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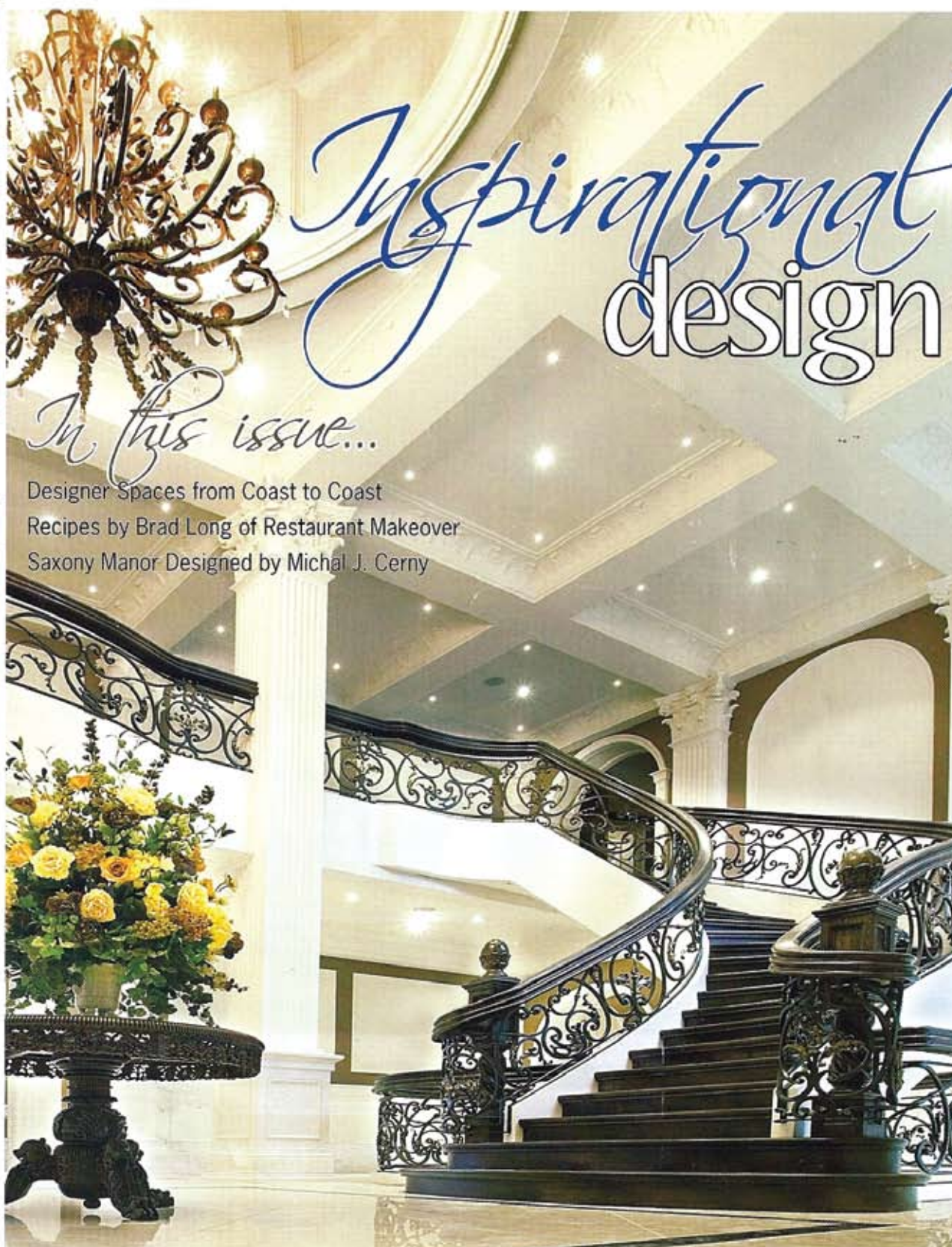
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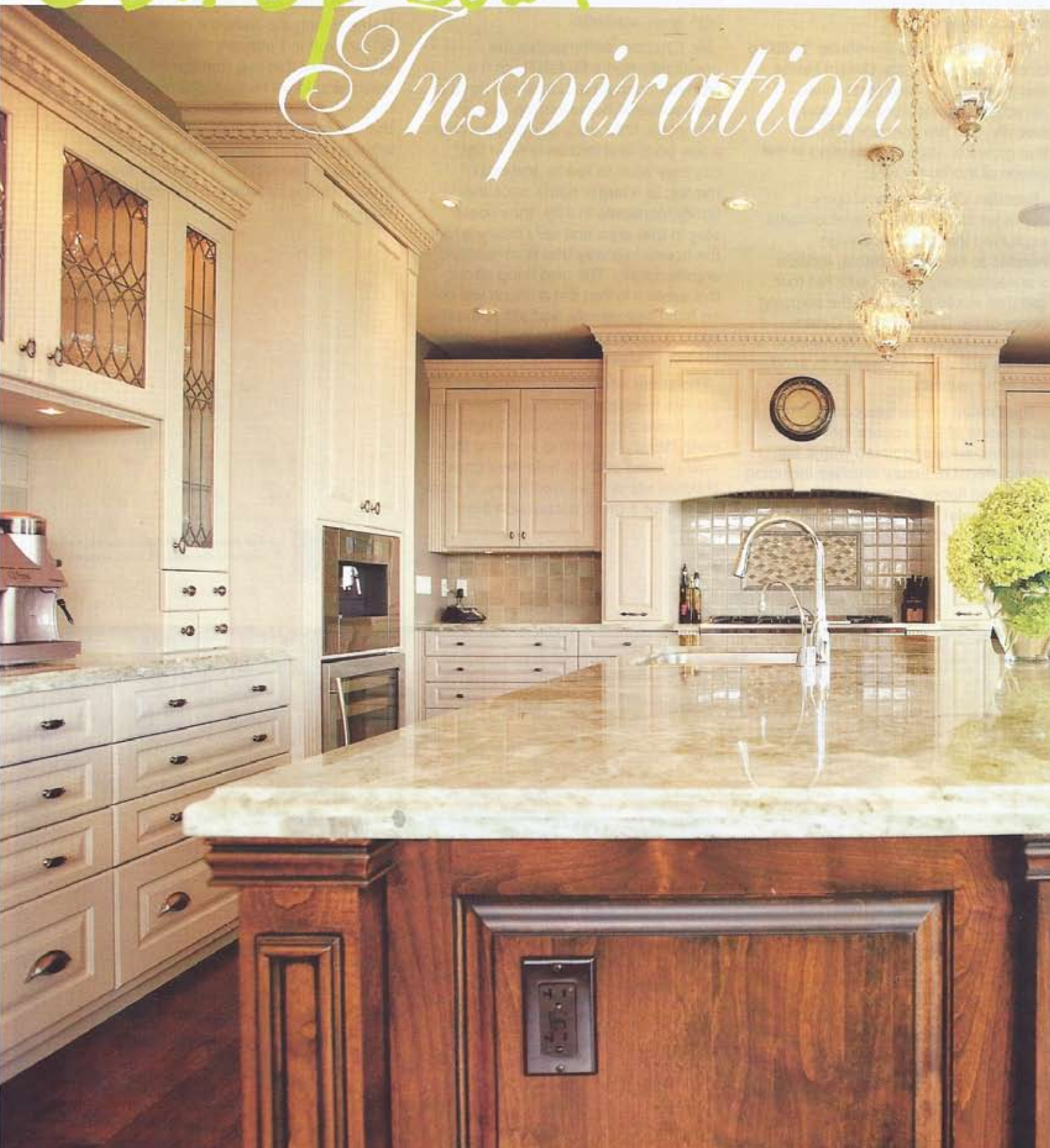
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As a designer, I love the fact that Canadian Home Trends Magazine covers not only decorating tips and trends but also addresses many construction and renovation topics. I always find the topics very relevant such as green construction considerations. The other thing that I love is the large format pictures, so readers can really get a good feel for the room or home being featured.

