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- University of Guelph - Event Security / Fire Watch / Parking Enforcement
- Toronto Homeless Connect - Event Security
- Various Car Dealerships - Nighttime Security / CCTV Installations
- Woodgreen Properties - High Risk Prevention
- Brookfield Residential - Condominium Concierge / Fire Watch / Vehicle Patrols
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## editor's note



### A Note From Hamilton

It might be an understatement to say that I'm a homebody, so it's with some surprise that I'm finding this extra time at home difficult. My son's friend said that the lockdown made her feel bored with her home, and I think that's what happened for me, too.

Don't get me wrong, I still love my house. I see my children as babies and toddlers and kids in each room. I feel the memories of all the happy times we've shared here. It's just that the sameness of the appearance is getting to me.

#### SO I'VE COME UP WITH A PLAN I'M CALLING "THE THREE Ds."

- 1. Declutter.** I'm not really a hoarder but I do keep things "just in case." Seriously? I might need four bottles to mix salad dressing – on the same day? I might need emergency baby blankets (my children are teens)? And honestly, I'm never again going to fit into those Spanx I wore on my wedding day. It will be a process, but it's time to cull.
- 2. Decorate.** This one's easy and quick, and relatively inexpensive. I'm going to change things up on the surface by embracing each season. Pumpkins and wreaths. Flowers and garlands. Table toppers and throws. We won't need to check the weather to know what time of year it is!
- 3. Design.** I've worked from home for years, but with the kids and my husband Tony around a lot more I'm thinking about how we can make the most of our space. I have some ideas (fuelled by far too many hours browsing ourhomes.ca, houzz and Instagram), and thanks to my job I know the best people to call to get it right. This "D" will be the hardest though, not because renovations take time and can be inconvenient, but because I will have to get Tony on board. That will be the real challenge.

Out and about for this issue, I've been delighted to hear from our industry professionals that, despite the pandemic, business has been good. So three cheers for you, lovely readers – supporting our local businesses is the nicest way for us to get through this pandemic!

Wishing you the happiest of the season,

*Melissa*

Melissa North, *Managing Editor*  
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## editor's note



### **A Note From Oakville Burlington Mississauga**

**W**HATEVER HAPPENED TO DRIVING FOR THE SAKE OF DRIVING? As a teen, going for a drive meant hitting the road and getting lost, enjoying the prospect of what we might find.

Pre-COVID, I'd stopped taking the scenic routes, focused on budgeting enough time to get from A to B. What was the shortest route, the fastest? How long?

When things came to a grinding halt, it was jarring. I had nowhere to be and no reason to hurry. I'd forgotten how to do nothing, what it felt like to go nowhere. After a few weeks of isolation, the kids and I started taking scenic drives. We left the door open for a surprise ending and enjoyed the journey instead of focusing on the destination. We'd taken short drives along the back roads before, but now we really explored our region.

It was great fun to just drive with the windows down, listen to music and talk. We came across new hidden gems like a local flower farm where we bought sweet, colourful bouquets. We stumbled upon lavender fields, fresh pies, old barns and farmhouses. I rediscovered that it's just as much fun to spot cows and horses as an adult as it was as a child.

Toward the end of summer, we took a longer road trip to Manitoulin Island. I can't tell you the last time I saw the rugged granite rock of the Canadian Shield. It's easy to forget all the beauty waiting just outside our back doors.

Manitoulin did not disappoint! Scenic drives, quaint mom-and-pop coffee shops, small-town hospitality; it was perfect. One of our favourite excursions was a three-hour hike on the famed Cup and Saucer Trail. If you haven't hiked this trail, the climb to the top is worth it. The views are spectacular. As we close the door on 2020 and look forward to the possibilities of 2021, take a drive, explore that back road, see where the journey takes you.

Gina Makkar, *Managing Editor*  
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A beautiful, bright kitchen is just one of the many gorgeous rooms in an old home made new. Story, page 40. Photography by Kelly Horkoff.



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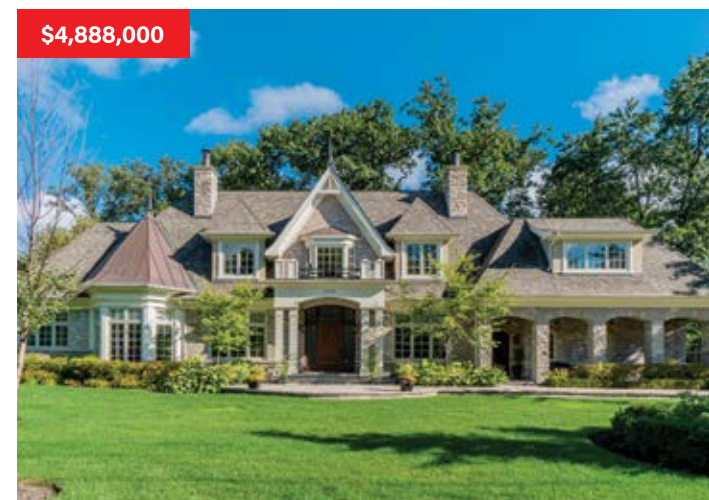
\*For dollar volume sold on the Toronto Real Estate Board for 2011-2019 as per ReDatum stats



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This 3 bedroom approx 2900 sq ft bungalow was totally redesigned and renovated using only the finest materials by none other than award winning Trubuild Custom Homes. Nicely nestled in the highly sought after area of Sherwood Forest, this is exemplary and breathtaking in so many ways. Too many items to list, a must see.



Spectacular custom built Gordon Woods home, over 6,500 sq ft on a stunning 125 ft front lot. Another 4,500 sq ft in the completely finished lower level with spacious rec room, entertainment room, gym, wine cellar, and sauna spa. 5+2 bedrooms and 10 baths. Jatoba hardwood throughout. 6 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen with professional grade stainless steel appliances. Main floor master bedroom with gas fireplace, 2 dressing rooms and a 7 piece ensuite.



Seeing is believing with this architectural gem. Immaculate completely renovated 9,000 sq ft contemporary mansion with approx \$2M in upgrades and improvements. Boasts Italian imported 'Boffi' kitchen, updated bathrooms, hardwood flooring on both levels, private rooftop terrace, a spectacular indoor pool. State of the art Crestron smart system. Gorgeous private treed lot. Finished basement with nanny suite, theatre room, gym, guest suite.



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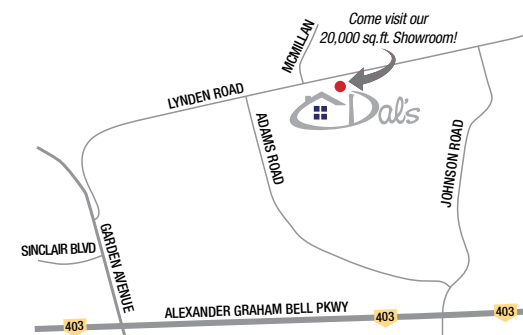


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# HOME BUILDING & RENOVATION

## PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT COUNTS

Every renovation or new build conversation includes the phrases return on investment (ROI) and resale value. When you design to live well and beautifully, ROI and resale value are a given.

**Here are our top tips to help you put your money where it counts:**

### WHERE TO SAVE

You can find major savings in areas and on products that can give you ROI or that wow factor. Consider these:

#### TILE AND FLOORING

Technological advancements provide many beautiful and economical options that will transform any tiled wall or floor into eye candy. Porcelain tiles that look like stone are indistinguishable from the real thing – and are easier to clean and maintain.

Wood floors come in many grades and price points to maintain an overall look. Many rooms will be covered with area rugs, so oftentimes an expensive floor isn't necessary.

#### GENERAL LIGHTING

Light fixtures such as pot lights or surface-mounted lights can be modestly priced and distributed throughout the house.

### WHERE TO SPLURGE

Now that you've saved some money – where can you splurge and have some fun?

#### PROFESSIONALS ARE WORTH THEIR FEE

Hire legitimate and registered professionals. They are experts at

planning to make life simpler, relieve stress and maneuver through the endless amounts of information, building code requirements and choices. Professionals can help you avoid costly mistakes, which could pay their fees ten times over. Designers and architects add value to your home and to your lifestyle.

#### QUARTZ COUNTERS

A quartz counter is antimicrobial, available in a wide range of styles and cleans up easily for your health and peace of mind.

#### CUSTOM CABINETS

Quality custom cabinets that look like furniture at the entry, kitchen and bathroom add a touch of luxury. Smart storage design will buy you time as you grab and go throughout your day. Remember to add beautiful hardware – the jewelry of any cabinet.



#### STATEMENT LIGHTING

Whether you eat at a kitchen island or dining room table, the fixtures featured in each area should make a statement. After all, they serve as a focal point that coordinates with the other. They're the focal point where togetherness happens.

In the bathroom, good lighting is essential to make you look good. Consider wet-rated LED chandeliers, pendants and wall sconces.

#### DIMMERS

Adding a dimmer in every room of the house helps create a signature mood in each space.

#### FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS

Faucets and showerheads see high use throughout the day, and cheap fixtures tend to leak or loosen with finishes often flaking off over time. Splurge and buy the best you can afford.



#### LUXURY SHOWERS

The trend is to eliminate the tub and invest in a roomy walk-in shower. You can put your budget toward a frameless glass shower that cleans up easily, including a non-white grout.

#### WINDOWS IN KEY SIGHTLINES

Windows can be the soul of your home, so dress up those you see first when entering. Window treatments can soften and enhance, adding that luxurious whisper to your space.

Living well and living beautifully will not only enhance your home's resale value, it will enhance your soul. And that's worth all the money in the world. **OH**



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Continued on page 30



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- 1 5.5 oz. can tomato paste
- ½ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- ½ tsp oregano
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp hot sauce, or to taste

Mix all ingredients together.

Add 1 or 2 ounces of this spicy pre-mix to a glass with 1 ½ ounces of vodka, then fill the glass with purchased Caesar mix. Or skip the vodka for a virgin Caesar.

Garnish with a deviled egg or fried pickle and chunk of blue cheese. *Continued on page 34*



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## CAESAR GARNISH

### DEEP-FRIED PICKLES + BLUE CHEESE

- 6 baby dill pickles
- 1 egg
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup almond flour
- ½ tsp paprika
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- Chunks of blue cheese

In three separate bowls prepare the breading assembly. In the first, whisk an egg. Place flour in a second and mix together almond flour and spices in the third.

Dip pickles in the plain flour first, then egg mixture and finally coat with almond flour mixture.

Heat deep-frying oil in a pan or deep fryer to 375°F. Fry pickles until golden.

Place on paper napkin to cool.

Serve on a skewer with a chunk of blue cheese.

### DEILED EGGS

- 6 eggs
- 1 Tbsp mayonnaise
- ½ tsp prepared mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika, to garnish

Place eggs in a pot filled with water. Bring water to a boil over medium heat, then remove from heat and cover with lid for 11 minutes.

Remove eggs from pot and place in a bowl of ice water to halt cooking.

Once cool, break the shells and peel each egg.

Cut eggs in half and remove yolks into a bowl.

Add mayonnaise, mustard, salt and pepper and mix until combined.

Add a scoop of yolk mixture to each egg white and sprinkle with paprika.

Serve on a skewer. **OH**



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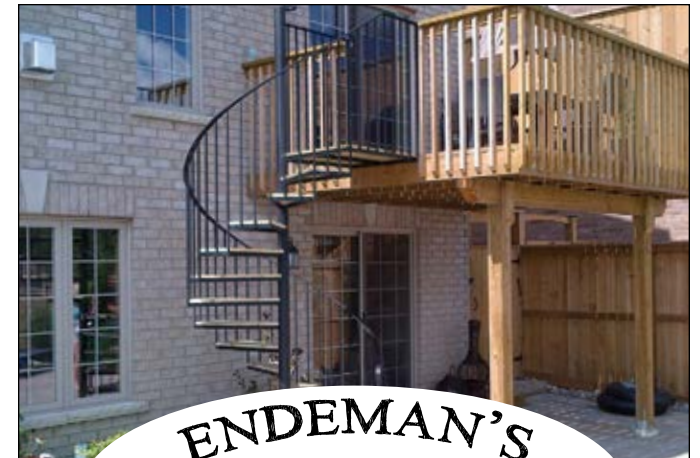


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# YOUR HOME, YOUR CASTLE

## HOW TO BRING YOURSELF INTO YOUR INTERIORS



STORY **EUGENIA TRIANDOS** AND **KORINA KHAMIS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **DREW HADLEY**

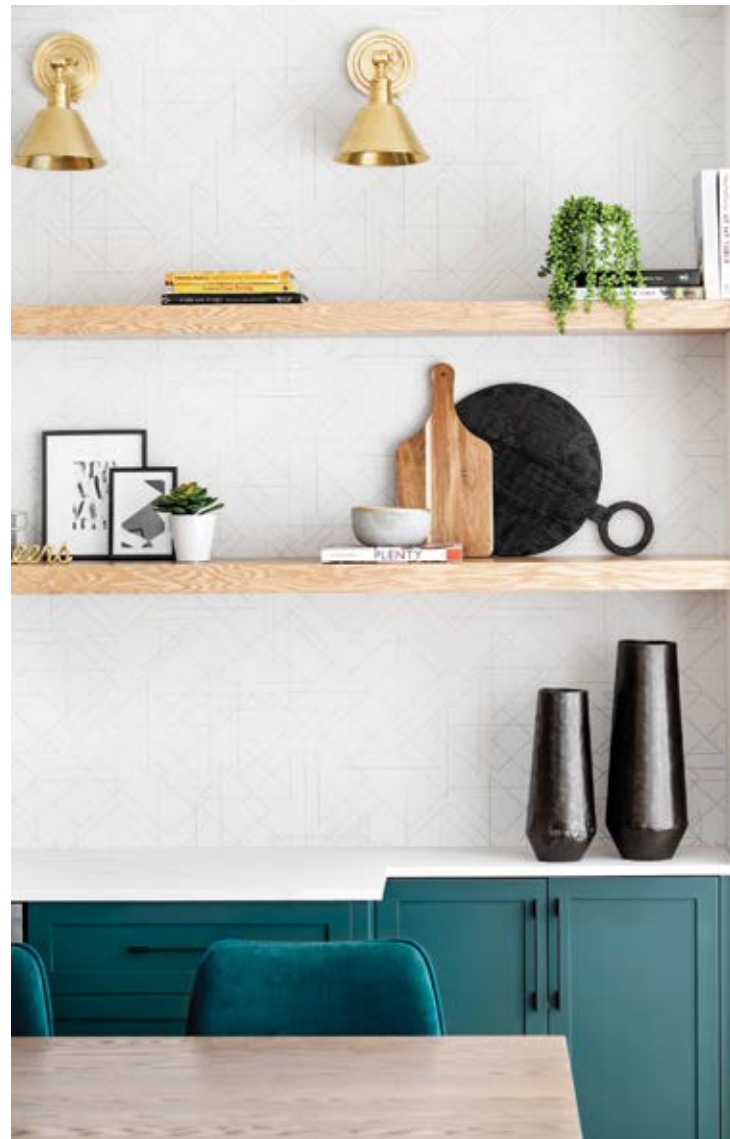
What makes a house feel like home? Every great interior begins with its inhabitant. We believe the personality needs to live within the home's overall design and aesthetic. Make your house feel like home, inspired by you!

