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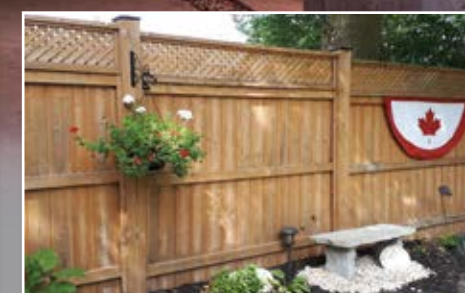
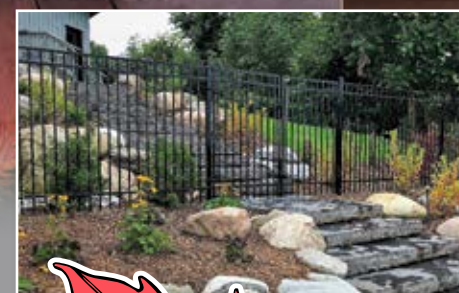


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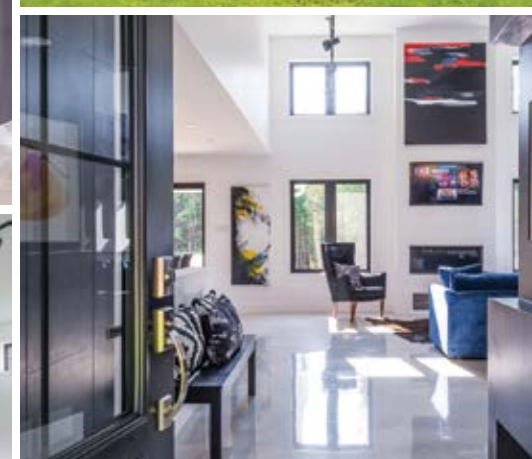
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WHAT A RIDE WE HAVE ALL BEEN ON THESE LAST FEW MONTHS.

At times it has been challenging, scary, frustrating, yet hopeful. This pandemic has changed our routines, our jobs and our families, sometimes for the better and sadly, sometimes for the worst.

However, travelling throughout Grey and Bruce counties to compile the local features for this issue has been pure joy. To see that nothing has affected the countryside, the glory of blossoms and lush green fields offers reassurance that some things are still exactly the same. It has brought happiness to see our great clients and homeowners and to hear about their experiences in the past months. I am impressed with everyone's resilient and positive attitude. Many of these individuals face huge changes in the way they do business and have all stepped up to that challenge with the safety of their employees and customers foremost on their minds, which some of the businesses featured in our People feature have touched upon.

While we all spend more time than usual in our homes, there are projects demanding attention. Is it time to renovate the kitchen or bathroom? Turn to our Spotlight on Fulfords Kitchenware-Bathware-Hardware for inspiration and an incredible selection of products. This local store is ready to help, as are all the shops and business on our pages. So please shop locally!

There has never been a more important time for us to support the hard-working business owners of this region, and by doing so we help keep our community stronger, more successful and thriving. Local businesses create jobs, allowing us all to live in and enjoy strong, successful communities throughout Grey and Bruce counties.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Sara Martin

Sara Martin, Managing Editor
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ON THE COVER

A view for miles from this master bedroom in Amberley. Story, page 90. Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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Classic FURNITURE

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WHAT MAKES A CLASSIC PIECE OF FURNITURE?

Are you downsizing, rightsizing and considering selling or giving away your furniture? The reality is that some people don't want your "old stuff" no matter how much money you spent on it.

Whether your life is transitory or you want to complete a quick project, there's a tendency to buy inexpensive furniture that may, in a short time, wobble, peel or just fall apart in front of you, creating a throwaway mindset.

Furniture you want to keep is valuable, familiar, branded or easily recognizable icons of the 20th Century. Many are approaching the 100-year antique status. For example, two significant pieces from Poltrona Frau's collection, the Chester Sofa and the 1919 Armchair, seen in many James Bond films, are synonymous with status. The 1919 Armchair has been so successful that it's been reissued and reinterpreted with larger proportions to satisfy the modern-day notion of comfort. The more modest Thonet Coffee House Chair can still be seen in French bistro cafés. Good design lasts forever.

Where Have You Seen Famous 20th Century Furniture Icons?

Modern furniture from the 1920s to 1940s and Mid-century Modern from 1933 to 1965 is widely popularized. We see pieces in architectural design magazines or celebrity interviews in the pages of *GQ* and *Vogue*. Cultural institutions such as New York's Museum of Modern Art and London's Victoria & Albert Museum have large exhibits displaying the perfect examples of modern-day aesthetics and good taste.

Also, popular television shows have embedded many of these pieces in our modern psyche. Notable examples include Breuer's Cantilever Chair and the Barcelona Chair by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, both on display in *Mad Men's* stylish offices and lobbies. Who could forget the Mid-century modern Eames Lounge Chair in *Frasier's* sleek modern apartment, elegant and separate from his father's old recliner?



POLTRONA FRAU: Chester Sofa



THONET:
Tubular Steel
Cantilever Chair



POLTRONA FRAU: 1919 Arm Chair



HERMAN MILLER:
Eames Lounge Chair



THONET: Coffee
House Chair



HERMAN MILLER:
Eames Aluminum
Group Chair

KARTELL: Louis
Ghost chair

Why Are They Valuable?

Modern furniture is mobile and lightweight, designed for city residents in smaller urban homes. It's relevant for today's interiors, ensuring these pieces will keep their inheritance value for a very long time.

Manufacturers such as Knoll and Herman Miller employed Charles and Ray Eames, Marcel Breuer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and others to design quality, mass-produced furniture, all while educating clients and the public on principles of good design. Retailers such as Design Within Reach sell prestigious brands direct to the consumer, making these pieces accessible and contributing to their popularity and status. They're also instrumental in introducing the new 21st century classics, such as the Louis Ghost Chair by Philippe Starck or the LEM Piston Stool by Shin and Tomoko Azumi, to the world.

Unfortunately, many of these designs have been reproduced, knocked-off and made cheaply, spoiling the original design intent. However, this makes the original and authentic pieces more valuable. Authentic pieces are still produced by the original manufacturer, branded with copyright labels placed somewhere discreet. These pieces are Sotheby's-worthy and carry certificates of authenticity.

How Can You Acquire Keepable Furniture?

- Buy on the installment plan.
- Buy via auction, consignment or internet.
- Buy one piece at a time – all good things are worth waiting for.

The Benefits Of Buying Right The First Time:

- Going green for life is the new luxury.
- Recoup your investment and join the circular economy.
- Peace of mind, knowing your furniture won't end up in a garbage dump.

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3 SMITTY'S FINE FURNITURE

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6 THE OLD BARN

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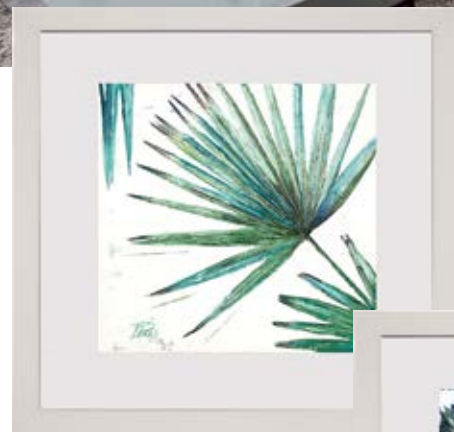
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ORANGE

THE GREAT GARDEN GO-BETWEEN

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

Colour evokes emotion. Different colours lend a different look and feel to a space, and in a world where most gardeners opt for the popular pink and purple colour palette, the colour orange deserves another look. It certainly has a lot of punch and it may be just the zip and zing your garden needs.

ORANGE POWER


Orange is a powerful colour with lots of attention-grabbing strength and energy. Used strategically, it highlights key areas of a yard, such as an out-of-the-way seating area or hidden path. Hot colours such as orange come to the forefront of vision while cool tones recede. Use orange hues to bring cosiness to an expansive space or use a combination of hot tones in the forefront with cool tones in the back to make a small space seem larger.

