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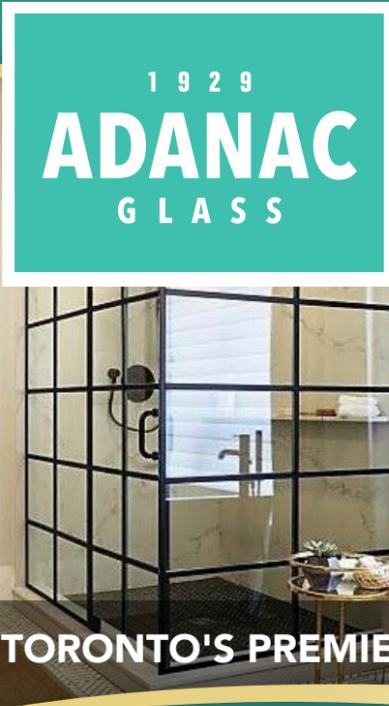
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editor's note



OUR HOME IS ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY THIS SUMMER.

Our son Matt just finished his first year in high school, while our daughter Christina finished her last. She's headed to the University of Toronto in the fall, and my husband and I are thrilled. It's our alma mater. Life as we know it is about to change!

She'll be living at the Mississauga campus and immersing herself in the life sciences program, but loves the prospect of taking a class or two downtown when she can. It's one of the reasons she chose U of T. The flexibility allows her to enjoy the lush tranquility of the UTM campus, but also experience the energy and vibrancy of life in The 6.

That's the beauty of a university with multiple colleges. The campuses are a hive of activity with endless possibilities. The city is alive with culture, entertainment, nightlife, food and much more – everything a student could want and need. Our hope is that it will broaden her experience as a student the way it did for us many years ago.

A kid of the suburbs myself, heading downtown held the allure of so many prospects. For me, there was nothing like stepping onto a campus steeped with history. You can grab a coffee in a building that's 100 years old, and know you're standing where thousands of students stepped before you.

I love older buildings, and savoured the opportunity to take classes while soaking up the beauty of the details in the architecture. Walking the campus is like walking through the pages of history, or peeking through a window to the past. A school like U of T is steeped with a history and tradition that can only come with the passage of time. Like building a cornerstone, my time there as a student was a small contribution to building a legacy.

With a blank page in hand, it's our daughter's turn. I know she'll make a grand contribution.

Gina Makkar, *Managing Editor*
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FROM CITY TO COTTAGE



advice



The Ultimate OUTDOOR KITCHEN

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.

Our summers may be short, but from March through July and on to November, cooking outdoors allows us to share our food experiences with family and friends while we extend our outdoor play time. More and more people are choosing to invest in their homes and backyards rather than vacation elsewhere.

Before planning and spending on an outdoor kitchen, ask yourself some simple questions:

- How much time do I want to devote to maintenance? Knowing this will save you a lot of grief and disappointment.
- What's critical-to-have, must-have and nice-to-have?

Critical to Know

- Safety first. Make sure you meet your region's building and fire codes. There's a difference between a code for building a house and a code for preventing open flames in and near a building. They are two different things.
- Protect combustible materials.

Choosing Cabinets and Materials

Cabinets and counters need to be corrosion and weather resistant, low maintenance and made with stable materials. All materials expand and contract with temperature change and moisture. Sun fades colours, and natural materials break down over time. There are three types of cabinetry-based kitchens for outdoor use: HDPE/Polymer, wood and stainless steel.

Polymer: Waterproof, sun safe, available in a variety of solid colours, lower maintenance, plastic, variable durability.

Wood: Flexible design, requires some maintenance, most affordable, not fire resistant.

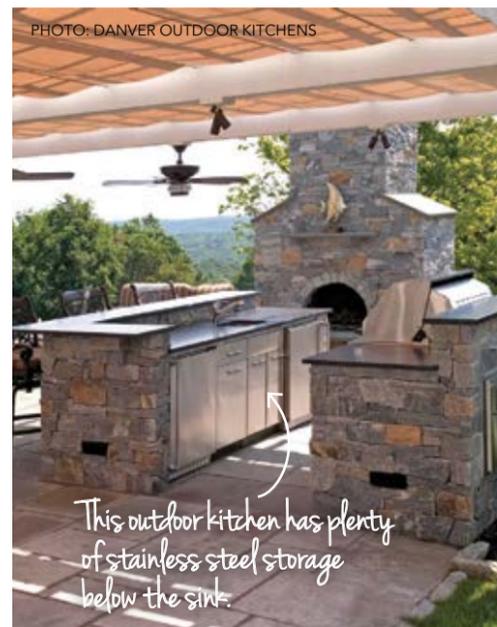


PHOTO: DANVER OUTDOOR KITCHENS

This outdoor kitchen has plenty of stainless steel storage below the sink.



This outdoor kitchen has it all!

PHOTO: DANVER OUTDOOR KITCHENS

Stainless Steel: Heat and fire resistant, non-corrosive, easy to clean, available in powder-coated colours.

Things to Consider

Appearance: What do I want to see when I look at my outdoor kitchen? Choose your landscaping and furniture for that perfect outdoor style.

Clean-Up: Install a sink with water. You may not want to use your indoor kitchen to clean greasy, sooty stuff. Plan ahead for plumbing.

Heating and Electrical: Layer your heat sources. Consider heat lamps, fire pits or a built-in infrared heater. Make sure you put in multiple electrical outlets that meet code. Plan ahead for electrical.

Shade: Create shade from the sun and protection from the rain with pergolas, retractable patio covers or tents.

Stay Cool: Cool yourself off with fans, misters or rugs to shield you from the hot floor and use light-coloured furniture.

Layout and Seating: Transition your rooms with removable screens, doors and walls. Offer a variety of seating – low Muskoka chairs, chaise loungers, stools and benches.

Storage Space: The ultimate amenity. Think of what else may need to be stored – equipment, furniture, sports and hobbies. You don't want to run back and forth from the house or garage, to the outdoor living area.

Small Spaces – Condo Balconies and Terraces

Electric grills make outdoor eating possible despite strict fire and safety codes. Brown Jordan has fully assembled kitchens for terraces, to be lifted by a crane, or custom units transported by a service elevator.

Nice to Have and Trending

- Specialty right-sized appliances replacing mammoth barbecue grills. These can include: Argentinian grills, smokers, side burners, pizza ovens, fridges, dishwashers, beer on tap, espresso machines, ice makers and Kamado-style grills.
- Lighting schemes, televisions and sound systems. Treat this space like another room of the house.

Value to Your Home

Outdoor kitchens seem to be replacing the pool as an add-on feature. It increases your competitive edge when selling because people will imagine themselves having great times in their new backyard.

Good design blurs the lines between the indoors and the outdoors. In what creative ways have you designed your very own private outdoor oasis? **OH**



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JUST ADD COLOUR

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Add water to each vase. Squeeze a few drops of food colouring into each vase and stir.
- 2 Cut flowers to fit vase. Display and enjoy!

Continued on page 28

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MATERIALS

- Cylindrical vases in three sizes
- Small river rocks
- Water
- 3 Flowers on stems



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Place a handful of rocks on the bottom of each vase. Cut flower stems in various heights.
- 2 Arrange stems between rocks on bottom of the vase. Fill vase with water. Enjoy!



Get creative with water colours. Mix it up or go with just one hue. OH

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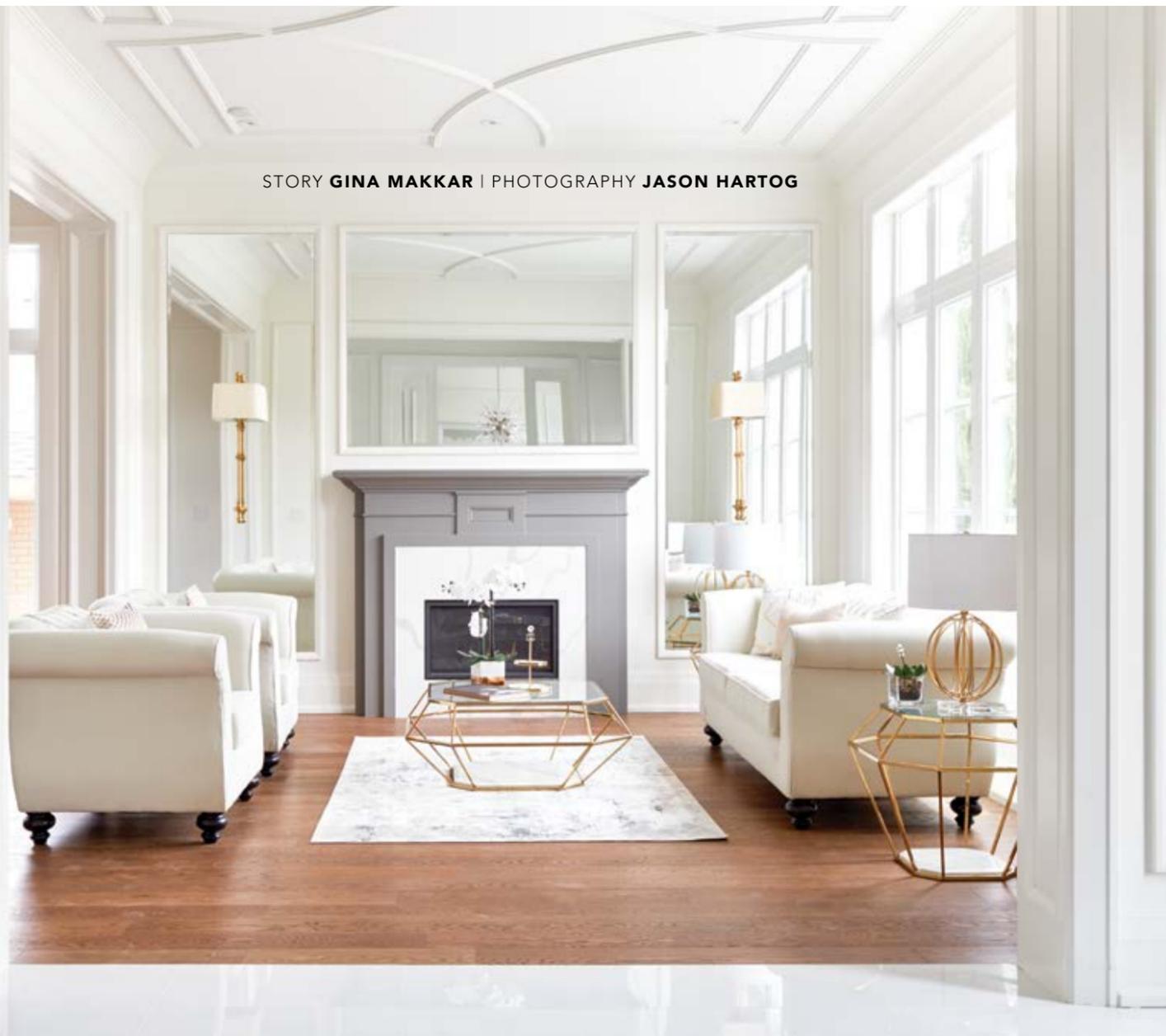
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STORY **GINA MAKKAR** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



MAHZAD WORKED with Toronto home designer **Georgio Lolos** of **Georgio Lolos Custom Home Designs** to complete the project. The classic, symmetrical proportions of the Indiana stone facade and the French dormer windows lend the feel of a grand chateau passed down from generation to generation. Despite its old-world aesthetic, the recently built beauty blends timeless charm and luxurious details with the function of a modern home.

A stately front door set within a curved portico opens into a grand foyer, where marble floors adorned with an intricate black inlay border create a visual separation between the entry and the rest of the home. Oversize doors accentuate the 12-foot ceilings throughout the main floor. Glass doors open to the office on the left, where panelled walls and custom built-ins with brass accents from **Trust Carpentry** give the workspace a warm, luxe feel.

To the right, the formal living room is elegant with elaborate ceiling details from **PSO Moulding Inc.** and a marble fireplace with a mirrored surround creating beautiful reflections. The fireplaces throughout are from **Toronto Home Comfort**. Custom matte, wide-plank hardwood floors by **Chestnut Flooring** add richness and depth. The effect is current yet comfortable. *Continued on page 33*



Details create a walk upstairs with plenty of wow factor. **BELOW LEFT:** Placing the office by the front entry provides seclusion. **BELOW:** The stately chateau-inspired exterior blends symmetry, balance and proportion. **OPPOSITE:** The addition of custom ceiling mouldings add unexpected but dramatic features.





**FLOOR-TO-CEILING
WINDOWS IN THE
BREAKFAST NOOK
OFFER A STUNNING
VIEW OF THE RAVINE.**



The living room opens to the dining room, where picture mouldings and a candelabra-style brass chandelier add ambience for entertaining. A door swings open to reveal a butler's pantry and storage space that connects to the kitchen.

In the kitchen, an oval window from **Window City** is an inspired addition. The kitchen features everything a modern family could desire. A cube-style Calacatta marble island is an avant-garde, eye-catching element. White cabinetry is accented with mirrored doors adorned with diamond mullions. It's a chef's paradise with Thermador appliances from **Appliance Canada**. Hints of brass frame the cabinetry, and contemporary fixtures from **Union Lighting** complete the space.

The breakfast area is tucked to the side, and features floor-to-ceiling windows with a breathtaking view of the ravine beyond.

Continued on page 34

LEFT: A servery connects the dining room and kitchen. **BELOW:** Brass accents are a bold and luxurious addition in the all-white kitchen.





The great room built-ins surround a five-foot linear Travis fireplace. They span the entire wall and mirror those in the kitchen, joining the spaces. Together, they connect to create a large, functional space for entertaining, marrying beauty and practicality.

In the hallway, a circular staircase by **AZ Stairs** sweeps upward. Custom ironwork adds elegance. The stairwell is finished with a delicate wallpaper in a trellis pattern to add colour and dimension. The gaze upward is met with a big surprise – a gleaming glass dome.