Reissa Pollard

Reisa Pollard, the Founder of Beyond Beige Interior Design in Vancouver, BC is the designer of the gorgeous kitchen and walk-in closet.

Canadian Home Trends: Reisa, can you explain how the style used in these spaces ties in with the client's lifestyle?

Reisa Pollard: In the case of this space, the home owner had been a client of Beyond Beige Interior Design (my design firm) for some time. We had worked on her last home which was very contemporary and modern, but she found it difficult to maintain the look and upkeep the space as a mother of 3 boys. Taking into account the home owner's very active family, we considered many things that would make their lives easier. Our vision ensured that we met all of the family's practical requests, but adhered to the inspiration of an elegant European mansion. We went for a style that was practical, classic and timeless. The millwork is a perfect example of this as it has so many practical elements to it, but the design of it adds significant beauty to the home.

CHT: What types of unique features can we find in this kitchen?

RP: In the kitchen, we designed the layout along with the client, based on how she wanted to use the space. This is something that we often do with clients at Beyond Beige. It helps to know how and why a space will be used before we go into actual design and production. The kitchen boasts some fabulous features: The huge island serves many purposes; she can use it for baking and prep, or it can be a serving area allowing up to five people to dine alongside their chef and host. The custom leaded glass on the cupboards looks beautiful when it is lit, but it also allows the home owner see where things are. The client had a list of appliances that she wanted, and I was concerned that this would make the space look too practical, so we concealed many of the appliances to ensure that the millwork would stand out as the feature of the room. We placed retractable doors in the space that allow the large deck to become part of the kitchen. It gives easy access between the built-in barbeque area outside and the main kitchen inside. This is great for hosting parties which notoriously always end up in the kitchen!

CHT: Tell us about the contrast in colours used in the kitchen?

RP: Our client rarely has down time with work and three boys, so she wanted the main hub of the home to be calming and peaceful. The colours are gently contrasting shades of grey, green and beige. (Despite our company name, we are still good friends with the colour beige!) Painting the millwork a soft colour helped ensure that it wouldn't overwhelm the space. It also allows the breathtaking view from the kitchen to remain a focal point. I chose to do the island in a stain rather than painting it, for a number of reasons. The stained wood keeps the island from looking too big by blending nicely with the stained floor, and it acts as a contrasting base for the granite. The island also needed to be very durable as it has to endure chairs and feet hitting it. The backsplash was



chosen from matching the colours in the granite which had beautiful shades of grey through green. The backsplashes came from mixing shapes and materials such as natural stone, porcelain tile and metals. For this project, I did not want any aspect of the kitchen to jump out as a focal point, but instead have each element subtly complement the other.

CHT: What types of special features have been customized for this kitchen in order to make it more functional?

RP: There are many special features in the kitchen that are very functional, and I am proud to say that most of them are hidden. I really didn't want the type of kitchen where everything is exposed and obvious. There are many more appliances than in a standard kitchen, such as a built-in coffeemaker, a wine fridge, a beverage fridge and full-sized separate fridge and freezer. There are lots of drawers and many of them have

special inserts for organization such as a knife drawer, a spice drawer and a recycling center. The hood above the oven even contains pull out racks to maximize storage.

CHT: The mixture of style & function is also apparent in other rooms of the home such as the walk-in closet. What types of features were installed in the closet?

RP: The goal for the closet was to create something really spectacular but to be practical about having lots of accessible compartments to organize the clothes. We didn't want everything to be hidden or it would be too difficult for the home owner to get dressed! The beauty came from the different types of storage. There are hanging spaces, drawers, doors, open shelves, shoe racks and of course the island for laying things out.



CHT: How did you come up with the concept and layout of the closet?

RP: The vision started with the island. Both the client and I could appreciate the value of being able to lay things out and have storage underneath. I didn't want it to end up looking like a kitchen, so I knew the cabinetry needed to look sexy and feminine. I liked the idea of taking the cabinetry to the ceiling and maximizing the space. We wanted the "Sex and the City" feel, where you gasp when you come around the corner and see the closet. In the end we loved it so much that we took the entrance doors off so she could admire it from other areas of the bedroom.

CHT: What types of materials were used?

RP: To make the closet more cost effective, we used painted maple wood doors and a combination of wood and MDF for the structure. Hardware is always the key that brings dark pieces alive. The use of a classic crystal knob

brings some "bling" into the closet in a very elegant way. We also used a "seeded" glass, which is a replica of old glass with small bubbles in it, to further the look.

CHT: Where did the inspiration come from for this marvellous design?

RP: The Inspiration came from looking at a lot of homes in Europe that have a style that endures time. We looked at places that had been modernized but kept many of the original architectural elements. I have a book on Manhattan apartments that had such amazing examples of millwork because space there is at such a premium. The client has become a good friend since Beyond Beige had worked with her on other homes, and I personally felt connected to wanting to give her something that was really practical but definitely had a woman's touch. She is always doing stuff for her boys and not enough for herself, but this home was definitely designed for both her and her boys.