### THE BIG PURGE

If you feel like your home doesn't represent you, it's time to purge. Discard everything that does not bring you happiness. It's so easy to hold onto items you don't like, simply because you're used to having them around. This act alone will eliminate everything in your home that does not represent you. Once you've removed all the hollow stuff you can start to fill your home with meaningful mementos and things that inspire you.

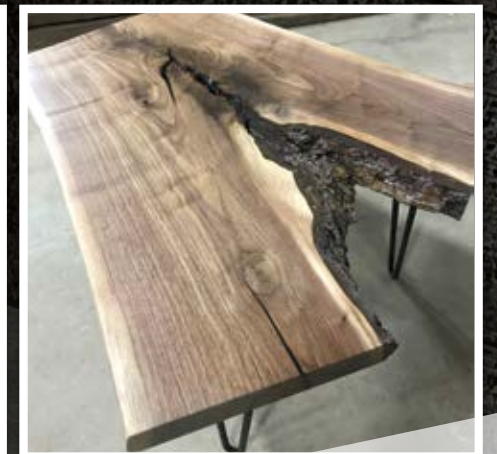
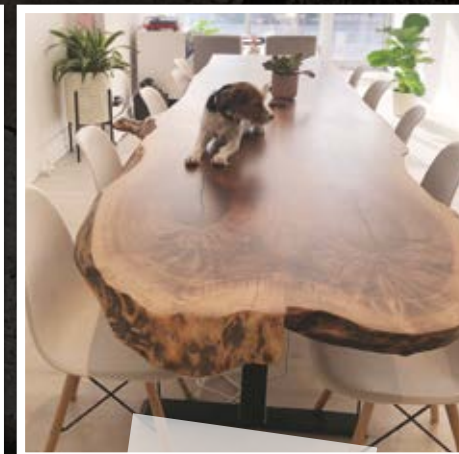
### SHOW YOURSELF

You have likely accumulated a highly personal collection or two that says a lot about what brings you happiness. Putting these items on display will not only make your home feel more like you, but will provide comfort and exude your personality into the space. Added bonus: These are great conversation-starters.



**PRO TIP:** Avoid clutter by only displaying selections from your collections, instead of the entire set. Display books on shelves as you would showcase art. Books fill gaps nicely, and their artistic covers can be featured in place of artwork. *Continued on page 38*

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# design ideas

## CREATE COMFORT

Home is about achieving a heightened level of efficiency, comfort and pleasure. These days, we are experiencing our homes in a new way – as a refuge from the world. Regardless of what’s happening outside, our interiors should always be the greatest escape of all, filled with things we love and tailored to the way we live. This may mean investing in that really beautiful but equally expensive sofa if you enjoy lounging in front of the television every evening, or finally getting around to setting up that dedicated home office that inspires you, instead of working from the kitchen table.

Comfort can be created with some simple considerations like lighting and ambience. Adding candles, fresh florals and throws draped over the sofa and chairs are some of the easiest and most impactful ways to boost your home’s comfort level.



## BE ADAPTIVE

The world is changing, and our homes have to keep up. Adaptation starts with being open to change and may take place as a slow build (think technology through the decades) or suddenly. We grow, and as our circumstances change, our personal style, collectables and lifestyles follow suit. Your home may have represented your past self, but it’s possible and very normal to change over time. When you feel like your current

décor has run its course, it’s time to restart the decorating process and find new ways to bring the new you into your home.

There’s a good reason that custom continues to be the biggest interior trend, year in and year out. Cookie-cutter fads come and go. Look within for inspiration that stands the test of time. An open mind and a good design team can make your home truly yours – and isn’t that what great design is all about? **OH**



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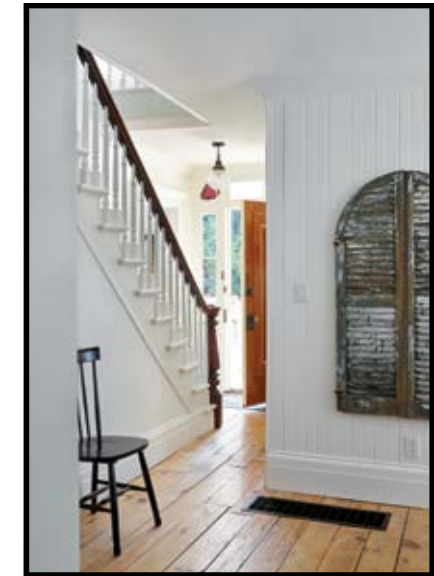


When people ask Sean and Star what their vision was for the home, they explain not everything was planned – rather, it evolved.

**STAR AND SEAN LIPPAY, LOOKING TO MOVE FROM OAKVILLE TO DUNDAS, FOUND A 150-YEAR-OLD COTTAGE BENEATH THE FAUNA AND LIMESTONE OF THE HAMILTON ESCARPMENT AND KNEW IT WAS RIGHT.**

The property's old-world charm was just waiting to be rejuvenated, and even though they were renovation newbies, they had no doubt they were the couple to do it. "We knew it felt like home as soon as we pulled into the driveway," says Star. "We were blown away by the view of Dundas Peak, the escarpment, and when we walked in the door, a feeling hit us, an energy, like the house had been waiting for us. It needed a lot of work, but we immediately found ourselves talking like it was ours."

The couple purchased the home in January of 2017, but it would be August of that same year before the couple moved in, and September before renovations on the 2,000 sq. ft. house could start. "Permits took a long time," says Star, "Longer than expected." For the better part of a year, the couple lived and worked in a makeshift apartment constructed upstairs. "The tight quarters were rough but being in the house during the renovation gave us a feel for how we live and work in it." *Continued on page 42*



**LEFT:** Star rough brushed shutters found in the shed to create a statement wall piece in the dining room. **BELOW:** "I didn't know anything about decorating," Star says. "I didn't like the look of old with new, but now, thanks to Vanessa, I get it." Wainscotting from the bathroom was repurposed in her office, which opens off the dining room. **OPPOSITE:** Wood siding, made from sustainably harvested softwood from British Columbia, is striking in Newburyport Blue.



STORY DEE WILLSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
KELLY HORKOFF

**150 YEARS NEW**



A cook's kitchen, with ample counter space. Russ Woodward of Crodon Kitchen and Bath Centre designed the layout so the Lippays can view the escarpment peak while washing dishes. **RIGHT:** Cabinetry includes a generous cookbook nook. **BELOW:** The walk-in pantry is both functional and charming.



The couple put their faith in their contractor, **Russ Woodward of Crodon Kitchen and Bath Centre**. “Russ could see our vision, but he also had amazing ideas,” Star says. “Like us, he was excited about the house’s potential.” His design maintains the cottage curb appeal she and Sean fell for, accomplishing the biggest transition – raising the roof out of sight in the rear of the structure. They also hired **Brad Paton of Shades of Summer Landscaping and Maintenance** to transform the land around the home.

The house, deceptively small from the front, now boasts two bedrooms, two offices and a music room where Sean can enjoy his vinyl collection. Every room in the house got a facelift, often with repurposed items. “I’ve used everything from the house. I loved the feeling of the house and I didn’t want anything going in the dumpster,” Star says.

A new kitchen was added to the back. It’s open and airy, thanks to large windows and warm-white Shaker-style cabinetry by **Miralis**. Textured subway tiles from **Factory Tile Depot** were used for the backsplash,

and creamy white Cambria countertops provide a durable yet elegant touch. The large kitchen island – one of the homeowners’ must-haves – is the hub of the house. “We’re a family of vegetarians who love to cook,” says Star, who works alongside Sean in their food industry consulting business. Another favourite feature is the walk-in pantry off the kitchen. Retro light fixtures were found at **Aberfoyle Antique Market** and **Robert’s Gallery Furniture & Antiques**, while **Grohmann Electrical Services** completed the electrical throughout. *Continued on page 44*



**“RUSS COULD SEE OUR VISION, BUT HE ALSO HAD AMAZING IDEAS. LIKE US, HE WAS EXCITED ABOUT THE HOUSE’S POTENTIAL.”**  
– *Star Lippay*

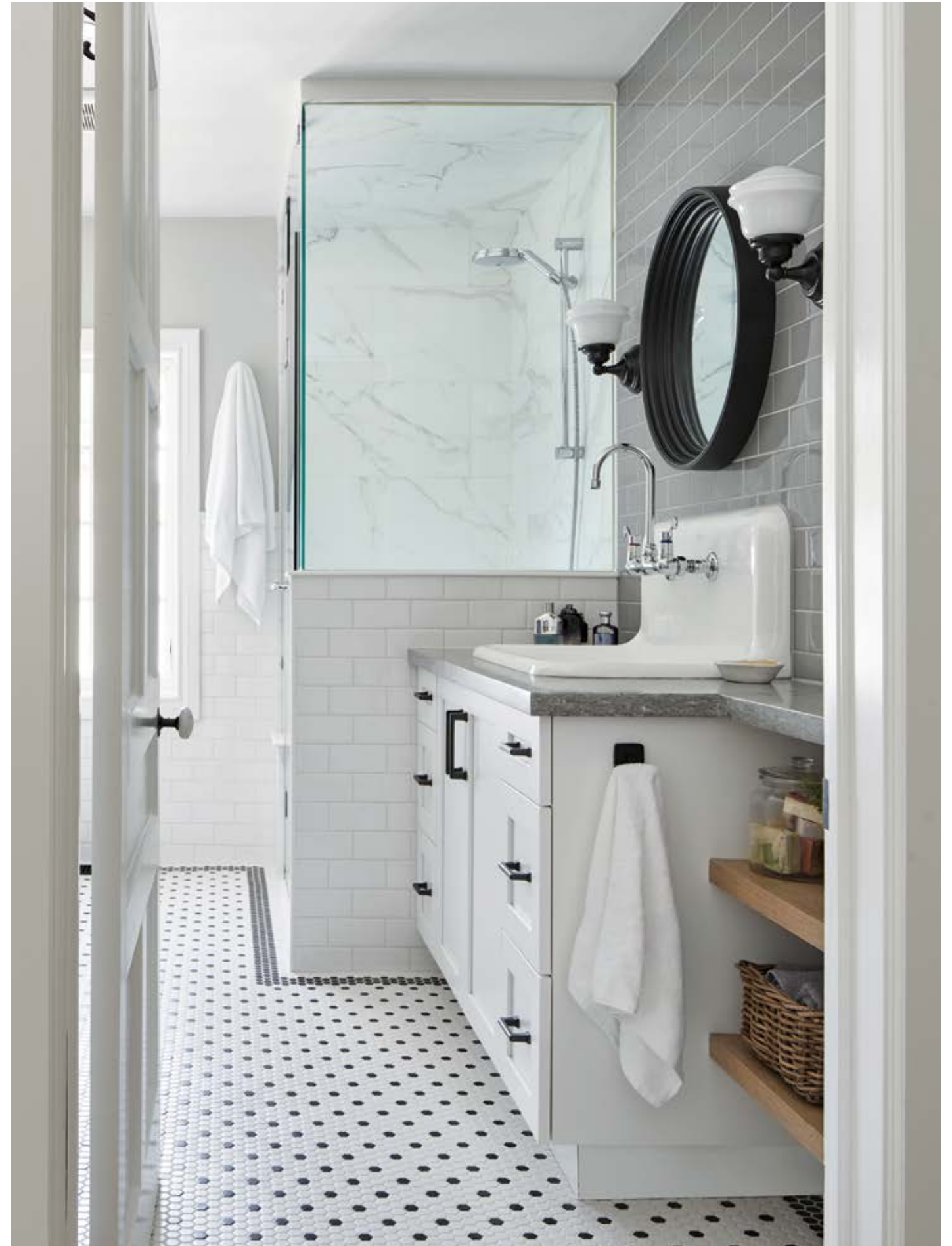


**TOP:** A dilapidated carport is reborn as Sean's music room, housing his extensive vinyl collection. **ABOVE LEFT:** The side entryway is distinguished by earth-toned tiles and a shiplap ceiling. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Star found an old mirror at Bibles for Missions for the powder room, and repurposed one of the dining room lights. Russ's brother Rich Woodward built shelves where a door had been (as well as countless other accomplishments in the home). **OPPOSITE:** Curated vintage finds make a beautiful vignette.

Crodon's **Vanessa Bell** (and her eye for detail) was key to the success of the redesign. Vanessa found 1840s pine flooring at **The Timeless Material Co.** to match the original floors. "It came from the Caledonia Mill, off the walls," Vanessa says. "This has not been re-milled. We sanded it and laid it. I knew it was going to make the addition feel like the old part of the house."