CREATE HARMONY

A riot of different colours isn't the best approach for a harmonious garden composition. The best arrangements offer a restrained palette of melodious colour hues blending from one to the next, but often this is easier said than done. Commonly, the missing piece to the garden colour puzzle is a moderating tone between two others to either temper or highlight one or both. The zesty colour orange in all its shades and nuances specifically has an amazing colour-moderating effect in the garden. *Continued on page 32*

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COLOUR
COMBOS

PURPLE AND ORANGE

Purple flowers abound in gardens everywhere, but too much purple can seem a bit dark and dreary. Adding orange makes cool blue and purple tones sing with vibrancy.

PINK AND ORANGE

Pink is another prevalent flower colour and can look tiresome on its own. Mixing in some orange transforms a pink palette into a gorgeous mix of sorbet colours that looks fresh and modern amidst green foliage. You can even see Mother Nature combining these colours in many blossoms sporting pink petals with orange centres, such as Coneflower and Cosmos.

RED/YELLOW/ORANGE

This is the hot colour combo for people who love vibrant colours. Red and yellow by themselves can look too “ketchup and mustard” stark for most tastes. Orange is the perfect go-between for these colours and especially because red + yellow = orange. These tones look great in full sun and add a hot, tropical vibe to any space.

ORANGE AND WHITE

Think of a creamsicle. I really love this fresh combination – it looks so right with the trending black, white and wood mix of outside materials. This is the colour combo for people afraid of colour.

MONOCHROME

Do you really, really love the colour orange? Try a mix of all kinds and shades together. By choosing just one colour in all its varieties, it will have maximum impact yet be really easy to find and achieve.

Orange is like a breath of fresh air. From bright tangerine to soft auburn there’s an orange hue for everyone. It is said that a change is as good as a rest and now more than ever we need to look forward to the future with renewed hope and positivity. It’s time to give orange – the colour of life, vigour and vitality – a try. **OH**

MELANIE’S PLANT PICKS

*Geum ‘Totally
Tangerine’ – Avens*

This perennial has an abundance of tangerine coloured blossoms held high on airy stems. It flowers in spring, is outstanding and underused.

*Calendula –
Pot Marigold*

This beautiful, sunny-orange annual plant is really easy to grow from seed outdoors and self-seeds for subsequent years too. Its petals are edible or can be used to make skin-healing salves due to its natural antifungal and antibacterial properties.

Hemerocallis – Daylily

There are so many varieties of orange daylily beyond the wild ones often known as “tiger lilies.” Daylilies have evolved and are often shorter with finer foliage and longer bloom periods. The flower buds on this perennial are edible. Two of my favourites are “Ruffled Apricot” and “Tiger Kitten.”

*Cosmos sulphureus
‘Cosmic Orange’*

Another amazing annual, Cosmos is so easy to grow from seed. This variety is covered by a profusion of two-inch carrot orange blooms that float above fresh fern-like foliage.

*Nasturtium
‘Troika Orange’*

Nasturtium is an old garden favourite. An edible annual, it thrives in poor, dry soil and is so easy to grow. This glorious orange variety is a high-performance bloomer with stunning white-streaked leaves. It’s semi-trailing and looks great at the front of a border or in planters.

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ALL THE RIGHT *Moves*

STORY **RACHAEL HAVENS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

GABRIELLA AND GREG LOVE THAT THEIR PROPERTY HAS THE “GREEN SPACE OF THE GOLF COURSE ON ONE SIDE AND GEORGIAN BAY ON THE OTHER.”

FIVE YEARS AGO, GABRIELLA AND GREG DUNN WERE LIVING IN TORONTO. While enjoying his morning coffee, Greg saw an article in the newspaper about Cobble Beach. He rode his motorcycle up later that same day. Within a week, the Dunns were proud owners of their new home on Cobble Beach Golf Course. The couple have been together for 10 years now, and were looking to find a home to make together. Cobble Beach has everything they were searching for, and they are now happily residing in their home full time, after a few years of commuting back and forth. Gabriella and Greg love

that their property has the “green space of the golf course on one side and Georgian Bay on the other.” Greg grew up in the Prairies, where there was always big open sky. Now, the water calls to them both. Cobble Beach offers the best of both. They wanted to strike a balance between having privacy and being social. They found that here, too. They enjoy summer barbecues and walking around the neighbourhood with friends. They can’t get enough of the opportunities for golfing, biking and kayaking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. *Continued on page 36*



TOP: Cobble Beach’s iconic lighthouse on Georgian Bay. It honours the history of this shoreline, that was used as far back as 1803, as survey points by sailors. **ABOVE:** The stone facade of this custom home, built by Northridge Homes, grabbed the Dunns’ attention. Landscaping was completed by Hutten & Co. Land and Shore. **RIGHT:** Greg and Gabriella Dunn and the newest addition to their family, Rex. **OPPOSITE:** Two perfect seats to enjoy the 574 acres of the link-style golf course, just steps from the rear deck.

PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA



Their finished custom home had an unfinished basement and was in need of landscaping. They wanted to add their own touch to the home. **Cindy McMullin** of **Décor Design** came on board as the designer for the renovation project. Gabriella and Greg were appreciative of the fresh set of eyes as Cindy patiently helped them pull their concept together. Cindy says often what her clients are looking for is someone to simply confirm they are headed in the right direction. She offers guidance on everything from paint colours to rugs. “She was fantastic to work with,” says Gabriella. The Dunns’ advice to anyone thinking of tackling a similar project? Make sure you have expert advice. “The experts just see things differently, and so much better.” *Continued on page 39*



The elegant kitchen, with raised-panel cabinets, granite counters and tumbled stone backsplash. The curve of the island counter is repeated on the exhaust fan cabinetry and the millwork over the large window. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Cindy McMullin of Décor Design in the front foyer. Cindy suggested carrying the wainscoting from the dining room into the foyer to add more detail and protect the walls. The wainscoting was painted Simply White by Benjamin Moore. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Freshly picked tomatoes, cucumber, sheep’s milk feta and fresh Italian parsley are prepped for lunch on the deck. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A casual sitting area in the kitchen has a view for miles and is the perfect spot to start the day. The dining set was found at Macdonald’s Furniture.



The colours used in the living room furnishings capture the natural hues that surround the home, the green of the golf course, and the blue of Georgian Bay. Cindy suggested the area rug to tie the colours together.



LEFT: Cindy designed the cabinets that flank the fireplace. They were constructed by Soundview Construction. **BOTTOM:** A large window floods the formal dining room with light. Tray ceilings add visual interest. Blinds throughout the home are Hunter Douglas and were sourced through Décor Design.

Gabriella praises the range of exciting possibilities Cindy offered as the home progressed. Greg says they weren't in a rush to complete the project, but rather wanted to take their time to create "the home we were searching for."

Cindy's favourite element is the window coverings, for which she has always had a passion. "I started making drapery when I was 18, and my phone was always ringing," she says. Now, she works with Hunter Douglas blinds and drapery, which she showcases in a kiosk at **Leon's Furniture** in Owen Sound. She also created a patent-pending tiered duvet, seen in the master bedroom, being launched in the near future.

One of the most unique spaces in the home is unequivocally the Lego city in the basement. It is a project Greg took on accidentally a few years back. A friend and colleague had gifted him a Lego train set, which sat unassembled until a stormy winter day in Cobble Beach a few years ago. After he got started, he was hooked – he bought all the trains Lego made. Then, of course, came the train station and, suddenly, a city began to emerge. *Continued on page 40*





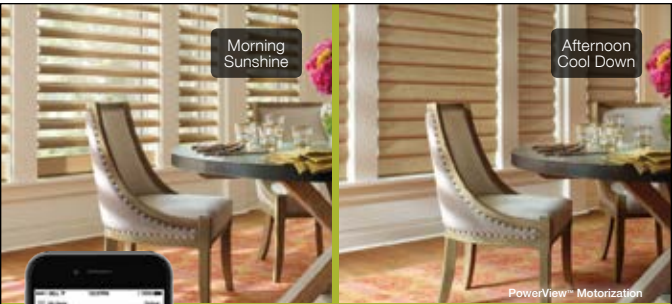
The gleaming black walnut flooring grounds the master bed. It is topped with a Bloom tiered duvet by Tranquil Linens and can be sourced at Décor Design. The master bedroom is positioned at the rear of the home so the glorious view of the golf course greets the Dunns every morning. **BOTTOM:** A crystal chandelier hangs over the jetted master bathtub. The surrounding deck is used for display, plants, towels and the occasional glass of wine.

