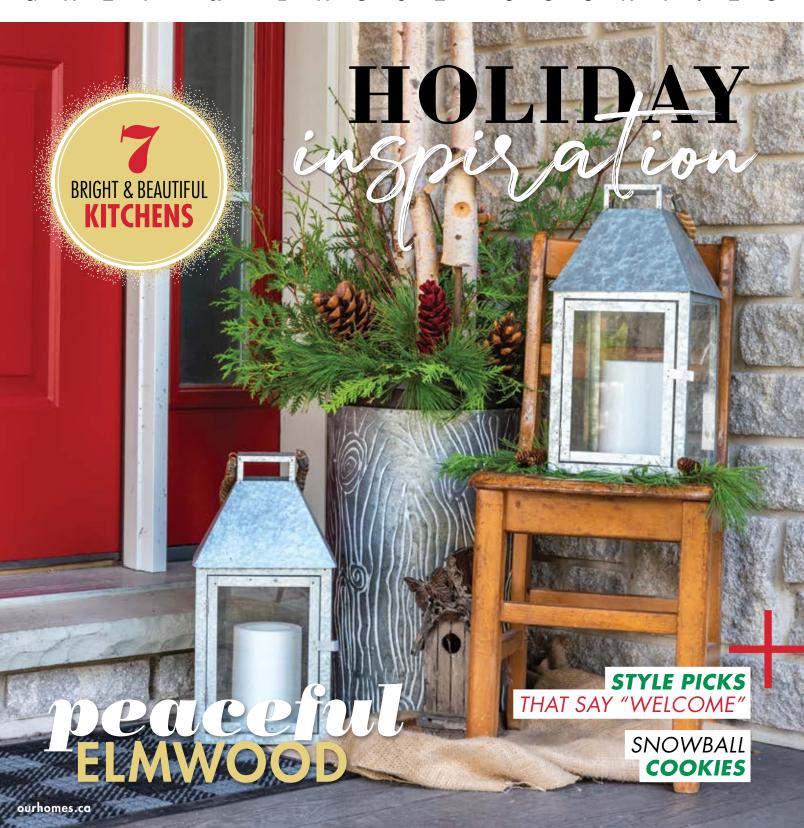
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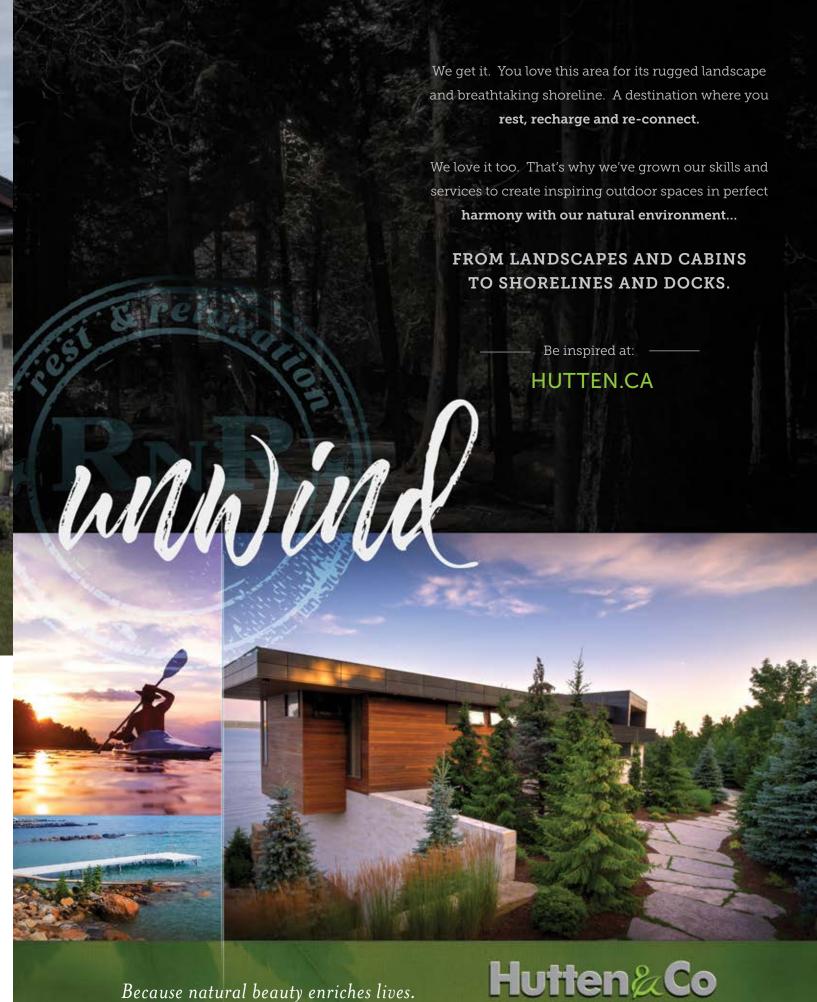
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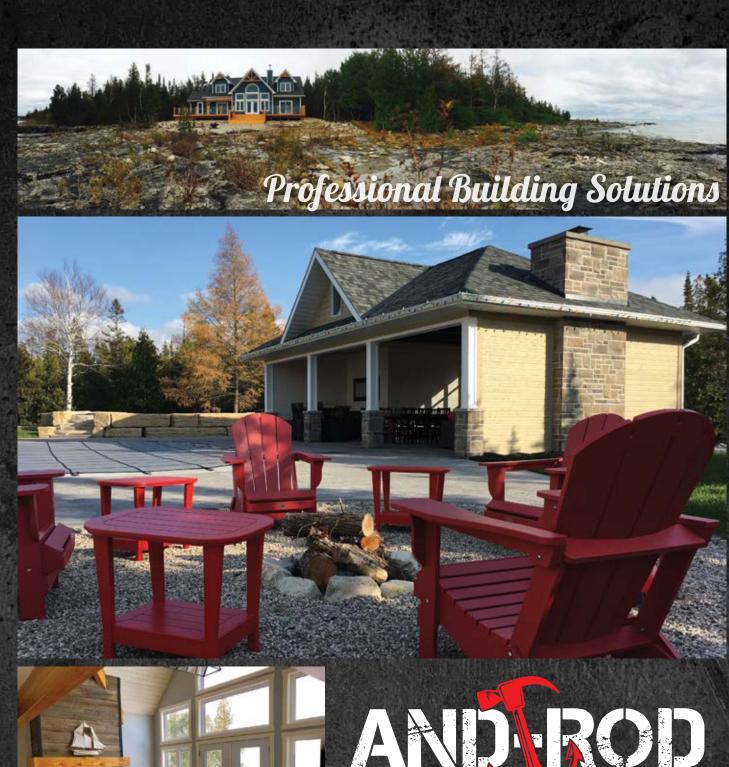














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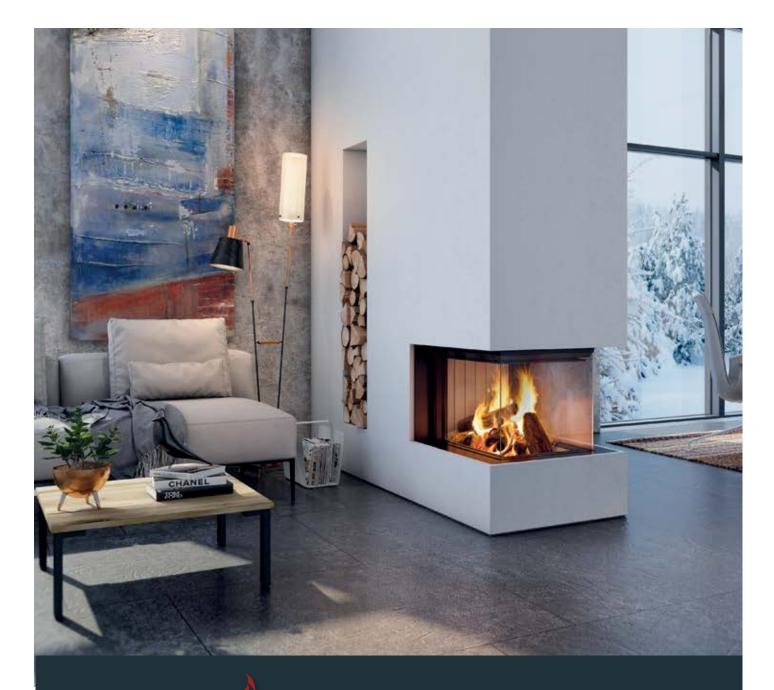
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### editor's note









Geothermal

## IN MY 50-PLUS YEARS I'VE BEEN LUCKY

to see Canada's first female prime minister, the first female RCMP commissioner and the first spacewalk by women. There have been many more historic and triumphant milestones for women but I don't have the space to list them all. As Annie Lennox sang: "Sisters are doin' it for themselves," and we are!

This issue, our People feature highlights women working in jobs that we most often associate with men. These tradeswomen took advantage of opportunities, embarked on successful careers and are thriving.

Our holiday feature takes us to the Southampton home of Heidi Shields. Heidi's incredible imagination, creative genius and DIY attitude will demonstrate that anything is possible. If you want more inspiration, jump inside the The Kitchen Tour, where seven beautiful kitchens will have you reimagining and planning the renovation of the room where we all spend so much time.

Sending warm wishes for the happiest holidays to everyone. See you in 2020!

Cheers

Sona Montin

Sara Martin, Managing Editor sara.martin@ourhomes.ca

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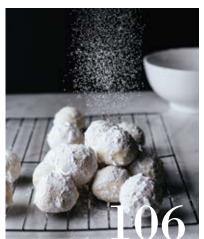
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## CONTENTS

HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20











## LOCAL FEATURES

- **18 Style Picks** Delight friends and family with these stylish decorating additions.
- **28** Feature Home A whimsical, colour-filled holiday home in Southampton.
- **54 Spotlight** Grab some dreamy bargains at Home Decor & More.
- **58 Kitchen Tour** Seven gorgeous kitchens full of ideas for your next renovation.
- **74** People Women in trades throughout Grey and Bruce Counties.
- **86** Home & Builder Finding solitude in a forever home.

## **DFPARTMENTS**

- 12 Editor's Note
- **16** Advice Stairway To Perfection
- 22 Gardening Cedar Care
- 24 In The Kitchen Award-Winning Design
- **40** Double Take Green Room
- **42** Decorating Keep It Simple
- **46** Design Ideas Flooring Trends
- **50 Real Estate** Modular Homes
- 70 Crafty Ideas Starry Wreath
- **72** Decorating Get Cosy
- 102 Design Ideas All About Family
- **104** Home Resource Directory
- **106 Cooking At Home** Almond Snowballs
- **108 Finishing Touch** Bar Hopping



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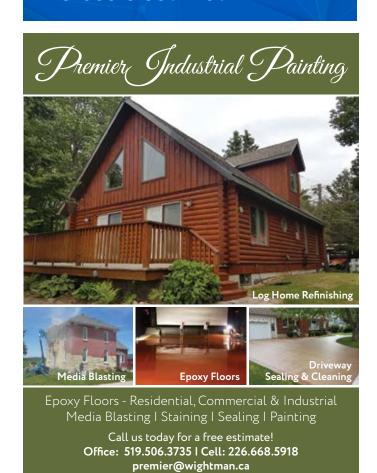
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## **STAIRCASES** GOING UP AND DOWN IN STYLE

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

Staircases are corridors, leading both the eye and visitor from one storey to the next. An important element in the design and function of a home, stairs can make a dramatic or subtle statement.

When planning a new staircase or renovating an old one, it's important to seek a reputable staircase manufacturer who can provide expert advice on types of steps, spindles and handrails, as well as crucial information regarding timing and pricing.

### DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Staircase design is based upon your needs and wants, for example:

Architectural style: Gothic Revival, Georgian, craftsman

Function: utilitarian, statement piece or discreet?

**Shape:** straight, scissor, open, closed or double (à la Gone With

Materials and finishes: wood, glass, iron, metal, painted or carpeted?

#### SAFETY FIRST MAKE IT STRONG AND MAKE IT SAFE

"Stairs are the most complicated aspect of your home, and your contractor can't make important decisions on-site that could contradict the Ontario Building Code (OBC)," states seasoned contractor Dan Robinson. "Even the smallest change can become a life-safety issue, affecting permit requirements and construction. Hire a professional who can design what you want and help you make important decisions to get your permit."

#### ALL GOOD THINGS REQUIRE TIME

Whether traditional or modern, all professionals agree: Stair placement and design should be one of the first interior elements considered when planning a project. "It's important



to have a clear, unified vision between all parties: client, builder and homeowner," says Lee Whitaker, President of Barrie Trim & Mouldings. "Make sure all parties involved are all on the same page, trying to achieve the same outcome."

#### TIPS FROM THE PROS

Ask for shop drawings and 3-D renderings. They're a great way to review your decisions prior to building and installing a staircase.

Beware of falling in love with internet images. Staircase details from other jurisdictions may not follow strict OBC requirements.

#### **OPEN-PLAN LIVING**

Minimalist staircases are the eye-catching, sculptural focal point of many interiors. Their seamless design utilizes materials used elsewhere in the home, adding to a spacious feeling. A modern staircase can be the hallmark of a unique home.

To create a sound staircase with minimal structure, customstair professionals prefabricate each component, often using computers to ensure each piece is precisely cut. With the skeleton installed early in construction, all details must be finalized in advance - details cannot be modified on-site.

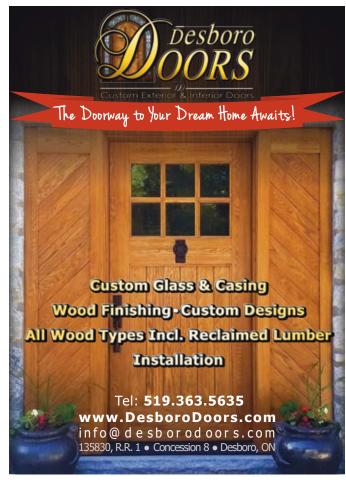
#### THE FUTURE OF SPECTACULAR STAIRS

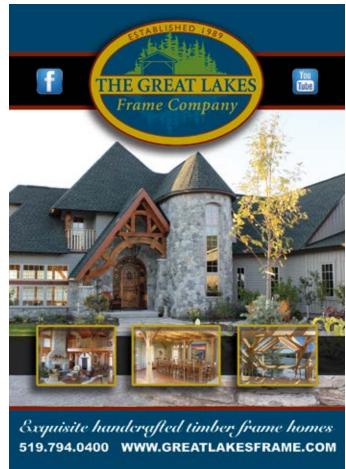
Lighting: LEDs show stairs in their best light, and can be placed on the wall, tread, handrail or riser. To avoid shadows on staircase treads, use a light source with a wide beam.

Varying materials: Mixing metals and metal finishes offers another colour and sensory option for your décor.

Laser-cut balustrade: Any design imaginable can be created for your unique project.

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Continued on page 20





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Cedars are some of the most widely misunderstood and often unappreciated trees in our area.

Throughout my 20 years as a landscape designer, I've witnessed countless disparaging remarks about the humble cedar - the most common being their tendency to attract mosquitoes. It's certainly true that, in the wild, cedar trees naturally populate damp areas, and these damp places appeal to mosquitoes. But in a cultivated setting, a cedar will attract no more of the biting insects than any other tree on your property.

In fact the common and unpretentious cedar has a place in nearly every outdoor space, no matter how large or small – and has countless positive attributes.

As evergreens, cedars retain their foliage throughout the winter, keeping their lush look year-round.

Cedars are fast-growing, robust conifers that hold up well in cold climates.

Great for small spaces, cedar is quite malleable – trim it to fit the height, shape and width desired.

A hedge of cedar makes an excellent privacy, wind or sound screen.

Planted along a driveway, they're brilliant as a barrier for rolling basketballs and the like.

A cedar can be an excellent refuge and nesting site for small animals, and the ample seeds a food source for local birds and wildlife.

Cut branches of many types are excellent for Christmas arrangements,

Cedar wood is naturally disinfecting and resistant to water damage, hence its use in applications from saunas to cutting boards.

The compound thujaplicin gives cedar its trademark pleasant scent.

## **COMMON VARIETIES** OF CEDAR

#### EMERALD CEDAR (THUJA OCCIDENTALIS "SMARAGD"

With a very tight, emerald green, conical form, these are the formal types often planted in a stately row, in pairs to flank an entryway or as a specimen planting. For best success, young trees should be protected by a wrapping of burlap for the first winter after planting. Like all cedars, they favour moist soil.

#### WHITE CEDAR (THUJA OCCIDENTALIS)

Often referred to as swamp cedars, these native cedars can be found growing in moist areas and along shorelines, though they also occur in dry areas where the soil is not acidic, such as on limestone. They provide invaluable shelter to a host of birds and mammals all year long. In urban settings, this variety is normally grown as a hedge.

#### BLACK CEDAR (THUJA OCCIDENTALIS "NIGRA")

Very similar to white cedar. Tough, and even tolerates some shade. Another great hedging variety, it has a smaller stature and its bark and leaves are a darker green.

#### **DEGROOT'S** SPIRE CEDAR (THUJA OCCIDENTALIS "DEGROOT'S SPIRE")

An interesting cedar tree with slightly twisted branches and a narrow, upright form. It's quite beautiful, but less vigorous than other types. Planting these cedars in a protected area with adequate moisture, plus wrapping them for their first winter after planting, is essential.

## HEALTHFUL BENEFITS

Cedar has a long and impressive history of medicinal uses, earning the name arborvitae, meaning "tree of life."

With potent and beneficial phytochemicals, the essential oil of Thuja occidentalis is antimicrobial, antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal with immune-stimulating properties as well. Cedar also acts as an expectorant, aiding in chest congestion and productive coughs.

Cedar is a sacred plant to Native Americans and revered for its medicinal, household and ceremonial purposes. Exceptionally high in Vitamin C, cedar was used to treat and prevent scurvy, and Indigenous people taught early explorers and settlers to the New World to make tea from cedar and other conifers. Some First Nations communities would dry and powder the leaves to use as a poultice for various skin conditions. Traditionally, the Algonquin used an infusion of the leaves to treat children with colic. The Abnaki, Algonquin and Iroquois treated rheumatic illnesses with topical applications of this versatile plant.

This winter season, why not try adding cedar to a bath for its immune-boosting, circulatorystimulating and mild painrelieving properties. Cedar foot baths work well, too: Simmer a few hearty handfuls of leaves in a pot on the stove for about 20 minutes and strain. As an herbal steam, cedar is wonderfully aromatic and helpful in breaking up sinus and chest congestion.

For all its medicinal. aromatic, aesthetic and utilitarian qualities, the cedar has remained a humble tree one that warrants consideration in your next outdoor project. OH

## Great Lakes Custom Homes & Renovations









From crystal light fixtures in the powder room to a luxurious faux fur throw in the master bedroom, today's homeowners aren't shy about adding a little bling to their décor. But what about one of the most-used spaces in your home? From shimmering quartz countertops to brilliant gold finishes, today's kitchen is more than a utilitarian workhorse; this family hub is going glam.

Designer Robin Boles received the 2019 bronze award in the Kitchens Under \$50K category from the Decorators & Designers Association of Canada (DDA) for her 70s glam kitchen design. She was working for Olympia Cabinets at the time, but today she's the owner and principal design consultant of her own business, Robin Interiors. Though glam can mean something different to everyone, she says it touches on the three Es: energizing, elegant and elevated.

WHETHER IT'S AN ODE TO THE 70s OR A DIVE INTO THE FUTURE, HERE'S A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO ADDING A TOUCH OF GLAM TO YOUR OWN KITCHEN SPACE:

It's more the seasoning than the main. Glam is something you use as an enhancement, keeping in mind your home's architecture, your design preferences and existing décor. Unless you're planning to start from scratch with a walls-to-furnishings overhaul, it's important to connect the old and the new. And don't forget to add a few glitzy elements to other rooms to tie the spaces together.

Find your inspiration. It could be a friend's gorgeous new light fixture or the picture-perfect image of a room online. The choices can be overwhelming, but a designer can help you narrow them down so the final outcome reflects your personal taste. Continued on page 26



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## in the kitchen

What's the scope? Are you doing a full reno or just switching out a faucet and hardware? A cosmetic update can be a great way to add new life to a room, assuming you're happy with the flow and functionality.

Budget and timeline. These are two of the biggest factors that will impact any makeover. Consider the amount you're planning to spend and the extent of your patience with the renovation process.

Glam isn't always practical and that's one of the things we love about it. Marble countertops will need extra care as they age. Shimmering crystals, high-gloss cabinetry and gleaming metallics gather dust and fingerprints. Be prepared for a little extra cleaning or use some of those special details in an out-of-the-way place, like an upper cabinet. Of course, there's always marble-look quartz that's prized for its "install and forget it" attributes.

Be bold with finishes. Traditional cabinets are a safe choice, but if you want your kitchen to make a statement, consider glossy lacquers or a dramatic black or dark matte finish that's on-trend. Walnut veneers are also having a moment.







Add an element of surprise. Look closely and you'll see gold and purple sparkles running through the Cambria quartz countertop in Robin's kitchen design. Not every client is comfortable with purple in the kitchen, but it's that kind of detail that adds wow factor. The same holds true for backsplashes. The geometric pattern with textured gold accents adds a punch of eye-catching dazzle and turns the backsplash into a prime focal point.

Embrace colour. Jewel tones are all the rage, from paint to lighting to artwork. Pulling in a splash of rich plum, deep navy or vibrant emerald is a great way to add a touch of glamour to any space. Combine it with texture - imagine velvet kitchen stools in a gorgeous hue - for added impact.





Don't scrimp on the jewelry. That's the role lighting plays in adding glam to a room. This is where you can go to town on the details, Robin says, adding as much or as little sparkle as you like. Glass, crystal and metals in a polished finish bring a glittering glow to the room.



Make a statement with hardware. This holds true for both budget-friendly updates and extensive renovations. Gold turns a kitchen faucet into something special and the choices in stylish cabinet hardware are definitely bling-worthy. Don't be afraid to mix metals either; gold and silver or bronze and nickel are both striking combinations.

Whether you're planning a full kitchen renovation or a modest update, incorporating some sparkle can elevate one of the most popular gathering places in your home. on







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STORY KRISTIN SCHNELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

The other-worldly home of Heidi and Bob Shields is an exercise in contradictions. The colours, patterns, collections and creations can be jaw-dropping – yet somehow peaceful and calming. Alarming in this corner, but in another perfectly subdued. Chaotic on the surface, but created with painstaking attention to order and precision. It's a lot to take in. And every inch of it is the work of Heidi. Continued on page 30

#### **OPPOSITE:** A

vintage chrome and formica table sits in the centre of the kitchen. White cabinets are a neutral backdrop for the colourblocked floor and backsplash. **BELOW LEFT:** A little metal Volkswagen bus becomes a Christmas decoration with the addition of a tree and wreath. BELOW **RIGHT:** Holiday items on the kitchen counter match the colour scheme.



## feature





An artist by nature and painter by trade, Heidi has been continually remaking her Southampton home since the couple first built it, more than a decade ago.

"The initial floor colour was silver, and everything in the house was white, black or grey," remembers Heidi. And she truly means everything - photographs show that every item on every shelf, even the walls, ceilings, furniture – was a solid colour in that black-and-white palette. But, after a few years, "I was just ready for a change."