**Turkstra Lumber** provided trim and moulding, and solid wood interior doors were found at **Artefacts Salvage & Design**. The interior was painted various shades of white to provide a simple backdrop for the home's unique accents – many cherished décor elements that display the home's heritage, as well as unique accessories from **Graham & Brooks** and **The Kitchen Witch**.

*Continued on page 46*



Russ and his team transformed the cellar into a cosy rec room, in the process unearthing and making a showcase of a stone wall buried for 150 years. "I fought for that wall!" Russ says. "The wall survived even though everybody told me it would not survive." It took a tremendous amount of work, and Star and Sean couldn't be happier with the outcome. *Continued on page 48*

**TOP LEFT:** The lower-level feature wall speaks to the home's age. Stairs were deliberately designed to not impede the view of the wall, and cork floors add warmth. **TOP RIGHT:** The main bathroom is large enough to accommodate a sweet laundry area. **RIGHT:** Crodon Kitchen and Bath Centre's Vanessa Bell and Russ Woodward in the en suite, Star's favourite room. "We do have a sense of humour. You have to in this business!" says Russ. "We all know each other really really well now!" **OPPOSITE:** Kohler fixtures were installed in the main bathroom by John Johnson Plumbing & Heating, and the refurbished sink was pulled from the old kitchen.





# Crodon Centre

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The home's unique touches don't end inside. An eclectic two-storey shed is tucked into a corner of the backyard. "Everyone assumed the old shed would be torn out," says Star, laughing. "But we would never get rid of it. We love it!" Thanks to Shades of Summer Landscaping and Maintenance, the back and front gardens are as impressive as the home. "This yard experienced an unrecognizable transformation," says Brad, owner of Shades of Summer. The backyard consisted of a dramatic slope and a four-foot drop-off that rendered the space almost useless. "Major grading was needed," says Brad, "Which wasn't easy since the land was mostly escarpment rock. More than 90 yards of soil was trucked in to bring life to the yard." *Continued on page 50*



**TOP:** The backyard oasis includes two seating areas and a hot tub from Arctic Spas Burlington.  
**LEFT:** Brad Paton's company, Shades of Summer Landscaping, has won numerous national and provincial gardening awards.  
**RIGHT:** Star and Sean chose to keep the old shed, adding a rustic element to the landscaping. Rob Higgins of Higgins Hardscape built the fence and privacy screens in the backyard.



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Mossy rocks form natural yet discreet retaining walls that support the house and yard while controlling erosion. **Rob Higgins** of **Higgins Hardscape** built and supplied the materials for the fence and privacy screens in the backyard. Scattered throughout are Japanese maples and low-maintenance trees and shrubs that bloom throughout the seasons. “The team at Shades of Summer speaks our language,” says Star. “We let Brad go nuts with the plantings and have no regrets.”

“We’ll be here forever,” says Star, smiling. The couple are self-proclaimed *lifers*. “We gave this old home a new life, and we plan to enjoy it for years to come.” **OH**



When the sun goes down, the home’s exterior is just as beautiful as during daylight, thanks to nightscaping.



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# AT-HOME ENTERTAINMENT

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

## PREPARING INDOOR SPACES FOR RECHARGING AND FUN

For many of us, the end of warm weather this year carries some extra wistfulness. Given the rollercoaster times, and with many of us still working from home and/or sheltering extra family members, saying goodbye to sunny outdoor spaces and heading inside is legitimately more daunting.

From an interior design perspective, it makes paying attention to our indoor spaces more crucial than ever. Leanne Mosquite of Leanne Mosquite Design in Beamsville frames the goal for our spaces this way: “Now everyone is going to come back indoors. And it’s going to be just that idea of being comfortable and also an area where you feel safe and you can relax and de-stress, because I find these times are adding stress to people. So it’s about creating that sanctuary within the home.”

So how to get there? Here are key considerations as we find ourselves settling back indoors.

### SPACE TO GATHER AND RETREAT

Leanne says the best designs today involve balance – where we create spaces for both gathering and retreat in our dwellings. Since the pandemic struck, she says, “There seems to be more people in the space. And it’s not just on the weekend or on a holiday, it’s every day. So it’s about creating areas within that same footprint of the house where you can all be together comfortably. So if you’re watching a movie, everybody is comfortable. It’s not ‘Last man in has the worst seat in the house.’”

On the flip side, Leanne advises homeowners to think about creating retreat spaces, as well. Whether your family members recharge over foosball and gaming, pumping iron or a cosy fireside glass of pinot, Leanne advises some effort here. “Create zones where, if you need to go and read a book quietly away from the chaos, there are designated spaces for these activities. Be mindful of making those secondary areas just as comfortable.”

*Continued on page 54*

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**SOFTNESS**

While open-concept areas are wonderful for gathering, with more bodies at home, Leanne says noise and echo have emerged as more pressing issues. This may be felt most keenly in newer homes, she says, where homeowners sometimes have gone “all in on the build but haven’t followed through on the furnishing end yet.”

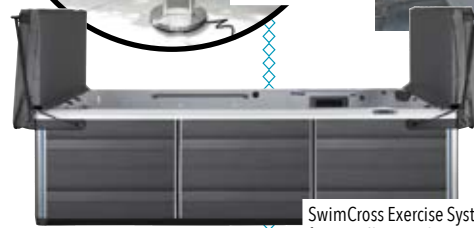
Solutions, says Leanne, are relatively easy to achieve via some carefully thought-out purchases. She recommends considering foot traffic, product quality and durability of materials before you invest. Beyond that, “It’s about soft furnishings – area rugs, window treatments, drapery panels – adding a dampening layer so when there are six to eight people in the space the sound doesn’t reverberate.”



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Exeter Standing Fire Column

**PATIENCE**

Finally, while not strictly design advice, industry players all stress the need to fold some patience into our plans right now. On the retail side, Courtney says with hot-ticket items like pools, hot tubs and swim spas, supply has been an issue owing to both incredible consumer demand and to manufacturer delays, so plan ahead.

Overall, Leanne recommends a twofold approach – looking at what you can do now in terms of short-term updates, and then adding some patience and longer timelines around larger projects like renovations. Builders and contractors, she says, are busier than ever. “We’re finding that in these times the building industry has not stopped; it is still swamped. Everyone is still really busy.” **OH**



**EXTENDING OUTDOOR TIME**

While summer is prime outdoor time, Courtney Walychuck, marketing manager with Pioneer Family Pools in Burlington, says there are also fun ways to keep enjoying your outdoor space as it gets frosty. Besides hot tubs, Courtney says swim spas have become very popular as well. “It is really like a year-round pool.” Additionally, she suggests adding heaters or fire tables and comfortable sectionals or seating to your outdoor space, “to create an entertainment space for your family to cosy up in.”



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Just over 11 years ago, devotees of shopping on Ottawa Street in Hamilton, an area that was undergoing a regeneration, heard news of a new retail outlet opening in a former flooring store. Soon, the first Millionaire's Daughter consignment store, specializing in mid-to-high end furniture and décor, became a reality, with curious customers visiting to find out what services were available, the origin of the name, and to meet the person behind this exciting retail concept.

The name, "The Millionaire's Daughter" pays homage to the businesses owned and run by Maureen's parents and family, "The Millionaire Drive-ins", with their towering neon signs that featured a tuxedoed waiter holding a burger in one hand and a frothy mug of root beer in the other.

When asked recently what prompted the idea of starting a consignment business, Maureen Barnes, the business owner and operator, replied that she had always loved having her own business in the Beaches for 6 years while her kids were young but, later, when travelling for another company and visiting her sister in Calgary, she went to see a consignment store and fell in love with the idea of reused furniture and, most importantly, making everything look beautiful. Since inception and over 11 years, Maureen has built her business from 1 store to 4, expanding to Oakville, Aurora and Kitchener. While maintaining her personal ideals to "work hard", "treat others kindly" and "love what you do", she has continued to innovate and provide services that customers and consignors are requesting, as well as stay abreast of the changes in technology and shopping styles and trends.

Whether you're downsizing, renovating, moving, or just looking to change your interior décor, buying and selling on consignment makes perfect sense! The business goal is to carry a wide variety of furniture pieces and accessories at various price points for the shopping pleasure of any customer. With over 30,000 square feet combined, our expansive showrooms display one-of-a-kind pieces in unique vignettes that are constantly changing. Here you'll find a fabulous mix of modern and vintage treasures, stunning china, and quality, affordable furniture. Maureen's favourite saying, "Everything here has its own little story that has been gathered through the years", exemplifies the heart of the business and Maureen's life. — Margaret Gregory



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cooking at home

# ROASTED CAULIFLOWER *with Tahini Sauce*

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH



**online** Get more recipes at [ourhomes.ca/blogrecipes](https://ourhomes.ca/blogrecipes)

This whole roasted cauliflower is the perfect meatless substitution or accompaniment for your next holiday celebration – generously spiced and paired with a creamy tahini sauce.

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 whole cauliflower
- ½ cup olive oil
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp oregano
- ½ tsp allspice
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper

## Tahini Sauce

- 1 cup tahini
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 6-8 Tbsp water
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Slivered almonds, toasted

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking dish with parchment paper.

Wash cauliflower, remove leaves and slice the bottom so it's level in the baking dish.

In a bowl, combine oil and spices.

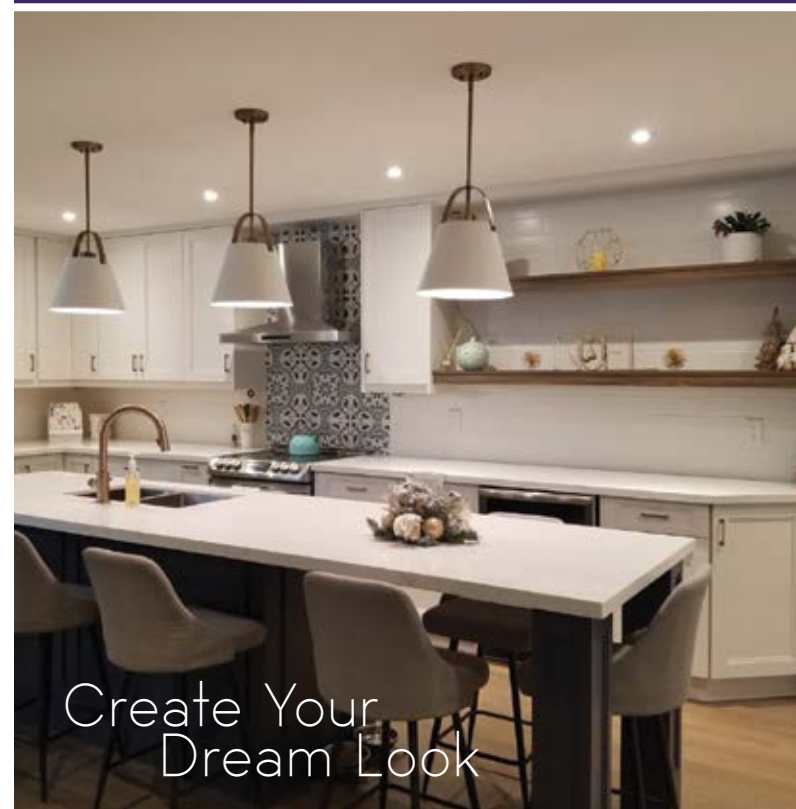
Flip the cauliflower, bottom facing up, and spoon a few tablespoons of the mixture inside the cavity.

Turn the cauliflower upright in the dish and rub the rest of the spice mixture over the cauliflower until coated.

Depending on the size of the cauliflower, roast for 45 minutes to an hour until tender.

To prepare the sauce, mix tahini, lemon juice and garlic. The tahini will get very thick. Slowly mix in water until the sauce loosens to desired consistency. Season with salt and pepper.

Serve the roasted cauliflower garnished with tahini sauce and toasted almonds. **OH**



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Lorna Parcher

# the HOME, GARDEN & COTTAGE STORE

PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



## THE PLACE

Just over five years ago Lorna Parcher opened the furniture and décor store **Graham & Brooks** in Dundas, where she and her husband John have lived for more than 20 years. Originally, she leaned toward repurposed goods. Today, in response to demand, the store carries an equal mix of vintage and new. “We still like to get things that have character and stories,” Lorna explains, “But our customers also like to have the new to mix in with the old.” Her talent for recognizing unique finds and her considerate, knowledgeable manner have garnered Graham & Brooks a loyal following.

## THE STYLE

Lorna sources an eclectic mix of local and Canadian-made products – everything for the home, garden and cottage. She also gives new life to aged furniture, creating one-of-a-kind pieces. “We do a lot of décor for your home, be it anything from a tablescape to ornaments, for inside and for outside,” she says. “And as we get closer to the holiday season, we have a lot of gift items. We like to feature gifts for men because I find sometimes men are hard to shop for. We have the guy in your life covered!”



## THE TREND

Since the onset of the pandemic, Lorna has noticed people are giving themselves permission to gift themselves for the home. “I think they are treating themselves,” she says. “It doesn’t have to be something big or extravagant, it might just be a little something, but it’s a treat. I think we’re a little easier on ourselves, and for me that isn’t a bad idea.”



## WHAT'S NEW

Just in time for the festive season, Graham & Brooks has its own line of candles. Each comes in a reusable container in unique scents such as After the Storm, Glen Arbour and Blue Spruce. The Garden Collection candles come in a selection of sweet pots, and the Cottage Collection in outdoor-themed etched glasses. Buy one of each for a distinctive set of glassware. Lorna uses and sells chalky paint from Ancaster’s own Bluestone House, and although she has had to suspend painting workshops, she has put together a starter kit with all the instructions and tips necessary to start painting at home. **OH**

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# SPARKLING LIGHTING TIPS for a Festive Holiday Season

STORY **JENNIFER BACKSTEIN**

The secret to every successful soiree is ambience, and designers know lighting is absolutely everything. This holiday season, most families are planning more intimate, smaller gatherings. Here are my favourite tips for hosting a simply sparkling and festive fête.