The amenities in the upper level do not disappoint. More luxury awaits in the large master bedroom and en suite. The bedroom is spacious with a coffered ceiling, sitting area, fireplace and large walk-in closets. The en suite's his-and-hers vanities help ease the stress of early mornings. Touches of brass elevate the space. The oversize shower is elegantly appointed with brass and Swarovski crystal fixtures.

The home is well-appointed, with two furnaces and two air conditioning units by Lennox, a snow melting driveway and heated floors in the bathrooms and the basement. In the lower level, a large recreation room and bar are perfect for parties. It also includes a nanny suite and gym. *Continued on page 36*

ABOVE: Deep grey is paired with white for a transitional feel in the powder room. **RIGHT:** Like a reflection, built-ins mirror the cabinetry in the adjoining kitchen.



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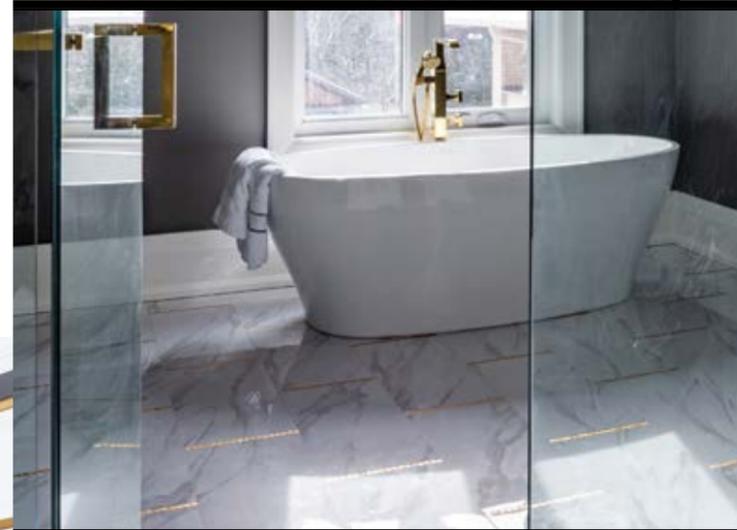


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Mahzad has built many homes in the area, bringing quality and luxury to each and every build. With this home, she embraced the restrictions of the zoning bylaws and creatively incorporated features like the spectacular glass dome at the top of the circular staircase. "These are features you'd expect to see on a home with 70-foot frontage, but Mahzad managed to incorporate them in our 50-foot lot and make them look like they belong to the house," says the homeowner.

The homeowner says working with Mahzad Homes was a smooth process, from start to finish. "She took care of everything, including the architectural design, obtaining permits and more. It was easy and fast. Everybody told us it would be very stressful to build a home, but honestly, it has been the best experience. We are very thankful." **OH**



ABOVE: Hints of brass carry into this bathroom upstairs, creating unity throughout. **TOP RIGHT:** Simple wall trim adds detail in the master bedroom. **RIGHT:** The master is large enough to accommodate a sitting area and fireplace.



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CEILING DRAMA

STORY
SARA MARTIN

Look up. Is a popcorn ceiling staring back at you? If so, it might be time for a change. Here's some inspiration for that overlooked "fifth wall" in every room.

1 WOOD

Reclaimed barn boards add rustic, textured character and provide an interesting colour palette to draw from. Plywood is another choice and when sealed with a gloss varnish, adds warmth and simplicity to a space.



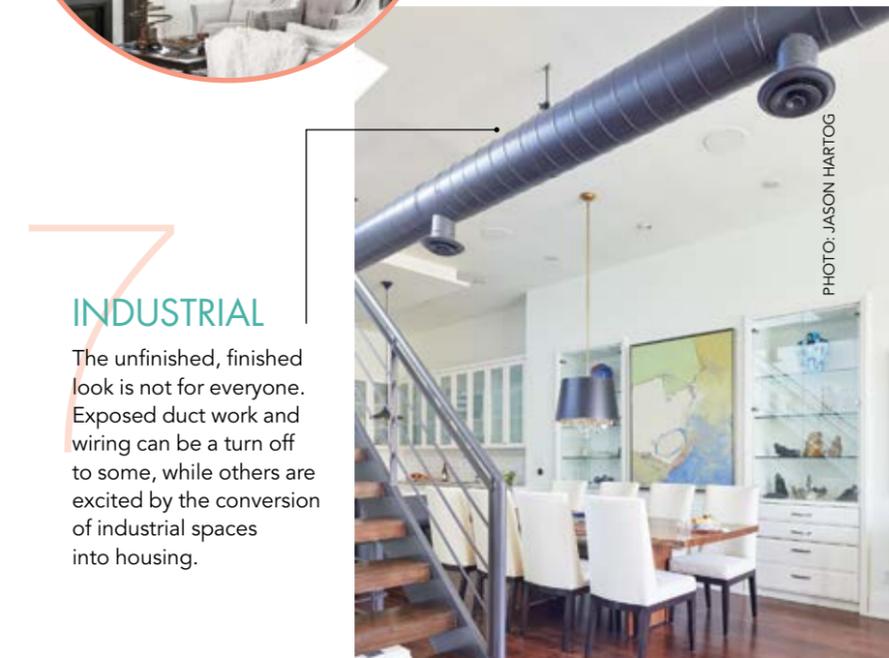
2 BEADBOARD

No longer just for the cottage, use it on any ceiling. In a peaked ceiling, try running the boards vertically towards the peak, it will draw the eye upwards. A real time saver if placed right over a popcorn ceiling.



3 COFFERED DIMENSIONAL

You need ceiling height to get the full effect of this style of finish, as the elements can overwhelm a nine-foot ceiling. This design adds formality and looks best in a living or dining room.



7 INDUSTRIAL

The unfinished, finished look is not for everyone. Exposed duct work and wiring can be a turn off to some, while others are excited by the conversion of industrial spaces into housing.



METAL

Metal ceiling tiles were introduced in the 1800s as an affordable alternative to detailed plasterwork. Today, reproductions are plastic and come in a variety of patterns. Of course, if you can find the antique tiles, their patina and dented appearance will add incredible character.



5 LIGHTING

LED lights come in many options these days. Pot lights are smaller and directional and bulbs come in cool and warm light. LED strips or tape come in several lengths and colours and are waterproof.



6 PAINT

In some ways, paint is one of the easiest ways to finish a ceiling, but try to move away from white. Stencils, stripes, faux finishes and glazes will add that extra touch or just use a high-gloss paint in a rich dark colour.

8 MOULDING

With a seemingly endless choice of mouldings available, creating a design pattern on the ceiling is only limited by your imagination. Foam or plastic ceiling medallions can start the design and highlight a hanging fixture.



9 BEAMS

If beams are existing and need an update they can be re-clad. You can paint or stain existing beams. Faux wood beams can also be added. **OH**



Luxe LINENS

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



Sepideh Kia and Elizabeth Alves



THE PLACE: When **David's Fine Linens** first opened its doors in 1977, its goal was to provide top-quality European linens to the North American market, a hallmark of the company's success today. When customers step into the store, they're enveloped by luxurious fabrics from around the world. Products crafted from sumptuous Egyptian cotton, bamboo, micromodal and silk are on display.

PRODUCTS: Choose from a selection of superior brands, such as Sferra, St. Geneve, Fendi, Missoni, Roberto Cavalli, Graccioza, Abyss, Frette, Garnier Thiabaut, Revelle,

St. Pierre, St. Regis, Peacock Alley, Dea, Cottimarianne, La Perla and many more. In addition to beautiful bed linens, they also carry table linens, pillows, duvets, bathroom accessories and home décor items. For the customer who likes to shop from home, David's offers convenient online shopping with timely delivery service.

THE SERVICE: The team in store are on hand to help create a beautiful tablescape or a luxe bedroom retreat. Not sure what you're looking for? They've got the expertise to help sort through the myriad of options, from the quality



and durability of a fabric to different styles. They'll help choose the right product, whether you're looking for something to use every day or for special occasions.

WHAT'S TRENDING: Floral prints are great for adding a pop of colour and excitement to a room. Add a splash of print with throw pillows or a duvet for an understated look with big impact. From upholstery to drapery to rugs, pink takes centre stage, from soothing pale hues to bright, bold, punchy fuchsias. Deep, rich tones like blue and aqua can be layered in living rooms, dining rooms and bedrooms with fabrics and accessories to create drama. Tone it down with pastels to create a calm, serene retreat.

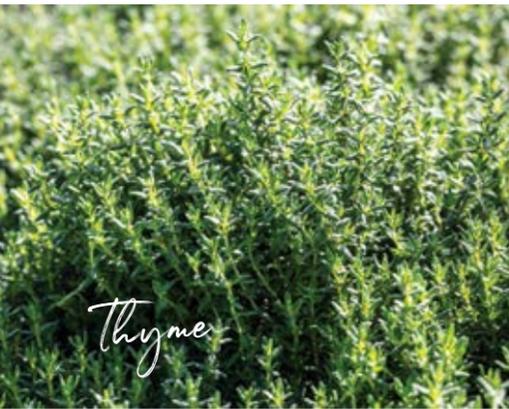
FAVOURITES: Crisp, fresh white is always in vogue. Grey is warm and chic when paired with the right furnishings and accessories. Neutrals like mocha and taupe are warming up and making a strong comeback in home décor.



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davidsfinelinens.com OH



STORY MELANIE REKOLA



hedge

YOUR INVESTMENT

Clipped and formal hedgerows have charmed society for centuries. Used to create living privacy walls, boundaries and attractive garden borders, hedges have many practical uses and also add value to any property.

The use of hedges dates back to 4000 BC in ancient Egypt where the first boxwoods were clipped for ornamental purposes. Amazingly, this style has some serious staying power as they are still being used present day. As mentioned, hedges can serve multiple purposes: they can conceal unsightly views, create privacy from nosy neighbours and significantly cut down on noise pollution. Hedging can make a patio space warm and cosy by acting as a windbreak and it can cut down on snow accumulation by acting as a snow fence. It can delineate property lines and formalize gardens that contain more unruly plant life by creating a tidy edge.

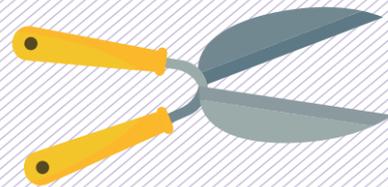
Hedges can be planted in a range of types and sizes depending on the required result. Select the plant that meets your needs.

THYME: One of the shortest hedge plants available and sometimes called edges instead of hedges, these borders look especially smart in formal herb gardens when acting as dividing lines between other, wilder looking herb species.

BOXWOOD: The "little black dress" of the garden world (meaning everyone should have one), boxwood is the perfect small to medium size hedge. Its pretty evergreen leaves take very well to pruning. Korean Littleleaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* var *koreana*) is one of the heartiest, just be sure to plant it in an area that isn't exposed to high winds or road salt.

YEW: Yews make gorgeous hedges but range wildly in height from two-and-a-half-feet to over 50 feet so read the plant

Continued on page 44



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gardening



Hydrangea

labels carefully. As with most evergreens, it can be susceptible to wind burn and needs to be protected from strong winter winds.

CEDAR: Probably the hedging you are most familiar with, cedar is an ideal choice where a tall, slim, year-round privacy screen is needed. White cedar, black cedar, even emerald cedar will work well. Rest assured, cedar trees don't specifically attract mosquitoes though any moist and shady spot will! Prune annually in mid-July for best results.

HEMLOCK: Although Canadian hemlock grow as large trees in the wild, they are sometimes sold in shrub form for use as hedges. Prune hemlock hedging twice per year, from late June to late August, for the first three years to encourage dense growth. After three years, prune once in late June, just don't cut the leader until it's at the desired height.

NORTHERN PRIVET: A lovely fast-growing deciduous hedge of about six feet in height. It has small bright green leaves and enjoys getting trims.

ALPINE CURRENT: A very hearty mid-sized deciduous shrub with interesting leaf shape. It also tolerates high winds, cold and road salt well.

PYRAMIDAL ENGLISH OAK, HORNBEAM, DAWYCK BEECH: Perhaps not the typical scenario that most people think of for hedging, but really, any narrow deciduous tree can be planted tightly in a row to style a tall hedge. These work well where a tall screen is needed but spacing is tight. They can look very stately.

LILAC, DOGWOOD, ROSE OF SHARON, SPIREA, BURNING BUSH, HYDRANGEA, WEIGELA: Many garden variety deciduous shrubs can be trained as hedges, just be sure to prune yearly to achieve the desired height and width. It's also imperative that if you'd like your hedge to flower, prune at the correct time of year so that you aren't removing the flower buds prematurely. A good rule of thumb is prune late-flowering shrubs in early spring and spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.

The amount of space you have and how dense you'd like your screen will determine the number of rows you plant. For large spaces, consider planting a double row to make a hedge fill in twice as fast. Spacing between rows is based on crown width, but at a minimum try to avoid root crowding by setting at least



Yew



Hornbeam

12- to 24-inches apart, measuring from the centre of the plant. Spacing will depend on the type of shrub or tree chosen, how close you'd like them at maturity, and your patience level. Keep in mind, when planting in rows close together, trees and shrubs will not spread out as wide as if they were a single species in a landscape.

Start training your hedge after it is established and growing vigorously. Generally this takes one to two years after planting. To train, trim top and sides as required for the species, removing about one-half the length of new shoots. Ideal hedge shapes are wider at the base than the top to allow sunlight to reach the lower leaves.

It can take a few years after planting for a new hedge to take shape and start looking great. Be patient, they are worth the investment! **OH**

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STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**

WHAT HOMEBUYERS *want*

A recent survey of Canadians who purchased a newly built home shows walk-in closets topped their list of must-have features. Surprising? Not really says Tim Bailey, division president of Avid Ratings Canada Ltd., a customer satisfaction company that works with Canadian homebuilders to determine what buyers want in a new build.

"The 2018 Canadian Homebuyer Preference Study revealed three themes," Tim says, storage solutions, energy efficiency and kitchen design.