Thus began a long line of complete home redecorations, primarily by way of paint. In one iteration, the high vaulted ceiling of the great room appeared as the inside of a red-and-white striped awning, complete with frilled edges cascading

onto a wall. This candy theme saw bold colours in every room and vases filled with oversize lollipops and other bright, rainbow treats.

When that same ceiling displayed a dramatic multi-coloured sunset mural, the majority of the house was bathed in a sky-blue. Heidi's lofty, realistic clouds floated seamlessly on walls, trim, doorways.

Her passion for colour, kitsch and creativity began long before this current home, as she describes her last house: "By the time we moved, the inside was filled with stalactites and stalagmites. I made the entire place into a cave." And prior houses, even back to her childhood home, always acted as palettes for her neverending ideas and energy. Continued on page 33

TOP LEFT: Heidi decoupaged this chest with vintage music posters carefully cut from a book. The doors, painted by Heidi, lead to the master bedroom and en suite. OPPOSITE, **TOP:** Fantail goldfish hand-painted by Heidi adorn the master bedroom wall. The colours on the wall repeat on the geometric patterned floor. BOTTOM LEFT: Another Fantail in the master en suite presides over the space. White lights twinkle from beneath the vanity. **BOTTOM** MIDDLE: Festive glass decorations on the vanity sparkle as the sunlight shines through the window. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A bedside table in the master bedroom has a white miniature flocked tree and white miniature chairs.









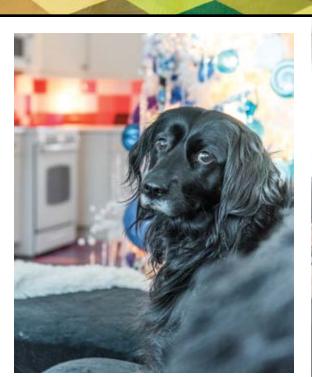


"I used to fight it," admits Bob. "When Heidi said she planned to paint the entire bathroom black, I just couldn't imagine it. But when I came home and saw the result..." He smiles, "It was really good. I don't know how she does it."

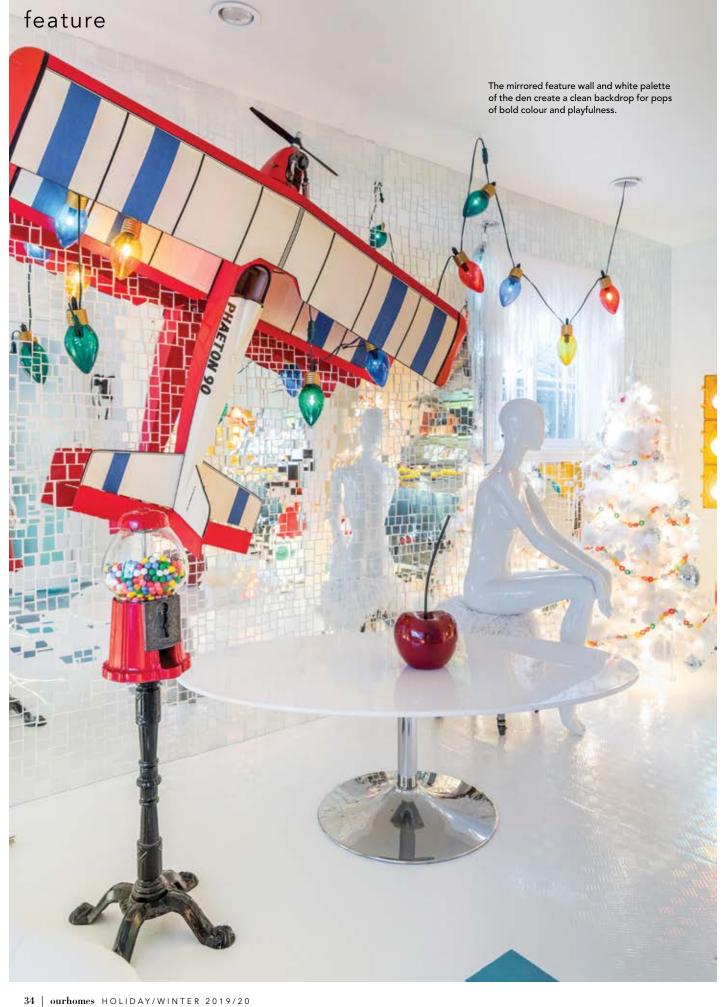
Her current whimsical theme, with its geometric pattern and undulating range of colours, took Heidi roughly six months to complete. The home's original flooring material, a sturdy, textured vinyl, proved a perfect canvas. Using mostly both latex and craft paint – donated mis-tints and remainders from friends – she carried the squares over every surface, transitioning from one colour scheme to another throughout hallways and rooms via floors, walls and doors.

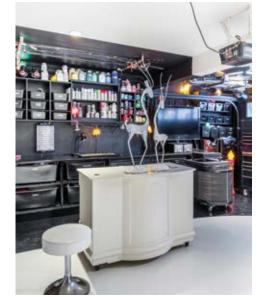
Continued on page 35

**LEFT:** Stairs to the lower level have a Deco feel in context with the geometric pattered floor. **BELOW LEFT:** Evelyn, the family's pooch, sits on the sofa in the great room. **BELOW:** The open shelves below the television are a study in organizing collectables.











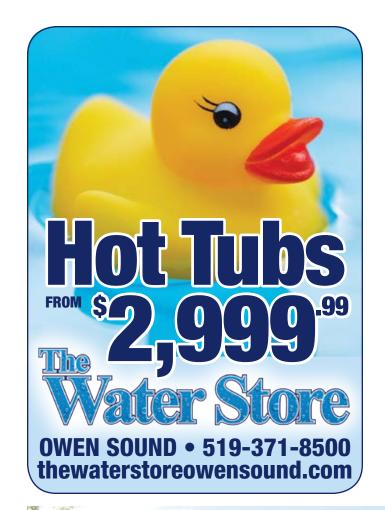


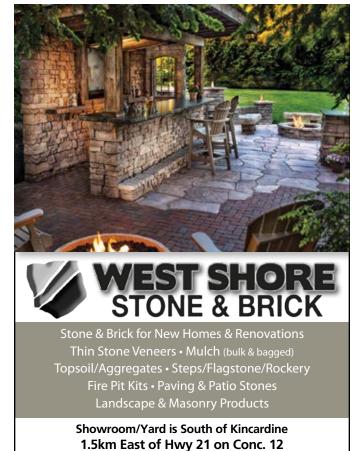
lookout for creative solutions. Bright-white yarn cascades from a curtain rod, creating a waterfall valance in the den. Dollar-store thumbtacks pressed between her painted squares define corners. A book of vintage music posters, after hours of slicing and sticking, creates an eye-candy decoupage centrepiece in an antique cabinet.

Where does she find her inspiration? Pinterest, for once, isn't the answer. "I'm not sure where my ideas come from, really. They often just come to me, sometimes while just daydreaming," Heidi says. Continued on page 38

**TOP LEFT:** The garage has been transformed into Heidi's studio, where she works on private commissions and her new projects. **TOP RIGHT:**Heidi's Jukebox is surrounded by holiday cheer and a flying swordfish. **LEFT:** Giant snowflakes hung from the ceiling add a touch of Christmas to the lower-







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## feature





The home was on the 2018 Chantry Island Cham-Bettes Christmas Tour of Homes. Hundreds of visitors got a first-hand peek at Heidi's creations and holiday decorations. The Chantry Island Cham-Bettes is a women's service club in Saugeen Shores. Over the years the tour has raised more than \$73,000 for multiple community initiatives.

Heidi says it's time to move on to her next theme. While she doesn't yet have a plan in mind, she does know some of her favourite features will remain, including the mirrored mosaic wall - which she intends to duplicate in grand style, covering the largest wall of the great room.

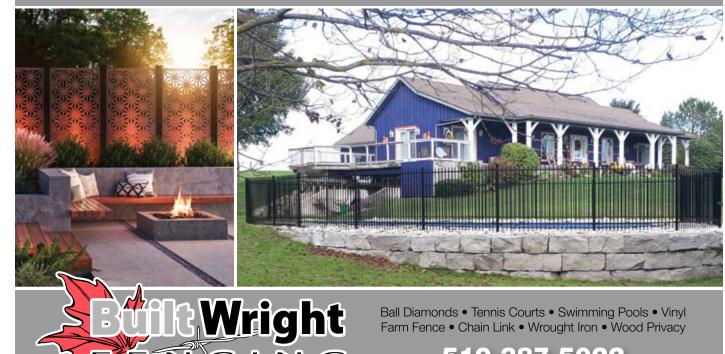
There's little doubt this next transformation will be a stunning one, full of energy, playfulness, charm and delight - reflecting the very attributes of its modest, hardworking maker. on

LEFT: The impressive Pez collection in the guest bathroom creates an interesting display that doubles as storage for bathroom tissue. TOP: Tiny lights and a perfectly decorated tree elevate a doll





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1. CURREY & COMPANY: Grand Lotus Gold Chandelier 2. RENWIL: City Views by Amber Fey, Printed

on Canvas 3. SUNPAN: Cornella

40 | ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20

## decorating





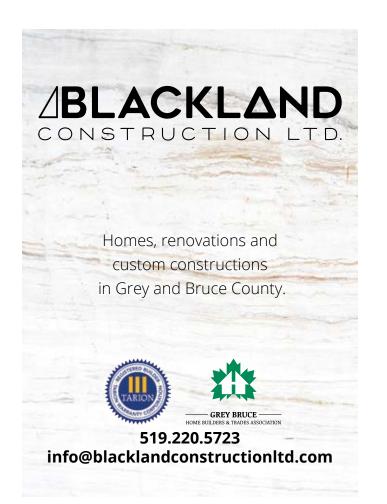
STORY TAMARISK
MCNALTY STEPHENS
PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG

In the world of interior design, there is always a debate about minimalism versus maximalism, and whether "more of less" or "more of more" reigns supreme. It becomes as much a philosophical debate as an aesthetic one.

One is not better than the other, trendy or passé. They are simply different approaches on how to curate and edit the environment in which you inhabit, based purely on personal preference.

Both aesthetics are equally difficult to execute properly and require just as much thought and attention to detail. A minimalist space of "too little" can feel cold, bare and incomplete when implemented with the wrong formula. A truly maximalist space of "too much" can seem chaotic without consideration of the principles and elements of design.

Continued on page 44







## decorating

### MINIMALISM

Although the term minimalism has become more mainstream during the last decade, the concept emerged in the 1950s visual arts and was later applied to other streams, such as architecture and interior design. Its focus is on intentionality - removing the distraction of excess to focus on core values or life purpose. Minimalism is not so much about how much (or how little) stuff you have but is focused on deciding what is wanted and needed. One of the biggest misconceptions about minimalism is having to live with bare necessities and doing without life's luxuries. The intention is the opposite - to consciously decide what is important in your life and creating a life centred around that.

#### Minimalist interiors tend to exhibit the following qualities:

- an uncluttered, simple, clean space
- \* a monochromatic colour scheme
- \* items that meld function and beauty
- \* focus on architectural features rather than on decorating
- \* focus on essentialism (nothing is generally present without thought to function)
- \* a strong emphasis on light, form and material selection

#### You might prefer a minimalist interior if:

- \* you like clean lines and uncluttered space
- \* you're overwhelmed by too much stuff
- \* you prefer the calming effect of natural, subdued colours









### MAXIMALISM

In the world of interiors, maximalism was born as a reaction against minimalism. A maximalist space is defined by more of everything colour, patterns, art and accessories. The appeal for people who love decorating and collecting is that there are no hard and fast rules and it's about personalization over perfection. Although minimalists would find a maximalist space cluttered and excessive (one of the biggest misconceptions about maximalists is that they are hoarders and that there is no sense of order in their space), a successful maximalist space has been highly curated to keep it from turning into complete disarray.