Greg laughs that if someone suggested a Lego city would be part of his future 10 years ago, “I would have said they were nuts.” He sees the project as “a bridge back to childhood,” and a piece of art. Though the couple’s grandchildren are fascinated by it, Gabriella is always amazed at how much adults are fascinated too.

Contractor **Greg Conrod** of **Soundview Construction** was one such adult. He created the shelves and cabinets for display and storage in the Lego room, leaving plenty of space to move around the impressive table that holds the city. Greg was another key member of the team on the Dunns’ home, completing all of the millwork during the basement renovation as well as the home’s custom built-ins and an entryway refresh. *Continued on page 42*






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Greg says everyone involved in the project “made a home that was already quite beautiful and elegant in design even more so.” **Hutten & Co. Land and Shore** did a wonderful job on the landscaping, which was important to Gabriella as gardening is one of her hobbies. **Macdonald’s Furniture and Appliances** supplied the sofa and chairs in the basement. When asked to pick their favourite space in their new home, the couple struggle to choose. “It really depends on the time of day, and the time of year,” says Greg. Contenders include the love seat in the bedroom, where the two watch the sunrise and connect over coffee in the mornings, and the nook in the kitchen, which just

might have the best view in the home. Gabriella and Greg recently welcomed a new member to their family – a puppy named Rex. Now the three of them are enjoying the slower pace of life in Cobble Beach. Greg still enjoys riding his motorcycle but notes, thankfully, he now heads out on country roads, a far cry from the QEW. He contemplates, “not a day goes by that one of us doesn’t say how lucky we are.” Later, Gabriella echoes his sentiments, speaking about how grateful she is for the home the couple have made. But, she says, “This home would be nothing without Greg.” **OH**

TOP LEFT: The Lego room is captivating for all ages. The floating shelves display new additions to the impressive Lego city. The lower level was painted in Benjamin Moore’s Hemp Seed. **TOP RIGHT:** Cindy incorporated an office area in the design of the lower level. The partners desk and storage behind were designed by Cindy. The desk can also double as the perfect puzzle table. **RIGHT:** A cosy niche in the lower level has a sofa from Macdonald’s Furniture. The custom side tables and coffee table were designed by Cindy.



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clutter BUSTING

TIPS FROM A
PROFESSIONAL
STAGER ON
ORGANIZING
YOUR HOME
BEFORE A SALE

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

When you're living in your home, storage goals are simple. It's all about attractively corralling your family's shoes, homework, jackets and – ouch! – stray LEGO pieces. But when you're selling, says Kristyn Pereira, lead stylist and account manager for home staging company Well Dressed Home, there's a twist.

"We look at resale value, and all our recommendations are potentially to make the seller more money." When it comes to organizing your home before a sale, Kristyn says things become stylized and not terribly realistic. "Nobody actually lives like that so it's kind of creating this facade." You're striving, she says, to create clean, fresh spaces buyers can imagine themselves living in.

Decluttering and staging is a lot of work, Kristyn admits, but she says it can really pay off. "It all comes down to your photographs," she says. "Because when people are shopping they're scrolling through photos that their realtor sent them, or they're on realtor.ca. And when those photos stand out, that's the house they want to go and look at. You'll see that a staged house is going to get more showings because people get excited looking at this beautiful space."

THE FOLLOWING ARE KRISTYN'S INDUSTRY-TESTED TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR HOUSE READY FOR THE MARKET.



WILSON SOLUTIONS: Custom Closet

DO A WALK-THROUGH

Moving is a good time to start purging and looking at what you really need and what you are actually using. With her clients, Kristyn likes to start by doing a walk-through of the entire house. "It's usually an hour-and-a-half to two hours and we go through every nook and cranny." She recommends looking at everything with fresh eyes to decide what needs reorganizing or purging to create that sublime first impression for buyers.

DO A CLEAR-OUT

Cull, and once done, Kristyn recommends a couple options. You can neatly store excess belongings on-site. "If you have an unfinished basement, garage or storage room, as long as those spaces are fairly organized, then it's OK to load those spaces up."

Alternatively, if you live in a condo or have a lot of clutter, off-site storage can work too. Kristyn uses a company called Second Closet, which will pick up and store homeowners' belongings and return them after the sale.

RESTYLE YOUR CLOSETS

With closets and cupboards, ensure they have some negative space. Kristyn says, "If the closets and cupboards are overflowing, buyers think, 'If you don't have enough space, then we're not going to have enough space.'"

UPGRADE YOUR CLOTHES HANGERS

Weed out those skinny wire hangers from your closets – "They're very distracting to the eye," says Kristyn. For a beautiful, clean look, make sure your coat hangers are all matching. *Continued on page 46*

IKEA: Bumerang White Hangers



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MAKE USE OF BINS

Bins and baskets are great for attractively organizing items on closet shelves and bookcases. Colour co-ordinate and even add labels to lend extra style, says Kristyn. “It gets people excited to see those types of things.”



TAILORED LIVING: Custom Child's Closet

STYLE KIDS' ROOMS

With kids' rooms, Kristyn suggests creating a dream and using a light hand with décor: “Sometimes we'll put a little stuffed animal on a bed or add a cute piece of art,” she says, suggesting you can style bookshelves with items like piggy banks and a few books, and place cute toy storage bins on the floor.



3 SPROUTS: Ostrich Hanging Wall Organizer

3 SPROUTS: Ivory Velvet Non-Slip Hangers

3 SPROUTS: Hedgehog Storage Box

CONSIDER YOUR TARGET MARKET

Finally, unlike with your personal décor, when you're decluttering and staging for sale, Kristyn says you should stay away from anything too trendy when it comes to colours, furniture and styling. “Most of the time we want to be in the mainstream area because that's where most people are.” **OH**

PARE BACK IN THE BATHROOM AND KITCHEN

Remove clutter and keep surfaces clear in both of these important areas. For example, in the bathroom, Kristyn says, “With shampoos and conditioners it looks very messy to keep them in the shower itself – so we usually ask sellers to put them in a basket and store the basket in a cupboard.”



NOW DESIGNS: Terrain Dusk Canister

NOW DESIGNS: Turquoise Bread Bin

STERILITE: Small Weave Basket in Grey

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East Coast

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

SHRIMP ROLLS

Inspired by the East Coast lifestyle, this roll features chunks of shrimp tossed in a homemade dressing and stuffed into a toasted bun.



INGREDIENTS

(Makes 4 Rolls)

HOMEMADE MAYO

- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 cup neutral oil (canola or grapeseed)

SANDWICH

- 20 raw shrimp
- 1 Tbsp chives, finely chopped
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- ¼ cup homemade mayo
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Lettuce
- Buns

DIRECTIONS

HOMEMADE MAYO

In a food processor or blender combine egg, Dijon mustard and vinegar. Pulse to combine while slowly adding oil until mayo is thick and emulsified.

SANDWICH

Steam shrimp for 5 minutes or until cooked through. Cut into small chunks.

Combine shrimp, chives, shallot and mayo and mix. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

To assemble, slice open buns and toast in a pan over medium-high heat.