New home buyers across the country are asked to answer 190 questions based on a recent new home purchase. It's the largest survey of its kind in Canada. The result is a comprehensive report by region, buyer type and demographics that Canadian homebuilders can use to plan new housing projects based on consumer wants and needs.

Avid Ratings is currently compiling results for 2019 but Tim doesn't anticipate dramatic changes. There's only been moderate changes in the four years Avid Ratings has been conducting the survey.

Consumers clearly want energy efficiency, Tim says. "But they also want granite and quartz and all the fine features so it's really about trying to strike a balance between what buyers can afford to spend. Energy efficiency is a hot button for consumers, especially with the carbon tax and rising utility costs. Buying a home is one thing but then carrying the cost of that home is another thing."

Homebuyers also want storage, lots of it. "We're a four-season country," Tim explains using his family as an example. "We're a Brady Bunch family with four kids and storage is critical. We have



** large windows*

** open concept*

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



** kitchen island*

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



** walk-in closet*

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

off-season gear, four seasons of clothing and four seasons of sporting goods."

People also want open-concept kitchens with an island. "Quartz countertops and smart home technology score high on the survey as well," Tim says. Other wants include a single-detached home, double-car garages, brick exteriors, tankless water heaters, LED lighting and a main-floor master suite.

What's surprising is the renaissance of the formal dining room. According to the survey, formal dining rooms have increased in importance since year one of the study.

What isn't a priority for new home buyers is outdoor spaces. Tim figures it's because landscaping isn't an immediate concern, it's not part of the purchase and new home buyers have to save and budget for outside projects that happen a couple of years down the road.

The 2018 study found the largest cohort of today's Canadian homebuyer is the growing family with kids followed by single couples with no kids. Millennials have edged out Gen Xers as the largest group of homebuyers.

How does the survey translate for resale homes? Tim believes new homes inspire renovations to older homes and stimulate the resale market. **OH**

** energy efficient appliances*



** fine finishes*



PHOTO: BONNIE FOX

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Campfire COCKTAIL



RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

You don't need an open flame to create this campfire-inspired summer cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- Chocolate chips
- Graham crackers
- Amaretto
- Bourbon
- Stout of choice
- Roasted marshmallows

DIRECTIONS

To prepare rim, melt chocolate chips (in the microwave, on the stove or over the campfire). Crush graham crackers on a plate. Spread the melted chocolate along rim and dip into graham crackers to coat. Fill glass with ice and add ½ ounce each of Amaretto and bourbon. Top with stout and garnish with a roasted marshmallow. **OH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY WALTER FRANCZYK

Lockside FANS OUT



Susan Mattucci and son Mike Mattucci.



THE PLACE: Enjoying its third summer in downtown Haliburton, **Lockside Trading Company** continues its long-standing tradition as a place for family and friends to shop, browse and meet. The cottage country store on Highland Street mirrors the original Lockside shop, owned and operated by Susan Mattucci and son Mike Mattucci, at Young's Point. Thousands of people have visited the original store, housed in the old lockmaster's house on the Trent Severn Waterway.

THE PRODUCTS: Both furniture stores offer a mix of home décor to help create a warm and inviting atmosphere in which to sit back, relax and entertain. Selections are in constant change throughout the seasons, offering a multitude of choices in quality furniture, lighting, home accessories, mattresses, bedding and giftware. The stores also carry Hunter-Douglas window treatments and floor coverings.

THE SERVICE: Lockside offers personal service throughout the shopping experience, from buying the right light to helping with turnkey projects. Its interior design service, complimentary with the purchase of furniture and lighting, includes in-store and on-site consultations, room layout, colour



and fabric selections. It covers everything for homes, cottages and commercial spaces.

THE STYLE: With an extensive and eclectic selection of products, the stores cater to customers on any budget, in any location, with any look or style.

TRENDS: "Lots of different textures," says Susan. That look includes textured lamps, pillows and ottomans. "The natural look is coming back," says Mike.

FAVOURITES: "We promote Canadian-made furniture," says Mike. Lockside specializes in custom Canadian-made products. "We try to keep it local because we know it's important. We buy locally as much as we can. We make sure everything is good quality and at a good price point."



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lockside.com **OH**

double take

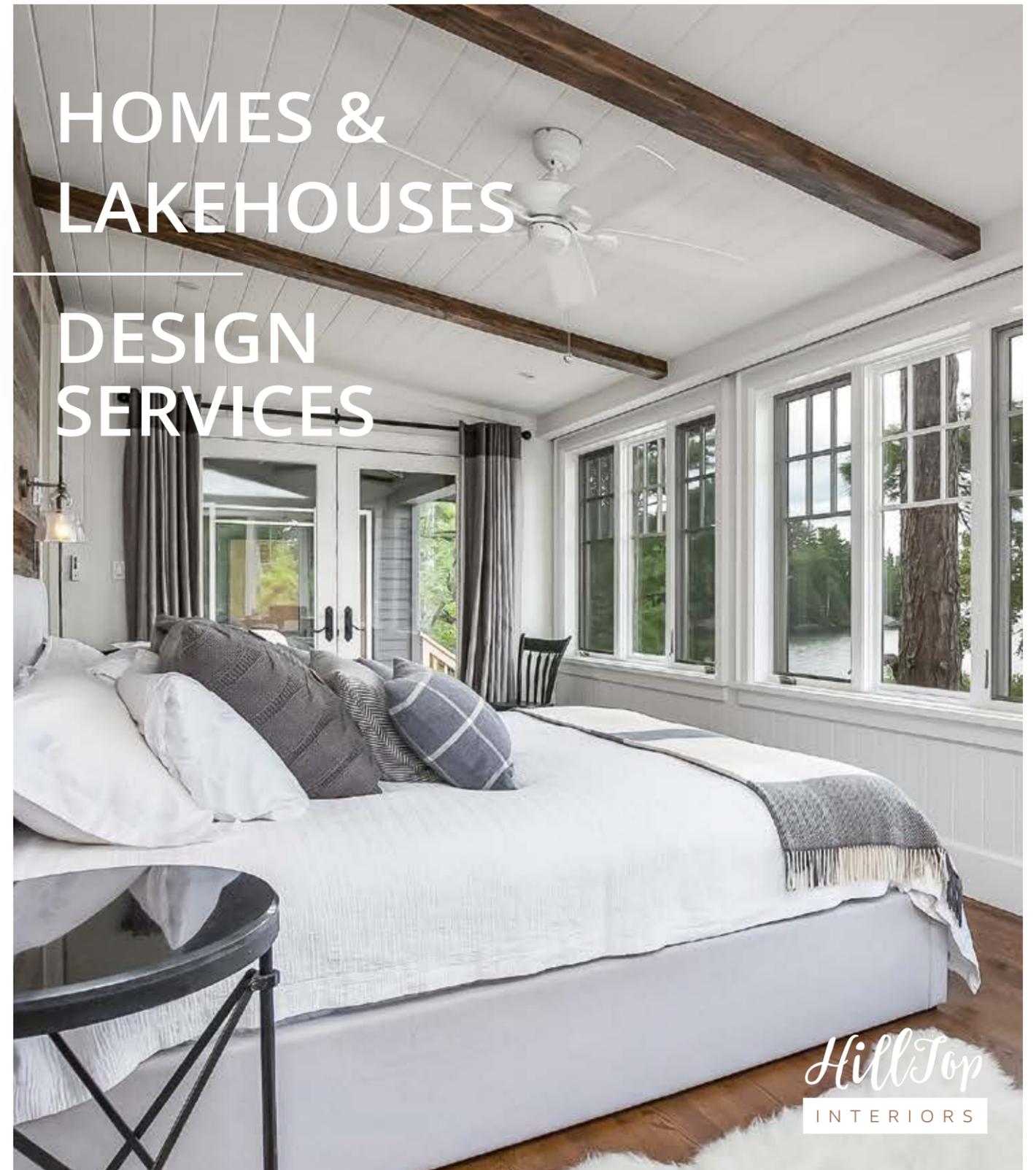
ENTER IN *style*

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PHOTO: JASON HARTOG | DECORATOR: ANDREA BRAMHILL

- 1. **SURYA:** Continental Jute Woven Rug in Cream
- 2. **CIOT:** Basalto Porcelain Tile in Bronzo
- 3. **ELK GROUP INTERNATIONAL:** French Versailles Masterpiece Mirror
- 4. **ELF:** Free Spirit Shoulder Bag in Light Tan
- 5. **BED BATH & BEYOND:** Ampersand Charleston Standing Coat Rack
- 6. **CURREY & COMPANY:** Cypriot Bottles in Medium and Small
- 7. **SIMONS:** Haut Beau Wool and Linen Scarf in Blue
- 8. **ANTHROPOLOGIE:** Ale by Alessandra Sancho Straw Rancher Hat in Gold
- 9. **CANADEL:** Loft Buffet in Cognac Wash
- 10. **STRUCTUBE:** Vesta Vase 40cm
- 11. **PIER ONE:** White Faux Magnolia Branch
- 12. **PIER ONE:** Large Carson Natural Wicker Basket
- 13. **ELTE MKT:** Reach Vase in Black **OH**

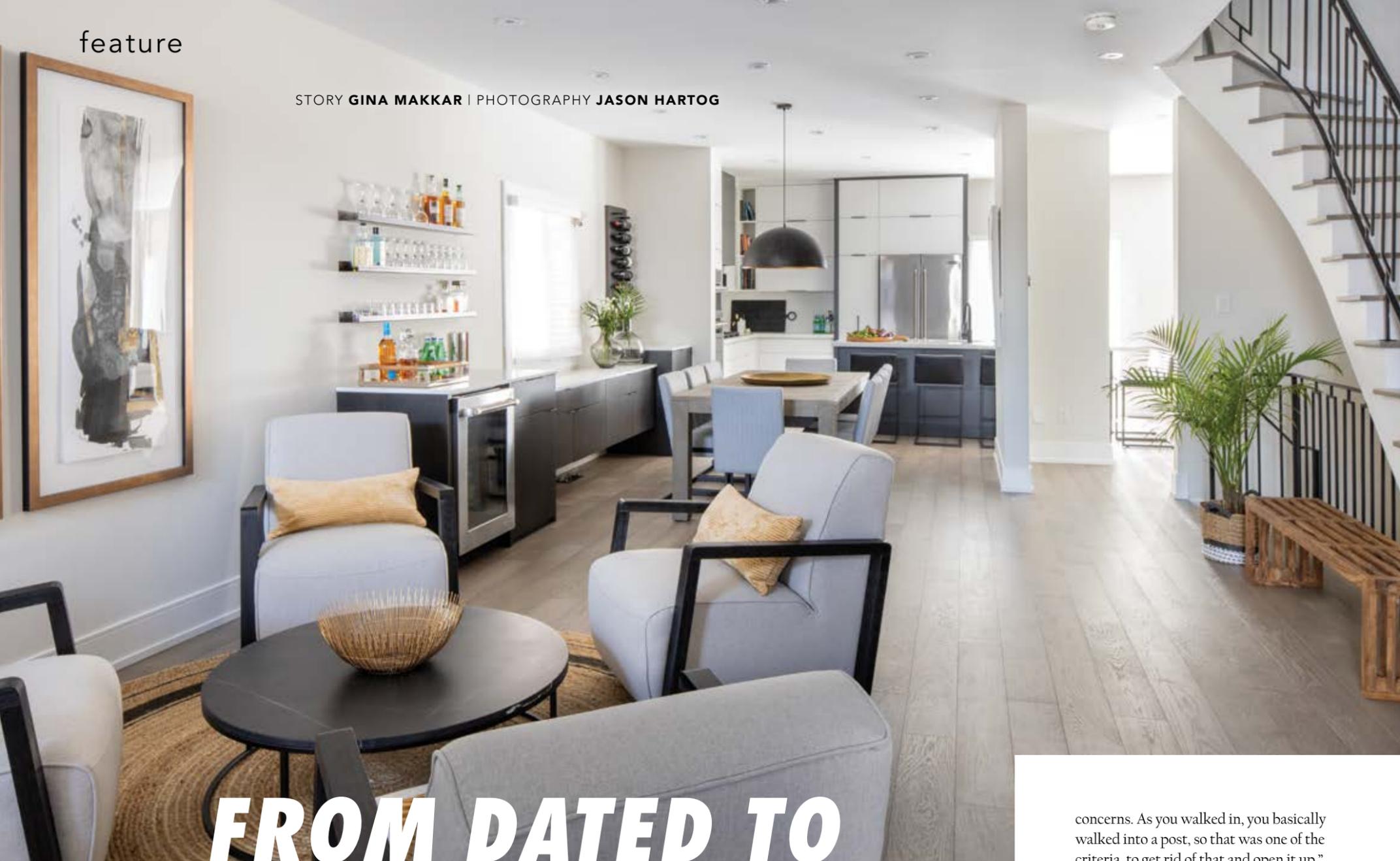


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STORY **GINA MAKKAR** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



FROM DATED TO SOPHISTICATED

A Thornhill home gets a modern makeover.

SOMETIMES, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SPACE, it's about what you do with it. When homeowner Tammy Meinstein and her family first moved into their home, it worked for them, but 10 years later, it was beginning to age. "We did actually look into moving, but we realized we couldn't get what we wanted if we moved." In love with the home, street, and backyard oasis, they decided to explore a renovation, and called in **Karen Birer** and **Amy Sheridan** of **Casa Perfecta** to help achieve a more modern vision. The home's original

layout featured smaller, compartmentalized rooms reflective of older spaces. "I wanted the home to be open and modern, but it was still very important for people to be able to put their feet up," says Tammy. "I still wanted a homey feel, and not feel it was a museum. I'd seen many homes they'd done, and I just knew that their eye was exactly what I wanted."

Half-walls, columns and bulkheads closed in the original space, making the house feel smaller. "There was a wall down the centre and it really cut the home in half," says Karen. "That was one of the biggest

concerns. As you walked in, you basically walked into a post, so that was one of the criteria, to get rid of that and open it up."