#### Maximalist interiors generally include the following characteristics:

- \* layers of patterns
- \* bright, bold colours
- \* a blend of different period styles
- \* collections of art, found objects, heirlooms, etc.
- \* an air of glamour

#### You might prefer a maximalist interior if:

- \* you are energized by bright, bold colours and various patterns
- \* you love collections
- \* you find minimalist spaces to be boring and devoid of self-expression

At the end of the day, the way you choose to live in your home is an expression of your style, lifestyle, beliefs, appreciations and values. Everyone has different preferences and can handle various levels of stimulation in the environment that surrounds them. Whether you prefer "more of less" or "more of more" – regardless of what's trending – just do you. он





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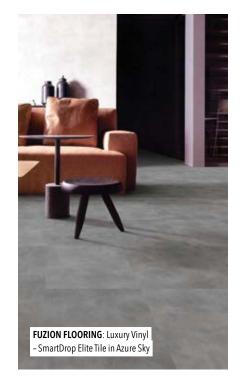




## LAMINATE \$

Modern laminate flooring products are a popular choice for good reason. They're cost-efficient and ultra durable. Aesthetically speaking, they are not far behind their costlier counterparts. In fact, today's laminate products are head and shoulders above their predecessors, thanks to advancements in technology and the manufacturing process. Expect to see crisper, deeper embossing and colours that are faithful to their original counterparts. Check out laminate wide-plank flooring, which looks uncannily like hand-scraped hardwood, or tiles that are suspiciously similar to stone, slate and travertine. You'll have to touch them to confirm if they're authentic or fabulous fakes.

**DESIGNER TIP:** Laminate flooring is a great choice for high-traffic areas like playrooms and basements. As a high-impact, low-cost option, I like to match a laminate to my engineered wood and substitute the lesser in the basement. The result is a low-cost. high-impact look you'll love. Check out the vast collections of engineered hardwoods available today like Kitsilano - Cypress Peak. Alternatively, its cheaper but equally stunning stunt double, is SoHo - Silver Oak Laminate.



## **LUXURY VINYL TILE \$\$**

When it comes to price, luxury vinyl tile is a step up from laminate - and the same can be said for its durability and aesthetic attributes. This product delivers a high wear-resistance, with the bonus of being water resistant and, as some manufacturers even claim, waterproof. I suggest seeking out options with a base layer of cork and opt for glue-free click systems that stay in place thanks to their own weighted design.

TRY IT IN: Playrooms and basements. It's even suitable in light commercial settings.



## **ENGINEERED WOOD \$\$\$**

Now this is the most expensive and, in my designer opinion, the most beautiful option. Who doesn't love real wood floors? Solid wood is susceptible to seasonal gapping and buckling, thanks to seasonal fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels. For these reasons and more, solid wood floors have made way for engineered wood products. Now, don't get me wrong – all wood is prone to water damage, but by virtue of its construction, engineered wood can withstand more pressure. Engineered wood floors are made from a layer of real wood bonded to sub-layers like plywood, which are arranged in multiple directions to lend stability and eliminate warping and bowing This added stability also allows more varied plank sizes, widths and lengths - not to mention a lower price than solid wood.

IDEAL FOR: Above-grade floors, layered over in-floor heating systems, and if the budget allows, in a finished basement for a more harmonious look between levels in the home



At first glance, flooring may not be the sexiest design element in your home, but it's certainly one of the most important ones. Your floors are a part of your home that everyone sees and uses daily, whether they do so consciously or not. Perhaps a fabulous floor will make you more aware of the beauty that lies underfoot on

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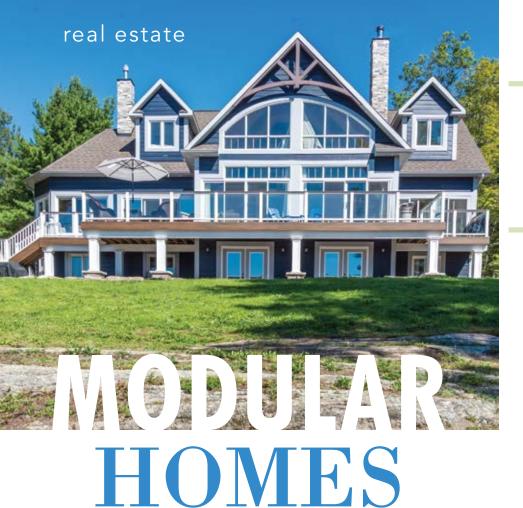
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STORY WALTER FRANCZYK
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

A popular housing option for more than a century, modular homes have evolved from do-it-yourself kits to fully customized dwellings with the latest in finishes, energy savings and technology.



In the early 1900s, Sears, Roebuck and Company sold tens of thousands of prefabricated homes. Ordered from the Sears catalogue for as little as \$750 for a two-storey, three-bedroom house, they arrived by train in a kit, ready to assemble – some 30,000 pieces, including pre-cut lumber, nails, paint, shingles and an instruction booklet. The company shipped hundreds of homes every month. They were popular until the Great Depression, when the housing market crashed and Sears lost millions on loans issued to homebuyers.

Today's modular homebuilders have taken most of the work out of the equation for homeowners. They manufacture houses in modern factories, then truck the modules to building sites where they're assembled with a crane.

Peter and Sara Orgill bought their new modular home, a two-storey house from Royal Homes, three years ago. The 2,200-square-foot house arrived on five trucks, less than nine months after they bought their lakefront property. Building homes indoors is a better way to do it, says Peter. "I'm convinced you get a far stronger house," he says. "This thing is just rock-solid in high wind, so you don't hear any noises or creaking or anything like that." Asked if they're happy with their purchase, Peter says they are "thrilled to death."

Most clients come to Royal Homes because the company is a very qualified and leading custom homebuilder, says president Pieter Venema. The fact that they build homes using modular units is a supportive factor, he says. "We believe that's a better way to build just because of the quality of the structure. Building in a controlled factory environment reduces waste and produces a better product."

Home construction indoors prevents cold, rain or snow from delaying work or making its way into the structure, causing problems with mould. Building from the inside out, as opposed to the opposite in on-site construction, allows penetrations for electrical outlets, wires and plumbing to be sealed before insulation and exterior cladding is installed, Pieter explains. It enables Royal to build an air-tight house with good insulation and reduced heating costs. Royal builds between 100 and 150 homes a year at its Wingham factory, and Pieter reckons demand has grown 10 per cent annually for the last three years. Continued on page 52







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George Tierney, marketing manager for Guildcrest Homes, a modular builder based in Morewood, expects his firm to build about 120 homes in 2019. While quality is the foremost reason people choose modular homes, the indoor building method ensures timing and controls cost, George says. "When we tell you we are delivering your home, that is the date we're going to deliver and complete your home shortly thereafter. When we give you a price for your home, that's the price you're going to pay," he says. Most modular builders have design centres where clients can choose their cabinetry, flooring, fixtures and finishes. Making those choices early in the building process provides owners with a price guarantee and assured delivery.

Modular homes are built to CSA standards and are certified by an independent inspection body. These steps significantly reduce the number of on-site inspections required of municipal building inspectors. In addition, builders have their own rigorous internal inspections. When home modules arrive on site, they are wired for electricity. Plumbing, windows, cabinets, flooring, trim and countertops are all installed. Crews simply marry the factory-built units, apply finishing

touches and complete components, such as roofs with multiple peaks or long slopes, that are easier to build on site.

Factory-built homes cost roughly as much as homes built traditionally. "We essentially build custom homes," says Royal's president. At Guildcrest, George says his company does not sell on price. "We do not put ourselves out there as a less-expensive home. We simply aren't," he says. "You can't be better-built and cheaper. The math just doesn't work."

The growing popularity of modular homes is partly driven by a decline in the number of skilled tradespeople available for on-site building, George suggests. "By building 85 per cent of a home in a factory, the demand for skilled trades on site is dramatically reduced."

With fewer young people going into the trades, Pieter expects residential developers will move in the direction of modular building by using pre-engineered and pre-built panels. He predicts some may shift to modular building. "Eventually you're going to see one or two of the big developers setting up a modular factory strictly for their own building requirements," he says. "I'm sure that they will find economies of scale." OH





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THE PLACE: Home Decor & More is a decorator's dream retail shop. Located in Owen Sound, it's filled with discounted overstocked inventory from two leading online retailers. This shop was the first Home Decor & More opened by Rhonda Kirk and with its success, she launched two more locations, in Collingwood and Alliston – all offering an amazing selection of home furnishing and décor items.

THE PEOPLE: Operating three stores keeps Rhonda very busy, but she has a great team that works together to give her customers an incredible level of service, making shopping here a pleasure. Kayla works behind the scenes and handles social media. In particular, she posts 10 or more items on Facebook a day to alert customers to new arrivals or seasonal décor. She also arranges customer pickup



at the store of your choice. Rob keeps the store looking great, organizing incoming products and creating new vignettes. Robyn is in charge of visual sales and can visit your home to help with colour consultations and furniture placement, using pieces from the store and special-order items.

**WARES:** Deeply discounted prices are the store's calling card. Twice a week, truckloads of beautiful home furniture, lights, bedding, rugs and accessories arrive at the warehouse in Owen Sound. Those shipments are quickly distributed to all three stores. An added bonus is the holiday décor that appears throughout the year and offers seasonal decorating inspiration.



WHAT'S HOT: Visit the store often to see what's hot because the inventory changes weekly. You don't want to miss that perfect addition to your home!

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54 | ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20 ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20 | 55







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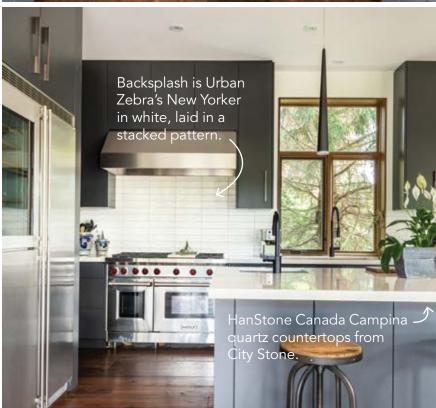




















60 | ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20 | 61















ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20 | 63

















Continued on page 66

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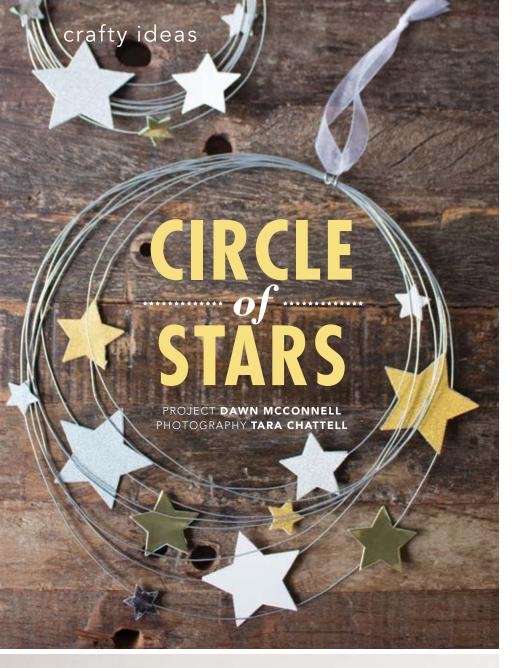








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## Materials

18-gauge galvanized wire

Glitter paper or glitter foam (we used gold, silver and white)

Glue gun or bottled glue Length of ribbon or twine, for hanging

Tools

Wire cutters

Scissors

## How-to

Determine the size of the wreath by forming a circle with the wire. Continue to wind the wire, forming between seven and nine circles in various diameters. Leave a tail of wire about two inches long.