## Layers of Light

Because night arrives more quickly in winter, your home's lighting plan is more important than ever. Set the stage for an elegant evening by illuminating the exterior walkway and your front door, and by highlighting all-season gardens and landscape features. There's nothing prettier than a winter-bare tree dressed in tiny glimmering lights.

Your interiors should include a balanced mix of ambient, task and accent lighting, which will add function and comfort to your space. Ambient lighting is the overall lighting in the room, and typically comes in the form of overhead lighting. Task lighting, as its name implies, is meant to illuminate tasks. At your party, this could be lamps lighting the hors d'oeuvres table or pendants above an improvised bar. Last but not least, accent lighting will illuminate special features, such as artwork or a great piece of furniture.

**TIP:** Illuminating key living areas in your home can subconsciously usher your guests to the party. Light up the refreshments area, bar, kitchen (if your guests are welcome there), guest bathroom and front entrance.

*Continued on page 64*



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# decorating



For instant evening glow, pick up a variety of jar candles, tea light candles and battery-operated mini lights to nestle in among tablescapes.

Light bulbs come in different colours and temperatures. Neutral bulbs are also called “bright white,” which lands somewhere between warm yellow and cool blue, and is the preferred choice in living areas. You can instantly warm up your home by swapping out your bright whites with the slightly warmer “soft white” option.

Above all, invest in dimmers throughout the key areas of your home to control the level of light and mood within the space.



PHOTO: STEPHANI BUCHMAN

## Fire It Up!

There's nothing quite like a flickering fireplace on a blustery day. The hearth is a natural gathering place. Historically, the fireplace was a hub for cooking, warmth and light. As its functional applications have waned over the years it's still a hot spot for entertaining. If you're having a small gathering, the fireplace should be the focal point. Style the fireplace mantel for

the event with fresh greenery and a simple string of twinkling white lights and your favourite festive accessories. Or keep it simple and let the flame speak for itself.

If you don't have a fireplace and are considering installing one, consult a professional for advice on the best type of fireplace for your space. Wood-burning, gas, electric – each has its own unique benefits.



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

**TIP:** If you don't have a fireplace or just want to mimic this look for a party, the warm glow of a flickering flame can be achieved with candles and dimmer switches. Strategically placed mirrors will amplify the amount of light and visual warmth in the room.

While wintertime and holiday parties may look a little different this year, why not embrace them as they come and be thankful for what they are? Time spent with your near and dear ones, under the right light, is the most wonderful way to spend the festive season ahead. **OH**



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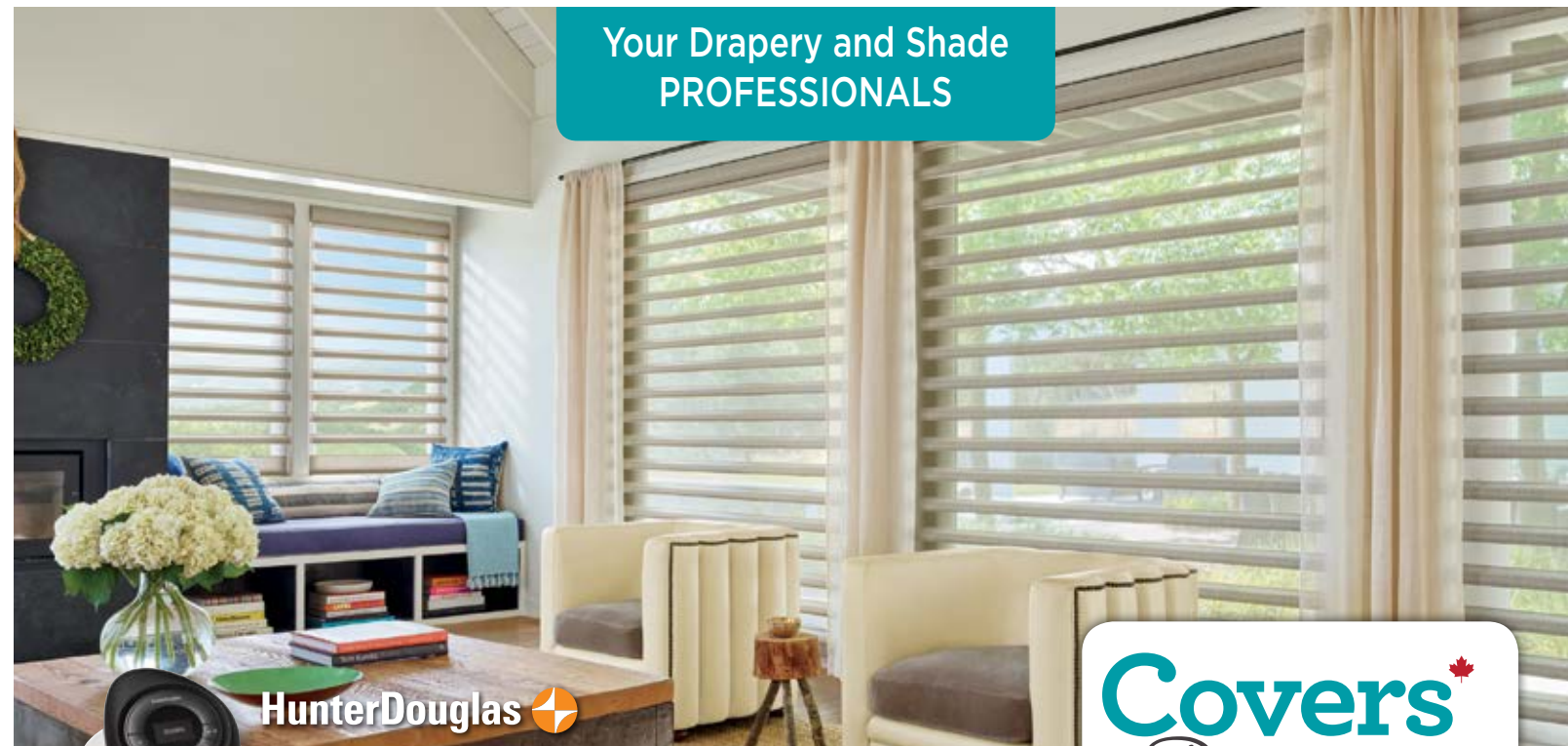
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## How COVID-19 is

# IMPACTING HOME DESIGN

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

When COVID-19 hit, our homes, essentially overnight, were asked to function in ways they'd never had to before. On a purely practical level, for homeowners, all those hours we've spent at home – in Zoom meetings, coaxing sourdough starter, agonizing over math homework, gathering for family movie nights – have given us an unprecedented chance to take stock. What works well here? What room drives me crazy? What's tired or just not working?

After speaking with Ontario homeowners, it's clear many of us have moved beyond the "thinking about it" stage to making it happen. "I have never been this busy!" says Rob Abbott of Great Lakes Custom Homes. Based in Craileith, Abbott says he's seeing brisk demand and a flurry of pandemic-inspired requests from homeowners for quotes on renovations and builds.

In the Ottawa area, Ryan Blackwell of Blackwell Renovations has experienced a similar rush. "It's kind of crazy. This year the amount of estimates that I'm doing has spiked."

From a real estate perspective, whether you plan to buy or sell in the near future, or simply want to enjoy your home while building equity, it's important to understand how much homeowner priorities have shifted during the pandemic.

With that thought in mind, we asked Rob Abbott (whose client projects are rural) and Blackwell (whose work is more urban-focused) how this great period of global unease is impacting home design. Here are several trends they noted:



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

## ENHANCED HOME OFFICES

Not surprisingly, with many workers today still mandated to work from home, builders see big and likely lasting impact here. Ryan Blackwell says he's had multiple quote requests recently for home offices in and around Ottawa, adding, "That's not usually a focal point."

In Craileith, Rob Abbott is also fielding quotes for home offices. He says the all-important twist today is that clients want such spaces designed for much more dedicated use. "People now don't just want just a flex space for their office, they want somewhere where, when they shut the door, they don't hear anybody."



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

## GENERAL UPDATING

Offices aside, Ryan Blackwell says the pandemic isn't fuelling one particular type of job request. What he sees instead is an overall reprioritization. "I think the common trend is that people are living in it and they realize now that they're sick of it. They see their space all the time. Their kitchen is drab and they've been wanting to do it for a while. It's just they're taking the opportunity now." *Continued on page 70*

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## OUTDOOR STRUCTURES

Beyond their so-familiar four walls, Rob Abbott also sees clients casting a critical gaze to their outdoor spaces. From screened-in porches and sunrooms, to decks, pavilions, cabanas and gazebos, he says clients are keen to expand their outdoor entertainment areas, nudge their kids away from screens and encourage fresh-air family fun. "People are building outdoors like crazy."



PHOTO: TOJA GRID

## SEPARATE LIVING QUARTERS

In his urban setting, Ryan Blackwell says he's also seen more homeowners make sizable investments to carve out apartments either in their home's basement or attic space, generally to provide a source of supplementary income. "Our market has stayed pretty strong, and people have noticed that, so they're not as scared to pull the equity or reinvest," he says.



PHOTO: ONICAP



PHOTO: ONICAP

**UTILIZING BASEMENT OR ATTIC SPACES TO CREATE APARTMENTS CAN PROVIDE A SOURCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME.**

## UPGRADING RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

By contrast, in the country, Rob Abbott says since the pandemic he's noticed far more city dwellers on the hunt for rural properties. As for those who already own recreational properties outside the city, he says many are renovating big time. "Some are now at the precipice of deciding, 'Do I ever go back to the office or do I just stay at my 4,000 square-foot chalet and never go back to Toronto?'" With families hunkering down in their chalets and cottages, Rob Abbott says he's gotten requests for everything from enclosing kids' loft spaces and redoing bedrooms and basements to adding bathrooms and building pricey multi-storey additions. "People are spending so much time up here, they're now wanting to update or finish spaces in the home that they never bothered to do before." **OH**



PHOTO: ONICAP

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# all is CALM all is BRIGHT

STORY **JOYCE GIONET**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



*TRADITION PLAYED A ROLE IN HOW THIS STUNNING LAKESIDE TUDOR MANSION LANDED ON THE JLHB TOUR. GROWING UP, THE HOMEOWNER'S GIRLFRIEND ENJOYED TAKING HOLIDAY HOUSE TOURS WITH HER MOM. SHE ENCOURAGED THE HOMEOWNER TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY BY OFFERING HIS NEWLY RENOVATED HOME FOR THE 2019 TOUR.*

Did you know that JLHB tour homeowners move out to allow decorators to dress their homes? They have no idea what to expect when they return. It's like the nail-biting outcomes on HGTV's *Love It or List It*, except on the tour, homeowners are usually happy with the results. "We hadn't been in the house long because we had only just finished a big reno and our own holiday decorations were virtually non-existent. We loved all the different colours that were used, and the holiday trees were beautiful – there were three in our master bedroom. We also liked the furniture they brought in to stage the house. The whole thing gave us some great ideas about what can be done in the future."

*Continued on page 74*

The Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington (JLHB) is part of an international organization of women that develops and enhances leadership skills while working to make their communities better. The annual Holiday House Tour of Distinctive Homes is its signature fundraiser.

**LEFT:** The sunroom was transformed into a winter wonderland by Branthaven Homes Design Centre. Mixed metals and deep copper hues complement the woody elements. **TOP:** Holland Park Garden Gallery filled the home with fresh greenery, bringing in the scent of the season.

# DINING ROOM & GUEST BEDROOM

DECORATOR:  
**Nicole Jacobs,  
Nicole Jacobs Design**

*“I believe that a well-designed space is one that exudes the warmth, imagination and personality of the people who live there.”*



*“I WANTED TO SET THE MOOD FOR FINE DINING BY CANDLELIGHT.”*

## DINING ROOM

Nowadays, multipurpose casual spaces replace formal dining rooms. Nicole Jacobs wanted this room to be a wow space that said, “Let’s go back in time, to when we were more formal.” The table was set with Mikasa’s Palatial Gold china and Jamestown crystal stemware, interspersed with vintage crystal goblets. “I wanted to set the mood for fine dining by candlelight.” In the evening, the only light in the room came from the tree and the taper candles. Dried red sedum and real berries arranged on deep green velvet drapery served as a table runner. Fresh greens, cinnamon sticks and star anise nestled alongside century fruits such as blood oranges, lemons, cranberries, persimmons and pomegranates. A bountiful tablescape fit for a Gatsby Christmas in West Egg.

## GUEST BEDROOM

Nicole decorated the upstairs guest room with blush pink accents. It was a space suited to a fashionable young woman of the 1920s, home for the holidays. Design took its cue from the mannequin, draped with a dressing gown and fascinator. A steamer trunk under the tree waits to be unpacked. What would a young woman of the era have on her dressing table? Perhaps a photo of someone special back in the city and the requisite silver-plated vintage vanity set, plus an atomizer, perhaps with Chanel No. 5, which made its debut in 1921, around the same time as this house. *Continued on page 76*



With sparkling snowflakes, a glimmering tree and plenty of festive touches, this bedroom by Brantaven Homes Design Centre is aglow with the holiday spirit.



# KITCHEN

DECORATOR:  
**Christine McCulloch,**  
**Rowe Interiors**

*“My passion is for beautiful spaces and helping my clients bring their design visions to life.”*

This is one gorgeous modern kitchen, but with many stone and chrome-mirrored surfaces, it needed cosying up for a festive tour. The abundance of white and natural light helped the cause. Christine McCulloch grouped and layered colours, fabrics and accessories to pop against the room’s crisp, clean backdrop. “I’m actually colour averse,” she laughs. “I add colour to a room through accessories or in fits of whimsy, like the fluffy white faux fur on the stools and the dramatic bows in a black-and-white buffalo check.” Christine strived for visual interest at every angle – this was particularly important in the kitchen, as people lined up here to exit the tour, leaving lots of time to look around. **Tasco Appliances** supplied her with everything in red. Burlington’s **Juniper Floral Studio** volunteered the fresh green garlands, tiny potted trees and windowsill wreaths. There’s a lovely traditional Christmas feel that fits well, even in the modern backdrop. We imagine it smelled like heaven too, and not just because of all that fresh greenery. The cakes, cookies and gingerbread in the photos were fresh, created from scratch and provided by **MollyCake** in Burlington. *Continued on page 78*



**ABOVE:** An upper-level alcove is dressed up with traditional holiday trimmings, from bold red accents to holly berry and soft faux fur.



