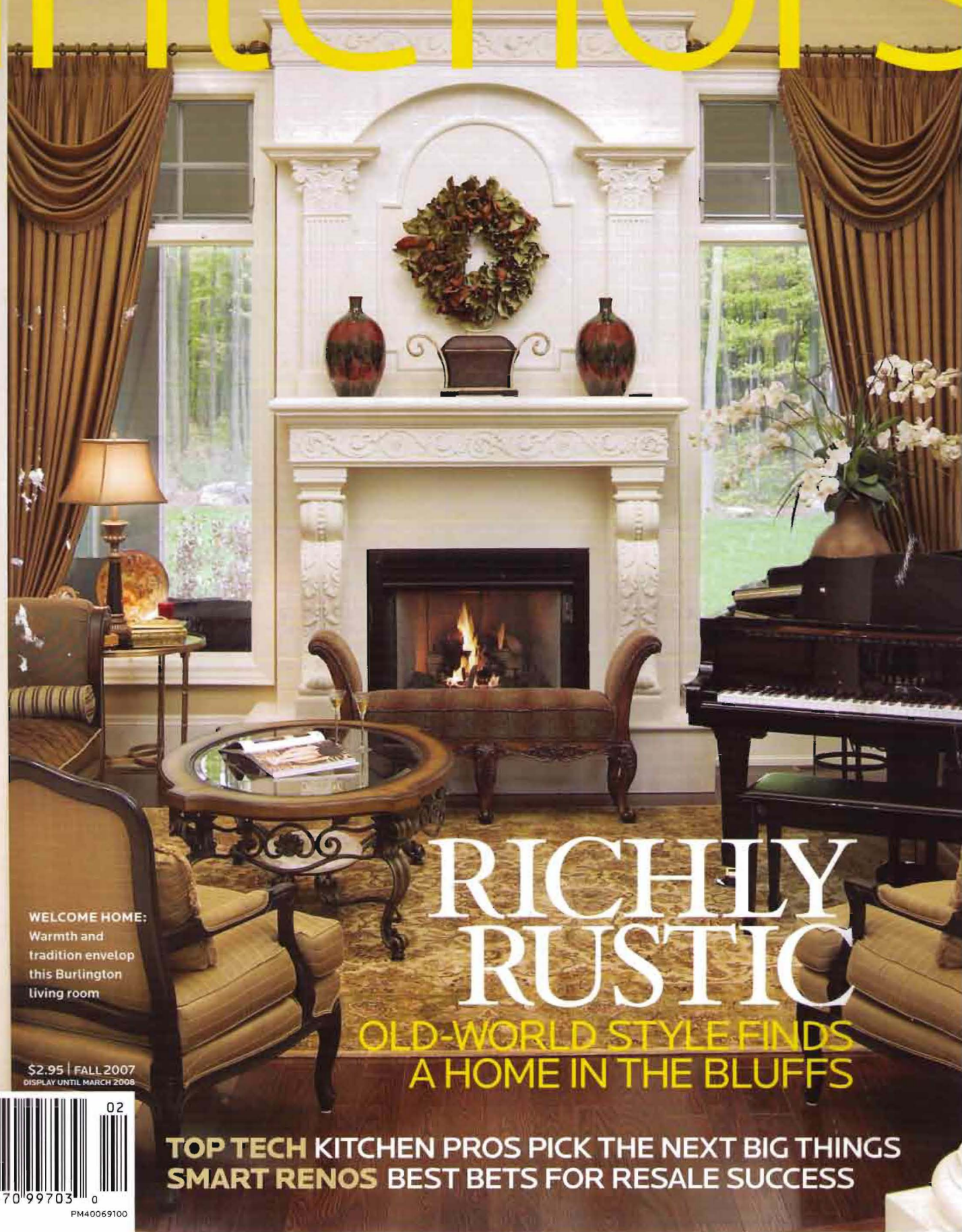


HAMILTON MAGAZINE'S

Interiors



WELCOME HOME:
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tradition envelop
this Burlington
living room

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OLD-WORLD STYLE FINDS
A HOME IN THE BLUFFS

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The main entrance opens into the formal living room (left). Scrolling sconce candle-holders (right) and silk draperies with subtle geometrics (far right) accent the dining room. The dinette is sited beneath a domed ceiling and three-tiered chandelier (lower right)



TUSCANY IN THE BLUFFS

Designer Kim Molkoski embraces old-world style at her rustic escarpment home **By Jennifer Villamere**
Photography by Roy Timm

Home decor designer Kim Molkoski of Su Casa by Kim

was a reluctant telecommunications executive before deciding to pursue design. "I was a national account manager for 16 years and I really hated it. My husband thought I had a flair and he said 'Well, you've always wanted to do interior design,' so I quit my job and went to college," she recalls. Her gracious six-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath-home is a testament to her talent and training.

Solid double rosewood doors with curved ebony iron lever handles open into the foyer where a four-foot floral tile mosaic in cream, fawn and golden brown is inlaid into ivory travertine floors. Set behind four white Grecian pillars is the living room. A black Yamaha baby grand on a Persian rug in olive, terra cotta and camel beckons to an imposing limestone fireplace. Two botanical prints hang above a scallop-backed jacquard upholstered sofa that's accented with gold-toned throw pillows and nail head trim. A pair of cherry wood fauteuils features a tone-on-tone caramel check pattern. Ivory walls are met by smart nine-inch white baseboards and dramatic crown moulding.