Holding the bundle in one hand, wrap the tail around the wire circles several times.

Cut pairs of stars from glitter paper or foam in a variety of sizes for the front and back of the wreath.

Grab a pair of stars and apply glue to one side of each star. Pick a strand of wire, line up stars on each side, then sandwich the wire between the two stars. Repeat, adding stars at random throughout the strands until you love your design.

> Tie ribbon or twine at the top of the circle to hang your wreath. OH













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# WINTER warm-up

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#### THE CRISP AIR AND EARLY EVENINGS OF WINTER LURE US INDOORS

to hibernate - if not for an extended period through these cold months, then at least for some quality time to cosy up after a long day braving the freezing temperatures. We like to approach the task of seasonal décor as we would a wardrobe. Just as the weather defines the clothes you wear, so too should it play into what you have in your home. By layering some key elements into your décor, your space will be cosy as can be, regardless of the temperatures outside. Here are some of our favourite ways to crank up the heat, without ever touching the thermostat.







#### Accessorize in Layers

Combine colours, patterns and various textures to lend your home a warmer overall visual impact. An area rug layered over a larger rug or wall-to-wall carpet creates a luxurious, plush effect. By the same logic, double-up on your cushions and throws, too. Sofas, loveseats, chairs and even a corner of the room can instantly become that coveted cocoon we all so desperately need in winter.



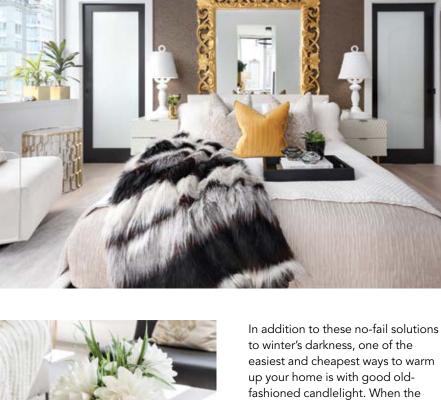
#### Heavy Fabrics

Heavier textiles are a great addition to the home when temperatures fall. Think velvet, thickset corduroy, faux fur, wool and chunky cable-knit designs. Swap out your lighter bedding and use richer, heavier, textural and weighted sheets, blankets, bedspreads and accent pillows. Consider swapping out your window coverings with the change in seasons, too. While a second set of heavier-fabric drapes is a bit of an additional investment, it'll be worth the spend and the benefits are twofold. You'll create a warmer. cosier look overall in your home, and heavier window coverings can actually help naturally regulate your home's internal temperature, giving your utility bills a break.



#### Warm Light

Believe it or not, the type of light bulbs you choose has a huge impact on the visual temperature of your space. The neutral option, bright white, is not quite yellow (on the warm side) nor blue (on the cool side). If you wish to warm up the look of your home, simply replace your bright white bulbs with soft white ones, which are a slightly warmer shade and a very popular choice in living rooms and bedrooms, where a cosy ambience is typically preferred. With any kind of light, use dimmer switches - we can't stress this enough! In fact, we recommend putting a dimmer on every light. They're a great way to customize your home's lighting, depending on the season, the occasion or your mood.







easiest and cheapest ways to warm fashioned candlelight. When the temperatures drop, line your mantels, windowsills, shelves and tabletops with arrangements of glowing pillars and tealights. Place your candles in view of a mirror to double the light and warmth. Let's not forget the obligatory PSA: Be careful to never leave burning candles unattended, or consider high-quality faux battery candles.

With Canada's drastic swings in temperature throughout the year, it only makes sense that our homes adapt in order to provide us with comfort and style. If your objective is to warm up your home, play a word association game for inspiration. To you, warm might be something physical, such as a fireplace stacked with wood, or a woolly blanket rolled up at the foot of the bed. Perhaps warm is something more abstract, like a colour or a particular scent. Think cinnamon. With the right seasonal switch-ups, your home will be perfectly toasty, all year round. OH

Phyllis Lui and Aleem Kassam are partners at Kalu Interiors.

# SHE'S the ONE

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN TRADES.

# **MICHELLE GREEN**

ELECTRICAL TECHNIQUES STUDENT

Georgian College Owen Sound

Michelle is a new mother and realized the importance of studying to achieve her dream of becoming an electrician. Georgian College has been very supportive in helping her reach this career goal.

#### AT HOME

After Class: Cuddling with my little baby girl!

Favourite Movie: The Harry Potter films. Dream Car: Black BMW X6 M with a tan interior.

#### AT WORK

Why This Program: In 2015 I graduated from Georgian College as a PSW. I decided to return to Georgian College because this program will offer more opportunity and give me the experience I need to land an apprenticeship as an electrician. Are You Enjoying The Program: Yes I am! I also see it as a way to stay in this area and provide for my family.

HOLIDAY
PLANS:
Relaxing
with family.



# NYNKE LANDMAN

### **BRYDON CARSON**

CNC OPERATOR

South Gate Cabinets Inc.

At South Gate Cabinets, Nynke and Brydon take pride in producing quality custom cabinets for every room in a home.

**BRYDON** 

AT HOME

How Do You Relax: I love

heading home to work on my

business, Personally Yours Decorating,

where I am a wedding and event florist.

Favourite Movie: Pretty Woman. Dream

**Car:** Full-size Range Rover in dark blue with a black interior. **Holiday Plans:** 

Family gathering and working

on Christmas flowers.

#### NYNKE AT WORK

#### How Did You Become A

Forewoman: I actually started apprenticing as a hairdresser. When I returned home, my father's company was growing so I jumped on board and worked my way up, learning every aspect of this business. Best Part Of Your Job: Working with the raw materials and seeing it all come together and the smile on the client's face during the installation.

#### BRYDON AT WORK

How Did You Become A CNC

Operator: I came to South Gate
Cabinets on a college placement in
interior design, which segued into a
full-time position. About a year and a
half ago I started training on the CNC
machine. Job Satisfaction: It's great
being part of a team where
everyone is equal.

#### NYNKE AT HOME

How Do You Relax:
Crafting. Favourite Movie:
Serendipity. Dream Car: 2020
Ford Bronco in white with all the bells and whistles. Holiday
Plans: Spending time with

family, all 11 of them!

Continued on page 76



DAKOTA

#### AT WORK

Your Job: I started working at Bruce Telecom 20 years ago in Tech Support. When the position of cable splicer came up, I apprenticed and learned everything from a co-worker. Job Satisfaction: I will be happy being a splicer until I retire! Education:

I actually went to school for computer programming.

#### VICKY GUEST CABLE SPLICER

**Bruce Telecom** 

Vicky is a cable splicer at Bruce Telecom. She installs, splices, tests and repairs fibre-optic cables.

#### AT HOME

Downtime: Home,
cooking dinner for my
family and having a nice cold
beer. Favourite Movie: The
Princess Bride. Dream
Car: Fully loaded
Mini Cooper!

#### AT WORK

#### **How Did You Become A**

Drywall Taper: I was working in the construction industry as a general labourer.

I wanted to move to the Grey-Bruce area and a friend suggested I call Meg, as she was very open to hiring women. She hired me and trained me. Job Satisfaction: When I was working in construction, you did not often get to see the finished project. Since drywall is the last step in home construction, it is very satisfying to see a project completed. Education:

I graduated with a degree in social work.

HOLIDAY
PLANS:
Florida to visit
my parents.

## SARAH PICKFORD

DRYWALL TAPER

Meg's Drywall

Sarah's work at Meg's Drywall ranges from taping, mudding and sanding a 100,000 sq. ft. industrial project to finishing smaller residential jobs.



After Work: A massage and a nice glass of wine. Favourite Movies: Back to the Future and The Goonies. Dream Vehicle:

Mercedes G-Class Wagon with a red exterior and black interior.



Continued on page 78

ourhomes HOLIDAY/WINTER 2019/20 | 77



How Did You Start: I knew Jeff, the owner, through a previous job. I helped him out one day and that led to a permanent position. I enjoy working for Lockwood Painting; it's laid back but busy at the same time and Jeff is a great employer. **Education:** I went to Collège Inter-Dec in Montreal for Interior Design, so I am great at helping clients choose colours. My late father taught me how to paint 17 years ago.

# **DONNA-LEA** TOMLIN SUPERVISOR

**Lockwood Painting** 

colour consultant.

Lockwood Painting offers painting, wallpaper hanging and removing, small drywall repairs and wood-finishing services. Donna-Lea is a supervisor and

#### AT HOME

After Work: Play sports and chill with my dog. Favourite Movie: The Step Up series of films. Dream Car: Mercedes AMG E 53 convertible in black.

**HOLIDAY PLANS:** Spending time with family and friends at home.

**HOLIDAY PLANS:** Spending time with family and friends.

#### **SHARAH YOUNG**

JOURNEYPERSON PLUMBER

Prentice Plumbing & Heating Ltd.

Sharah's first trade was welding. She was offered the opportunity to become a plumber and she loves this change in her career.

HOLIDAY/WIN

#### AT HOME

After Work: Just spending time with my family and playing with my four-year-old daughter. Favourite Movie: Muriel's Wedding. Dream Car: AMC Gremlin.

#### AT WORK

Why A Plumber: I actually started welding for art. Because it's hard to make a living as an artist but I enjoyed the welding, I went on to get my ticket, then worked on bridges and taught welding. I was offered a plumbing apprenticeship while working at the Toronto Zoo. **Job** Satisfaction: I work with a great group and I enjoy seeing each project completed. Mark, the owner of Prentice Plumbing and Heating, is a great supporter of women trades as well.

Continued on page 80



#### AT WORK

#### **Tell Us About Your Job:**

Every day is different depending on the stage of a project, so that keeps work very interesting. From the diagram to the finished and installed project, I get to see it from start to finish. **How Did You Learn The Trade:** My father was a woodworker and he

would let me watch, but I was not allowed to help because I was a girl. When I met Andy (co-owner, husband & head worm) he let me try and I really liked it.

# **DEANE GALEA**CO-OWNER & CABINETMAKER

#### The Woodworm

Deane is a cabinetmaker and partner at The Woodworm, which offers custom mantels, cabinets, wall units and murphy beds.

#### AT HOME

After Work: Yoga, wine and hot tub! Favourite
Movies: Under the Tuscan
Sun and Robin Hood: Prince of
Thieves, which was the movie
I saw with Andy on our first date! Dream Car: Silver
Tesla Model S.

HOLIDAY
PLANS: We will
be spending it
with our children
and our three
grandchildren.







OYAP is a School to Work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program.

The goals of OYAP are:

- To provide students with the opportunity to start training in a skilled trade while completing the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- To enable students to make the school to work transition by direct entry into apprenticeship training.
- To provide employers with the opportunity to train the skilled workers they require.
- To provide a viable solution to address the problem of skilled tradespeople shortages in general, and specifically the lack of young people joining the trades.

#### Contact Dave Barrett at Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Bluewater District School Board and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
351 1st Avenue North Chesley, Ontario NOG 1L0
519-363-2014 | 1-800-661-7509





#### AT HOME

After Work: I have barrel horses that I race. I also do my crafts and hydro dipping. Favourite Movie: Forrest Gump. **Dream Truck:** Silver Dodge Ram dually truck with a Cummins engine and a threehorse trailer!

### **KAREN DUNNILL**

**ACZ LICENSE** 

Multiple Enterprises Inc.

Karen hauls commercial loads for Multiple Enterprises Inc. Recently, she's been hauling gravel for roadwork on Highway 6 north of Wiarton.

