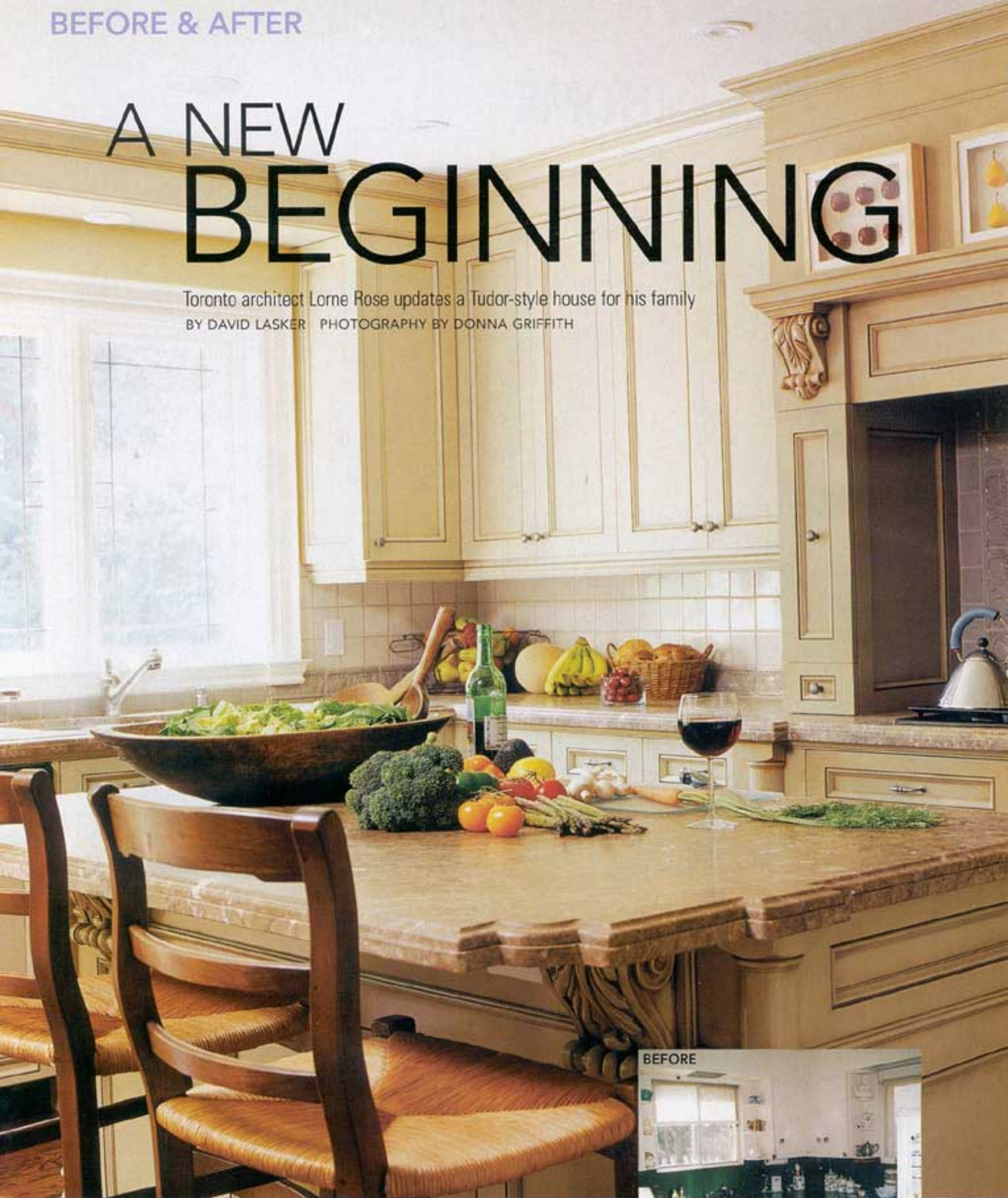


# A NEW BEGINNING

Toronto architect Lorne Rose updates a Tudor-style house for his family  
BY DAVID LASKER PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONNA GRIFFITH







In the master bedroom, the original eight-foot-high ceiling seemed oppressively low. Exploiting an unused attic, Lorne increased the ceiling height to 15 feet. The soaring space makes an appropriate setting for the unusually tall four-poster mahogany bed. Chenille-covered chairs and lace drapery panels create a cosy spot for relaxing or reading. The ensuite bathroom features symmetrical his and her vanity areas, a palette of soft, soothing colours, cross-cut travertine flooring and a shower tiled with cross-cut travertine. Interior designer Lori Morris created a green toile upholstered vanity chair with a heart-shape back. Glass shelving flanks the tub, providing handy storage space.

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gives a sense of charm and a cohesive look throughout the house. But the colours also have a lot of depth, which makes spaces seem more substantial."

For the Roses, a selling point of the house was its Tudor facade, which was freshened with paint and upgraded with triple-pane leaded-glass windows. "Renovating a house that has a specific style is easier than if it doesn't," says Lorne. "If it's Tudor, I do Tudor. If it's Georgian, I do Georgian."

