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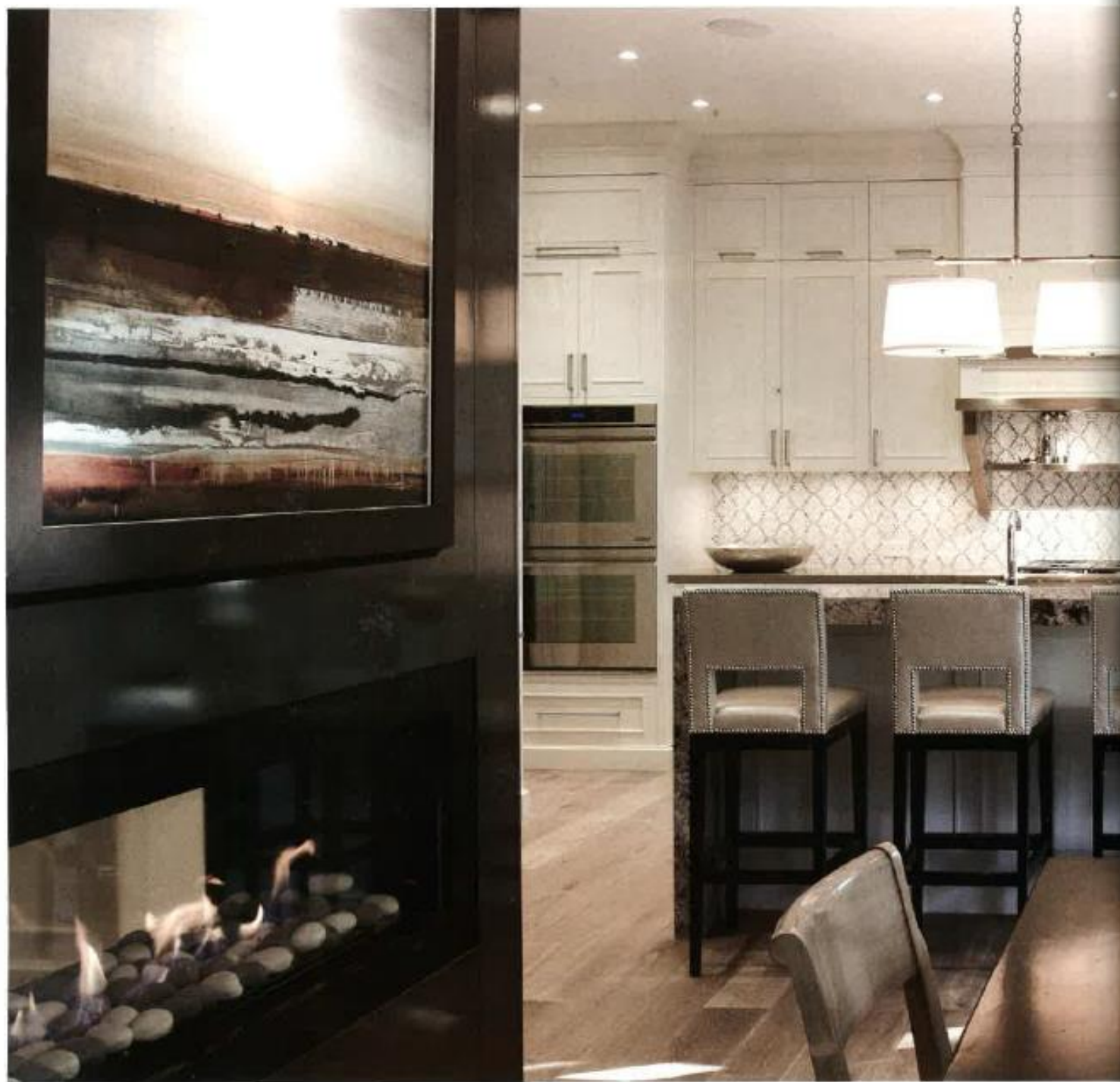
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FUNCTION AND FORM

*There's a place for everything
in this kitchen*

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN
PHOTOGRAPHY: CRAIG COOPER
STYLING: ALYCE DRENTH



“The light fixture styles work together but don’t match. It’s quality that you see.”

The column with the fireplace is at the centre of the house and is the nexus of the kitchen, dining area and family room. Hanging light fixtures: Chaddock Lighting, available at Creative Avenues; Dacor 48-inch six-burner cooktop and wall convection ovens: Caplan’s Appliances.

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SPECIAL KITCHEN ISSUE

MARCH 2015

ALYCE DRENTH HAS AN EXUBERANT MOTTO for kitchen design: “Function, function, function; then make it beautiful!” In this new home, in the Bathurst-Glencairn neighbourhood, she was given free rein to do just that.

“I’ve worked with Alyce for many years,” says the homeowner. “She decorated my previous home, and we’re very much on the same page. I gave her carte blanche, I trust her.”

Drenth is the owner of Creative Avenues, a full-service interior-design and home-decor boutique. She is confident in her work and appreciative of the freedom her client gives her.

“My client wants beautiful things, but they have to work,” Drenth says. “I know her lifestyle and the way a house could flow and work for her, and she has faith that I know what she wants.”

Drenth’s vision for the new house was open concept, different from the previous home. The homeowner was initially uncertain but soon came to see the value of the plan. “I’m now the grandmother of two; they’re my passion,” she says. “I realized that I had made changes in my lifestyle, and Alyce was attuned to that.”

The design of the kitchen – indeed, the entire floor – began with the two-sided fireplace. There’s a straight line of sight from the front entrance to the centre of the home, which is the wall (more like a wide rectangular column) containing the fireplace. On the other side of the fireplace column is the dining area. The kitchen opens to the left of it, and the family room is to the right. *✎*