Add filling and lettuce to the bun. Enjoy! **OH**

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Summer's sun-soaked mornings, long evenings and warm temperatures are a golden opportunity to maximize your home's square footage. Consider how much of your property's space goes unused during long Canadian winters – balconies and patios, front, back and side yards, pool areas, barbecue hot spots, cabanas and secret siesta hideaways. Summer is prime time to discover the full potential of your great outdoors. Expand your living space beyond its four walls, and live larger than you thought possible – without ever leaving the comfort of home.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE TRIED-AND-TRUE DESIGNER TIPS FOR AN OUTDOOR LIVING AREA TO RIVAL ANY INTERIOR.

AL FRESCO ROOMS

When addressing your outdoor living area, whether it's a patio, balcony or sprawling backyard, always consider your outdoor living area as an extension of your interiors. Assess al fresco rooms in a manner that respects the interior aesthetic and bridges the gap between indoors and out.

Consider your outdoor living space an oasis, an escape, and an opportunity to fulfill functions and aesthetic approaches that may not be possible year-round in your home.

Create some pops and wow factors, where possible.

The next step is to determine the biggest and most important function of your outdoor area. Is it for cooking, dining, lounging or entertaining? This will inform the layout of the space. In some cases, such as a balcony setting, consider seating and lounging as the main outdoor function. For larger patios, you may wish to expand to cooking and dining opportunities. Regardless of the size or scope of the design, always start with the largest function and work from the ground up.

Continued on page 52



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outdoor living

SMALL BUT SWEET

Condos and townhomes require a special touch, thanks to their small size and often urban locale. A favourite trick is using artificial grass or turf. This is an easy and low-maintenance way to bring some greenery into an otherwise drab space.

Whether you prefer the hands-off appeal of artificial greens or you like the real deal, always try to incorporate some greenery into the design. Combine a variety of pots and planters with lush greenery and plants. Great designs often feature a combination of solutions, such as artificial hedges to create privacy screening, while mixing in potted herbs that are not only beautiful, but delicious too.

DESIGNER FIND

Interlocking wood tiles for balcony and patio floors are also a great way to get that deck feeling, covering what may be unsightly, original flooring, but helping with drainage as well.

For small condo balconies, try to source dual-purpose pieces. For instance, an outdoor chair with an ottoman can be placed together to create a lounger, or pulled apart for additional seating. Remember: Flexibility is key.



Don't be afraid to treat your outdoor areas as you would your indoor living room. This can be achieved with the wide array of "in-out" accessories and furnishings available on the market, from outdoor-rated plush cushions and rugs, to candles, lanterns and art.



COLOUR SCHEME

When selecting your style and colour scheme, your outdoor living areas should echo your interiors, but don't be afraid to take it a little further. If you're limited to neutrals in your interiors, consider punching up the exterior with a splash of colour.

In most cases, vibrant and fresh colours will adapt best to the outdoors. We love citrusy oranges, lime greens, golden yellows or ocean-inspired aquas – all colours found in nature, which is the ultimate designer muse.

ON TREND

This summer a continuing trend will be the addition of fire features into outdoor living areas, which take you from day to night whether cosied up by yourself, with family or your closest friends. A multitude of styles are available, but the most functional ones incorporate a panelled top surface, which lets you go from firepit to coffee table on demand.

Always take a balanced approach when designing a home from the inside to the outside. It has to have harmony and flow, but don't be afraid to experiment and be bold. Not only will you maximize your space outdoors, you'll make the most of your time spent there, too. **OH**



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Jim and Jennifer Fulford.

FAMILY LEGACY *continues*



THE HISTORY

In 1932, Edgar Fulford established **Fulfords Hardware** in downtown Owen Sound. He provided help, advice and a welcoming atmosphere for customers looking to take on a DIY project, buy a new hammer, find seeds or a hoe for the garden, or a new kitchen sink. Anyone walking through the door was greeted, often by name, and knowledgeable staff helped in any way they could. This simple formula grew the business to the present location of more than 10,000 square feet of retail space. For the past 30 years the store has been owned and operated by Edgar's grandson, Jim Fulford, and his wife Jennifer. Together they have made Fulfords: Kitchenware-Bathware-Hardware the destination for luxury wares, not just in the area but throughout Ontario.



LUXURY BATHWARE

For many in the know, Fulfords: Kitchenware-Bathware-Hardware is the place to come for the broadest selection of designs and manufacturers from around the world, offering every price level. There's a huge variety of in-stock vanities, hundreds of faucets, bathtubs, toilets, shower options, mirrors and bathroom accessories. Not only is your perfect bathroom close to becoming a reality, the knowledgeable, expert staff can help you achieve your dream bathroom on any budget.



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GOURMET KITCHENWARE

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HARDWARE

Although Jim and Jenn have specialized in quality bathware and gourmet kitchenware, Fulfords is still a well-stocked hardware store that carries the same items Jim's grandfather Edgar did when he started the business so many years ago. Jim remembers that, after his grandfather retired, he would still come to the store and sit in a rocking chair and greet customers. Edgar's legacy goes on as staff continue to welcome and help customers. It's still the number one goal at Fulfords every day.

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A View FROM THE TOP

STORY **KRISTIN SCHNELTEN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **PETER MCNEICE** | STYLING **HEATHER SMILLIE**

Port Elgin’s unique blend of charming village and bustling lakeside beach has long attracted visitors, many who have made the town their permanent home.



FOR SOME NEWCOMERS AND LIFELONG RESIDENTS ALIKE, the recently completed Edinburgh Club has proved the perfect place to settle in. Situated on the edge of the town’s picturesque harbour, the condos offer far-reaching views of Lake Huron and its famous sunsets, framed by gently swaying masts and rigging.

The 16-unit elevator-accessible building is constructed with green building materials and techniques, including cement-bonded wood fibre exterior walls with no plastic, foams or polystyrenes, low-emissivity windows, eco-friendly composite decking and LED lighting. Glass-and-aluminum railings ensure clear views to the horizon.

Continued on page 60



No paintings are needed when the view out each window captures the charming scene of the harbour in Port Elgin. The coffered ceiling detail delineates the zones in this open-plan space.



The cosy living room is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the comings and goings of boats on Lake Huron. The unique fireplace was sourced at Carson Supply and installed by Parker Heating & Cooling.



A carved rocking bird highlights the use of wood touches in the home. Edinburgh Club, the name for the development, came from the old hotel that used to be on this site.

The homeowners who selected the completed top-storey show suite are thrilled with their new home and its “ideal location in a wonderful, thriving community.”

Andrew Hill, the creator of the condominium development, has longstanding ties to this community he calls home. Arriving in Port Elgin as a teenager, Hill recalls, “My parents were hoping for a better life for their children, and they definitely found it here.”

Forty years after emigrating from England, Hill and his parents, siblings and the now many grandchildren all live just a stone’s throw from one another in the village. “I just love it here,” says Andrew. “Port Elgin has everything we need.”

Continued on page 63



RIGHT: The galley kitchen is outfitted with chef-quality appliances from Square Deal Neil’s. The diagonal pattern of the floor tiles visually expands the area. BELOW: Woven trays are useful for moving china and glasses from the kitchen to the dining table. BOTTOM: The peninsula’s quartz was sourced at The Old Barn. The dark hardware against the white cabinets adds a cottage feel. Plumbing was completed by GO Plumbing. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The inspiration for the condo design by Heather Smillie, of House Rules Design Shop, was the idea that a ship’s captain and his wife would be perfectly at home in this unit with its casual vibe and layered textures.



“I JUST LOVE IT HERE. PORT ELGIN HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED.”
– Andrew Hill





An old fashioned alarm clock sits on a bedside table in the guest bedroom. A finial weighs down books for nighttime reading.

Andrew’s construction company, **Hill Build**, has spent decades helping local homeowners remodel their homes: “We’ve worked to build relationships based on trust, and a lot of our customers come to us to make changes or additions to one or two or more of their homes over time.” Purchasing and developing the property at the beach was an easy decision for Andrew. “I knew it would be a great opportunity to do something unique and to really challenge myself and my guys,” says Andrew. “Every suite in the building is completely different, each custom-finished for a specific resident.”