# AT WORK

**Driving For:** Twenty-two years, almost half my life. After high school, I studied to be a dental assistant. I worked one day in the clinic and knew that it was not the career for me. Most of my family are truckers. This has been the right choice. Training: I took a course, and when I finished, I was hired by a trucking company. I had an informal apprenticeship with an experienced driver who taught me a lot.

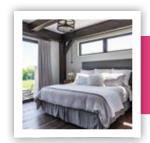




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Continued on page 84

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Debbie DeWhite at 519.376.0840, ext. 2065. GeorgianCollege.ca/skilledtrades

GeorgianCollege.ca/apprenticeships

#### AT HOME

After Work: I come home and head to the barn, where my mum and I have horses, chickens and some kittens.

Favourite TV Show: Grey's Anatomy. Dream Truck: Ford Raptor in electric blue with a black interior.

#### **LEAH LEGARY** LICENSED PLUMBER / STEAMFITTER

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Leah, a licensed plumber, recently completed a project in Hamilton and is looking forward to her next assignment. She is thankful OYAP offered an opportunity to explore and experience a trade as a career.

#### AT WORK

About The Program: In high school, I did a co-op with a plumber and after the co-op ended I continued under OYAP. After I became licensed, I realized I was not using all that I had learned. I wanted a change and decided to become a unionized steamfitter. What A Steamfitter Does: Steamfitters are construction workers who assemble, install, maintain and repair pipes. Some of the pipes carry steam, but they can also carry chemicals, compressed air, liquids or fuel. on

#### **HOLIDAY PLANS:**

Most years my grandmother cooks Christmas dinner for the family. This year, my mum and I are cooking the whole meal and my grandmother can sit



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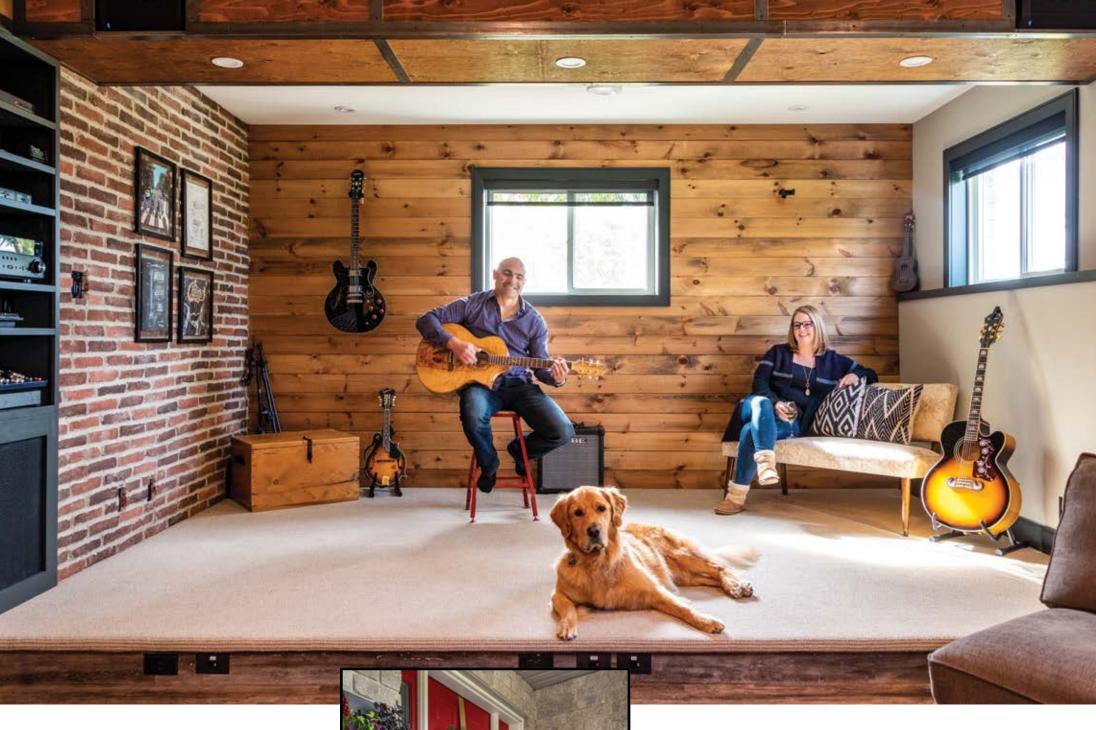




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# SANCTUARY

STORY RICK SHURMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

Derrick and Wendy Frook grew up in Bruce County - Wendy in Eden Grove and Derrick in Chesley. They purchased two acres near Elmwood – a stone's throw from where they were raised – to build their forever home. "We love the country, we love the rural life and it made no sense to leave," explains Derrick. "We needed to slow down, take a breath and really start to enjoy each and every day," says Wendy. Continued on page 89

#### home & builder

**BELOW:** The cosy sectional from Smitty's Fine Furniture faces the electric fireplace and television on a reclaimed wood wall sourced at Hanover Home Hardware. The walls throughout the lower level are painted Cosmopolitan from Benjamin Moore. The area carpet was sourced at Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home. **RIGHT:** Behind the sliding barn door is a flexible space that can be used for an extra bedroom or an office. The lower-level flooring is luxury vinyl plank. **BOTTOM:** Angled for a perfect view of the stage and musicians, Derrick's grandmother's chair and foot stool honour the family ties that are very important to the couple.







Their sanctuary is nestled in a wooded grove, bordered by pastures with a full complement of cows.

"We're in the Pioneer Settlement of Lamlash, a hop, skip and a jump from Elmwood," declares Derrick. This is a quiet pastoral setting that speaks to a lowkey, laid-back kind of lifestyle. "We love it here," says Wendy. "It gives us the peace and quiet we enjoy, but it's only eight minutes from Hanover, so we get the best of both worlds. We can get whatever we need just down the road, but we get to enjoy our solitude in a setting we chose and we designed."

Adds Derrick, "We are, by design, a little isolated and independent, but we still have a real sense of community and have established good friendships along the way."

The Frooks bought the land in 2004. They had to clear some acreage to create an access road and a proper location for the home's footprint. They built a charming, comfortable house with everything they needed at the time, but left plenty of room for a renovation when the time was right. Four years after the house was finished, they enlisted Wendy's high school friend, Heidi **Schaus** of **Heidesigns**, to help finish their lower level – the final step to complete their home.

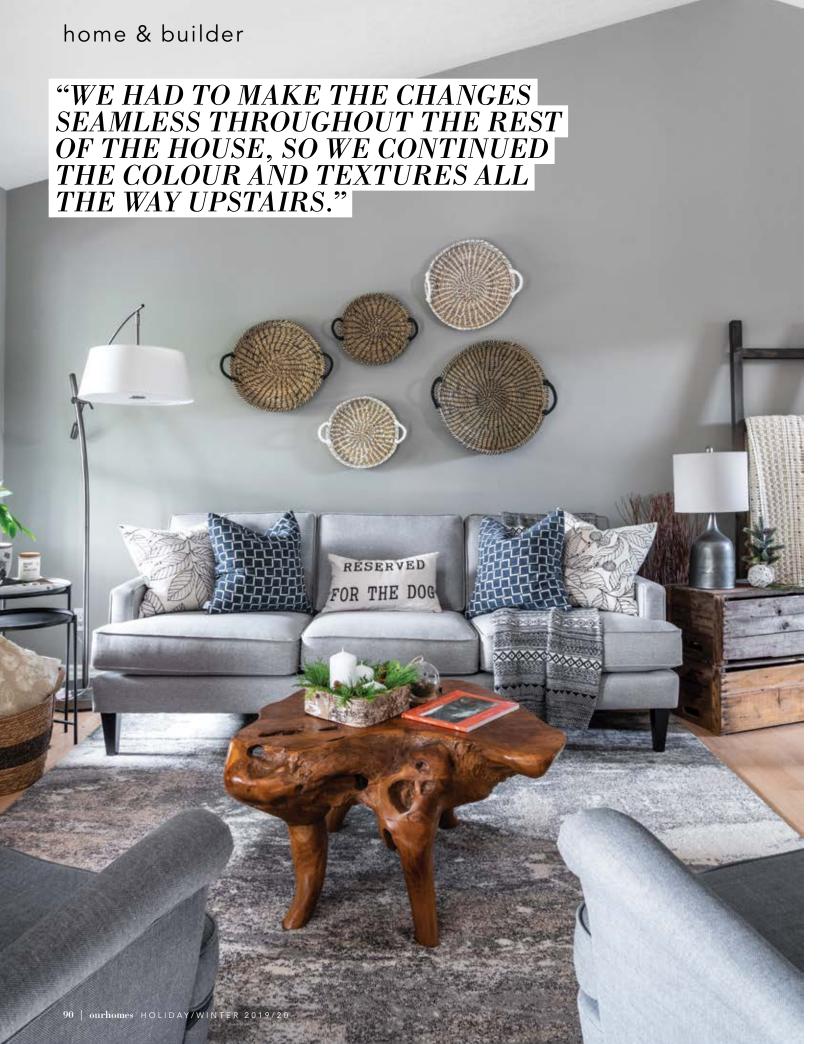
At the time they were thinking about a recreational space, where family and friends could gather around a card table, a board game or watch television. Those drawings and their plans gathered dust for the next 10 years as their careers took front and centre. Continued on page 91







TOP LEFT: Music memorabilia appears in the lower level, including this string art guitar. **TOP RIGHT:** The reclaimed wood wall, sourced from Timeless Materials North, in the guest bathroom directed the wall colour, Benjamin Moore's Amaretto. All paint was purchased from Cuneo Interiors. ABOVE: Wendy's photos make a striking gallery in their simple black frames. LEFT: A fully-equipped home gym was an important part of this renovation. One wall is mirrored and the rest of the walls are natural pine tongue-and-groove from Hanover Home Hardware.



**OPPOSITE:** Woven baskets stand out against the wall painted Benjamin Moore's Upper West Side. Lots of pillows and winter throws make this a comfortable spot to relax. **BELOW:** Antique crates are refinished and stacked as a side table. Décor items are grouped together for visual interest. **RIGHT:** The fireplace creates a cosy spot in the upstairs seating area. A hand-hewn beam was used for the mantel and a photograph by Wendy hangs above the mantel.



Derrick is a homegrown musician and has an impressive guitar collection. The new plans included a raised, soundproof and wired platform for Derrick to play music with his friends. "We get together once in a while to jam or rehearse," says Derrick. "It's exactly what I wanted." Continued on page 92





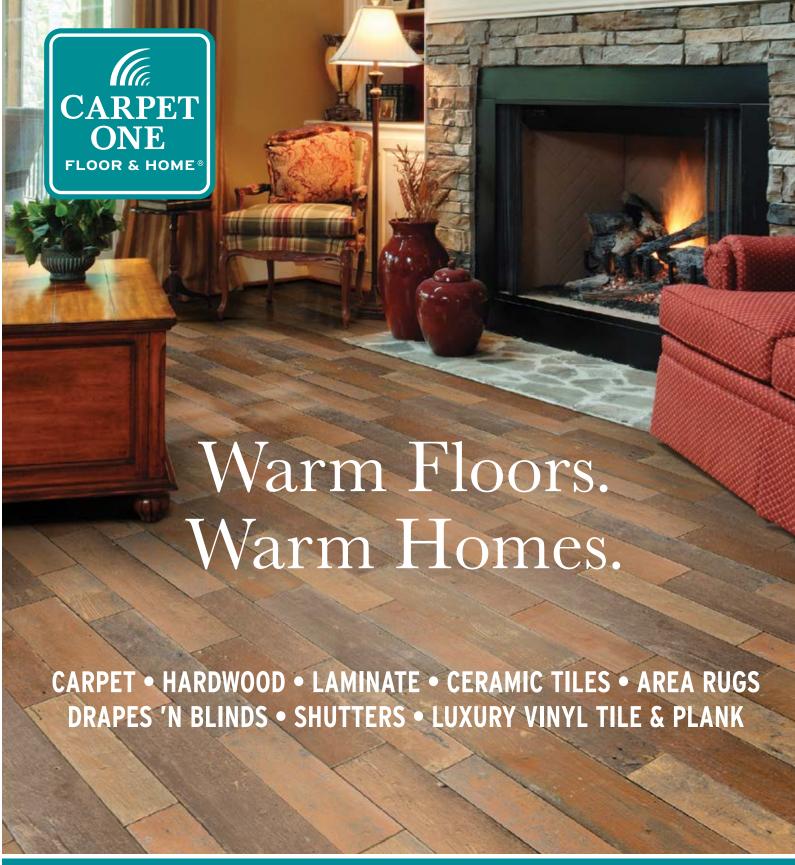
Wendy researched and found just the right red cabinet for the bar adjacent to the stage and it quickly became the focal point of the room. She made sure that the handtooled drawers were designed specifically to hold Derrick's extensive collection of Canadian Whiskey. "It was a must and I was determined to make sure his bottles all fit comfortably," she says.

