

# glamour ON THE LEVEL

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A place for everything: Meredith and Harriet Staples say relocating furnishings and accessories from their old townhouse to a new premium apartment proved to be an easy task, with guidance from their decorator, Catherine Pulcine of Decorating Den Interiors – The CPI Team.

For most of us, glamour is something we might inject into a special occasion or a celebratory night out on the town, it's not an element that's part of our daily lives. But Meredith and Harriet Staples have incorporated a sophisticated and dramatic style into their home that, at the same time, is immeasurably easy to live with.

Recently moved into their luxury apartment in Kanata, the stylish retirees went to great lengths to make the space their own, so much so, that you could be forgiven for believing their home was a condominium they purchased outright instead of an apartment they rent.

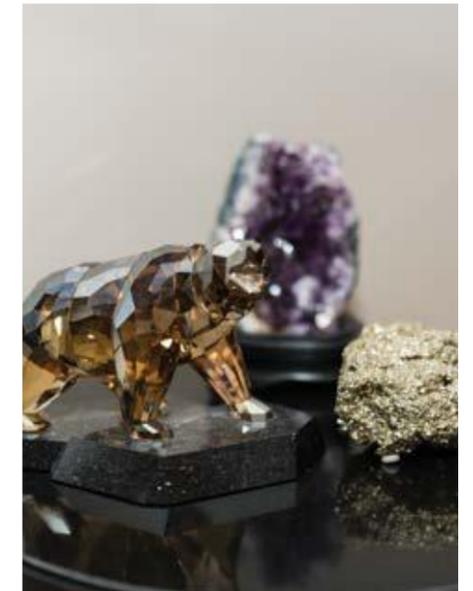
The couple had previously owned a townhouse in Kanata for 18 years in which they were quite happy and would be living in today, had they not decided that a move to a single-level residence would be more suitable to their current and future lifestyle. Having met **Catherine Pulcine of Decorating Den Interiors – The CPI Team** about 12 years ago, they had been inspired at that time to update and redecorate their townhome, one room at a time, trusting in her judgement to translate their likes and tastes into furniture and furnishings that were a true reflection of their personalities.

"We couldn't believe that Catherine came up with exactly what we wanted," Meredith says. "We changed the mouldings, the baseboards, we started redecorating... and one room led to another. We loved it and had it not been for the stairs we'd still be there."

*Continued on page 33*



**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: 1)** Purchased by Meredith in the city of Mysore in the south of India during his trip to that country in the 1990s. **2)** A Royal Cauldon gold embossed bone china set from England, passed on to Harriet from her parents. **3)** Beer steins and wine goblets from Germany in Meredith's extensive pewter collection. **4)** Swarovski crystal bear, surrounded by a large piece of pyrite and amethyst. **5)** Made in England, this Royal Chelsea turquoise bone china tea set was once used by Harriet's parents. **6)** A bottle of pear liqueur, one of several unusual bottles. **7)** Selangor pewter champagne flutes, engraved with their names and purchased as a gift to each other to commemorate their wedding. **8)** Glass balls are perched on a tray made of stones.





Former house-proud homeowners, the Stapleses put their own mark on every room of their new rental abode. For their kitchen, Meredith (left) and Harriet (right) purchased high-end appliances from Corbeil Appliances, installed light fixtures they brought with them from their previous residence and put in the backsplash of their choice.

With a move imminent, the couple looked not so much to downsize from their 1,680 sq. ft. townhouse (that also contained a finished basement with full bath), but to find living accommodations accessible on a single level. While other criteria included a washer and dryer in the en suite, most of all, they wanted to make their new accommodations their own by once again putting their own distinctive mark on it.

Another priority was that the home be newly constructed, but having decided against purchasing a condominium because of the vagaries of the market, that left them with few alternatives. When they came across **William's Court Apartments** in Kanata Lakes, still under construction, the place seemed designed for them. Because the structure was unfinished, they were able to purchase and have installed many of the finishings that would add distinctive character to their space.

Winner of the 2014 Best High Rise Project SAM Awards by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association, William's Court features resort-style amenities in the high-end surroundings of a premium high-rise



apartment building. Not surprisingly, the building owners accommodated their wishes to customize their apartment unit, especially since they wanted to sign a 10-year lease.

Committed to moving in, the Stapleses once again depended on Catherine to guide them into creating the elegant, polished rooms they desired, this time, transitioning their town home to apartment. They bought and installed their own choice of backsplash in the kitchen. High-end appliances were purchased by the couple from **Corbeil Appliances** and include a Samsung

induction stove and a Bosch dishwasher. Granite counters were purchased by them for both bathrooms. All light fixtures were purchased with Catherine's guidance (with the exception of the one in the dining room, which she had suggested for their old home) and window treatments were custom-made for the new home. But it's the other, smaller details, such as towel bars, toilet paper holders and bathroom mirrors, that set their unit apart from what you would expect, giving it the appearance of a condominium unit. *Continued on page 34*



Foregoing the standard window treatment installed throughout their high-rise building, they opted to purchase their own and chose coverings that complemented their furnishings.



**FAR LEFT:** From the foyer to the family room, Meredith painted, wallpapered and installed wainscoting throughout their apartment before the couple moved in. **LEFT:** The highlight of their family room is a feature wall of trompe l'oeil wallpaper replicating a stone wall.