The show suite, decorated by **Heather Smillie** of **House Rules Design Shop**, plays off the colours of the lake and its surrounding natural features. “Heather really did an amazing job,” says Andrew.

The open-concept main living space features coffered ceilings, recessed lighting and deep window ledges, perfect for displaying treasures found on beach walks. A floor-to ceiling stone fireplace (from **Carson Supply**, installed by **Parker Heating & Cooling**) warms the cosy living room, where Heather added other textures from nature, including a coffee table with a twisted-wood base, varied baskets and deep-blue clay accessories. The homeowners appreciate the woodwork – including wainscoting details and shiplap ceiling elements – throughout the suite, noting their purchase decision was based in part on “the obvious impeccable workmanship.” While those fine details were completed by Hill Build, other subcontractors came into play along the way, as well. **The Old Barn** supplied the countertops and all

Continued on page 64



The sliding cedar barn doors into the guest bedroom can be left open to enjoy the view out the living room windows. The area rug was sourced at House Rules Design Shop.

TOP: The sofa with attached chaise was found at House Rules Design Shop. Placed as a divider between the living and dining areas, it still keeps the space free flowing. **ABOVE:** The blue used throughout extends the colour of the water into the home. The slope of the ceiling as it meets the walls leaves the impression of being on a boat. **RIGHT:** The cabinetry and hardware in the guest bathroom is the same as the kitchen cabinets. Tile flooring was sourced at Ziegler Lumber.



ABOVE: The shiplap sloped ceiling in the master bedroom soars above the bed. Wainscotting detail on the wall leading into the en suite adds visual interest. **LEFT:** Intricate tile work in the en suite reaches to the ceiling. Oil-rubbed bronze fixtures were sourced at Ziegler Lumber.

appliances are from **Square Deal Neil's**. **Ziegler Lumber Ltd.** provided most of the materials for the Edinburgh Club, including the roofing, lumber, tile and hardware. For plumbing needs, **Greg O'Leary of GO Plumbing** has been Hill's go-to man for some time. **BJS Electric** supplied and installed the audiovisual system and other electrical needs. Says Andrew, "We've been lucky to work with the same group of trades for a long time. Some of them have been with me from the very beginning." *Continued on page 66*





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ABOVE: A wallpapered feature wall, upholstered headboard, big fluffy pillows and a down duvet combine perfectly in this bedroom. This calm, relaxing space is made more so by the sound of the water, lapping at the shore, heard through the open window. **RIGHT:** Shells are placed causally in a glass container. Their colours and shapes can be enjoyed while reading in bed and act as a reminder that water is not far away.



A short 33 years since he first started his construction company, Hill is pleased with his business, staff, clients and projects and looks forward to the next development on the horizon. **Powerlink**, a combined commercial/residential project located on Goderich Street, will bring a modern take on living to Port Elgin, with 18 condominiums

and 25,000 square feet of commercial space. For Andrew, this project, like the rest of his work, is all about the community of Port Elgin. “When we first visited here, my father said, ‘If we’re moving to Canada, this is where we’re going to live. It’s absolutely beautiful.’” Says Andrew, “I just can’t imagine living anywhere else.” **OH**



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PHOTOGRAPHY
SARAH TACOMA

AT WORK

Adapting To Today: We are using our online presence through our website, Instagram and Facebook platforms to show new products, and we are available by phone or email for any questions or orders. **Work Challenges:** There has been more time to work on new designs. We have missed having the positive experience of seeing customers enjoy all the beautiful furniture in our showroom, the interaction and the positive feedback.

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AT HOME

Home Life: We have more time to spend with family but it has been hard not being able to socialize with friends. **Lessons Learned:** Build a quality product and it sells itself!

AT HOME

Wanting: The chance to be with friends and family and having a hug from Mom and Dad. **Lessons Learned:** Everyday is a gift and never take it for granted; you never know what tomorrow will bring.

CLIENT CARE:

Customers can send us videos, pictures and sketches of their projects to assist us with the quoting process.

DOUG & JANET WRIGHT

Built Wright Fencing

We have been in business for 32 years, providing residential, commercial and agricultural fencing. Attention to detail is one of our priorities and we look at all projects equally.

AT WORK

Adaptations: Making sure our crews are fully equipped with all the necessary PPE, and correct knowledge about the changing situation, are key to moving forward on a daily basis. **Challenges:** Self-isolation has made us realize what's important in our business and personal lives. We show support for our front-line and essential workers by making noise every night and we use Zoom as a tool to stay connected to family and friends.

AT HOME

Challenges: Realizing how quickly daily business can change and ongoing concerns about how it will affect the future and the economy. We miss social time with friends and family. **Lessons Learned:** It has been an eye-opener how quickly our normal life can change and the simple things we take for granted.

ROB & ERIN WEPLER

Air-Tech Mechanical

For 30 years our HVAC business has been offering service, maintenance and installations for residential and commercial projects, including gas/propane heating, air conditioning, air quality, ventilation, exhaust systems, sheet metal fabrication and ducting.

CLIENT CARE:

We are following the COVID-19 practices to protect both our staff and customers' safety and health.

AT WORK

Adaptating To Today: Although deemed an essential service, business slowed and we cut back temporarily, doing only a bare minimum of maintenance and repairs throughout the month of April. We are now back to business as usual. **Self-Isolation Benefits:** Extra time for cleaning up, organizing and putting new systems in place. Personally, it has been all about family time. With three grown children, the house has been busy – lots of eating, games, projects and quality time together.



Continued on page 74



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AT WORK

Adaptations: Our work remains steady and – with some shuffling of schedules and client cooperation – we are able to continue projects where clients are not present. We stagger our trusted sub-trades to avoid interaction. **Client Care:** We call or FaceTime, meet outside and social distance. We are following the government recommended guidelines and all employees have been briefed on procedures and have the necessary equipment to work safely.

THE GOOD:
A more focused contractor/client relationship, as many clients have more time to think about their projects. Better planning always means a better outcome.

AT HOME

Benefits: The extra time as a family has led to building a basketball court with our teen boys. It was hard work with many lessons learned and they are now reaping the benefits, spending hours daily on their court. **Lessons Learned:** Remember what matters most in life – your family and friends and savouring every moment you can spend together. Slow down a bit and breathe.

Continued on page 76

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AT HOME

Lessons Learned: Be prepared for anything, keep calm and keep on trucking. We are in this together.

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AT WORK

Adaptations: We are following all COVID-19 protocols as they adjust in our industry. Our team is equipped with PPE supplies and are taking all precautions when entering our customers' homes or construction sites. A win win. **Self-Isolation Benefits:** We have taken the time to update our software, which will benefit our customers. At home, it has been an opportunity to learn how to use a hair clipper!

Continued on page 78

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**LESSONS
LEARNED:**
*You truly learn
the strength of
your team and your
partners during a
crisis. Ours team
is top notch!*

AT WORK
Current Situation: Our incredible team has pulled together to work in creative ways to keep all of our projects moving forward. We have the expected safety protocols in place throughout our company, but we are fortunate to work outside, where we can be safe and enjoy the great weather. **Self-Isolation Benefits:** Seeing good people collaborate in unique ways to support each other and their communities even while physically distancing.

AT HOME
Challenges: Dealing with limitations while working from home and vendor accessibility. Also paying too much attention to the media. We keep up with good news, focusing on positive progress and long-term planning. **OH**

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A L A I R



PHOTO: MIKE CHAJECKI

CREATING A cottage vibe



STORY **REBECCA HAY**

IT'S COTTAGE SEASON.

Welcome to what is quite possibly my favourite time of the year. Nature is at its peak, colours are the most vibrant, and it's prime time for outdoor beauty. Canadians are more than willing to dive in, hoping to make the most of our short but sweet summers. I love cottage life and everything about it: the relaxed vibe, the casual atmosphere, that feeling of home.

Whether you're a weekend warrior with a summer retreat of your own to escape to, or you simply want to bring the cottage vibe into your home every day, here are some of my favourite ways to bring an easy-breezy cottage style to your interiors.