*“I ADD COLOUR TO A ROOM THROUGH ACCESSORIES OR IN FITS OF WHIMSY.”*





## DEN

STAGER: **Jill Ackerman, Stage Right**

*“Never underestimate the impact of a professionally staged property.”*

FLORALS & GREENS: **Debra & David Seeley, Clearview Design**

*“When you choose flowers to express yourself, we speak your language!”*



As a designer, how do you treat a room with loads of large windows, but no coverings to warm things up? You create a design like Debra Seeley's – one that leads people to believe that even in winter, window coverings can be optional. Her romantic screened effect is a delightfully unique combination of sticks and twigs, tree branches, cedar and pine boughs and hypericum. Windowsills were layered with greenery and draped with strings of twinkle lights. The shimmer and scent of fresh silver-seeded eucalyptus added to the ambience. “People know me for my roses,” says Debra. It seems they are her trademark. Large white roses spill from arrangements and tiny rose sprays are nestled in the branches of the slim faux trees. “In styling or staging, we usually follow the 60/30/10 rule to give a room balance,” Jill Ackerman says. In this room, three colours work together. Red delivers a punch of colour against the grey and cream neutrals. Different textures and patterns draw the eye around the room and greenery draws the eye to the outside. It was the first time Jill and Debra worked together. “We weren't going for glitz and glitter here, we wanted a soft, relaxed ambience,” says Jill. *Continued on page 80*

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spotlight



STORY ANDREA COX  
PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

# Feathering the NEST

## THE PLACE

What began in 1997 as a pop-up store on Trafalgar Road evolved into **Joshua Creek Furniture**. Today, it's located a few blocks west of its humble beginnings and has blossomed into a 10,000 sq. ft. showroom. Owners Jim Hobbs and Joe Levine pride themselves on carrying Canadian-made, on-trend, customizable furnishings, along with hand-picked, unique home décor items at affordable prices.

## THE STYLE

The store showcases a broad selection of deep-seated, feather-filled sofas and sectionals, rough-cut harvest tables, solid wood bedrooms, unique home office designs, boutique condo options and hundreds of fabrics and wood finishes.



## SERVICE

What really sets the store apart is the customer service. A hand-selected group of experienced designers and salespeople, including Jim's daughter Samantha, bring the showroom to life. "We really want our customers to take their time and get it right," says Jim. The team offers one-on-one consultations, plenty of take-home samples and house calls to ensure furnishings fit a space and tie in with an overall home design. "There is nothing worse than buying something only to find out that it won't fit through the door or up a staircase, or the colours are wrong."

## THE TREND

Earthy colours, plenty of gold, lighter wood stains, mixed media and textures are all the rage. "Think fabric-upholstered chairs with gold metal legs and textured wood in both flooring and furnishings. Wire-brushed, hand-scraped, rough cut, it's all trending," says Jim, adding that this year it is all about feathering the nest and creating a warm, comfortable and safe space.



## THE FUTURE

"We are really a bricks-and-mortar store," Jim says. "Staying close to our roots is what makes us stand out. Our customers want to sit in it, touch it, feel it, sign out samples and take their time. We are still strong after 20 years, and our customer base is continuing to spread – from Muskoka, Collingwood, London and Niagara, even as far away as Vancouver Island." **OH**



## Get There

1029 Speers Rd., Oakville  
905.842.3739 | [joshuacreekfurniture.com](http://joshuacreekfurniture.com)

# Professionals WITH PURPOSE

PHOTOGRAPHY  
JASON HARTOG  
AND KELLY HORKOFF

These pros have what it takes to make your home a warm haven.



### AT WORK

**Company Motto:** Provide the best service to our clientele. **Inspiration:** The beauty of each new season. **Customer Tip:** If you need help, ask us – we have been doing this for 35 years.

**SEASONAL FINDS:**  
*Unique plants and garden décor.*

## CATHY COMMISSO

Satellite Gardens

We are a year-round garden centre and flower shop. We do Christmas in a big way, with winter planters created by our floral designers. Visit our new greenhouse filled with tropical plants from the ordinary to the unique. We have a huge variety of tropicals, succulents, cactus and bromeliads, and knowledgeable staff to help with questions.

### AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** West Mountain. **Favourite Space:** Our front and back yards. **Weekend Joy:** Having family over on Sunday. **Top Musical:** *Come From Away.*

**TOP MOVING TIP:** *Purge! You won't regret it.*

## MINDY APPLEBAUM & AARON PARKER

Luxury Move Management

Luxury Move Management is a one-stop shop for all move-related logistics. We'll help you declutter your home for the market, then navigate you through the next steps as we pack, move, unpack and everything in between!

### AT WORK

**What's New:** We now serve the Oakville area. **What's Unique:** We offer 25 move-related services.

### AT HOME

**Fireside Flick:** *Moving Day! Winter Fun:* Skiing and baking. **Perfect Hostess Gift:** Charcuterie board.



*Continued on page 86*



**AT WORK**

**Success Secret:** Treat employees and other contractors/suppliers as I would my clients. **Inspiration:** Family, food and travel all have their bearing on my perspective and priorities. **Workplace Joy:** Music.

**CLIENT ADVICE:**  
*Don't ask "How soon can you start?" Instead ask, "How soon until you're finished?"*

**ROBERT ARMSTRONG**  
 Aberdeen Interiors

In the seven years we have focused on interior renovations, we have developed relationships with some wonderfully talented people who help bring our clients' visions to life, from design through to professional finishes. I take pride in ensuring a quality client experience.

**AT HOME**

**Neighbourhood:** Kirkendall South. **Favourite Room:** Kitchen, which I've just renovated. **Winter Pastime:** Finding a nice warm place to enjoy a cigar. **Top Movie:** *Big Night*, with Stanley Tucci and Tony Shalhoub.

*Continued on page 88*

Finally there is a vinyl shutter that has the look, feel, and warmth of wood. Smart Shutter Canada has the latest innovation in shutters, delivering elegance and a low maintenance and eco-friendly product. Our shutters are V.O.C.-free and have been found to outperform the rest and are the best in terms of environmental impact and durability – they are custom made to fit your windows, will add instant value to your home and save on energy costs!

Based out of Hamilton, we are conveniently located to provide you with an outstanding shutter at a great price. We also do custom specialty shapes! Anything from arches, brows, triangles, circles, octagons, and everything in between. We measure, make, and install...Any shape, any size, we do it all!

With over 20 years of experience, and having dealt with thousands of customers, we have a strict set of guidelines that includes multiple inspection points throughout the fabrication process, ensuring we exceed our customer's expectations. We welcome the opportunity to earn your trust and to provide you with the best shutters on the market, with the best service, at the absolute best price!

*We will not be undersold!*



*Call us, for all your window treatment needs.*

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**smartshuttercanada.com**



**FALL SPECIAL**  
**40% OFF\***

*\*First responders receive additional savings!  
 We thank you for your service.*



AT WORK

**Professional Motto:** We make it simple. **Motivation:** Providing our clients with an easy, stress-free process. **Latest Project:** Managing the clearing of an 8,000 sq. ft. estate with 60+ years of accumulation.

**READER TIP:** Start early and give yourself time.

**JENNIFER SMITH**

Organized Transitions

Organized Transitions is dedicated to making the process of organizing, downsizing, moving or managing the clearing of an estate as simple as possible. Our team of professional organizers takes a compassionate and customized approach to each client's individual needs.

AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Quiet, near trails and green space. **Home Style:** A combination of traditional and contemporary. **Pastimes:** Spending time with family and friends, hiking, tennis, yoga and gardening. **Favourite Movie:** Forrest Gump.

Continued on page 90

The Unique Process

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**JOSETTE  
AT WORK**

**What's New:** Combining different window treatments to create layers, motorization of blinds and drapery. **What's Unique:** Our workroom is local and works with us to create custom draperies for clients. **Window Covering Tip:** Let us help you consider where to plan for motorized blinds.

**MICHELLE  
AT WORK**

**What's New:** Drapery rod motorization. **What's Unique:** Superior customer service. **Window Covering Tip:** Functionality is important.

**MICHELLE  
LOWE &  
JOSETTE  
GIACALONE**

**Covers Canada**

Covers is 100 per cent Canadian owned and operated – a family business since 1987. We offer top-brand names such as Hunter Douglas, Shade-O-Matic, Maxxmar, Sun Glow, Comfortex and Somfy.

**MICHELLE  
AT HOME**

**Fireside:** Board games. **Winter Fun:** Baking cookies. **Perfect Hostess Gift:** Covers gift card.

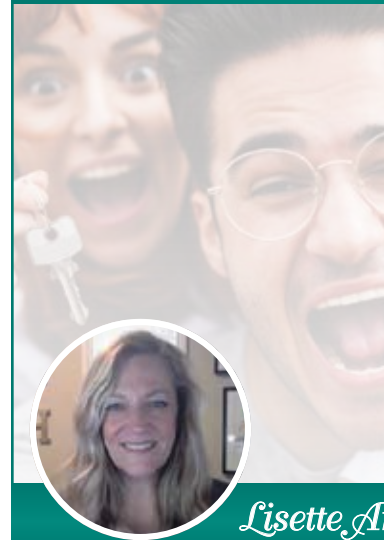
**JOSETTE  
AT HOME**

**Fireside Flick:** It's Complicated. Love the interiors, especially those grasscloth window coverings! **Winter Fun:** Tobogganing and enjoying some hot chocolate outside. **Perfect Hostess Gift:** Local candles. I love Vintage Peony.



Continued on page 92

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**AT WORK**

**Company Credo:** To educate our customers on quality products and getting the best value for their budget. **Inspiration:** Social media. Love following other builders, designers and decorators. **Buyer Advice:** Go with your gut. So many people second-guess their decision. If you love what you see at first glance, you need to stick with it.

**HOT PRODUCT:** *Aura – our premium paint line. Clients love it.*

**MARION & MIKE URQUHART**

Aftica Decor & Camden Carpet and Interiors

We are a family-owned and operated business that began in 1993. We have a wide range of floor coverings including broadloom, area rugs, vinyl plank and tile, as well as window coverings and Benjamin Moore paint. Much of our business runs on referrals and repeat customers.

**AT HOME**

**Neighbourhood:** Old Ancaster – love the mature trees, beautiful homes and friendly neighbours. **Home Style:** Coastal mixed with transitional. Think island living meets a bit of old-world charm. **Weekend Joy:** Up north at the lake. **Top Movie:** Anything with Julia Roberts (and Mike is okay with that, too)!

*Continued on page 94*



**Protect you and your family**  
*this cold & flu season.*

Merry Maids' NEW Enhanced Healthy Home Disinfectant Package protects what's important – you, your family and your home.

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Kills a wide range of viruses and harmful bacteria



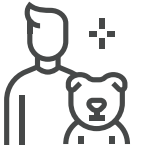
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## CRAIG JARVIS

Smart Shutter Canada

We are a family-run business with decades of experience. We have a hands-on approach in dealing directly with the public – we measure, make and install. We do it all and we will not be undersold.

### AT WORK

#### Company Philosophy:

Guide your team, respect your team, empower your team. Together Everyone Achieves More. **Inspiration:**

Knowing our customers are getting the best shutters on the market at the absolute best price. **Reader Advice:**

Get as many quotes as you can, and compare apples to apples.

**TRENDING:**  
Shutters,  
year after  
year.

### AT HOME

#### Favourite Room:

Outdoor lounge, enjoying our new koi pond. **Winter Fun:** Playing hockey. **Best Movie:** Shutter Island. No pun intended.

Continued on page 96



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STUNNINGLY UPDATED  
MID-CENTURY HOME

4 3+1

Rare opportunity to own this mid-century home designed by Toronto architect Jerome Markson. This home sits on a 246' deep lot and backs onto the Bruce Trail. Thoughtful updates keep vintage feel. Original travertine floors in spectacular condition and vast open space with high ceilings and clerestory windows. Beautiful cherry kitchen with built-in high-end appliances, quartz counters and breakfast bar. Main floor master bedroom features a renovated 3-piece ensuite, original built-in drawers and wardrobes plus sitting area with banquette. Bathrooms feature classic mix of original teak and modern fixtures.



\$2,100,000

CHARACTER HOME ON  
PRESTIGIOUS CUL-DE-SAC

6 3+2

Situated on a double wide 120ft lot, this magnificent cut stone home boasts over 4,200 sq ft with 6 beds, 5 recently updated baths, and a recently finished basement. This home is meant for entertaining with a new top-of-the-line kitchen with high-end SS GE Monogram apps, porcelain tile flrs, marble backsplash, Italian marble CTs and more. The living room w/ wood burning fireplace has garden doors to beautiful, private garden with a 20x40 inground pool. It retains the charm and character that makes it so opulent: refinished hardwood floors, 4 Swarovski crystal chandeliers, leaded casement windows, crown moldings, BI storage, original fireplaces, original crystal door knobs on original doors with skeleton keys.

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\*Based on total transactions (career sales, both independent and with the team) 1993-current



people



## JOAN & JERRY RINALDI

Rinaldi Homes

Since 1987, Rinaldi Homes has provided a hands-on approach and a high level of personal involvement during each step of the building process. Integrity, perseverance and work ethic are just a few of the values that have led this third-generation family business to success. We build 40 to 50 homes per year and we're proud to put our name on every single one.