As part of the budget, the team prepared to install steel support beams when they removed the walls, but in a stroke of luck, the demo uncovered no troublesome posts.

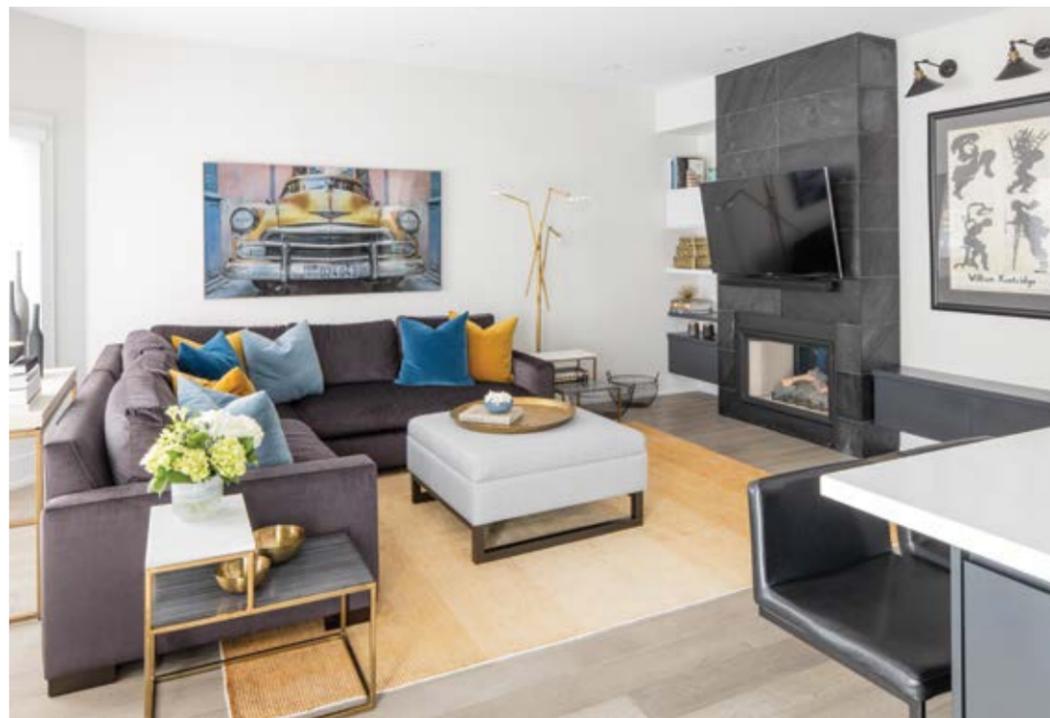
Standing in the front doorway, the main floor is now bright and airy, one area connecting seamlessly to the next. A small wall between the dining room and the hallway remains, but helps to delineate each of the spaces. *Continued on page 58*



ABOVE: The removal of walls resulted in unobstructed sightlines and a contemporary new look. **TOP RIGHT:** An island with stools is a more relaxed option for dining. **RIGHT:** The dining room flows into the adjacent kitchen. Unique storage and a bar complete the open space.



The colours in the artwork were used as the foundation for the palette in the family room.



area with chairs and a coffee table from **Elte Market** and utilized the space by the window to create a window seat. “Since this space was done, the client will often call me and say ‘I’m sitting on my favourite chair.’ She’ll have a drink, she’ll have a coffee, so it’s a great use of space. It worked out very well.”

The dining room incorporates a built-in sideboard that spans the length of the room, complete with a bar area and storage. A table from Restoration Hardware ties into the neutral elements throughout. Chairs from **Union Lighting and Furnishings** were reupholstered with custom fabric, and a pendant light from **Elte** completes the space.

In the new custom kitchen, Karen and Amy chose to close off two small windows to create a more functional space. “Sometimes,

taking something away is a good thing,” says Karen. Sleek white cabinetry is adorned with hardware from **Berenson Inc.** A dark island is topped with Caesarstone in Pure White. Barstools sourced by Casa Perfecta provide seating.

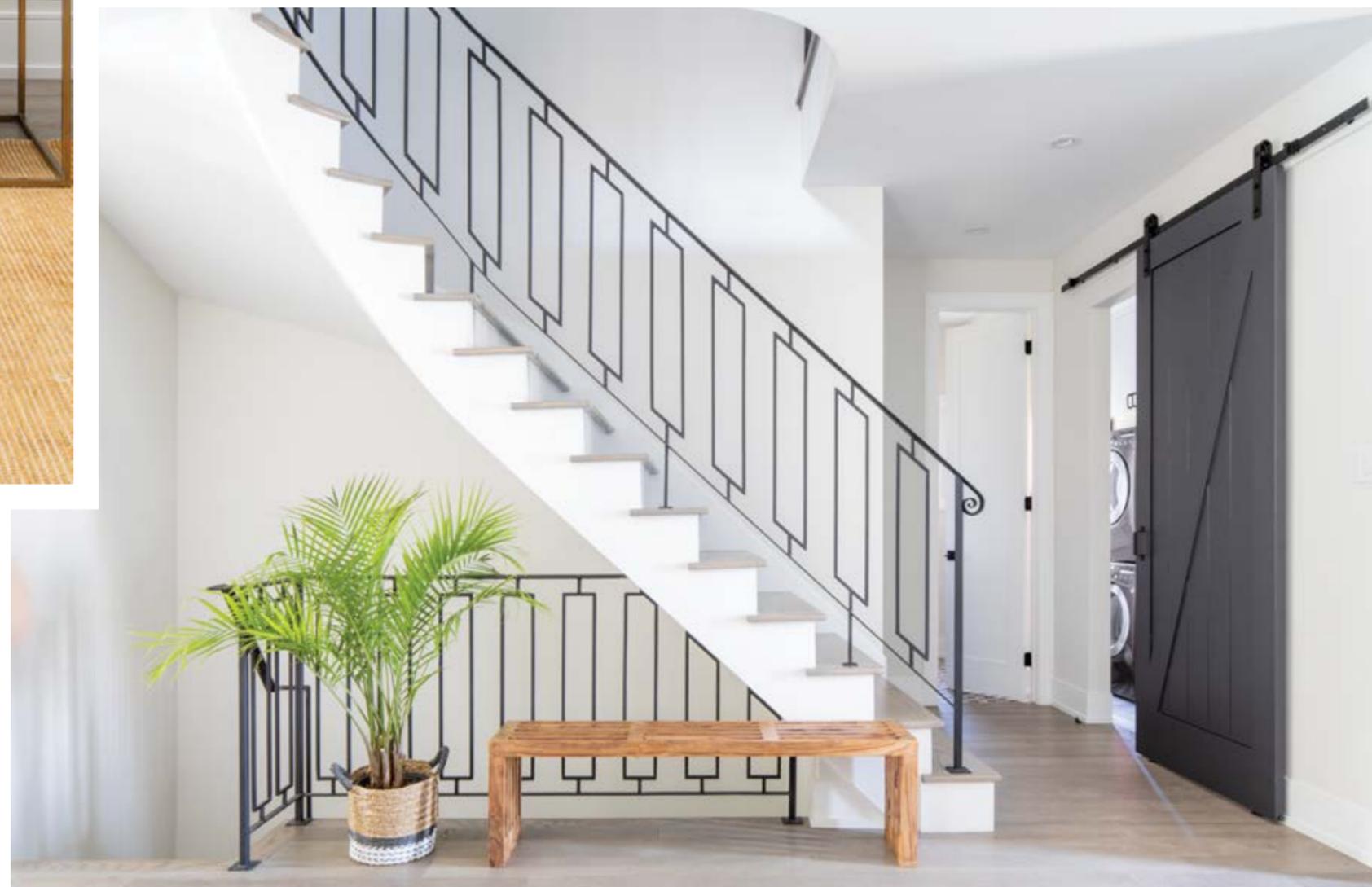
The team breathed new life into the family room with a punch of colour. “We went to the gallery with them, and the client fell in love with a piece, and it became the inspiration for everything,” says Karen. They pulled colours from the art found at **PI Fine Art**. Vivid yellow and blue pillows from Elte Market and a yellow rug from **CB2** complement the plush grey sectional sourced by Casa Perfecta. The fireplace was refreshed with new surround from **Stone Tile**, custom built-ins and sconces from **Universal Lamp**.

Continued on page 60

To the right, the staircase was a key element of the renovation. “We designed and custom built it, and it was a very important feature,” says Karen. It’s a showstopper, with soft grey treads and rectangular wrought iron balusters to create architectural interest.

With the hallway closet removed, the adjoining laundry room was extended by two feet to create a built-in mudroom, and a sliding barn door was added. “I insisted on having a barn door somewhere and they incorporated it in a way I absolutely love,” says Tammy.

With the walls open, the entry flowed to the dining room and the kitchen beyond, but an awkward area at the front of the home remained. “It was a weird area in the middle of nothing. Do you create a larger dining room?” says Karen. Instead, they opted for a cosy sitting



TOP LEFT: Clean lines and subtle hints of gold create a seamless transition from one room to the next. **LEFT:** The custom staircase is a showstopper at the front of the home. **ABOVE:** The black and white powder room was kept simple and serene.

feature



As for the rest of the home, Karen says the neutral canvas allows the homeowners to inject whatever they wish easily. “Other than the soft touches of gold coming through, we kept it very neutral.”

The upper level master en suite and the main floor powder room also received an update with fixtures from **Roman Bath Centre** and in the powder room, a fun but functional floor tile from **SS Tile & Stone**.

Throughout the renovation, Tammy let the team run with their vision. “I gave them carte blanche on the design,” she says. “I’m not a designer, I can’t visualize things. I didn’t have a lot of input because we were thrilled with what they presented.”

She adds that in working with Karen and Amy, she’d recommend them to anybody. “Karen’s homes all have a different feel to a standard renovated house. It’s her eye, and she and Amy, they complement each other. They know how to take the heart of what they are doing and incorporate that into the whole feel.”

The result is an open space that flows naturally, a space that’s connected, a space that brims with modern love. **OH**



TOP LEFT: A freestanding tub helps maximize the space in the en suite. **TOP RIGHT:** A window seat makes use of a nook by the front door. **RIGHT:** Dark cabinetry and white counters create crisp contrast in this bathroom.

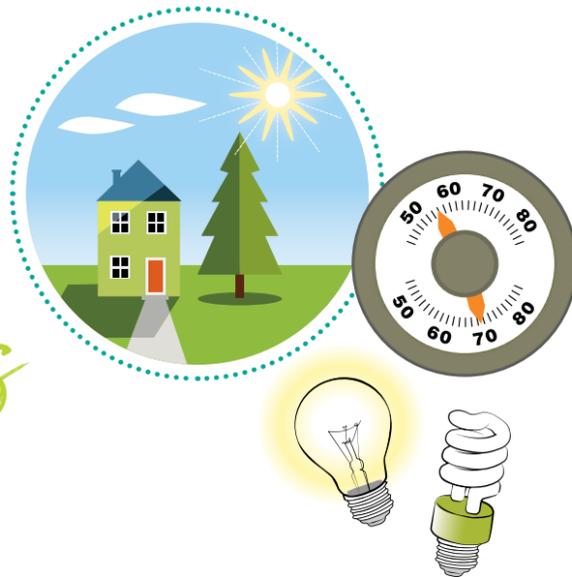


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COOL

ENERGY SAVING *Tips*

STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**



SUMMER has finally arrived with longer days and irresistible pool decks, but it can also bring the sting of pricey air conditioning. The experts at Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) have come up with 10 tips for avoiding a sunburned wallet this year.

SBC is a Canadian non-profit advancing "the environmental and energy performance of the built environment." Its executive director Michael Singleton and board director Larry Brydon suggest homeowners balance old-school wisdom and eco-friendly practices to optimize savings.

1 AVOID THE DEEP FREEZE
Set the thermostat a little higher than the standard 22°C. Michael suggests 26°-27°C instead. "You know how you go into a mall in the summer and it's freezing? There's no need for that."

2 PAY ONLY TO PLAY
"Turn off the air conditioner when you're not home." It may seem obvious, but Michael says many people forget. Programmable thermostats can automate the change for regular outings, like going to work.

3 CALL ON MOTHER NATURE
Open the windows at night when it's cooler outside, and close them by lunchtime when it's cooler inside. Taking advantage of cross-ventilation by opening two or more

windows in a room or house can be particularly effective. "That's free cooling," adds Michael.

4 CREATE A WIND CHILL
Overhead fans generate a cooling breeze and use the same amount of electricity as a 75-watt light bulb, according to Michael. "Put them on counter clockwise and get the air moving." Again, he reminds homeowners to turn all fans off when not at home.

5 LANDSCAPE STRATEGICALLY
"It's most effective to shade from the exterior," Larry says. On the west side of a house, where the sunshine is most intense, he advises planting a maple tree. Not only will it help in summer, but in winter it'll drop its leaves and let the sun shine through for additional heat.

6 BE AN INFORMED CONSUMER
Air conditioners are ranked based upon their Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) between 13 (the current minimum) and 21. "A 16 to 18 is fine," Larry advises. "Or purchase an Energy Star if you don't want to bother with SEER."

7 KEEP A SUMMER CHECKLIST
Larry's list starts with checking and replacing filters. An annual cleaning and inspection will extend an air conditioner's lifespan by ensuring all parts work and air flow is uncompromised.

8 PUT THE FIRE OUT
Check gas fireplaces and turn off any standing pilot lights. This task also made Larry's checklist. Although these pilot lights were more common 10 years ago, many are still in operation and give off the equivalent heat of a big candle, he warns.

9 TURN DOWN THE HUMIDISTAT
Adding moisture to dry winter air can keep wooden floors from buckling and cabinets from warping, says Larry, but it's unnecessary in summer. If the humidifier continues to run all summer, cooling appliances have to work harder.

10 REPLACE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS
Cool compact fluorescent lamps or lights (CFLs) and light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) save money in two ways, Larry reminds. First, they draw less electricity than their incandescent cousins, which has an immediate impact. Second, they don't produce heat that air conditioners have to remove.