COLOUR

Colour is key to achieving the right ambience in a space, and when it comes to the "cottage vibe," the ask is fairly specific. It has to be relaxing, comfortable and fresh. In one word: white. White walls and trim are crisp and clean, bringing structure to the rustic-chic cottage aesthetic. For window coverings, white sheers are a great choice. They offer privacy at night, and let the sunlight and views stream in by day.

For the colour you crave, look to nature for inspiration. Sky blue or lush, leafy greens are a popular choice, or red for a classic look. If you're looking for something with a more modern "pop," mix it up with hits of fuchsia or purple. Remember, less is more. Use colour in small doses for things like pillows and accessories. *Continued on page 82*

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design ideas



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

NATURAL MATERIALS

The cottage look loves wood. Think vintage or rustic finishes for an instant earthy flair. Wood is solid and grounding. A dining table, accent chair, bowl or art – nothing evokes lakeside living like a well-loved piece of wood furniture.

Continue the trend of organic materials by using natural fabrics such as cotton, linen and wool, paired with woven furniture and accessories, like rattan and bamboo. These are all casual and comfortable choices because they wear well and contribute to a relaxed vibe. Bonus: they are environmentally friendly options too.

DESIGNER TIP

Details like tongue-and-groove panelling, shiplap, beadboard and wainscoting can create a relaxed atmosphere with the added bonus of durability. You'll thank yourself when wiping away those sticky ice-cream fingerprints with ease.

LARGE FURNITURE

Large-scale furniture is inviting, which is exactly what the cottage vibe is all about. For instance, a big sectional sofa invites everyone to flop down and put their feet up. If you don't have room for a large sectional, consider adding small ottomans or poufs to welcome guests to kick back, relax and tune out for a while.



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

ACCESSORIES

Regardless of the style you've committed to for your space, remember that the design is all in the details. Something as simple as sunhats hanging on a wall can create a unique look that leaves a memorable impression. Funky fabrics, fresh greenery and bright, airy spaces help to bring the outdoors in.

DESIGNER TIP

Looking for unique furniture finds, but on a budget? Shop garage sales, estate sales and second-hand stores for vintage treasures. They're a hot-spot for well-made pieces that can make a great style statement. Whether restored to its original glory or updated with modern upholstery and paint, you can bring new life to an old piece of furniture. From a bigger perspective, the more we can upcycle old furniture, the less our environmental impact.

Ultimately, the cottage vibe is all about being comfortable and welcoming company to feel at home. As they say, "mi casa es su casa," right? That sentiment is about the atmosphere, the food and drinks, and that free feeling that keeps you coming back and leaves you with good memories to last until next summer rolls around. You don't need a far-off retreat or 30-degree days to enjoy cool cottage style. **OH**



PHOTO: MIKE CHAJECKI



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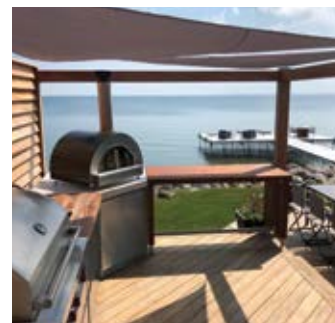
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(Please see ad on pg 14)



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(Please see ad on pg 47)



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- The kindling load should be sufficient to pre-heat the chimney and the stove's internal surfaces.
- Once kindling is flaming, add larger kindling to the fire.
- Once the larger kindling has charred and a stable fire has been established, add firewood, leaving the combustion air controls open until the stove reaches its operating temperature.

HOT START:

- Live coals from an overnight fire will usually be available in the morning.
- Rake the live coals close to the combustion air inlets.
- Place fresh wood behind and on top of the coals, taking care not to smother the coals.
- Leave the combustion air controls open until the stove reaches its operating temperature.

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(Please see ad on pg 9)

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We are offering our candle making workshops at our Retail Store in downtown Collingwood.

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27 Hurontario St and
Serendipity Factory Store:
20 Balsam St, Collingwood
serendipitycandlefactory.com

(Please see ad on pg 23)



MARKDALE FLOWERS

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(Please see ad on pg 31)



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(Please see ad on pg 29)



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(Please see ad on pg 85)



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@megsdrywall **519.270.6378**
megsdrywall@gmail.com

(Please see ad on pg 79)



THE WOODWORM

The WoodWorm commenced operations in 2004 designing and fabricating custom millwork for hospital diagnostic imaging departments. Concurrently, the owners, Andy and Deane Galea, expanded their scope of services to include custom fireplace mantels with associated cabinetry, audiovisual entertainment centres and home office workstations.

As the company matured, we came to realize that our passion is "Delivering Innovative Solutions in Wood". We offer our clients custom design services (using CAD drawing generation), precision fabrication and installation.

As our business evolved, our scope of services expanded to include precision cultured stone tile installation to accommodate the new fireplace stone wall settings.

Kitchen efficiency upgrades are also areas in which we have delivered to our clients an economical transition to a new kitchen utilizing existing cabinet carcasses with new faces and increased efficiency modules (as well as stone backsplashes and contemporary lighting).

Additionally, we believe that we are unique in the area supplying custom designed and fabricated Murphy Bed systems with associated accenting and functional cabinetry. With many couples retiring to the area and downsizing, we believe that there is a significant opportunity for us to assist clients in converting second bedrooms to home office/guest bedroom settings.

We enjoy interactive "visioneering" and delivering unique client-specific solutions.

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(Please see ad on pg 79)



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At our showroom/yard near Kincardine, you will find a huge selection of brick and stone, stone veneers, steps, pavers, firepits and more for all your projects. We have made great contacts with suppliers and quarries so we get the best quality and choicest selection of stone. You will find flagstone, armour stone, natural stone, interlocking pavers, walls and much more in a myriad of colours and styles.

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This is a one-stop-shop for contractors where you will find masonry tools, mortar, sands, sills, lintels, etc. However, West Shore Stone & Brick is open to the public whether you are a do-it-yourself type or need a contracting or landscaping referral.

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(Please see ad on pg 51)



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(Please see ad on pg 87)

IT'S GOT *rhythm*

“RHYTHM IS THE PATTERN OF REGULAR OR IRREGULAR PULSES CAUSED IN MUSIC, THE ARRANGEMENT OF SOUNDS AS THEY MOVE THROUGH TIME.” Continued on page 92

Cabinets by Wood Concepts line a wall in the open-plan main floor. Contrasting backsplashes and varying counters separate kitchen areas. The section on the left is used as a bar and serving table for dinner parties. The counter on the dining island is made from recycled glass and concrete.

STORY **RICH SHURMAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



ABOVE: The front facade of this modern saltbox home. The large windows allow light to flow from the front to the back of the house. Blue siding blends the home into the summer sky and honours the water beyond. Roofing was sourced at Rona J.E. Hodgins Lumber Ltd. **RIGHT:** The boardwalk to the beach draws the eye to the water and protects the natural vegetation. **FAR RIGHT:** Brad and Heather Amlin and Joel Bartlett stand on the stairs to the rear deck. **OPPOSITE:** The LED pendant fixture found on Etsy takes advantage of the opening to the second level. Simply White by Benjamin Moore was used throughout. Electrical was completed by Sepoy Wiring Ltd.



With rhythm as the guiding principle, Heather and Brad Amlin – in concert with architect and friend **Joel Bartlett** – set off on the pursuit of their dream home on the shores of Lake Huron.