SEE OUR DIRECTORY FOR ALL CONTACT INFORMATION.

### AT HOME

#### Neighbourhood:

St. Catharines. **Home Style:** If we were to build today, something ultra-modern. **Seasonal Joy:** Usually travel to our hometown in Italy for the Grape Festival, or Arizona or Florida for a bit of golf. **Favourite Movie:** *Goodfellas*.

### ADVICE:

*Research the builder, what you want in your home and your budget.*

### AT WORK

**Company Philosophy:** When you build with us, you truly become part of the family. **Inspiration:** Exploring and learning from what's happening in different parts of the world and bringing that back to our company and designs. **What's New:** With the pandemic, our home designs feature comfortable work-from-home spaces and more year-round outdoor living space.

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RITU BRAR DESIGNS

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double take



# BEDROOM Bliss

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PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF

- 1. BREWSTER HOME FASHIONS: Leala Sand Modern Floral Wallpaper
- 2. KRAVET: Kravet Basics 4668-4 Drapery Fabric
- 3. HINKLEY: Hampton Medium Drum in Brushed Bronze
- 4. EASTERN ACCENTS: Uma Velvet Decorative Pillow in Pink
- 5. EASTERN ACCENTS: Shiloh Petal Sheet Set
- 6. CARACOLE: Mrs. Sandman Bed
- 7. SURYA: Laney Table Lamp in White. OH



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spotlight



# TO EACH THEIR STONE

PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



## THE PLACE

Countertop selection is one of the biggest decisions when building or renovating a home. With seven years serving the Niagara region through to Toronto, Hamilton-based **Stone On The Go** has earned a reputation for excellent service and materials. Owner Heather Dulas says it's their fast turnaround time that sets her company apart. That and the attention to detail and quality work her team of fabricators and installation crew provide. Their stated mission is to provide top quality counter installations in only a few days, at the best prices. The showroom displays a wealth of options, and staff offer customers informed advice and free colour consultations.

## THE PRODUCTS

"We do primarily kitchen countertops, vanity countertops, laundry rooms, fireplaces and shower stalls," says Heather. "Quartz, granite, some marble, and we're starting to get into porcelain slabs." They source major brands including: Caesarstone, Purestone, Silestone, TCE, KStone, Hanstone, Vicostone, Highland Stone, MSI and Sio4 Quartz, customizing each surface to the project at hand. Stone On The Go carries a range of undermount sinks, as well.



## THE TRENDS

Given the durability and low maintenance of quartz, it continues to be a very popular choice, says Heather. Because it's engineered, there is a large array of colours and patterns to choose from, although this year has been all about white and grey. Styles continually evolve and she is seeing more black cabinetry and gold faucets and fixtures, and with that more countertops with gold vein versus grey.



## THE CORROBORATOR

To see a sample of Stone On The Go's finished product – a gorgeous quartz countertop and stainless steel apron sink – we visited and photographed a renovation by Tom Rebelo of Rocar Renovations. Tom explained that his business depends on fast and reliable service, and that since working with Heather he has been able

to increase the amount of kitchen projects he takes on. "Working with Stone On The Go is amazing. I actually dropped my other suppliers and just deal with them now." **OH**

## Get There

**1170 Rymal Rd. E. Unit C-1**  
**905.575.6882 | stoneonthego.com**



Tom Rebelo and Heather Dulas



*Interiors by*  
**Better Shade**  
Furniture, Draperies and Blinds



**BURLINGTON DESIGN STUDIO**

For more than 10 years Anita Puls and Kim Giancaterino have been in the Interior Design business and are proud to announce the launch of **Burlington Design Studio**. You know the term two heads are better than one? Well they couldn't agree more!

They both bring to the table extensive experience in residential Interior Design with Anita's company – House of Hues Interiors and Kim's company – Kimberley Giancaterino Interiors. They've both experienced much success and have helped homeowners realize their home's potential through new builds, major renovations including open concept spaces, full kitchen and bath or basement. As well, a simple refresh of paint and new custom furniture to create a cohesive design is a service they also provide.

"Over the years we have established exceptional relationships with our trades and suppliers which ensures each project will run smoothly and efficiently. Our clients can be assured that they will receive the highest quality service by letting us handle and manage their entire project"

Burlington Design Studio is genuinely invested in their clients and believes in providing professional service with honesty and integrity.

Let's talk and make it the first step to creating your dream home.

**829 Brant St, Burlington**  
[burlingtondesignstudio.ca](http://burlingtondesignstudio.ca)  
[info@burlingtondesignstudio.ca](mailto:info@burlingtondesignstudio.ca)  
**905.580.0024 | 905.467.7433**

*(Please see ad on pg 20)*

**INTERIORS BY BETTER SHADE**

**Interiors By Better Shade** is a destination showroom for all your interior design needs in the Niagara peninsula. A stone's throw from Toronto and on the way to your Niagara-on-the-Lake getaway, we are Ontario's largest chair gallery with a beautiful selection of furnishings for your whole home at a better price.

Fourth-generation family owned and operated since our beginning in 1955, we are renowned for our custom window treatments made on-site. From shutters to drapery, and everything in between, we have every type of blind possible as well as a complete and comprehensive display of voice-activated **Hunter Douglas** motorized shades.

Visit our inviting and beautifully appointed showroom to meet with our experienced design team. In a relaxed, no-pressure atmosphere we will help your vision come together with results that exceed expectation and blend comfort with functionality, making your time at home more enjoyable. From new builds, keeping that fresh modern model home feel, to helping renovate or update a single room in your home, buying local and shopping Canadian-made is a stylish and affordable option. From custom dining sets to custom sofas, sectionals, chairs and rugs, we have the solution to make your **WHOLE HOME BETTER!**

**469 Glendale Ave,**  
**St. Catharines | 905.227.4555**  
[interiorsbybettershade.com](http://interiorsbybettershade.com)  
**@interiorsbybettershade**

*(Please see ads on pg 16, 17)*

**OAKVILLE KITCHEN & BATH CENTRE**

In business since 1962, **Oakville Kitchen & Bath Centre** is a full service renovation company taking homeowners' visions and turning them into reality. We can take your home renovation project from start to finish. With a staff of experienced designers and tradespeople, everything is handled in-house. We design, supply and install for our clients. They don't have to go anywhere else to find the professionals they need, we've got it all.

A strong attention to detail and careful consideration add to our superior customer service. Emphasis is placed on communication. We lead a team of conscientious tradespeople who understand they are working in someone's home and not a construction site.

Much of our business is referral-based. Our clients know that we will be there in years to come to offer support and product information and gladly recommend us to their friends and neighbours.

Ultimately, what drives our team is our collective goal of helping homeowners take their vision and make it a reality.

Helping a family turn their house into a home is so rewarding and we truly enjoy being a part of that.  
**oakvillekitchencentre.com**  
**905.827.4611**  
**info@oakvillekitchencentre.com**  
*(Please see ad on pg 10&11)*

**LET IT RAIN**

Founded by Bruno Levesque in 1990, **Let It Rain** has grown from a single roofing contractor to become the GTA's expert roofing company. The business has grown because of their many customer referrals and at Let It Rain the quality of work speaks for them.

At Let It Rain the goal is to provide you with the most durable and energy efficient roof system by providing the best quality roofing. Roofing estimates include installing top-quality products that are supported by the best manufacturer's warranties. At the end of each installation they always review your roof to ensure the manufacturer's specifications have been met so that your warranty is in good standing.

Let It Rain has been in business for 30 years so you can count on them to service your 10-year labour warranty.

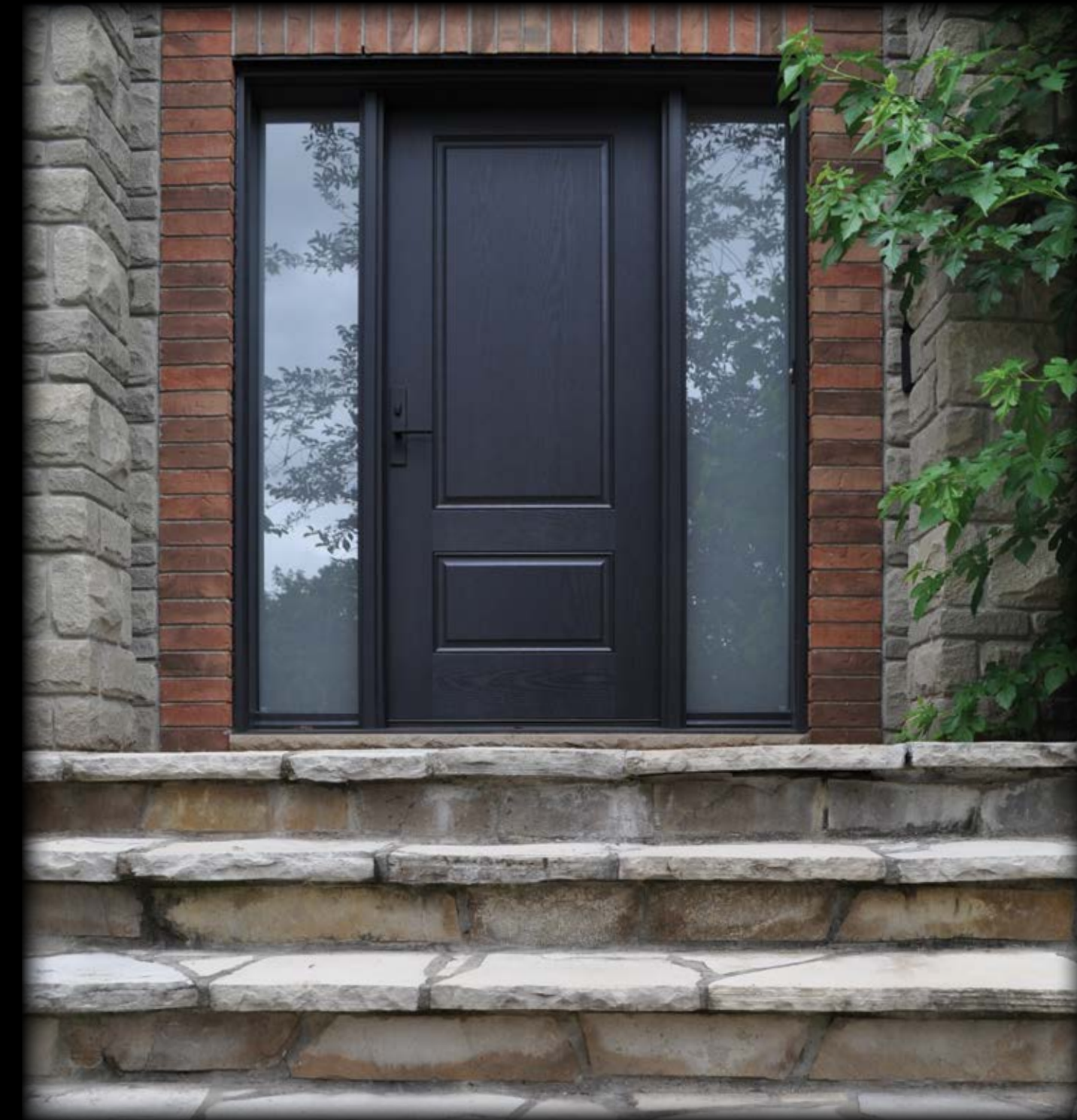
Let It Rain roofing services has also expanded to Let It Rain home renovations. Now they can take care of all your home needs from top to bottom, inside and out: Railings, decking, painting, window and doors, flooring, tiling, carpentry, chimneys and more.

**Small to large jobs, give Let It Rain Roofing and Home Renovation a call at 905.795.0212 for a free estimate or visit [letitrain.ca](http://letitrain.ca)**

*(Please see ad on pg 119)*

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*Continued on page 104*



### ENDEMAN'S IRONCRAFT LTD.

Custom ironwork is what we do at **Endeman's Ironcraft Ltd.** While some of that does include our signature pieces such as spiral stairs, driveway gates, and stair/railing systems, we also fabricate one-of-a-kind pieces that can be inspired from photos and drawings down to something sketched on a napkin.

Founded over 42 years ago by Harold Endeman and now owned by his son and grandson, Albert and Wade Endeman are proud of the niche market they have developed that extends beyond the local community. With many years making customer service a top priority, clients as far away as Huntsville, London, and Ottawa have sought out their services knowing they will deliver what they need.

If you are thinking about a project involving iron, feel free to contact us to speak about your ideas and we will work with you to make your ideas come to life.

**For further information including a portfolio of some of their work, check them out at [endemansironcraft.com](http://endemansironcraft.com) 519.941.2876**

*(Please see ad on pg 35)*



### ROWE INTERIORS

**Rowe Interiors** is a full-service residential interior decorating firm. We are passionate about working with clients to make their dreams a reality, and creating a space that you will love for years to come.

We can offer the following design and decorating services:

- In-home design consultation where we provide you with ideas and suggestions to implement a design or decorating project
- Colour consultations to help you select paint colours for any room in your home
- Sourcing décor and selecting furniture, fabrics, rugs, lighting, art and accessories to align with your personal style and preferences
- Material selections for kitchen and bath renovations
- Home staging consultation and implementation
- e-Design services for those who are looking for a guided 'do-it-yourself' design solution

Now more than ever, updating your space can make an amazing impact on how you feel and function in your home. And whether you're undergoing a major renovation, or a quick space refresh, we would love to collaborate with you and bring your design or decorating vision to life.

**Contact us for more information or to book an in-home design consultation**  
Christine McCulloch  
@rowe\_interiors  
[christine@rowe-interiors.com](mailto:christine@rowe-interiors.com)  
647.201.2571  
[rowe-interiors.com](http://rowe-interiors.com)

*(Please see ad on pg 81)*



### MERRY MAIDS OF OAKVILLE, MILTON & HAMILTON – KEEP YOUR HOME AND FAMILY SAFE THIS COLD AND FLU SEASON

**Merry Maids' of Oakville, Milton & Hamilton** is locally owned and operated. As the experts of cleaning and disinfecting, we are constantly evolving our products and services to ensure we're consistently delivering the best possible service to families in our community.