A newly-built bar has a live-edge top from **Wood Is Good** and metal supports from Mighton Welding. Sliding barn doors nearby complement the bar. A cosy sitting area includes Derrick's grandmother's vintage, tucked-and-buttoned leather-like chair, passed on through three generations. The space includes a lounge for watching television and relaxing with family and friends.

"Of course," says Derrick, "we had to make the changes seamless throughout the rest of the house, so we continued the colour and textures all the way upstairs." Continued on page 96

BELOW, LEFT: Live greenery and pine cones add a festive touch to a table setting. **MIDDLE:** The stairs to the lower level are located behind this stylish console table from Flowers by Usss. A garland draped along the top continues the holiday theme in the open-plan main floor. RIGHT: Custom cabinets store glasses and china in the dining area. This small counter is a resting spot for mugs and a vase filled with holly. The photo was taken by Wendy.



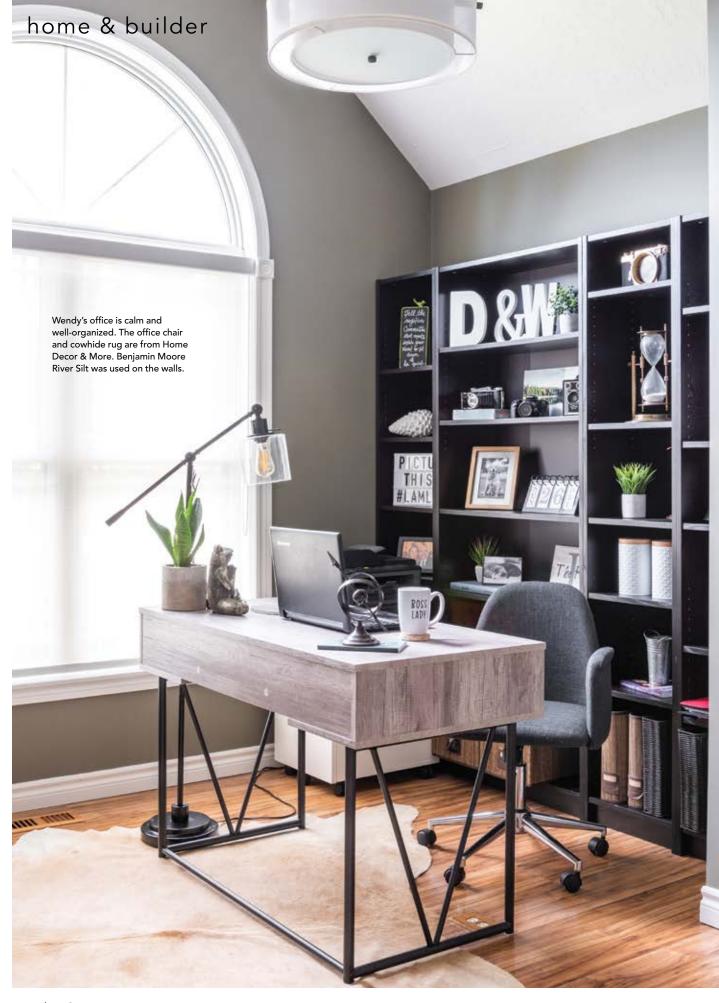




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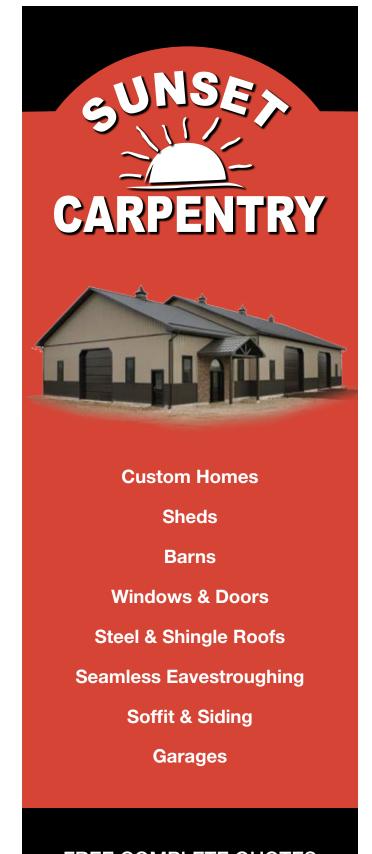
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FAR LEFT: There's plenty of storage in the bathroom. The floating vanity makes the space feel open. **LEFT**: A bench in the master bedroom that belonged to Derrick's mother holds a warm throw and extra pillow. **BELOW:** Black Panther by Benjamin Moore highlights the plank feature wall in the master bedroom. Wendy's photography is on display.

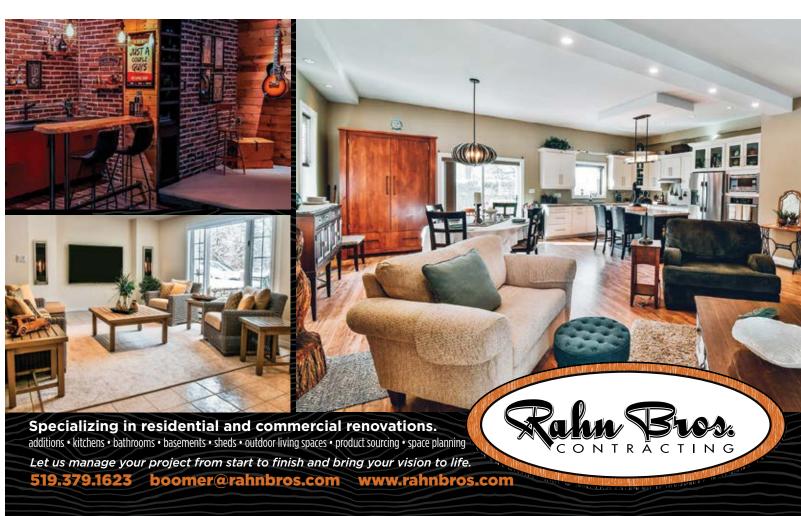
Reclaimed wood was used upstairs for table bases, a fireplace mantel and an exterior bar, dubbed the "Live Edge" bar by the couple. Rugs and paint were sourced at Cuneo Interiors **Carpet One Floor & Home.** 

Wendy found accessories at **RustWorthy Home Decor** and her landscape photography is featured throughout the home.

"When we sit out on our back deck for a morning coffee or an early evening glass of whiskey or wine, glance out at the pasture next to us and take in the quiet, we switch off," says Derrick. "It really has become the sanctuary we imagined it could be." он















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Also, contact us about our exciting pre-apprenticeship programs – a great way for you to explore different trades and career options!

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For more information, contact Debbie DeWhite debbie.dewhite@ georgiancollege.ca 519.376.0840 x2065 georgiancollege.ca/ skilledtrades georgiancollege.ca/ apprenticeshipsWE (Please see ad on pg 83)

Gil and Krista, owners of Grey Bruce Paint, are excited to announce they now own **Brubacher Cabinets!** 

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Work has now begun on a new showroom within the current Grey Bruce Paint location. The combined design centre will feature three full kitchens, numerous vanities, hardware solutions and countertop displays. The colour consultation area will continue to feature the full range of Benjamin Moore paint colours and complete line of products. An experienced colour consultant is also always in store to offer complimentary colour and product advice.

The new integrated showroom will ensure that your project, whether it's an updated vanity, kitchen renovation or new build, will have the best design team assisting you to achieve the home of your dreams.

1580 20th St E, Owen Sound 519.371.4207 greybrucepaint.com (Please see ad on pg 27)

#### **LUXURY WOODWORKING**

Luxury Woodworking is a locally owned custom cabinet manufacturer that provides custom kitchens, vanities, built-in wall units and solid surface Cambria quartz counters, just to name a few. We provide a complete range of products made onsite by experienced craftsmen and craftswomen.

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If you are looking to build a new custom kitchen or give your old one a facelift, we will make your dreams a reality. Our design team can work with you or your designer to create custom solutions with the quality finish you come to expect from Luxury Woodworking.

Visit our website to see customer testimonials and view our photo gallery luxurywoodworking.ca or stop by our design centre and manufacturing facility located at: 130 Kincardine Highway, Walkerton | 519.373.1846 We are open from 8:30 until 4:30 Monday to Friday, with evening and weekend appointments available by request.

(Please see ad on pg 56&57)

### **MAXWELL GARDEN**

Located in Grey County and in business since 2003, Maxwell Garden Center is a family owned and operated business that strives to offer quality products at a competitive price and service. In 2006, Maxwell Garden

Center began selling Dundalk Leisure Craft Products, a line of saunas, hot tubs and outdoor showers, etc. This line of quality spa products has generated lots of interest because of its many health benefits. We also design and build custom sheds, cabins. horse shelters and row barns that far exceed the quality of those offered by big box stores. We have many different sizes and styles of saunas, hot tubs, sheds and cabins to choose from, and ALL are locally made. We deliver and assemble on site so you don't need a lot of room for a big delivery truck and your purchase can be placed in the back corner of your lot or lakeside hassle-free.

We also have some display models on our lot if you would like to take a closer look. 519.922.1479 | 844.564.0224 453897 Grey Rd 2, RR#1, Maxwell maxwellgardencenter.com (Please see ad on pg 23)



#### **ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP** PROGRAM (OYAP)

OYAP presented the "Build A Dream" Career Discovery Expo on Tuesday, November 19th in Port Elgin. This event was organized for young women in Grades 7 to 12 and their parents to learn more about careers in skilled trades, engineering, technology, emergency services, or entrepreneurship.

Did you know all of the secondary schools in Grey Bruce are equipped with tech shops for students who are thinking about careers in the skilled trades? The Ontario Youth **Apprenticeship Program** 

(OYAP), is a cooperative program offered in secondary that allows 'real world' hands-on learning in an apprenticeship occupation, while the student works towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The skilled trades offer a diverse range of options using the latest technology for those willing to take the time to explore the Motive Power, Industrial, Service, and Construction sectors.

Students determining that the skilled trades are their pathway have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work towards becoming certified journeypersons, while still in high school. Grade 12 students who are passionate about cooking and carpentry will want speak to their teachers about the OYAP Level 1 Cook Program and new this year, OYAP Level 1 Carpentry Program running 2nd Semester 2019/2020.

To learn more about OYAP, visit oyap.ca or oyap.com (Please see ad on pg 81)



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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.

2047 Concession 12, Ripley 855.395.2747 westshorestoneandbrick.com (Please see ad on pg 37)

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# FAMILY-FRIENDLY

LIVING By Design

Having a sophisticated home that functions for your growing family is possible. With a little extra thought and creative planning, you can achieve a cohesive, functional, family-friendly home.