When it's lovely outside, that's a good place to be. Outdoor cooking and living can lower the heat generated inside and the need for expensive cooling options. A final option: when it gets too hot, you can always grab a jacket and head to the mall. **OH**

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decorating

TREAT YOUR

WALLS

STORY TAMARISK MCNALTY STEPHENS

Painted drywall is the traditional interior wall finish in new home builds and renovations. However, there are countless alternative materials and finishes for walls that can create a significant visual impact while also defining your style. Here are seven wall treatments and the areas of your home you might want to splurge on for the best investment.



1. WALLPAPERS OR WALLCOVERINGS

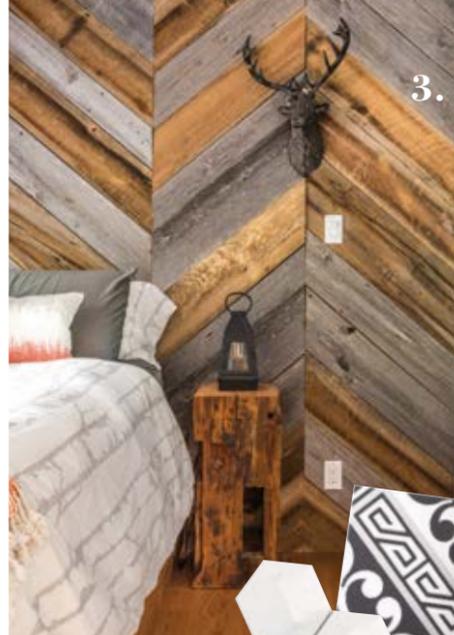
Material: Rolls or sheets of grasscloth, paper, cellulose or vinyl. Whether foil, flocked, embossed, block printed or textured paper, there is an endless selection of patterns and colours.

Installation: It is generally recommended to hire a professional, but if you're up for a challenge, do-it-yourself types often hang their own paper. Ensure you do the proper prep work – plot out the install, level everything, smooth the surface, have all the tools required and know whether you have a pre-pasted wallpaper or if you require an adhesive. Always check the pattern repeat, as it will affect the coverage provided per roll.

Pros: Natural fibres breathe and add an element of Mother Nature to the space, while vinyl is highly durable, stain and moisture resistant, colourfast and scrubbable. You can completely change the overall look and feel of a space with a wallcovering.

Cons: Natural fibres are more delicate, less scrubbable and more susceptible to sun fading. Vinyl cannot breathe. If selling is in your immediate future, perhaps give wallpaper a pass as some potential buyers can be hesitant.

Application: An entire room or a simple accent wall. Powder rooms are a great place to try out a bold print.



2. TILE

Material: Porcelain, ceramic, slate, limestone, glass, mosaics, cement encaustic or marble.

Installation: Professional installation is generally recommended. Labour cost will vary depending upon size and style of tile and design of pattern and layout.

Pros: Easy to wipe up and clean, durable finish, waterproof when installed correctly.

Cons: Cleaning grout lines. Natural stones require a sealant to be applied a couple of times per year, or more frequently depending upon use and exposure.

Application: Great for bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchen backsplashes or fireplaces.

3. BARN BOARD

Material: Weathered boards, generally but not exclusively sourced from a barn.

Installation: Can be a DIY project with the proper tools.

Pros: Texture, visual interest, improved durability of walls in high-traffic areas. Provides a natural, rustic aesthetic. Commonly planks are installed horizontally but can be used to create various patterns such as herringbone.

Cons: Can collect dust.

Application: Great for accent walls, mudrooms or laundry rooms.

4. SHIPLAP

Material: Typically either long planks of MDF or a paint-grade poplar, installed horizontally. Traditional shiplap has a special rabbet or notch cut on the long edges of the boards to aid in spacing.

Installation: Can be a DIY project with the proper tools.

Pros: Texture, visual interest, improved durability of walls in high traffic areas. Typically white, but shiplap can be painted any colour you desire. Gives a farmhouse or coastal vibe.

Cons: Can collect dust.

Application: Great for accent walls, mudrooms or laundry rooms.



Natural or manufactured stone can provide a good return on investment.

6. STONE OR BRICK VENEER

Material: Natural or manufactured stone and brick, generally sold in pieces by square foot or in sheets.

Installation: For masonry work, hiring a stonemason is recommended. Labour cost will vary depending upon the stone and method of installation. Sheet veneers can generally be managed by the average DIYer.

Pros: Strong visual impact. Can provide good return on investment. Non-combustible and available in a wide variety of styles and colours.

Cons: Can collect dust. Manufactured stone veneer products are formed and often a repeating pattern will emerge. With a natural material every piece comes from the earth and has its own uniqueness but requires cutting and fitting.

Application: Focal walls or fireplaces.



5. WAINSCOTTING OR APPLIED TRIM

Material: Tongue-and-groove wainscoting, bead board, board-and-batten and traditional applied-panel details are available in wood or MDF.

Installation: A trim carpenter is generally recommended however, depending upon the complexity of the installation, an avid DIYer can attempt with the proper tools.

Pros: Instant character and charm to a room, adds an element of elegance, great texture for visual interest and is more durable than drywall.

Cons: Can collect dust, can be costly depending upon species of wood selected and installation method for desired aesthetic.

Application: Dining rooms, dens, bedrooms or hallways.



7. PLASTER

Material: Clay, lime, Venetian, gypsum or tadelakt plaster each has its own pros and cons.

Installation: Professional trowel installation recommended. Pre-planning is required to ensure proper backing is installed as some plasters require wire mesh or blue board, while clay plaster requires a primer with added sand for adhesion.

Pros: Beautiful, timeworn aesthetic adds a depth and luminosity to walls that is impossible to achieve with paint and drywall. Plasters are generally more durable than drywall. Generally sanding is not required and therefore dust is limited at time of install. All-natural materials and low VOCs.

Cons: Costly and time-consuming to install.

Application: A splurge for rooms you'd really like to highlight. For tadelakt, use it in areas that require waterproofing (showers or perhaps a kitchen or bath backsplash). **OH**

MAXIMIZE your design

Top tips from experts can transform a space and make it more inviting.

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



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A full-service company, Value Wood Flooring has provided the best in flooring to customers throughout the GTA for over 20 years. They carry an array of quality, Canadian-made products, including Vintage, PurParket, Superior and Mercier. The showroom's open, spacious layout allows customers to look, feel and even step on many of the options for a complete shopping experience.

AT HOME

Summer Plans: Gordon: European Vacation. **Sunshine Or Air Conditioning: Robert:** Definitely sunshine, everyone should take advantage of the summer months. **Favourite Ice Cream Flavour: Robert:** Mango gelato. **Perfect Summer Evening: Gordon:** Watching the sunset at the cottage.

AT WORK

Current Project: New townhome complex. **Flooring Trend:** White Oak, wide-plank engineered hardwood. **Why Wood:** Aesthetically pleasing, long-lasting and a great return on investment. **Care Tip:** Use a high quality hardwood floor cleaner.

AT WORK

Best Time to Buy/Sell: When it's a good decision for the family. Ask a real estate professional about current market conditions. **Great Selling Feature:** Bright, clean, clutter-free home. **Tip Or Trick:** Create extra light with lamps, pillows, area rugs, accessories and mirrors.

PHOTO: WALTER FRANCIZYK



AT HOME

Summer Plans: Visiting Gaspé with husband Ryan and children Sarah and Daniel. **Sunshine Or Air Conditioning:** I love the sunshine, but I do wilt. So I would say both. **Favourite Ice Cream Flavour:** Moose Tracks from Kawartha Dairy of course. **Perfect Summer Evening:** Sitting in our garden relaxing and having a beverage, holding my husband's hand and chatting while the kids and dog play. That's the best.

SUSAN BOWIE

Royal LePage Frank Real Estate, Brokerage

Susan Bowie has been selling homes for 16 years. A background in design offers a unique skill set that allows her to help sellers prepare their homes for sale, and show buyers the distinctive aspects of a home. Susan cultivates relationships that go beyond just putting up a sign and works to fulfill each client's needs from start to finish.

Continued on page 68



CHRISTIANE ALLEN LEVESQUE & BRUNO LEVESQUE
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AT WORK

Best Season For A New Roof: From April to November. **How To Choose The Right Product:** Use the right company for better products and warranties. **Maintenance Tips:** Clean eavestroughs, look for pieces of shingles on your property, have a roofing company assess and/or make repairs.

AT HOME

Summer Plans: Landscaping, flowers, new grass and a bit of gardening. **Sunshine Or Air Conditioning:** Enjoying the sunshine as much as we can. **Favourite Ice Cream Flavour:** We like our frozen yogurt. Bruno likes vanilla and strawberries and I like chocolate. **Perfect Summer Evening:** Nice dinner and a nice wine on the patio with family and friends.



AT HOME

Neighbourhood: On the lake, in the Village of Rosseau. **Favourite Room:** My Muskoka room. It's perched overlooking the lake, amongst the trees. **Current Projects:** There's always something on the go. In the summer it's my gardens. **Favourite Meal:** Sunday dinner, when the family comes home. **How To Relax:** I start my day and end my day with a waterski or swim.

AT WORK

Current Projects: One on Lake Vernon and one on Lake Muskoka, with two totally different styles. **What's Fun At Work:** We strive to embrace the clients' unique style, while creating an environment that fosters years of memories for their family. **Inspiration:** Nature, beautiful fabrics, cool tiles and great kitchen designs. **Trends:** Modern rustic.

LENA PATTEN

HillTop Interiors

With interior designs grounded in each client's personal experiences, the result suits their home, their life and their style. The team at HillTop listens to clients and translates their ideas into what they're looking for. HillTop helps them make the right decisions by bringing in expertise in furnishings, style, size and colour. Inspired by nature, infused with some of the Muskoka tradition, HillTop's designs enhance the cottage experience.

Continued on page 70

people

DEBBIE TILSTRA

Muskoka Lighting Company

Muskoka Lighting Company carries a variety of lighting options in different styles and a range of price points. The store carries lighting by Visual Comfort & Co., Sonneman, Kichler, Hudson Valley, Troy and more. If you can find it in the city, you can find it in Muskoka.



PHOTO: WALTER FRANCIZYK

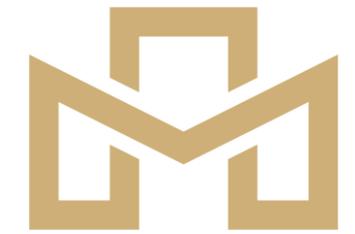
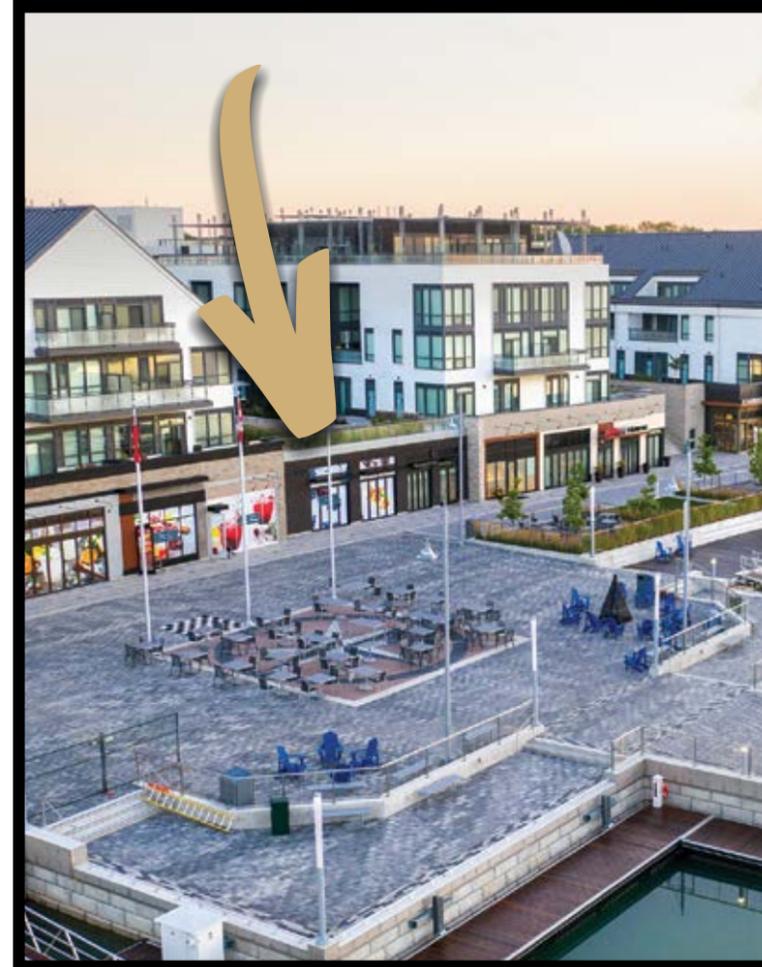
AT WORK

New Products: Exciting new lighting lines and beautiful home décor and giftware. **Lighting Trends:** Modern farmhouse, mid-century modern and modern minimalist. **Great Outdoor Lighting Features:** Modern outdoor chandeliers, Kuzco USB cordless outdoor lanterns and lamps, and many landscape possibilities.

AT HOME

Summer Plans: Visiting the East Coast and tending to the store during our busy season. **Sunshine or Air Conditioning:** 100 per cent sunshine. **Favourite Ice Cream Flavour:** Butterscotch. **Perfect Summer Evening:** Hosting dinner under the stars with family and friends, by candlelight and bonfire.