The property in Amberley was originally purchased by Heather’s great grandfather in 1947 and it was always a treasured spot for their family. When Heather’s grandfather approached the couple in 2006 about selling, Heather’s immediate thought was, “We can’t afford to buy it.” Brad countered with, “We can’t afford not to.” They knew this was absolutely where they wanted to be and ultimately, to their good fortune, they took the dive. They sold their home in Oakville, purchased a small condominium in Kitchener and the cottage construction plan was underway. *Continued on page 94*



**BLUE DETAILS
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THE FLOW MOVING
FROM THE SHORELINE
TO THE INTERIOR
WITHOUT MISSING
A BEAT.**



The original cottage was a small, post-war, clapboard affair that had served the family well for more than 60 years, but if this site was to be their full-time residence, a new structure was absolutely essential. “I wanted a Malibu beach house design with large windows and open space,” reflects Brad. “I was interested in a more traditional Cape Cod maritime feel,” offers Heather. As it turned out, in collaboration with Joel, of **Joel Bartlett Architect Inc.**, they met squarely in the middle.

After being introduced by common musician friends, Heather, Brad and Joel hit it off and the project was a natural fit.

“Because of their love for music, I felt that a play on rhythm and patterns was the way to approach the design,” offers Joel. “It was all about intentionally building moments into spaces and transitioning from one room to the next by having a compressed space leading to another with volume and openness, much like a composition.”

A wonderful example of this design approach is represented by the catwalk on the second floor that leads to the master bedroom. “The master bedroom is the crescendo after the bridge, musically speaking,” says Joel.



TOP: Paint left over from the build was used by a friend to create the art hanging over the live-edge console table. Radiant in-floor heat keeps toes warm in cooler months and was installed by Montgomery's Comfort Centre Ltd. **ABOVE:** The front hall closet is tucked into this niche just inside the front door. **LEFT:** The hand-blown pendant lights echo the colour of the water just beyond the Lepage windows. The flooring throughout is sustainably-sourced engineered hardwood by Nadurra, from their rustic Neue collection in Danube.

The entire home has this delightful sense of rhythm and beat and these undeniable feelings move seamlessly from indoors to outdoors. They flow from the beach, along the boardwalk, on to the welcoming facade of the structure and then naturally into the light, airy interior. “This is what it’s all about – the open concept, views of the beach everywhere and the light feeling that embraces you throughout,” says Brad. “I love to wake up, open the blinds and see the lake,” says Heather. “It was exactly what we had in mind, and Joel nailed it.”

The home has a modern saltbox feeling. It is clean and purposeful with simple angles and form, offset by inspired cladding materials, quality electrical service, installed by **Sepoy Wiring Ltd.**, large windows and doors from **Bavarian Window Works**, radiant in-floor heating by **Montgomery's Comfort Centre Ltd.**, and splashes of colour for contrast. “The Amlins had a vision of what they wanted and I brought some of my own to the equation,” adds Joel. “I am there to facilitate the process. Apart from the design elements, I also bring a passive and holistic

Continued on page 96

ABOVE: A wormy maple live-edge coffee table grounds the living area of the main floor. Matching deep sofas are comfortable for relaxing and listening to music. **LEFT:** Open treads on the custom (Arise Stairs) stairway keep sight lines unobstructed. A quiet reading spot has a view to the front of the home.

RIGHT: At the top of the stairs to the second level is a desk area and intimate seating to watch movies. Glass railings float over the main floor. **BELOW:** The catwalk to the master bedroom. The cords of the dining pendant light appear as a sculpture. **BOTTOM:** A guest bedroom on the second level. Window coverings are Sun Glow roller shades from Blissful Blinds.



sensibility to the build. Things like a tight thermal building envelope, efficiencies to reduce energy costs, orientation of the building and maximizing the best use of the site itself.” Interior decorator Claire Malterer worked in association with Heather, Brad and Joel. “This was absolutely a collaborative effort and Claire brought the colours, finishes and furnishings that perfectly paralleled the intent of the design,” says Heather. “She really understood what we wanted and more

importantly, what was needed.” Blue details throughout keep the flow moving from the shoreline to the interior without missing a beat. The entire space feels like it is floating, from the open comfort of the main floor and on up the feature staircase by **Arise Stairs**, to the spectacular bedroom level. “The music is always on in the place,” offers Brad. “We have wireless speakers throughout the house and it is a constant. Besides the beach, the water and the views, music is a large part of the allure for

Continued on page 98

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us here. I play guitar, and through musician friends we met Joel, who is also a player.” So it comes as no surprise that the design and the flow of the home reflects that shared affection. As it happens, Brad is recently retired and Heather can work from just about anywhere, so making this lovely cottage their permanent residence has definitely struck all the right chords **OH**

TOP: The view that greets Brad and Heather as they enter the master bedroom. Arctic Gray on the walls by Benjamin Moore adds a calmness to the room. **ABOVE:** A cork-lined feature wall acts as the headboard for the master bed. The clean aesthetic in this room reinforces what Claire Malterer, the designer, felt was needed and added nothing extra. **RIGHT:** In the master en suite a floating vanity holds a single vessel sink. The corner window captures the view.

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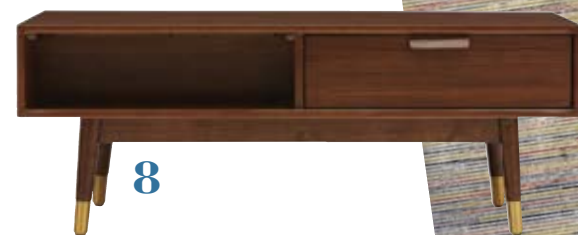
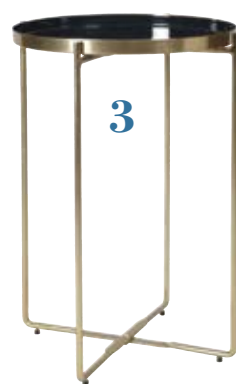
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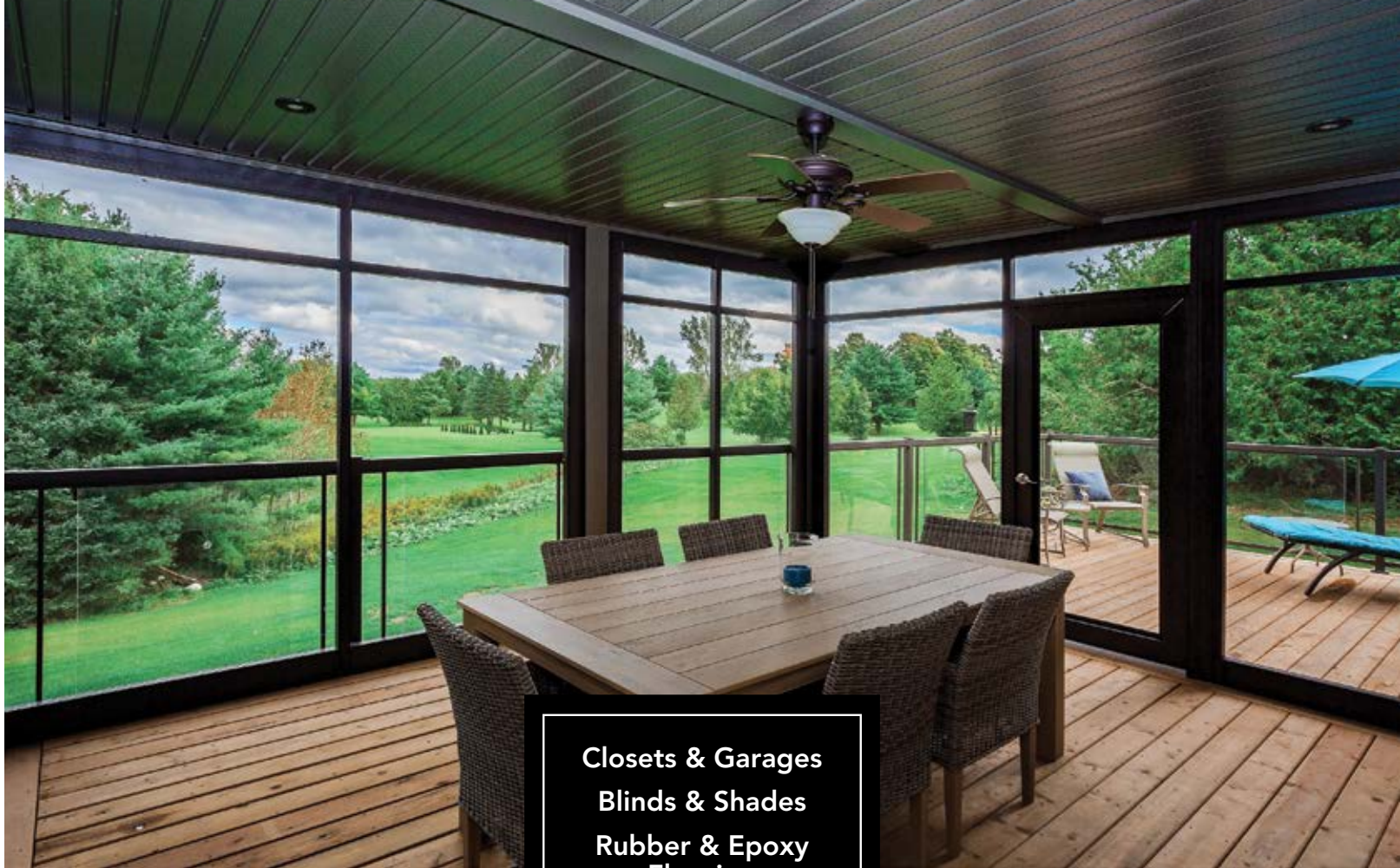
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STORY CHERYL LONG