This U-shaped home was planned with the landscape in mind. "We designed the house so you could see the woods from every angle," she explains. Adjacent to the foyer in the east wing, the dining room is dominated by a cherry wood table surrounded by ten chairs upholstered in a fine camel chenille. Behind the table, a pair of scroll-shaped wall sconces support ochre pillar candles that flank an oversized gilded rococo mirror. Handsome chocolate-toned silk draperies with tasselled trim frame the windows. A linear charred iron chandelier with gold acanthus leaf detail and crème brûlée square-cut glass





Beyond the kitchen, antique Chinese doors open onto the wine cellar (above). A little girl's pretty bedroom (below).



shades hangs from an antiqued copper ceiling medallion. A tall rosewood sideboard with a fawn marble top veined with ivory and hints of rose stands beneath a floral print frame in a quiet brushed nickel finish. The walls feature a subtle faux finish suede effect in warm golden brown tone with a muted metallic sheen.

A sunken, more casual eating area is furnished with a round glass-topped table and fir rosewood chairs with seats upholstered in dark brown leather and backs covered in a rustic woven russet. Two square prints of Italian doves balancing delicately on scrolls and against dramatic black backgrounds hang on the café au lait walls. A large floral print in ivory, black and gold with dark red accents in a gilded frame reinforces the home's Italian references. Tailored espresso-coloured window coverings reveal a quiet olive scroll design.

In the kitchen, maple butternut cabinetry with brushed nickel hardware enfolds the fridge. The stainless steel Jenn-Air double oven matches a gas Jenn-Air cook-top, above which is inlaid a tile mosaic in reference to that of the foyer. An under-counter Marvel beverage centre is built into the sizeable square island. Countertops are granite in charcoal, blue and ivory with generous flecks of chocolate brown. Above the island hangs a two-tiered bucolic chandelier with each of its twelve arms capped in a chocolate brown mini shade.

Beyond the kitchen, there's a sunken family room where a suite of dark brown leather furniture faces a built-in cherry wood entertainment unit that frames a fireplace and flat screen TV. Diamond-patterned olive chenille draperies with tapered valances add a touch

anced contrast to the oxblood red walls. Thick-set, century-old Chinese doors lead to the wine cellar, which houses a Caravin wine cabinet. The walls have a sumptuous leather faux finish in Bordeaux. "I wanted it very cavern-like and this was the most rustic thing I found," says Molkoski of the texture-rich river rock flooring.

Off the foyer towards the west wing, French doors open onto a well-appointed office with an executive brown leather chair behind an L-shaped desk. An olive upholstered tufted bench with cherry wood legs complements pale green walls punctuated by white dental moulding. Down the hall, a giant spray of peonies hangs above the pink quilt-clad double bed in what was once the nursery but is now a pretty bedroom for a two-year-old girl. A delicate vanilla chandelier bursting with teardrop crystals lights the room. Bunnies accessorize the ensuite bathroom, which also features ivory cabinets and delicate pale green and matte gold script-patterned wallpaper.

In the master bedroom, a subtle faux finish on the walls suggests Venetian plaster in golden brown and ivory. The poster bed with scrolled iron headboard faces a limestone fireplace. Matching rosewood bedside tables topped with faun-coloured marble hold a



The home was crafted by The Bluffs' prolific builder, Jay Robinson Custom Home, known for exquisite attention to detail.





The dining room is steeped in formal charm (top). A bath beckons in the master en suite (above). Elegant embossed handles illustrate attention to detail (right)

matched pair of carved column table lamps crowned with dark brown silk shades. The master bedroom incorporates a solarium seating area furnished with an olive green chenille sofa and a jacquard armchair in golden fawn and olive. The seating area opens onto a lanai complete with a Ducane gas grill, multiple seating areas of black resin wicker furniture, wrought iron loungers with black and tan striped cushions, and an inviting hot tub with view to the outdoor television with surround speakers. "We have phantom screens that come down so it makes for another room in the summertime," explains Molkoski.

The master bedroom also opens on to an ensuite bath where the bedroom's ivory carpeting gives way to walnut travertine tiles, which continue up the walls to a chair rail of mosaic tiles. The remaining height is faux finished to match the bedroom. Windows of glass block bring natural light into the spacious shower enclosure, which features a ceiling-mounted rain showerhead. Between built-in rosewood open-faced cabinetry with brushed nickel hardware, marble countertops hold a pair of round travertine sinks. An armless jacquard chair in merlot, olive and blond sits at a built-in dressing table. The BainUltra tub is framed by a pair of port-coloured Grecian columns and lit by a delicate antiqued bronze chandelier.

The home is a clear homage to rustic Tuscany and old-world comfort. "It has a European flair to it," Molkoski agrees. But what inspires her? Perhaps travel is a muse, or history? "Honestly, it's what I like. I've always been like that. I could walk into any place and instantly know what I like and what I don't like. So I don't really have an inspiration." So she just has naturally great taste? "Yeah, right!" she laughs.

But she does.

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