Continued on page 72



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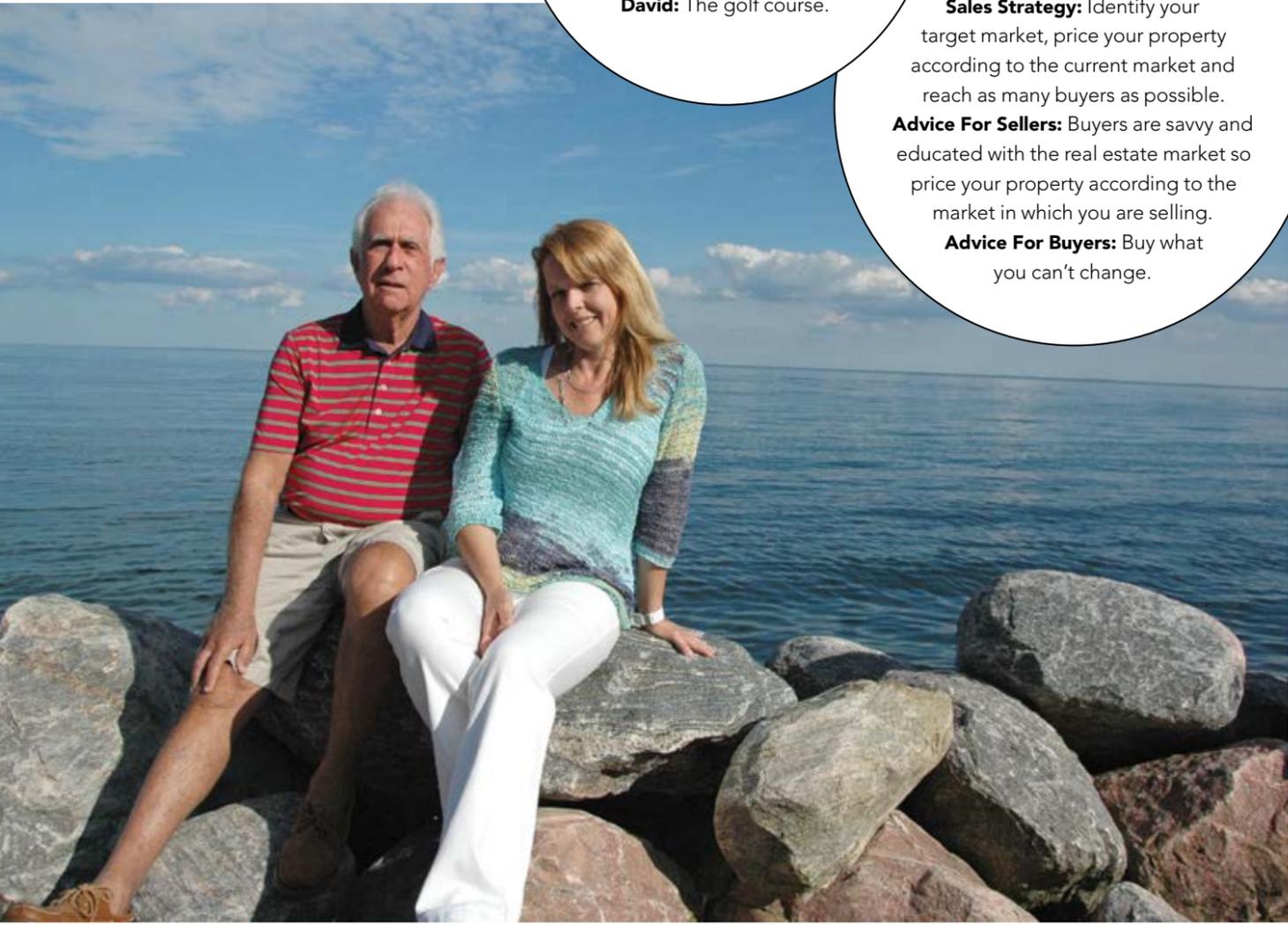
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AT HOME

New Project: David: Creating an outdoor terrace overlooking the lake.
Kelly: Landscaping my backyard.

Favourite Room: David: Family room.

Kelly: Kitchen. **Vacation Plans:**

Kelly: Anywhere in Europe.

David: The golf course.

AT WORK

Specialty: Service.

Sales Strategy: Identify your target market, price your property according to the current market and reach as many buyers as possible.

Advice For Sellers: Buyers are savvy and educated with the real estate market so price your property according to the market in which you are selling.

Advice For Buyers: Buy what you can't change.

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

DAVID WAGMAN & KELLY LAZAR

Forest Hill Real Estate Inc., Brokerage

Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. is a boutique service brokerage with vast resources and an emphasis on technology. David Wagman, one of the managing partners, formed a real estate partnership with Kelly Lazar. Together they service and sell in the GTA and Lake Simcoe. Their comprehensive marketing approach, aggressive negotiation skills to keep dollars in their clients' pockets and a personal responsiveness make you wonder if they ever sleep.

Continued on page 74



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AT HOME

Summer Plans: Work, swim, party. **Sunshine Or Air Conditioning:** Sunshine for sure. **Favourite Ice Cream Favour:** Mango. **Perfect Summer Evening:** Steak and good wine with my two loves, my wife and my daughter.

AT WORK

What's New In Floors: Wide engineered planks, distressed look, oil finish and wire brush. **Latest Projects:** Custom homes in Forest Hill, Oakville, Richmond Hill and Lawrence Park. **The Difference:** We carry exclusive Italian and German products at reasonable prices.



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ISLAND *love*

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SEBASTIAN PETRESCU**



After many years of enjoying a shared family cottage on Lake Temagami, Wendy and Mike Mitchell dreamed of a quiet lakeside retreat of their own. "It's something we've wanted for years and years," says Wendy. They were ready to plant their own family roots.



THREE YEARS AGO, the Vancouver couple bought eight acres of land on Chief's Island in Muskoka's Lake Joseph. Once entirely family-owned, the island had been thoughtfully subdivided so the Mitchells don't have many neighbours. "We also wanted a property large enough that we could expand as the family needed to, as the kids grew older," says Mike.

With two adult sons and a teenage daughter, they created more space by rebuilding the original three-bedroom cottage. "We took it

right down to the studs and did a complete renovation," says Mike. They planned the makeover with **Lena Patten**, owner of **HillTop Interiors** in Rosseau. "Lena did a great job and was a very good partner in this whole thing," says Mike. "It was a great partnership."

The renovation included a new roof, new septic, plumbing and electrical systems. Two bathrooms and another bedroom were added. They transformed the wide front porch into a new master bedroom overlooking the lake. "It's definitely been a labour of love," says Wendy.

Continued on page 79

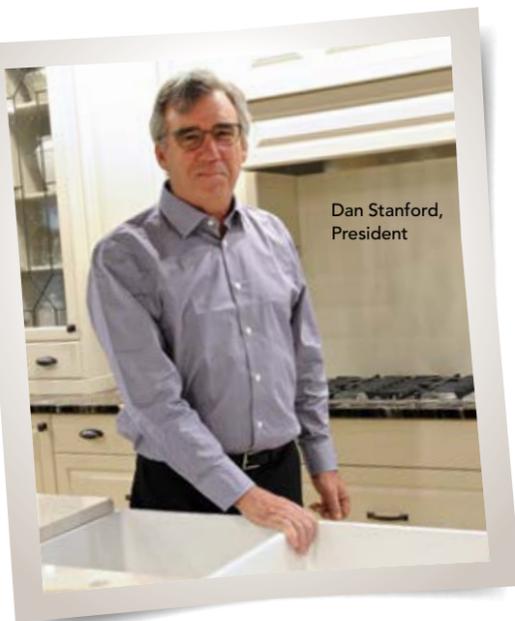


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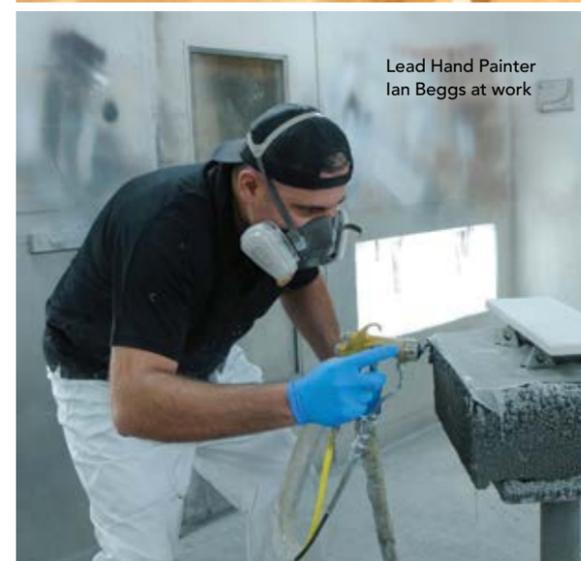
Quality CABINETRY

PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG



THE PLACE: In its dual purpose shop on the south side of Peterborough, **Cabinetree** showcases the best of innovative kitchen design and custom cabinetry. "We have our retail showroom where we have examples of the cabinets that we build, along with all the samples of woods and finishes that we provide," says president Dan Stanford. Most of the building is dedicated to manufacturing. "We build our own cabinets here, complete from top to bottom, which gives us the flexibility to do many styles, many colours and to get exactly what a customer might want in their kitchen."

PRODUCTS: Cabinetree manufactures everything from store fixtures and components to kitchen cabinets for high-volume facilities such as apartment buildings, where price points are very tight. That experience enables the company to build kitchens at a reasonable cost for folks on a budget. Much of its work is for individual homeowners, often high-end projects for people who have particular needs. "We have custom homebuilders that simply send their customers in and we work for them right from there all the way through," says Dan.



STYLE: "We have three very talented designers here who keep us close to the edge of style trends and colours," he says. "We can provide anything from quite modern all the way through to a very traditional looking product."

WHAT'S HOT: "For the last few years, shaker-style cabinets have been the most popular segment going. White remains our most popular colour although we do have various shades of white. Grey is still very hot," Dan says.

FAVOURITES: "Some of the projects that we do are for architects or people who have really worked through the design," he says. "Fulfilling their vision has been a very big part of what I enjoy most in our business." **OH**

FINE *living*

STORY CAELI MAZARA
PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



The stacked walnut fireplace surround and crisp, white built-in cabinetry is a focal point in the family room. **TOP RIGHT:** A pretty entryway sets the tone for the rest of the home.



WHEN TONY AND ELSIE SET OUT TO BUILD A HOME FOR THEIR FAMILY OF FOUR, THE SPACE THEY ENVISIONED WAS ONE THAT WOULD FIT THE PACE OF THEIR LIVES.

With two teenagers, Isabella and Sebastian, they needed a space that would accommodate their comings-and-goings, cooking, gathering and living.

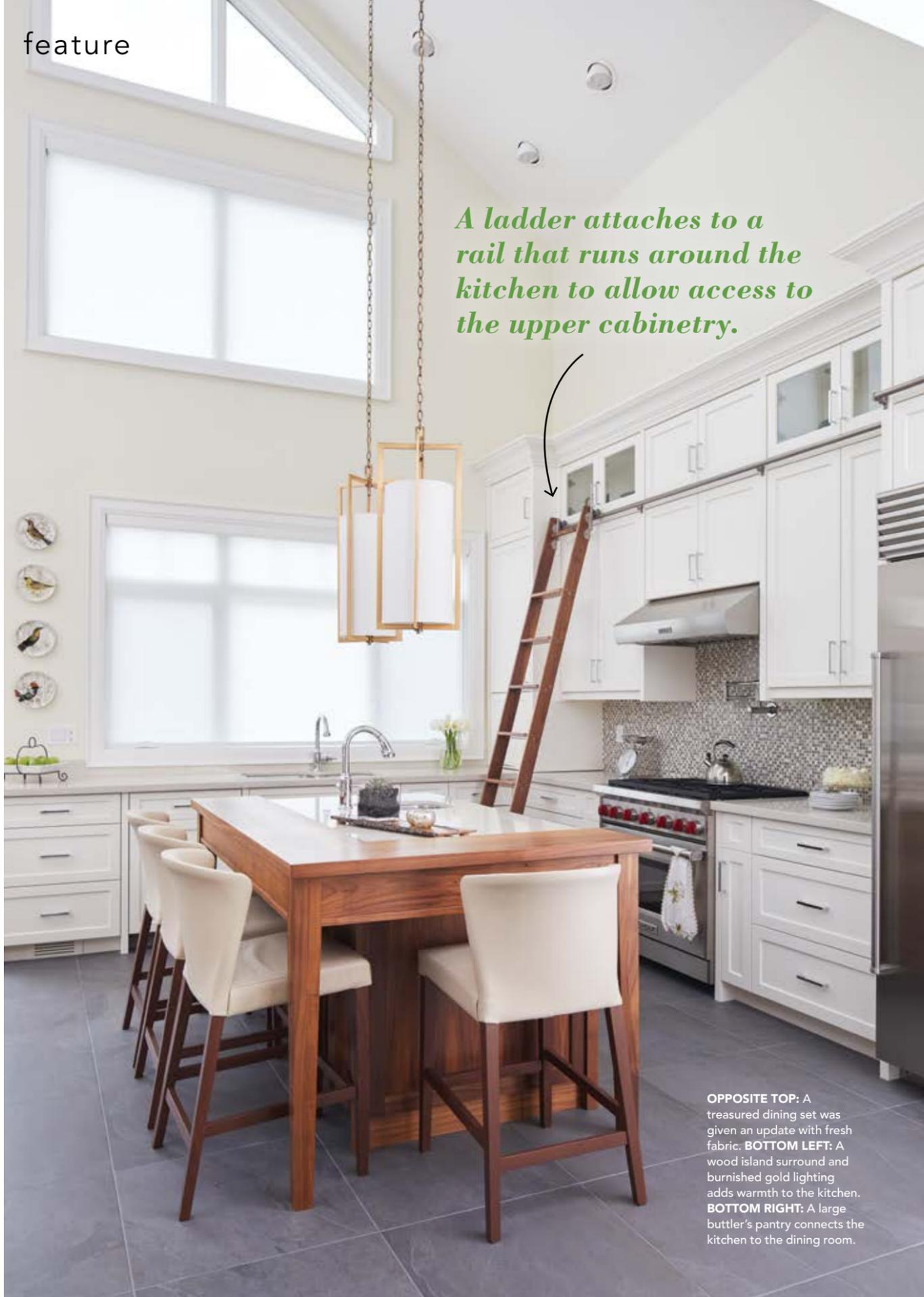
They called on **The Gatti Group Corp.** to help bring their vision to life. "It was a two-year design," says Tony. "I did the initial designs myself. We really knew what we wanted, and that's why it took a while. We were very organized. I knew the flooring I wanted, the ceilings and the kitchen colours."