PHOTO: MIKE CHAJECKI

Space planning is the first step to creating a grown-up, yet kidfriendly, home. How do you currently use your rooms in everyday living? The answer to this question could be vastly different from how you think you should use the space. Don't be afraid to go against the intended use of your rooms, choosing instead what works best for your family.





#### SWAP ROOMS

As a designer, I often consider changing out the purpose of a room to suit our client's lifestyle. For example, many modern families no longer have the need for a traditional living room at the front of the house. You can swap this impractical sitting area for a home office with custom built-in shelves. Add some extra personality by cladding the backs of the shelves in a rich wallpaper like a navy grasscloth to add depth. Cabinets below can hide toys or board games for occasional playtimes. The once-formal space can be transformed into a cosy den that's a convenient place to sit back and read a book or squeeze in a conference call to the office.

#### DITCH THE DINING ROOM

We occasionally have clients who don't require a formal dining room, as they share their meals at an eating nook adjacent to the kitchen. Converting a dining room into an open space for entertaining can add an extra wow factor. Instead of a rarely used formal dining table, you could instead place a beautiful grand piano that steals the show. Just because the room isn't being used the way it was intended by the builder doesn't make it wrong. It makes it yours!

#### MIX OLD AND NEW

Family living means the items in your home need to withstand wear and tear. A great way to do this is to mix old and new elements. Instead of holding on to tired furniture, find unique vintage pieces to mix in with new finds. By blending older items with contemporary pieces, you'll worry less about damage from children, and you'll make your home feel more curated and upscale.





#### **ACCESSORIZE WISELY**

Use restraint when purchasing accessories, and only invest in pieces that speak to you. Shop consignment and antique markets for unique statement items that will spark conversation and keep your carbon footprint low. Your home should be a curated collection that your kids will grow to appreciate and cherish. You can also layer wallpaper in areas where sticky fingers will land - with great vinyl and wipeable options, wallpapers are a dream for family homes. Adding sophistication is a bonus.

#### BF FI FXIBI F

I encourage my clients to think beyond the traditional uses for their rooms - how you expect a room to function is not always how it works best. Live your life by a design that suits how you wish to truly live every day. It's your house, for your family, and function should remain foremost. Making sophisticated spaces practical can seem impossible, but family friendly homes require flexibility. With careful observation and a little thinking outside the box, you can tweak a layout to make it fit your modern lifestyle. он

Designer Rebecca Hay is principal of Rebecca Hay Designs Inc.

#### directory

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OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses below appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email bettyann.fawcett@ourhomes.ca. To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 519.986.2599.

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AND-ROD Construction Ltd., 5
Blackland Construction Ltd., 43
Candue Homes, 47
Dennison Homes, 6
Great Lakes Custom Homes, 23
High R Construction, 101
Hill Build, 67
Rahn Bros. Contracting, 97
Sunset Carpentry, 95
The Great Lakes Frame Company, 17
Valley Home Improvements, 71
Wiarton Home Building Centre, 37

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Bruce County Custom Cabinets, 6 Luxury Woodworking, 56&57, 98 South Gate Cabinets, 51 The Woodworm, 101 Topnotch Furniture, 112

#### **CLEANING**

Maid in the Valley, 51

#### COMPUTER/INTERNET/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Telecom, 16

#### **COUNTERTOPS**

Di Pietra Design, 4 The Old Barn, 68&69

#### **DRYWALL/PLASTER/STUCCO**

Meg's Drywall, 67

#### **EDUCATION**

Georgian College, 83, 98 Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, 81, 99

#### **ELECTRICAL**

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CMR Insurance, 43

#### FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Air Tech Mechanical, 97 Chantico Fireplace Gallery, 8 Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 101 South-Port Mechanical Geothermal, 13 The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 45, 71

#### **FLOORING**

Cuneo Interiors Ltd., 15, 93 Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 43

#### FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/ CATERING/DELI

Steven's Restaurant, 100 Top of the Rock, 100

#### **FOUNDATIONS**

Cook Concrete, 39 Postech Grey Bruce, 7

#### FURNITURE & HOME DECOR/ ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture, 109 Fulfords Hardware Inc., 21, 98 Home Decor & More, 95 House Rules Design Shop, 21 Smitty's Fine Furniture, 111 The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 45, 71 The Rusty Star, 53 Topnotch Furniture, 112

Wiarton Home Building Centre, 37

#### GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/ NURSERIES

Maxwell Garden Center, 23, 99 Port Elgin Home Building Centre, 49

#### **GEOTHERMAL**

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc., 39 South-Port Mechanical Geothermal, 13

#### **GREEN LIVING**

Blackline Power, 53

#### **HEATING & COOLING**

Air Tech Mechanical, 97
Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 101
Sandy Hamilton Plumbing &
Heating Inc., 39
South-Port Mechanical Geothermal, 13

#### HOME IMPROVEMENTS/ RENOVATIONS

Great Lakes Custom Homes, 23 Rahn Bros. Contracting, 97 Valley Home Improvements, 71

#### **HOME INSPECTION**

McMillen Electric & Complete Home Inspection, 101

#### **INSULATION**

High R Construction, 101

#### **INTERIOR DESIGN/HOME STAGING**

Cuneo Interiors Ltd., 15, 93 Fulfords Hardware Inc., 21, 98 House Rules Design Shop, 21 K-Interiors, 6

#### **KITCHEN & BATH**

Bruce County Custom Cabinets, 6 Fulfords Hardware Inc., 21, 98 House Rules Design Shop, 21 Luxury Woodworking, 56&57, 98 South Gate Cabinets, 51 Wiarton Home Building Centre, 37

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPING/ LAWN & GARDEN

Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, 3

#### ORGANIZATION/STORAGE

Wilson Solutions, 11

#### **OUTDOOR FURNITURE/STRUCTURES**

Maxwell Garden Center, 23, 99 MSD Inc., 95

#### **PAINTING & DECORATING**

Benjamin Moore, 15 Cuneo Interiors Ltd., 15, 93 Dulux Paints Owen Sound, 41 Fulfords Hardware Inc., 21, 98 Grey Bruce Paint, 27, 98 House Rules Design Shop, 21 Lockwood Painting, 67 Martin's Home Hardware, 15

#### PAINTING, PRIMING, BLASTING & STAINING

Premier Industrial Painting, 16

#### PAVING/CEMENT/CONCRETE/INTERLOCK

Extreme Linings and Coatings, 47

#### **PLUMBING**

Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 101
Sandy Hamilton Plumbing &
Heating Inc., 39
Smith Water Systems, 101

#### POOLS/HOT TUBS/SAUNAS/SPAS

The Water Store, 37

#### **REAL ESTATE**

Chestnut Park – Read Hilton, 100 Royal LePage RCR Realty – Scott Crowther, 10

#### STONE PRODUCTS/VENEER

Shouldice Designer Stone, 2, 99 West Shore Stone & Brick Inc., 37, 99

#### TILE

Di Pietra Design, 4

#### WATER TREATMENT/FILTRATION

Smith Water Systems, 101 The Water Store, 37

#### WINDOW TREATMENTS

Budget Blinds of Owen Sound, 53 Cuneo Interiors Ltd., 15, 93

#### **WINDOWS & DOORS**

Desboro Doors, 17 Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors, 9

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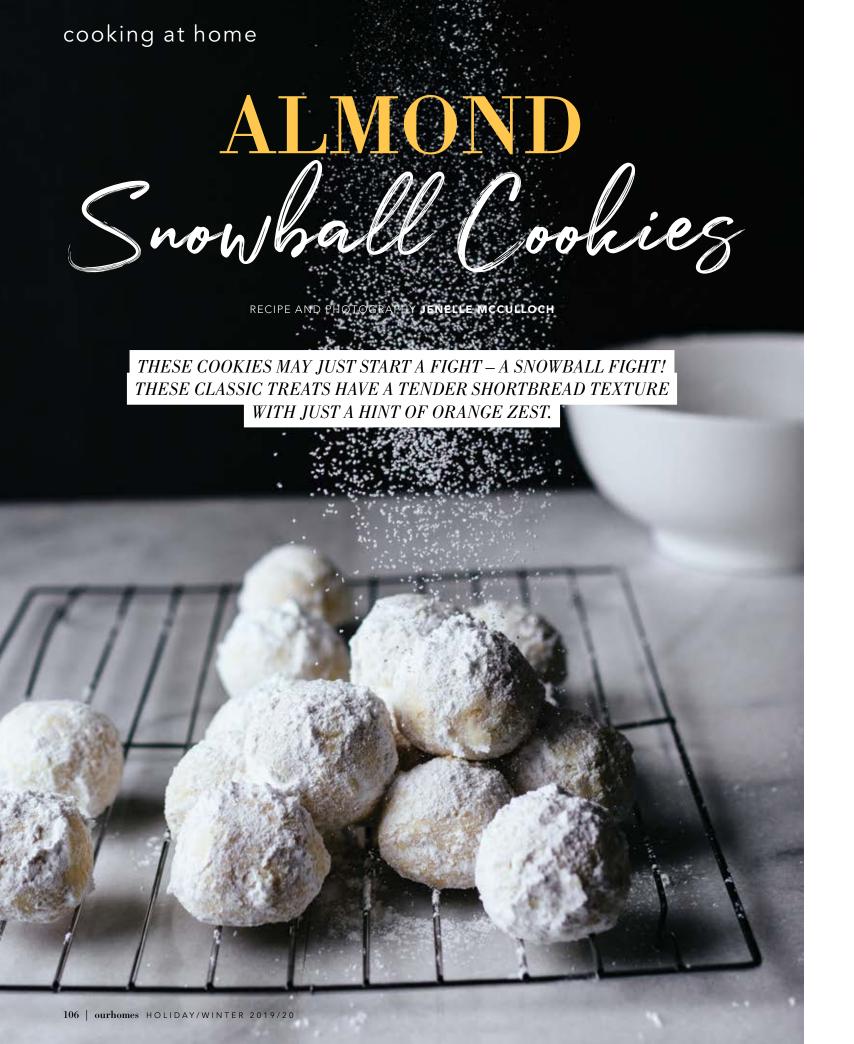
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# INGREDIENTS Makes 20-25 cookies

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
½ cup powdered sugar
plus more to coat

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup almond flour

1 tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp orange zest

½ tsp salt

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a stand mixer with paddle attachment, cream together butter and ½ cup powdered sugar.

Add all-purpose flour, almond flour, vanilla extract, orange zest and salt. Mix until dough is combined and forms a ball.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and roll dough into 1-1.5 inch balls.

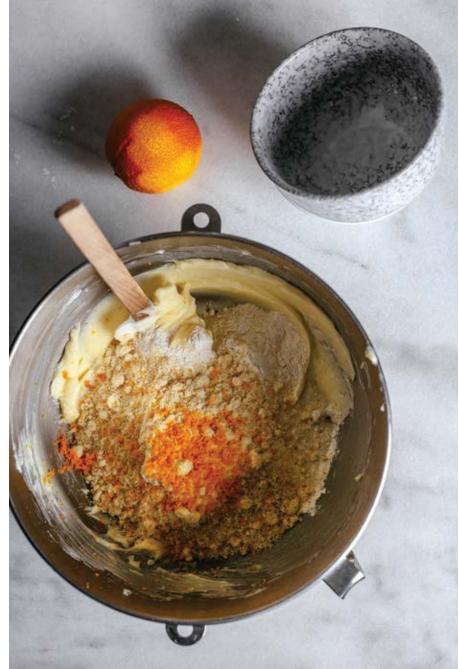
Bake for 13-15 minutes, or until bottoms are light brown.

Let cool slightly and, while still warm, roll in powdered sugar.

Let cool before storing. Enjoy! OH



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# hopping

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