Song suite of photographs by Francesco Scavullo



They say that a picture is worth a thousand words but according to professional photographer Harold Feng, it can say so much more. Not only does a captivating image dress up a blank wall, but it can do double duty by bringing a feeling or sense of emotion to a space.

“Having and displaying photos lets you express yourself and your personality,” Harold says. Melissa Heaman, owner of Harbour Mill Design in Baden, Ontario, feels the same way. “Photography is a great way to display images of personal significance as well as evoke emotions and personal style.”

From special pieces of art to innovative sculptures and planters, there are so many ways to add interest to your walls. But few tell a story quite like a photograph. Whether you invest in professional imagery or choose to display some of your own photos, here are a few tips to make the most of this special medium.

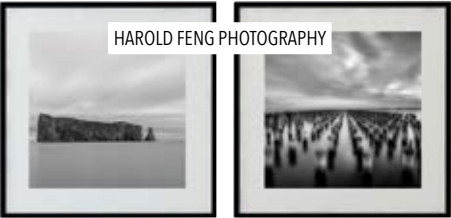
COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE?

It depends, Harold explains. Both are popular but if you’re hoping to evoke a more uplifting, cheerful ambience, colour is the way to go. Black and white images tend to create a more moody, mysterious feeling and work well on a white or grey wall. Walls painted a more dramatic hue are better balanced with colour images.

But that doesn’t mean you can’t mix both, Melissa says. “Combining black and white and colour photographs together is absolutely acceptable if the room’s design allows it. Where black and white can be timeless and classic, colour can complement other accents in the room’s décor.

PLACES, PEOPLE OR THINGS

When it comes to subject matter, the sky’s the limit. Landscapes, architecture and people are photography mainstays, Melissa says, but today’s trends are focusing on images of barn animals and abstract photography using experimental photography methods. Still, she suggests choosing art based on personal interest over passing trends.



MELISSA OFFERS SOME ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR HANGING YOUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS:

- 📷 Pairings, groupings or grids for a more organized and traditional look. (She suggests using vintage frames to display modern photos.)
- 📷 Large scale, either on canvas, metal, wood or framed behind glass.
- 📷 Wire hung/gallery-style by dropping an image into the room from two wires above.
- 📷 Leaning on a picture ledge, dresser, shelf or tabletop is a great way to create an effortless look and easily switch pieces out.
- 📷 Mounted in front of millwork or shelves – a fun way to experiment with traditional style.

PUTTING THEM ON DISPLAY

This is where the possibilities are truly endless, far beyond arranging frames on a table. Robin Boles, owner of Robin Interiors in Kitchener, Ontario, suggests creating a gallery wall-style grouping, designing a picture ledge or going with large-scale photos either framed or blown up on canvas. Spacing between multiple photos should be kept to a few inches, she recommends, and remember the rule of odd numbers. “Things on display usually look better in groups of three or five.”

There are several ways to replicate a gallery feel, though Harold says he prefers a balanced layout of black and white images hung next to each other along a wall. The hanging height is very important as well. “The museums and galleries have all photos at eye level,” and though that height can differ from person to person, the rule of thumb is 57 to 70 inches from the floor. If you’re hanging an image above furniture, leave a five- to eight-inch gap.



MIXING MEDIUMS

There are no rules when it comes to placing a striking photo beside a beautiful watercolour or a unique wall sculpture. “I absolutely would display them together without really overthinking it,” Robin says. “Pay attention to repeating motifs – colours, shapes, sizes.”

Considering your room’s style and function is crucial, Melissa suggests, before choosing the subject matter, display method or size of photos.

Budget is also key and with today’s technology don’t be afraid to mix your own photographs with professional works of art to create a price-conscious, truly custom look.

If you want to add a sense of variety and another dimension of interest to your home décor, photography is a fantastic option. For those who want to invest beyond their own photographs, your best bet is to consult someone like Melissa, who is an art-educated designer, or an art dealer, gallery or professional photographer. **OH**



MULTI-PLANT HANGER

A VERTICAL HANGER THAT MAKES IT EASY TO GROW HERBS OR DISPLAY FLOWERS.

PROJECT **DAWN MCCONNELL**
PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**



MATERIALS

3 round cork trivets
Paper for template
Heavy card stock
1 spool of cord
1 metal ring
3 small plant pots
3 flowering plants or herbs

TOOLS

Scissors
Pencil
Utility knife
Glue
Small drill bit
Drill



HOW-TO

Start by creating a paper template to use for cutting and drilling your trivets. On a piece of paper, draw a circle 1 inch smaller in diameter than your trivet and cut it out. In the centre of your paper circle, draw another circle 1 inch smaller in diameter than the mouth of your plant pot and cut it out. Fold your paper template in half twice, then unfold. These fold lines will indicate where to drill the holes in your trivets.

Place your paper template in the centre of a cork trivet and trace around the smaller, inside circle. Cut out the circle using the utility knife. Repeat with the remaining two trivets.

Stack trivets and place your paper template on the centre of the top trivet. On the outer edge, using the fold lines as a guide, drill four evenly spaced holes in the trivets.

Next, make some extra circles out of heavy card stock, which will be glued to the bottom of each trivet for more stability. To do this, place your paper template onto your card stock and trace and cut three more circles. Glue these to the bottom of each trivet.



Now you're ready to attach your trivets with cord.

Cut 2 pieces of cord into 8 foot lengths, fold in half and loop through your metal ring, making a knot. Now you will have four strands hanging from the ring.

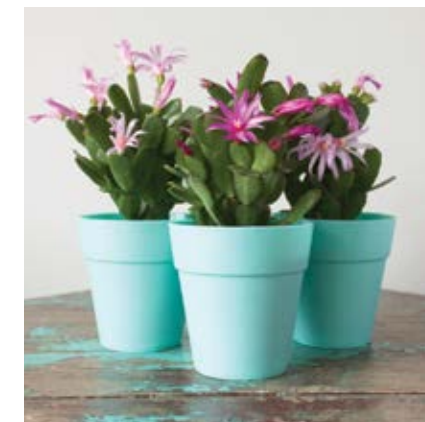
Thread the cord through the holes of the first trivet, then wrap the cord over the edge and thread through the holes again for adjustable stability.

Place the second trivet on the cord 12 inches from the first trivet and repeat threading. Do the same with the last trivet, leaving enough cord to tie a knot.

Adjust and level trivets. Apply glue into the holes to secure cords and let dry.

Gather the bottom cords, tie a knot and trim if desired.

Plant flowers or herbs in planters. Add planters to trivets and hang! **OH**



finishing touch



al fresco DINING



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