The original rear exterior was made of brick, while the new pushed-out wall is finished with faux stucco and board and batten that harmonizes with the half-timbered, "ye olde cottage" look in front. "I enjoy designing all styles of houses, from traditional to contemporary," says Lorne. "But for my own living space, I prefer to add more traditional elements."

Lorne's wife vows never to leave her new home. "If he wants to move again," she laughs, "he'll have to find a new wife before he finds a new lot." ■



# thinking of RENOVATING?

Architect Lorne Rose offers a few ways to make the most of your renovation. • **START FROM SCRATCH.** If you need new everything – air conditioning, mechanical systems, electrical, plumbing – it's often faster and cheaper to gut a structure and start from scratch. • **CONSIDER FAUX MATERIALS.** Get the look for less using inexpensive materials in creative ways. For instance, Lorne used wood trim and faux-stucco Staccato Board (Masonite sheets embossed with a stucco pattern) to match a new rear addition to his home's half-timbered Tudor front. "My philosophy is to spend money where you'll see it," he says. • **CREATE THE ILLUSION OF GRANDEUR.** To emulate the effect of a historic Tudor house and make interior walls look more substantial, build out casings around windows and doorways. "It's a trick I employ because traditionally the walls would have been made of masonry," says Lorne. • **INVEST WHERE IT COUNTS.** Spend money on the things that will enhance your lifestyle, such as essential storage, comfortable furnishings and beautiful landscaping.







BEFORE





# Light, warm tones create a sense of charm and a cohesive look throughout

I started designing the renovation, I thought, What am I doing? Let's just start from scratch. It's easier for the trades if they don't have to poke through walls."

The structure was gutted, leaving only three walls standing. "It was like a movie set – you could see straight through to the back of the house," says Lorne. The house was later made eight feet deeper by pushing out a new rear wall.

With a few years of cooking classes under her belt, Lorne's wife had a particular renovation priority: a large, functional kitchen with lots of convenient storage. "And by the time we moved into the house, I was obsessed with storage," says Lorne. "There was no place for anything in the home we were renting. Now anywhere we can add storage, we do."

Toronto interior designer Lori Morris, a frequent collaborator with Lorne, helped select paint colours, fabrics and furniture. "We gave the rooms personality by mixing textures and patterns," says Morris, citing the family room's chenille sofa, floral chenille bergère, cotton-linen damask window covering and wool sisal carpet. Reflecting on the colour palette, she says, "The tones are light, warm and subtle, which



The Roses play checkers in the family room, where a classic white mantel with pilasters and a centre medallion embellish the fireplace. The handsome Moderne coffee table contrasts with the room's predominantly traditional furniture and serves as a focal point. Comfortable, clean-lined chairs and a wall displaying heirloom black-and-white photographs set off the reading area in the family room. Peeling off old wallpaper on a wall in the dining room exposed a previously hidden small side window. Lorne added the chandelier, new moulding and wainscotting. He also deepened the elegant bay windows.



BEFORE



aving moved twice in six months, the last thing on Lorne Rose's mind was to move yet again. But one day, as he was dropping off a friend in a quiet north Toronto neighbourhood, an inviting Tudor-style house with an Open House sign caught his fancy. "The sun was beaming, the house looked fine, we could have moved right in," he says, sitting with his wife in their large, traditional English kitchen as their two young boys chase one another back and forth from the adjacent family room.

But moving right in was not an option. Lorne is the owner of Lorne Rose Architect and a specialist in custom residential projects. For him, the house had the makings of a family dream home and was also the perfect vehicle to showcase his renovation skills when meeting prospective clients.

Unchanged since its 1938 construction, the home's main-

floor entry hall had two inadequate staircases and was dark and claustrophobic. The rest of the interior was a proverbial rabbit warren of choppy little rooms – there was a small kitchen, and upstairs there were five bedrooms and four bathrooms. Lorne wanted fewer, but bigger and better, bathrooms – one for the master suite, another for the boys – and a first-floor powder room. Now there's an additional bedroom in the basement, which houses the live-in nanny, while yet another room accommodates Lorne's gym equipment.

"The house had no air conditioning and needed new everything – mechanical, electrical, plumbing," says Lorne. "When



Cabinetry in the kitchen takes advantage of every available square inch for storage. For a rustic old-world feel, Lorne devised an elaborate edge moulding and chose a honed finish on the marble-topped, custom island. Bookshelves in the eating area's buffet hutch hold cookbooks and kids' crafts projects. Lorne's wife, a gourmet cook, enjoys hosting large Sabbath dinners and garden parties, so a big kitchen with extensive storage and food prep areas was a must. "The front of the house stops traffic," says Lorne of his home's landscaping, which was designed by Egils Didrichsons, who often uses circular elements, such as the low stone wall seen here. The home's Tudor-style facade was updated with energy-efficient triple-pane windows.