

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

Good LIFE

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Grand entrance

Designer helps
home live up to
its potential

WE LIKE IT: School Style
Autumn in the **Orchard**

SERVING MARKHAM, RICHMOND HILL, STOUFFVILLE AND THORNHILL



“ We both love to read and we thought that adding a library to our home with a place to read felt like a space that we could and would use everyday”

- Kathryn Smirle, homeowner



A play room grows up

BY TRACY SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN

Last year, Kathryn and Michael Smirle were faced with a challenge that will sound familiar to many young families: how to best reclaim space on their main floor once dedicated injury-free play and toy storage. Rather than default to a traditional dining room, the couple created a stunning and contemporary family library for all to enjoy.

"Our kids were getting older and we were a little bit sick of a quarter of our main floor being taken up by floor mats and toy shelves and we wanted to create a more mature space that we could enjoy

every day," Michael explains. "We don't do a lot of fancy entertaining so reserving space for a formal dining room seemed like a waste, but we all love to read so we decided to create a library."

The Smirles enlisted the help of Cynthia Soda of Soda Pop Design in Stouffville, to help with the project.

"Cynthia Soda came to our house to chat about the project and she understood what we were trying to achieve right away," Kathryn says. "Cynthia is a mom with young kids like me so I knew that

she would think about functionality and practicality which I valued a lot."

Now that the dust has settled, the room is a favourite with all members of the family.

"The comfortable seating — two big chairs and a window seat — draw you in and the textures, patterns and colours all come together as though the pieces have been curated over time. That's what I love about this space," Soda says. "It doesn't just look pretty, it tells a story about the people who live there." »