Harriet's love of all things glamorous extends into the bedroom. The painting above the bed was a gift from a dear friend. **ABOVE:** Their en suite combines luxury with functionality and fulfills one of their musts, a stacked washer and dryer. The mirror-covered porthole located above the toilet is actually a medicine cabinet.

That feeling is further enhanced by the paint and wallpaper treatment found throughout. With all his tools and supplies in hand, Meredith went in six weeks before moving day and not only painted and wallpapered the entire place but also added wainscoting.

A career civil servant, Meredith started doing the odd job painting and wallpapering upon his retirement. Over the past 14 years or so, his past-time has grown into a full-time business, which now sees him booked six to eight weeks in advance.

Their new two-bedroom, two bath unit with den is designed in such a way that not an inch of space is wasted within its 1,400 square feet. There are no hallways and instead, all private spaces lead off from the entertaining areas.

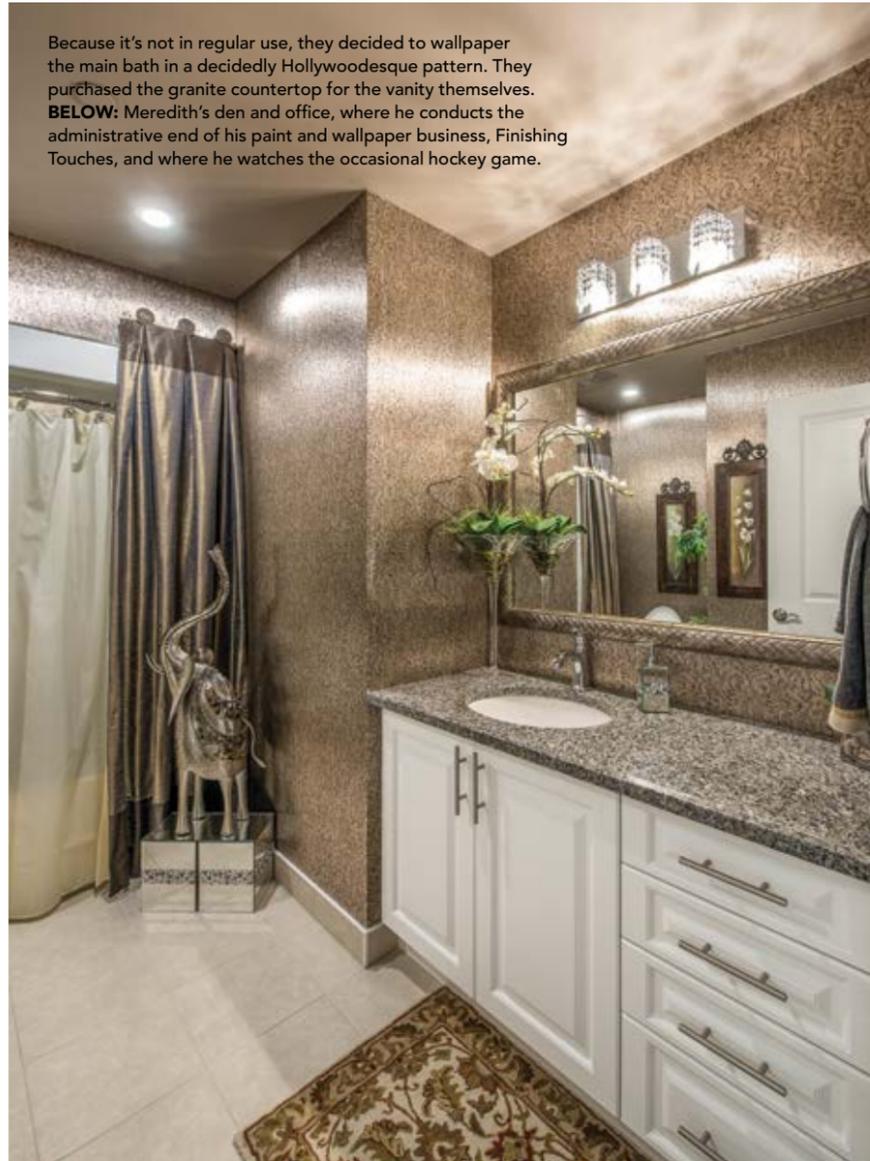
The finished home is dramatic and sophisticated and elegant. Jewel tones abound in both the paint selections and the furnishings.

"I like dramatic, I like glamour," Harriet says. "And the end result here is smashing. I think it's unusual."

So while the couple were required to downsize somewhat, most of their cherished possessions found a new home in their apartment, sometimes being repurposed or placed differently. A light fixture previously hung over stairs in their townhouse now hangs over their dining room table.

"Before, it was hard to see just how beautiful it was, because unless you looked up you didn't notice it," Harriet says. "Here, it takes centre stage."

The second bedroom has been converted into Meredith's den, a dual purpose room that's also where administration is conducted for **Finishing Touches**, his painting, wallpapering and moulding installations business. Floating shelves above his desk display his pewter collection, previously scattered about various rooms in the townhouse. On the opposite side of the room, a large flat screen TV turns the office into a den during hockey season with a simple swivel of his armchair. "We had so many people say to us, your other place was beautiful but it didn't show off like this," Meredith says. "We're proud of our home and we think it turned out just as we'd hoped." **OH**



Because it's not in regular use, they decided to wallpaper the main bath in a decidedly Hollywoodesque pattern. They purchased the granite countertop for the vanity themselves. **BELOW:** Meredith's den and office, where he conducts the administrative end of his paint and wallpaper business, Finishing Touches, and where he watches the occasional hockey game.



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