The 2,750 sq. ft. home was built from the ground up. The initial hope of building a bungalow ended up being impossible on their chosen lot, so Tony and Elsie opted for a bungalow loft.

The ground floor encompasses a master bedroom and en suite bath, a living room, a kitchen and a great room, while the upstairs contains the kids' bedrooms and en suites.

Continued on page 89

A ladder attaches to a rail that runs around the kitchen to allow access to the upper cabinetry.



OPPOSITE TOP: A treasured dining set was given an update with fresh fabric. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A wood island surround and burnished gold lighting adds warmth to the kitchen. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A large butler's pantry connects the kitchen to the dining room.

The couple details three things they wanted in the home. First, they wanted to incorporate their existing dining room set, a beautiful, dark wood table and chairs and matching buffet passed down to Elsie through her family.

In order to fit the set into the space, the upholstery for the chairs was changed to a lighter cream fabric. The walls were painted grey.

The home boasts a neutral palette throughout, except in the kids' rooms, where colour makes a bold appearance. Brightly painted ceilings, teal for Isabella and dark blue for Sebastian, decorative accents and custom carpets complete the fun yet functional spaces.

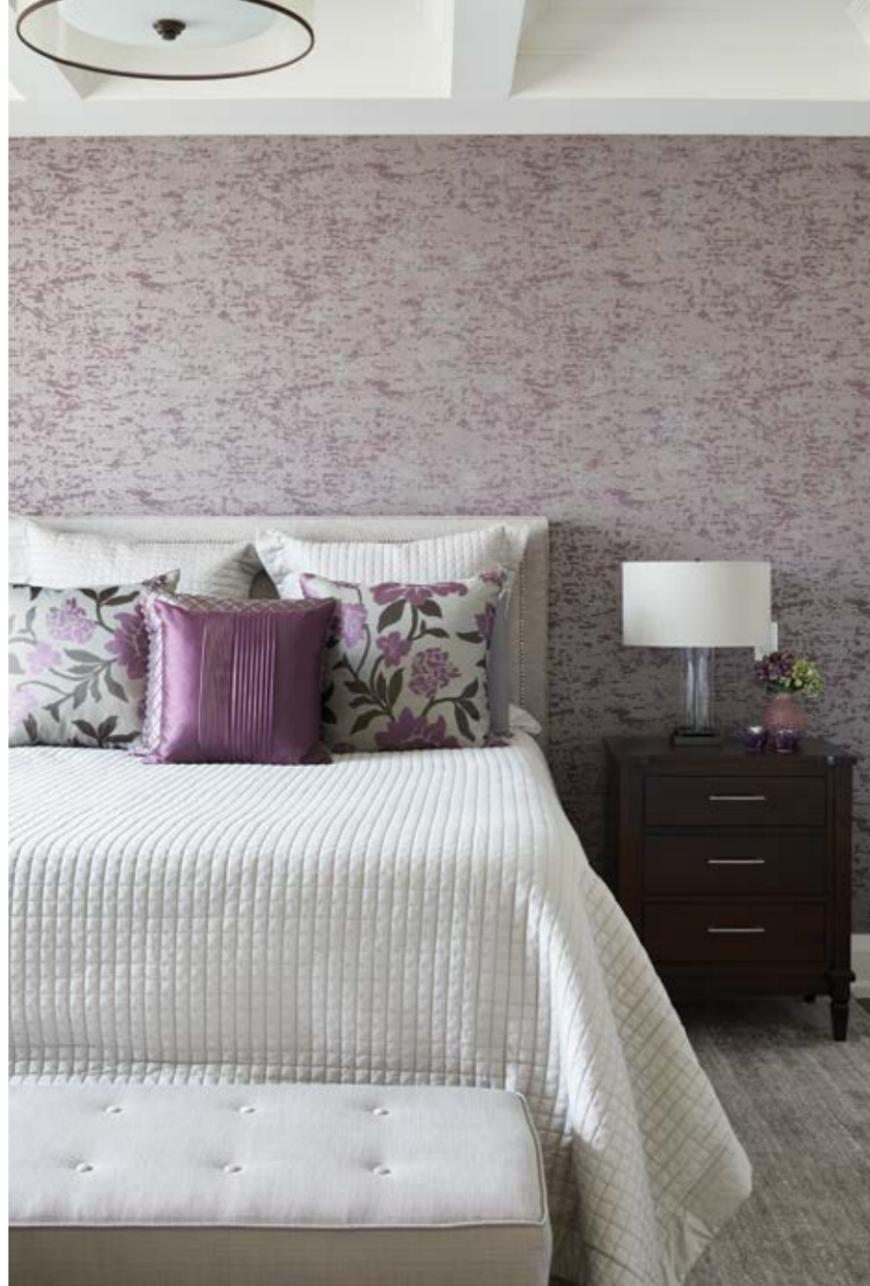
Tony and Elsie's second must-have in their home's design was creating a place for Elsie's Portuguese cabbage leaf pottery, also a family heirloom. The pieces are artfully displayed within the glass cabinets in the kitchen.

A ladder attached to a rail runs throughout the kitchen to allow access to the upper cabinetry. The kitchen also features an island with a hardwood and Caesarstone finish. Grey kitchen tiles break up the engineered hardwood of the rest of the house and hanging pendants complete the space. *Continued on page 90*



feature

BELOW: The wood tones throughout the rest of the home repeat in the vanity. **RIGHT:** Wallpaper and floral fabric in purple tones add texture in this bedroom. **BOTTOM:** Beautiful teal is a lovely transitional colour for a growing girl.



The kitchen opens to the great room where a soaring fireplace with an intricate, stacked walnut surround takes centre stage. Custom sofas in luxe fabric by Silva soften the space. Built-in shelves in a fresh white are the perfect backdrop to feature a treasured, glazed roof tile from Portugal.

The third must have was the roof tile, which they love.

Three of the biggest inspirations for this modern gem are old-world treasures, and they create an undeniable harmony between new and old, utilitarian and aesthetic in this beautiful example of contemporary living.

The Gatti Group Corp. built them a home for the ages. **OH**



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delicatusinc.com

(Please see ad on pg 16)



RENOVATING, BUILDING, BUYING, SELLING OR FLIPPING? CALL ANGELA BAKER

AH Design has over 20 years experience in the new construction/building and renovation world. Whether your project is big or small, we have the cabinetry that will suit your needs and budget.

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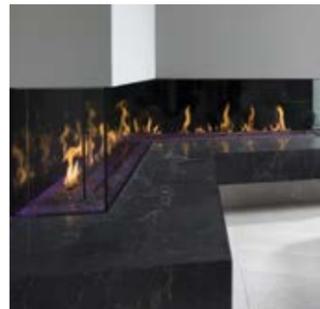
Angela Baker, Sales Representative, PC275 Realty, can assist you in selling your home and buying the perfect new one, doing a comparative market analysis to see where your home is sitting in the market.

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AH Design Kitchen and Bath Cabinetry
angiesworld72@yahoo.ca
PC275 Realty
519.494.9967

angela.baker@pc275.com
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THE FIREPLACE STOP – HOME COMFORT CENTRE

Andy Leonard has been an industry leader since 1987. "Our philosophy is to give the customer more than they're expecting." DaVinci's unique and truly custom approach to the fireplace of your dreams begins with a reimagining of how we can design with fire. Our exclusive self-contained modular fireboxes unlock more than a thousand design possibilities, providing an impressive variety of lengths, heights, styles, lighting and media options. Each creates a stunning focal point for any indoor or outdoor living space.

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The Fireplace Stop is a proud family-owned business. Our services include HVAC, gas fireplaces, wood and pellet stoves and inserts, electric fireplaces and much more. Please call us today for more information. We look forward to working with you.
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1.800.843.1732
Schomberg, ON
fireplacestop.com
(Please see ad on pg 14)



A&R DESIGN BUILD

We've had the pleasure of building custom homes for over 45 years. Since our beginnings in 1973, over 1500 custom homes and cottages have been built by A&R Carpentry, now **A&R Design Build**. Especially satisfying are repeat customers asking us to build their next project. Our business has grown by referral and we have built on the foundation of our strong reputation and years of experience.

The prospect of building your dream home can be intimidating. For others, getting involved and participating in the construction and design brings them great satisfaction. A&R Design Build accommodates the individual needs of each unique client by providing a wide range of products and service options.

A&R Design Build can provide you a fully finished "turnkey" home, ready for occupancy. Or, if you wish, we will build your foundation and frame the house, allowing you to complete the project on your own terms and schedule. Maybe you just want a foundation built and an A&R Design Build high quality home package delivered to your job site – that can also be arranged.

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sales@arcarpentry.com
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(Please see ad on pg 47)



TASSÉ DESIGN • BUILD – KITCHENS-BATH & CABINETS

Our highly-skilled team with more than 35 years of experience is made up of designers and cabinetmakers who understand real space and function. The **TASSÉ Design team** are driven to design unique and functional kitchens, bathrooms and spaces to compliment your home and lifestyle that look great and work!

Through collaborating with our contractors and architects, we see the design through from renovation to final installation. We offer many customization options, so whether you are seeking traditional face-frame, modern cabinetry or anything in between, we will design to accommodate your needs.

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tassedesign.com
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Unit 10, Barrie
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tassedesign.com
481 Welham Rd,
Unit 10, Barrie
(Please see ad on pg 45)



JANET PIOTROWSKI, SALES REPRESENTATIVE, RE/MAX FOUR SEASONS REALTY

I moved to Collingwood for the lifestyle. More and more of my city clients were buying homes here and it wasn't long before I found myself making the move myself. As a relatively recent addition to the area, I'd have to say I have a different approach to real estate. Having worked in the frantic, fast-paced Toronto market for 11 years, I bring a unique skill set to the increasingly hot Collingwood and area market.

Whether you are buying or selling your home, a recreational or investment/income property, I know what it takes to help you achieve success.

Properties are moving quickly. You need an advocate who is highly responsive, on top of the market, educated, experienced and 100% committed to providing first-class service. I pride myself on building life-long relationships with my clients based on trust, integrity and professionalism.

Time is a valuable asset. I move quickly to get results, saving you both time and money AND... getting you exactly what you want.

I consider myself a real estate matchmaker – striving to connect buyers and sellers! There is nothing more professionally rewarding for me than finding the perfect property for my buyer and the right buyer for each of my sellers.

Looking for the right match in a real estate professional? Visit me at collingwoodliving.ca or call me at 705.994.5858
(Please see ad on pg 45)



FINEST QUALITY FLOORING AT VALUE WOOD FLOORS

A family-owned and operated business, **Value Wood Floors** has been a pillar in the flooring industry for over two decades.

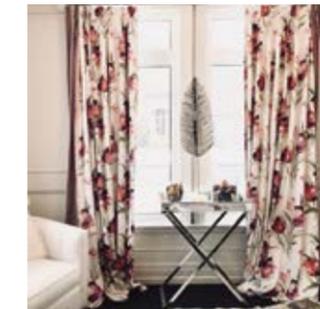
We offer a vast collection of the finest quality solid and engineered hardwood, vinyl and laminate from leading Canadian manufacturers.

At Value Wood Floors, we understand that trends are important, so we carry flooring products that always stay ahead of the curve, while still offering those classic options. In addition, we provide installation of prefinished and unfinished hardwood, as well as a refinishing service that rejuvenates existing hardwood floors.

Whether you are a homeowner, designer or contractor, our experienced personnel take great pride in delighting each client. Exceeding the expectations of our clients is accomplished through an individualized approach, which recognizes the uniqueness of each project. Our aim is to help you find the perfect flooring solution; one that brings you joy and happiness for years to come.

Value Wood Floors cordially invites you to visit our elegant showroom. There, you will have the opportunity to consult with our flooring professionals, while viewing the large assortment of samples on display. Allow us to help you make your design dreams come true!

106 Advance Rd, Toronto
416.247.5110
info@valuedwoodfloors.ca
valuedwoodfloors.ca



GET THE ULTIMATE FINISHING TOUCHES FOR YOUR HOME

Window coverings are an investment and with so many alternatives available on the market today, finding the right treatments that suit your style and budget can be a daunting task. Is it blinds, shades, drapery, top treatments, motorized, cordless or manual or a combination of window treatments? What manufacturer should you choose?

At **Gotcha Covered**, we offer an extensive line of quality products and fabrics from all the top manufacturers and bring a wealth of product knowledge and design expertise to every meeting with our customers.

Whether you are looking for simple window treatments for privacy or light control, or elaborate custom designs to create your ultimate space, Gotcha Covered has a solution for every window.

Choose from top North American blind and shade manufacturers like Hunter Douglas, Altex, Sun Glow and Maxxmar or our designer lines from Europe that offer unique style at an affordable price.

For fresh takes and creative ideas, book a no-obligation in-home consultation with a design professional online at gotchacovered/richmond-hill-vaughan.com or just give us a call at 905.770.7615

(Please see ad on pg 71)



MACKENZIE FIREPLACES

Mackenzie Fireplaces offers a full line of both Gas and Electric Fireplaces. We have been selling fireplaces for over 25 years and are the "Fireplace Experts".

For your new custom home or renovation, we have Town & Country/Architectural Series, Kingsman and Montigo Gas Fireplaces on display in our new showroom.

We have Wood Burning Fireplaces for your new custom home as well as Kingsman Gas Inserts and Rasmussen Gas Logs for your current wood burning fireplace.

We also have Electric Fireplaces by Amantii and Modern Flames.

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Visit our new showroom in Vaughan (Keele Street/ Rutherford Road) to see our fireplaces burning and then make your choice.

Locally owned by Glenn and Mary Hammill.