We understand the world as we know has changed, and therefore our team has taken the time to carefully rethink how we can improve our industry-leading home cleaning services. To do this, we've gone back to school to develop new methodologies and processes to provide customers with a cleaner, healthier, germ-free home.

We provide a 100% customer satisfaction guarantee with every Merry Maids clean. Our cleaners undergo vigorous screening, background and police checks, and are bonded and insured.

Your health and safety is always our top priority. Our staff offer 'no contact' cleaning, come equipped with proper PPE, and sanitize all of our cleaning products between homes.

**To learn more about Merry Maids and our home cleaning services, please visit [merrymaids oakville.com](http://merrymaids oakville.com), [merrymaidsmilton.com](http://merrymaidsmilton.com), or [merrymaids hamilton.com](http://merrymaids hamilton.com)**

*(Please see ad on pg 93)*



### STONEY CREEK FURNITURE

**Stoney Creek Furniture** offers an unequalled selection of quality, inspired living, dining and bedroom furniture, mattresses and so much more. Shop over 100,000 sq. ft. of fresh looks in our Vaughan and Stoney Creek showrooms, where you can browse safely and comfortably.

Whether you're looking for the perfect investment piece or an on-trend accessory, we have the largest and latest selection of designer furniture from contemporary to traditional and everything in between for every budget and style.

With over 50 years in business, President Jim Fee credits his staff as playing a key role in this achievement. "The experience of shopping at a family-owned, family-run business, versus a big box, comes down to the people working there," says Fee. "A significant amount of Stoney Creek Furniture's staff have been with the company anywhere between ten to thirty years, a fact that has been instrumental in creating the commitment, family feel, and enthusiasm that exists at both the Stoney Creek and Vaughan locations. People coming into the store sense a different vibe here. Because we are not commission-based, customers feel comfortable browsing in our relaxed environment."

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*(Please see ad on pg 13)*

*Continued on page 106*



## THE GIFT GUIDE

for giving back





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The Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington (JLHB) is an organization of unstoppable women with a shared desire to improve our communities.

Since 1934, the JLHB has donated well over \$1 million dollars to support areas of need within the Hamilton-Burlington area.

Due to Covid-19, the JLHB's primary fundraiser, the Holiday House Tour, had to be cancelled for 2020.

13th Street Winery has generously stepped up to help. That's where you come in.



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From Nov. 13-30, 13th Street Winery is donating a portion of their wine sales to the Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington.

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Between Nov 13 and Nov. 30, order wine online or in-store at 13th Street Winery using the code **HHTour2020**.

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*(Please see ad on pg 69)*

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*(Please see ad on pg 8)*

### THE KITCHEN WITCH

The Kitchen Witch definition: "Stemming from European customs, a handmade doll resembling a witch that inspires productivity and safety in the kitchen while counteracting any ill will directed towards the home."

This treasure trove of a store in Dundas has something for everyone. The owner travels the world in order to stock unique and special items on her shelves. At the store, you will find a large assortment of wine and cheese serving pieces, stationery, including wax seals and calligraphy equipment, tablecloths from France, Italy, Russia, and other countries, as well as pillar, taper, and votive candles in a wide assortment of colours.

We also carry a large array of Michel Design Works products including the best selling foaming soap in several scents! A large wall of ironware is present at The Kitchen Witch that contains hooks, door knockers, brackets, bottle openers, and much more! There is a bar section with decanters, glassware, flasks, absinthe equipment, and more.

Customers have stated that our card section is the best in town! We carry a large variety including hilarious x-rated, beautiful blank, and 3D pop-up cards that are designed in England. Plan to spend a little time walking around this store.

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*(Please see ad on pg 53)*

### LAKESIDE ARCHITECTURE INC.

Lakeside Architecture Inc. is an architecture firm dedicated to the custom design of lakeside homes, cottages and boathouses.

Lakeside Architecture Inc. (formerly Smith Architect Inc.) was founded in 1963 in the Muskoka Region. During its long history in the North, the firm has designed and overseen the construction of multiple residential and resort projects. James Pitropov, Principal Architect, prefers to take a hands-on studio approach to architecture. At Lakeside Architecture Inc., James is the architect on all the designs providing an intimate and detailed service of custom designed drawings, ongoing cost analysis, and materials selection.

Through Lakeside's sister company, Lakeside Construction Management Inc., James provides construction management services.

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*(Please see ad on pg 35)*

### SAM MCDADI – TEAM MCDADI

Sam McDadi was raised in the city of Mississauga where he attended Lorne Park Secondary school. In his teen years, Sam developed a passion and talent for tennis. After completing high school, Sam obtained a tennis scholarship at Nicholls State University as the number two player in singles and the number one player in doubles.

He graduated with an honours Bachelor of Science degree in finance. Sam then enrolled at the University of South Carolina where he completed his Masters of Business Administration degree with honours.

Sam spent two years in the corporate sector working as a financial analyst with two large multinational companies. However, his true love was marketing and sales. Having decided to embark upon a real estate sales career, he has never looked back.

Sam's commitment to his clients and work ethic are unparalleled. His unique and innovative approach to the real estate business includes assembling a team which call themselves Team McDadi. This allows Sam the opportunity to continually grow his business while ensuring his clients receive the highest level of service. As a direct result of his efforts, Sam continues to be one of the top ranking realtors in the country.

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*(Please see ad on pg 23)*

### THE HAPPY SPACE – HOME STAGING AND INTERIOR DÉCOR

When listing your home, data shows that professionally staged homes sell faster and typically up to 15% more than those that haven't been staged!

As a Certified Staging Professional (CCSP), Shardie Stevenson of The Happy Space has been successfully staging homes for the past four years and works with Realtors, Investors and Homeowners, providing solutions for listings that need a lot or a little help. Her consultation will determine the "work" to get the property "sale-ready", inside and out. She also provides "Staging" packages from "final touches" to fully furnishing a vacant property. Shardie's clients all agree that she creates that great first and lasting impression!

Shardie also enjoys working with homeowners to create/recreate their Happy Space, from completely decorating a new penthouse condo, creating a home office or transforming a kid's bedroom into a teen retreat!

And, if you struggle with holiday décor, or would just love to have someone do it all for you, Shardie has been a featured designer in the Hamilton Burlington Junior League Holiday Tour of Homes for the last several years and will help you create some holiday magic!

COVID safety measures followed.  
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*(Please see ad on pg 31)*

### SWISS INTERIORS

Never before has shopping local and supporting Canadian manufacturers been so important.

In the heart of Downtown Oakville is a long established 10,000 sq. ft. furniture showroom which focuses on quality Canadian made furniture. You will find living room and family room furniture as well as home office displayed over four floors. Don't let the name fool you; the only thing Swiss about Swiss Interiors are the original founders who way back in 1953 had the vision to provide affordable quality furniture to the GTA.

Alongside the great selection of furniture, the store also has an incredibly large selection of unique home décor items from wall art and lamps, to pillows and tabletop décor.

Whether furnishing an entire house or simply adding pieces to your existing décor... the team at Swiss Interiors can help

Visit the website at [swissinteriors.com](http://swissinteriors.com) for information on the furniture and for current store hours. Follow the store on [@swiss\\_interiors](https://www.instagram.com/swiss_interiors) or [swissinteriorsoakville](https://www.facebook.com/swissinteriorsoakville) to be among the first to see new products.

*(Please see ad on pg 99)*

### ENNS CABINETRY

Every person is unique, and so is their design style. From traditional, transitional, to the growing contemporary design trend, Enns Cabinetry strives to stay at the forefront of many different design preferences. One such growing trend is combining solid colour cabinet doors with wood grain accents – and vice versa. One way to do this is "framing" the cabinet with thick panels. This makes each cabinet pop off the wall by separating it from the one next to it and can also make your cabinets look like a piece of art, delicately placed in the perfect spot of your room to draw your eye. But this trend isn't limited to kitchens. It can be done in home bars, bathrooms, and even bedroom nightstands. And the options for material varies. There is the traditional wood slab door, but the industry is continually adding new, more durable synthetic products that can give you peace of mind that they will stand up for years to come – in a variety of colours! Visit our showroom or check out our Instagram to see more.

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# flawless FIT

STORY **DENISE WILLSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Sometimes there's a special bond between builder and homeowner, a connection that creates magic. Sometimes, when a son and his parents share the same vision for their home, there's an obvious synergy. Sometimes, when talented tradespeople come together, all these puzzle pieces fit flawlessly. This is when a house becomes a masterpiece. For those involved in creating this home in the Mineola neighbourhood of Mississauga, the pieces fit perfectly.



**ABOVE:** The custom staircase was crafted to blend seamlessly with the oak hardwood floors. **OPPOSITE:** The exterior is reminiscent of a modern English cottage. The home was strategically placed to retain the lush, mature trees.

In 2016, when Ash Mahboubi and his parents, Fatemeh and Masood, fell in love with this corner lot's mature trees and proximity to downtown amenities, they had a clear vision of their future home. "My life is very busy," says Ash, owner of several quick-serve casual restaurants, "But when I'm home, I want open space

and sunlight to energize me. I want a place where I can relax and think." They wanted a traditional facade that would blend with the architecture of the neighbourhood, and envisioned an interior with traditional elements like crown moulding, coffered ceilings, rich hardwood and muted tones with modern furniture and design elements.

*Continued on page 111*

**“WE ALL WANTED A LARGE KITCHEN ISLAND AND OPEN DINING AREA WHERE FAMILY AND FRIENDS COULD GATHER FOR GOOD CONVERSATION AND FOOD.” –Ash Mahboubi**



**LEFT:** The kitchen was designed to be the nucleus of the home. Luxe finishes like marble and walnut add depth and warmth. **BELOW:** The dinette area takes advantage of sunlight and is framed by panoramic views to the outdoors.



The lower level would be Ash's domain, a space fit for a bachelor with a business to run. The upper level would be enjoyed by Fatemeh and Masood, a quiet place to spend their retirement years. The ground level would provide the homeowners with an open-concept living area and kitchen, perfect for entertaining. "My parents wanted space to lounge, to relax and we all wanted a large kitchen island and open dining area where family and friends could gather for good conversation and food."

With a clear plan in mind, the homeowners turned to **Peter Giampuzzi** of **Ornella Homes** to build their vision. "Working with Peter was seamless," says Ash. "He's young but knowledgeable, and his insights and ideas surpassed our expectations." The

family visited houses built by Ornella Homes. "His builds were really impressive. Everyone told us Peter was great to work with, and that his team knows their stuff."

Peter knows expert trades are an invaluable piece of the puzzle. **Richard Kossak** of **New Age Design** was critical in capturing the vision for the home. He brought the 4,000 sq. ft. home to life on paper, incorporating exterior features like iron-ore windows by **Ostaco Windows and Doors**, off-white cedar shakes, and locally quarried stone from **Owen Sound Ledgerrock Ltd.** It took four months to clad the exterior with natural bedrock stone hand-cut on site. "Our goal was to create a modern English cottage similar to those found in the Kingsway area," says Peter, "But with modern touches."

*Continued on page 113*



**“WE REALLY LIKE THE HIGH-END TOUCHES. THE FINISHES MAKE THE HOUSE PERSONAL AND UNIQUE.”**



As a corner lot positioned on the southeast side of the road, the house gets almost a full day of undisturbed natural light – something Richard jumped on. “Keeping the trees was priority number one, even if it meant using a hydro-dig around the tree roots, which is essentially blasting high-pressure water to remove ground material without compromising fine root systems. We also installed special drainage and underlay membranes beneath the driveway and walkways to minimize the impact on existing trees.” Ornella Homes completed the landscaping using limestone pavers spaced between the grass and natural dry-stack walls along the driveway and entrance. The traditional English garden is a nod to the home’s exterior. “Richard was able to combine old-world charm with all the bells and whistles of a modern beauty,” says Peter. “Looking at the house today, nestled between magnificent sugar maples, you wouldn’t know if it’s been around for 10 years or 100 years.”

Interior must-haves included homeowner favourites such as vaulted

ceilings, natural white-oak and walnut focal points, and double-framed cabinetry in whites and greys. The millwork, done by **Magnum Millwork Inc.**, makes the kitchen a family hot spot. Ash and his parents love the size of the island, and how every inch of the main floor –including the stunning view outside the windows – can be seen from this one spot. “The kitchen was designed to be the nucleus of the house,” Peter says. “Every other room branches from the kitchen.” Calacatta marble from Tuscany adds depth and warmth to the island, backsplash and rangehood while complementing the graphite marble and walnut mantel that surrounds the gas fireplace in the open-concept living room. For a seamless look, the stainless steel elements carry over into the kitchen. The tile work, provided by **Rivalda Tiles**, has the look and feel of marble without the absorption issues that cause scratching and dulling. **TUBS** supplied the kitchen and bath fixtures, and Magnum Millwork built the bathroom cabinetry, including in the master en suite. *Continued on page 114*

**LEFT:** A vaulted ceiling adds a little drama to the living room. Open to the kitchen, both areas share wood and metal elements for continuity. **ABOVE:** The open plan allows the family to move effortlessly from one space to the next.

The engineered eight-inch white oak floors from Italy imbue warmth while hiding regular wear and tear. The flooring was provided by **AA Floors & More Ltd. Victoria**. **Strong Manufacturing** supplied the interior doors and trim, and **Pro-Stair & Railing** built the elegant stairways with iron spindles. "We really like the high-end touches," says Ash. "The finishes make the house personal and unique."

*Continued on page 116*

**RIGHT:** This bedroom's waffle ceiling makes great use of height and adds drama and dimension. **BELOW:** Dark and light elements in varying textures come together to create an en suite that is luxe yet serene.