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Unit 4, Vaughan
905.879.0176
mackenziefireplaces.com**

(Please see ad on pg 49)



MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM KITCHENS ARE WITHIN REACH

Kevin Karst of **Kevin Karst Design Inc.** will assess your interior needs and design a distinctly beautiful custom kitchen, wall unit or home office for your renovation or new build.

With over 40 years experience in the industry as an industrial designer and journeyman cabinetmaker, Kevin's design skills and product knowledge will get your project smoothly off the ground with a balance of pleasing aesthetics, thoughtful functionality and built-to-last rugged construction. Using only the finest materials and European fittings, your job is produced with the utmost care in our local fully equipped production facility. To complete the superb service, Kevin installs his own projects, resulting in careful attention to the last detail.

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**W22 – 388 Carlaw Ave
Toronto
647.722.4165
647.206.9002 (cell)
kevinkarst.com**

(Please see ad on pg 25)



TAPESTRY DÉCOR WILL CAPTURE YOUR VISION

Create a space you love to come home to. **Tapestry Décor** offers a range of interior design and décor services.

We build custom spaces and deliver beautiful, personalized spaces with a strong emphasis on quality and function that reflects your lifestyle.

Our interiors are a blend of classic and modern adding unexpected elements and what we choose to bring into our home matters.

We have built long-lasting relationships with skilled tradesmen and trusted vendors that are part of our team.

From full renovations, space planning, soft furnishings in various styles, we work alongside you to capture your vision to create a home that is inspiring and functional.

We start with a one-on-one consultation to determine your design needs and how you will live in and use your space every day. Then, we will conceive a plan for your home that will wow you, reflect your personal esthetic and spirit, while being a place of respite and beauty.

**For all your design needs
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905.264.0635
tapestrydecor.ca**

(Please see ad on pg 6)



TORONTO'S PREMIER GLASS AND MIRROR COMPANY SINCE 1929

Adanac Glass frequently works with Canada's top designers, architects, interior decorators, custom home builders, low-rise and high-rise developers and directly with the public to provide the best design solutions for our customers. We work closely with each customer to achieve functional design solutions with customer satisfaction as our ultimate goal. Our knowledgeable and efficient staff prides ourselves on excellent customer service with a focus on superior design.

From initial consultation to measure, fabrication and installation, our experienced and professional team will ensure an incredible customer experience.

Our specialties include: swinging/sliding custom frameless shower enclosures; gridline industrial look black frame showers; glass wine room enclosures; kitchen backsplash or feature wall back painted glass; interior glass railings; glass barn doors; aluminum framed room divider with clear or white opaque glass inserts; vanity mirrors; antique mirrors; mirror walls; back-lit mirrors; panel, mirrored or glass closet sliding doors; and wire shelving.

Have a custom request? No problem! Let us know what you are looking to achieve, and our expert team will assist you!

Adanac Glass, serving our valued customers for 90 years.

**15140 Yonge St,
5511 Steeles Ave W,
Unit 2, Toronto
416.785.6309
adanacglass.com**

(Please see ad on pg 15)



DESIGN, RENOVATE, BUILD WITH FOXGLOVE DESIGN

At **Foxglove Design** we take your project from concept to completion. Our team will work with each of our clients to design a unique space created for their style and budget. The Foxglove Design team is highly trained and qualified in all styles of Kitchen and Interior Design offering a personalized service unique to your project. We believe that planning, communication and collaboration are the key to any successful project. We pride ourselves in exceeding the client expectation which has created an extremely loyal client base, coming back project after project.

The Foxglove Design team will meet with you to discuss your project, whether it is a colour consultation, renovation or a custom build. Our team will work with you through our design phases, collaborating with you on your project, to make it a reality. We will discuss your vision and style, and determine your needs and lifestyle, to design and decorate a beautiful, functional space. Our team follows the Ontario building code on all our projects and works with our trades to ensure a successful, well designed space.

Call or drop by the studio to meet the team and get started on your design dreams.

**15140 Yonge St,
Unit #2, Aurora
289.466.1048
foxglovedesign.ca
info.design@foxglovedesign.ca**

(Please see ad on pg 81)



TEAM NIWAAS TAKES THE STRESS OUT OF BUYING AND SELLING REAL ESTATE

Team Niwaas is a team of four realtors and two additional support staff working to bring your real estate vision to life. Members of our team have diverse backgrounds, ranging from Healthcare to Politics, all united by their passion for Real Estate. It doesn't matter if you are looking to buy or sell a small property or a large executive luxury home, we offer the same level of care and service to all of our clients.

We understand that a home is one of the largest and most important purchases a family makes, and our goal is to make that purchase easy and stress-free for you. We also understand that in today's day and age, technology is leading the charge in every industry. That is why we employ a full-time digital marketing specialist to ensure that your property is marketed thoroughly, so we can bring in the best, highest offers in the shortest amount of time possible.

Our team covers many locales west of Toronto and specializes in many forms of residential real estate. Do you want to know how our team can help fulfill your real estate needs?

**Reach Team Niwaas at
647.786.2012
or visit niwaas.ca**

(Please see ad on pg 49)

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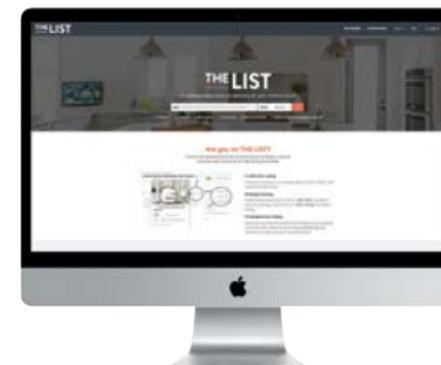
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Regional OUR HOMES magazines saturate 14 local markets in Ontario, connecting our advertisers to over 5,000,000* readers annually.

*Source – Google Analytics/Salt Strategy 2016 Readership Survey

Amplify your company's market opportunities with our expanding reach!



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thelist.ourhomes.ca

PAVLOVA

with citrus curd

THIS MERINGUE-BASED DESSERT IS CRISPY ON THE OUTSIDE AND SOFTER INSIDE. CITRUS JUICE AND BERRIES MAKE IT SUMMER FRESH.

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

Pavlova

INGREDIENTS

- 4 egg whites
- Pinch of salt
- ¼ cup cold water
- 1-¼ cups sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 1 Tbsp + 1 tsp cornstarch

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Draw a six-inch circle in the centre on the side of the parchment that will face down. This will be your guide when you shape the pavlova.

Combine egg whites and salt in a stand mixer and beat on medium-high until stiff peaks are formed. Be careful not to over-whip the egg whites at this stage. The egg whites will be thick and foamy and a peak will

form when the beater is lifted out of the egg. Turn the mixer to low and slowly add the water and then the sugar. Turn the mixer back up to medium-high and beat until stiff peaks are again formed. The eggs will be thick and glossy. Remove bowl from mixer and fold in vanilla, vinegar and cornstarch.

Pile the meringue onto the circle on the baking sheet. With a spatula, smooth edges and top of the pavlova so it almost forms a dome. If preferred, create ridges in the side of the pavlova by swiping the sides in an upward motion.

Bake the pavlova for 30 minutes. Do not open oven! Turn oven down to 275°F and bake for another 45 minutes. Let cool completely in the oven for an hour or overnight. It is normal for the pavlova to crack and the centre to sink in.

Remove from oven when cool.

Citrus Curd

INGREDIENTS

- 4 egg yolks
- ¼ cup citrus juice of choice (lemon, blood orange, etc.)
- 1 tsp citrus zest
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter

DIRECTIONS

Combine all ingredients in a double boiler and heat on medium-high, stirring continuously until mixture thickens and coats the back of a spoon. Strain curd through a fine mesh sieve into a bowl. Cover the top of the curd with plastic wrap directly on the curd and chill until cooled.

GARNISHES

- Fresh whipped cream
- Berries
- Mint
- Powdered sugar

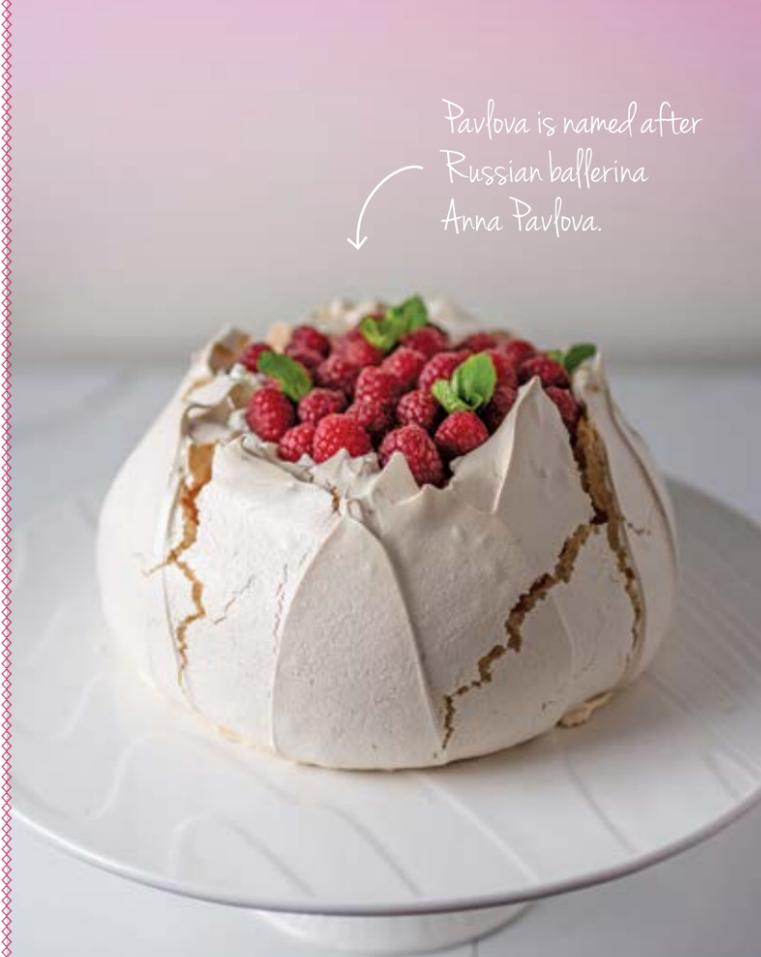
ASSEMBLE PAVLOVA

Assemble shortly before serving. Fill the centre of the pavlova with curd, whipped cream and berries. Garnish with mint and powdered sugar. **OH**

online Get more recipes at ourhomes.ca/mag/cook



Pavlova is named after Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova.



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finishing touch



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beautiful HARDSCAPES

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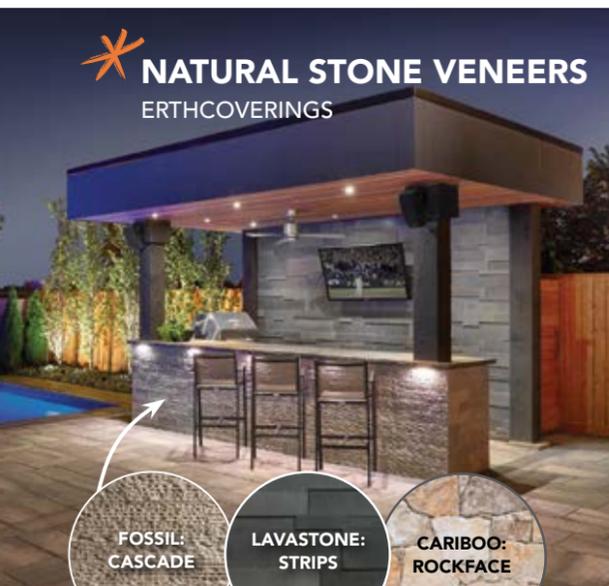
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The Floor Shop

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The Floor Shop has also been featured on several episodes of 'Holmes on Homes', the highly revered award winning HGTV program with Mike Holmes. The Floor Shop—your wood flooring specialists for warmth, livability and character.



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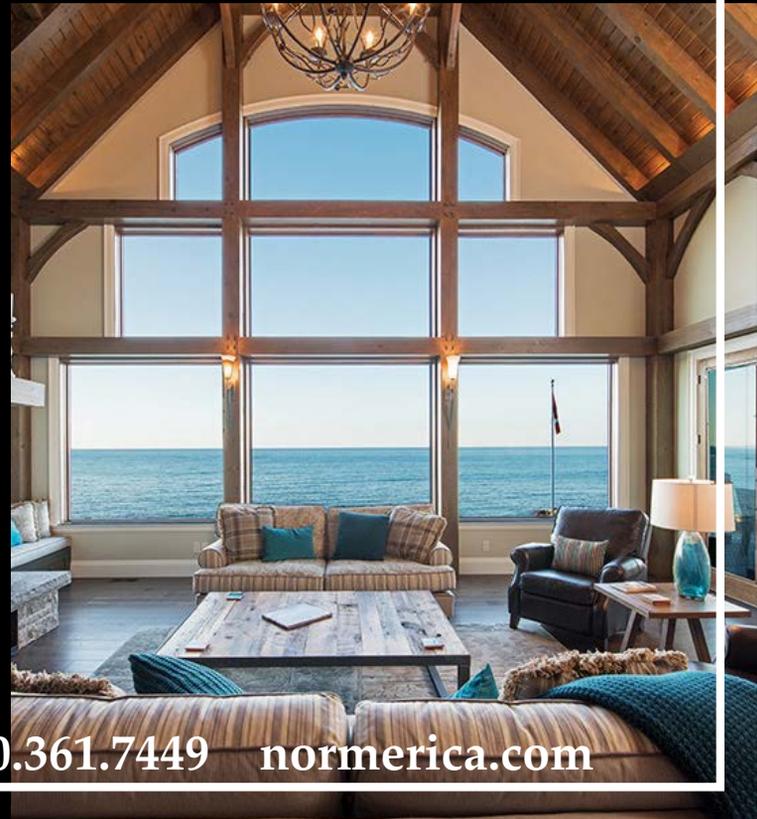


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