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**“THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS EVEN BETTER THAN WE ENVISIONED.”**

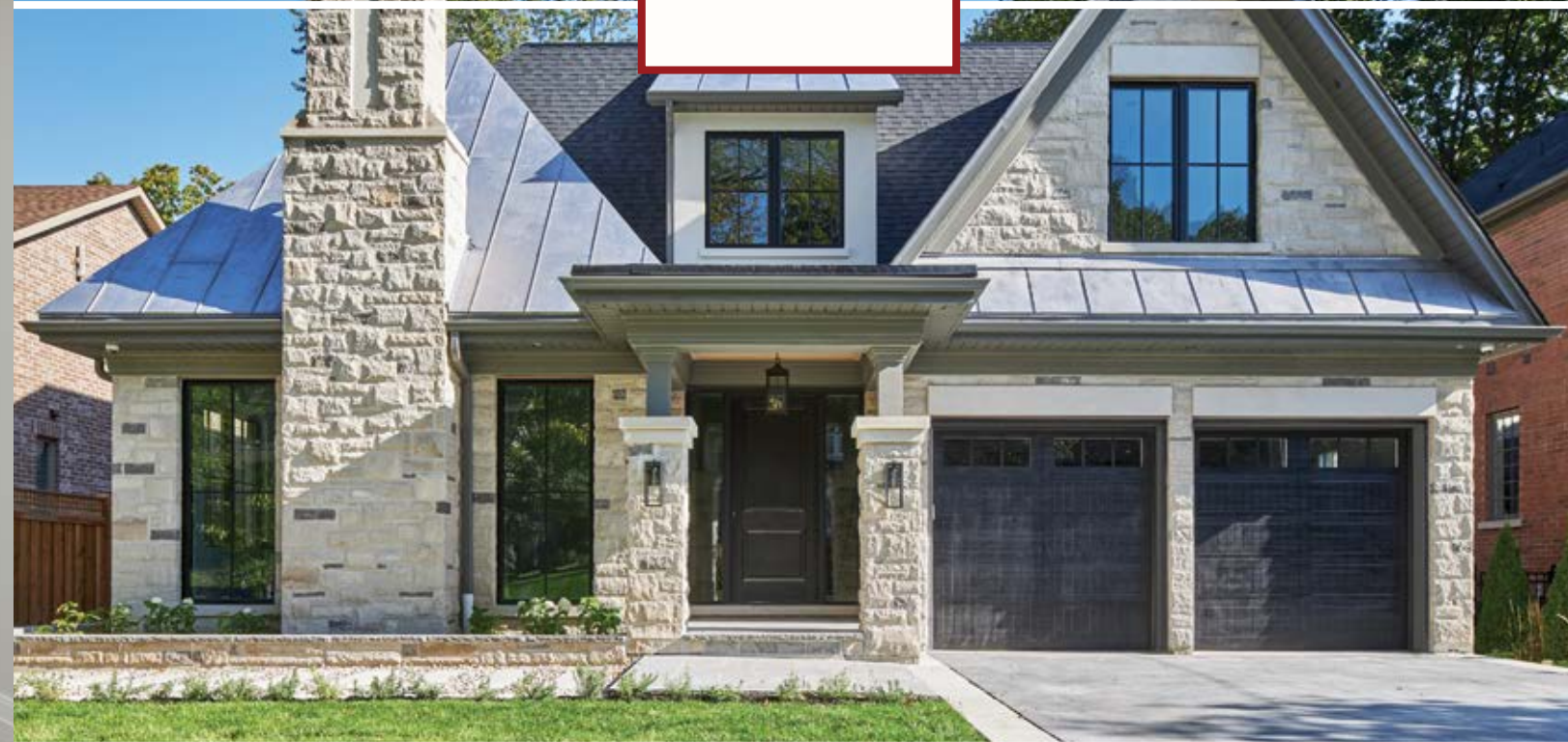
**TOP:** A lower-level bar area makes it easy to relax or entertain at the end of a long day. **RIGHT:** Soothing hues mirror those found throughout the home.

There is no doubt this home was built with an array of puzzle pieces that worked well together. “It can be challenging and time-consuming to build a home,” says Ash. “But when I come home, relax, eat a nice meal, watch a movie, and reenergize for the next day, I realize it is worth every minute. The finished product is even better than we envisioned.” That’s what it feels like when the pieces fit. **OH**

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# BLEACHED PINE CONE *garland*

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
TARA CHATTELL

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### TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Dry Pine Cones
- Long Rubber Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Old Clothing
- Bleach
- Water
- Bucket
- Large Plate (no longer used for food)
- Scissors
- Jute Twine

Continued on page 120

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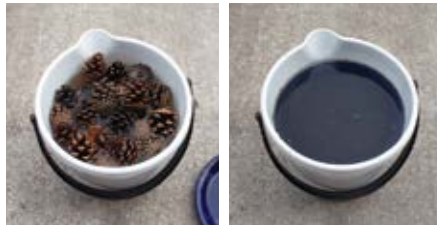
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## crafty ideas

### BLEACH PINE CONES

**1** In a well-ventilated space, preferably outside, don your old clothing, rubber gloves and safety glasses.

**2** Add dry pine cones to a bucket. Fill the bucket, one third from the top, with one part water and two parts bleach.



**3** Carefully place a plate over the pine cones, pushing down gently, to keep them submerged in the solution. Put the bucket in a safe place, out of reach of children and pets, for 24-72 hours. Check your pine cones every 24 hours and leave longer if needed, up to 72 hours. Pine cones will appear lighter in colour when they are ready to remove from the bleach solution.



**4** Carefully remove the pine cones from the bleach solution and place them outdoors to dry, on a surface that won't be damaged by the bleach. The pine cones will close while sitting in the bleach solution; once they have fully dried and reopened, they're ready to use for crafting.



### ASSEMBLE GARLAND

**5** Cut a long piece of jute twine, a few inches longer than you'd like your final garland to be.

**6** Begin by tying a loop at one end of your twine.



**7** A few inches down from the loop, attach the first pine cone by wrapping the twine around the top of the pine cone and knotting.



*Use your finished garland to decorate your tree, mantel, buffet or stair railing. Happy holidays! OH*

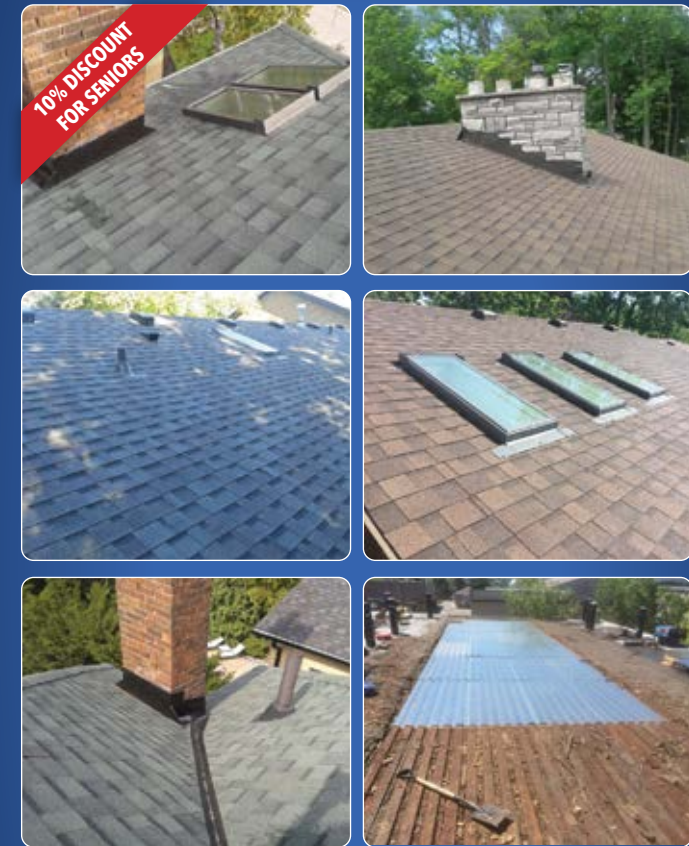
**8** Continue attaching pine cones, evenly spaced along the twine, until you near the other end.



**9** Finish the end by tying another loop. The loops can be used for hanging your finished garland.

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Snowy Owl

STORY AND PHOTOS MARK WIERCINSKI

# WINTER Birding

I have been watching and feeding birds for as long as I can remember. My mother introduced me to this past-time, and my curiosity has kept me going. Tuned into the bird world for decades, I have watched the seasonal changes, making note of what's around at all times.

Fall is a particularly busy time with migration in full swing. Birds are on journeys and nature is changing on a daily basis. Winter offers a peek at survival skills and the resiliency of nature.

## PLANTING FOR BIRDS

It really doesn't take much to attract birds to your yard. It can start by hanging one feeder and maybe planting a shrub or two that provides a place to land and forage. Any shrub that bears fruit is a good idea. Almost every garden centre has a section on what to plant for birds and other wildlife, and if you ask you will likely find a fellow bird enthusiast to share some knowledge. If you are a self-motivated sort of person, do some internet searches on what to plant and help attract birds. If all else fails, sunflowers are a sure thing.

## FEEDERS

Bird feeders and what to feed birds is debatable, but I believe more is better. There are so many different feeders and feeds to pick from, it's hard to go wrong. I will say this, though: Buy or make feeders that are easy to fill, maintain and clean. A fancy one with

ornate designs and attachments may look interesting, but ask yourself: How easy is it to clean and fill? Birds will figure out how to get the food out of the feeder no matter what it looks like – they are clever that way. Wise choices for seeds include: black oil sunflower seeds, nyger seed and a bit of mixed seed for ground scatter. Suet, almost any kind available, is a good add-on. Keep it fresh. Clean all the feeders regularly (about once a month) and rake under the feeders to remove build-up.

Look for ways to keep birds safe. Don't put everything out in the open. Set feeders beside trees and shrubs and away from places where predators can lurk. Give the birds a chance to see an imminent threat. Keep your cats inside.



Female purple finch and red-breasted nuthatch



Goldfinch

Downy woodpecker

## WATER FEATURES

Add a water feature and you have a complete bird haven. To get their attention, add something that creates a fountain or a current and keep the water fresh. Clean these features all the time. Many options are available (including winter-proof water dispensers or baths) at bird stores, garden centres or online.



Northern cardinal

Once you have shrubs, food and water in place, settle back and wait. You can expect chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, purple finch, house finch, cardinals, blue jays, doves and a variety of sparrows. There will always be starlings, house sparrows and maybe even pigeons around any town. Rare but exciting visits from hawks and falcons can add a bit of natural drama to the yard and maybe some insight to the natural cycle of life.

If you don't get enough birds in your backyard, take a drive, ski or hike to see what you can find – a hawk on a post, a snowy owl on a fence row or a flock of snow buntings imitating perpetual motion as they forage for weed seeds. Autumn and winter are great times to watch birds. They are everywhere and often too preoccupied with travel or finding food to worry about a curious human with a pair of binoculars.

Go ahead, get obsessed! Get your geek on. Birds won't care. Being a bird nerd might even be cool these days! **oh**

*Mark is a biologist with the Department of National Defence.*

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# Spicy DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

*THESE DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES HAVE A LITTLE SECRET – A KICK OF CAYENNE, CINNAMON AND GINGER. A YUMMY ADDITION TO YOUR COOKIE EXCHANGE OR HOLIDAY DESSERT TABLE.*



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cocoa powder
- ¾ tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips



### DIRECTIONS

- Mix together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt in a bowl.
- In a stand mixer, beat together butter and sugars.
- Add eggs one at a time until combined.
- Add dry ingredients in two portions on low speed, mixing until combined.
- Add chocolate chips and mix – the dough will be thick.
- Chill dough in fridge for at least 12 hours, or up to 72 hours.
- When ready to bake, scoop 2-inch balls and bake at 375°F for 12-14 minutes. **OH**



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finishing touch

CEMENT TILE SHOP: 1. Harper IV 2. Bruges Mint 3. Madison I 4. Patchwork Random



NATIVE TRAILS: Mendocino Freestanding Soaking Tub in Ash

MADE GOODS: Desmond in Light Grey

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RENWIL: Falla Pendant Light Fixture



LIME LACE: Life In Progress Clock



SUNPAN: Remy Coffee Table in Antique Brass and Ivory



UTTERMOST: Table Lamp with Concrete Base and Linen Shade



Continued on page 130

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finishing touch



RENWIL: Turtle Bay Wall Sconce



SOLUS DECOR: Hemi Firebowl



CURREY & COMPANY:  
Bannerman Oval Chandelier



CURREY & COMPANY:  
Luzon Bench/Table



NATIVE TRAILS: Farmhouse  
3018 Kitchen Sink in Pearl



REVELATION: Cale Moss Centrepiece



NATIVE TRAILS:  
Portola Mirror in Slate



MADE GOODS:  
Wesley Shelves



Heated Concrete Floors



UTTERMOST: Luka  
Hurricane Candleholder

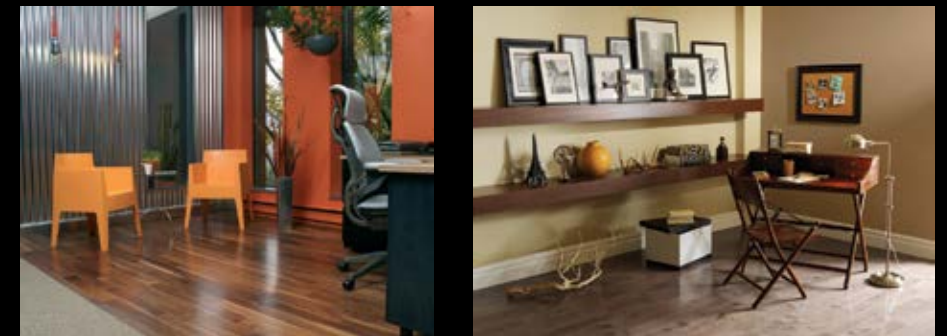
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