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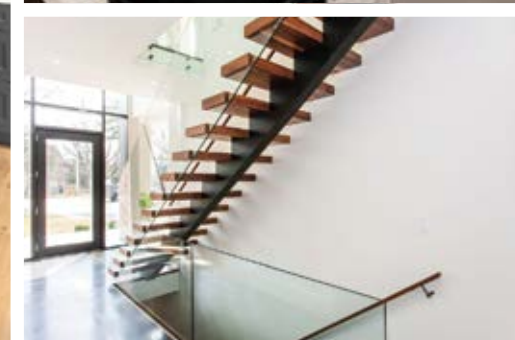
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## editor's note



### A NOTE FROM *Hamilton*

**I'M A BIT OF A WALKER.** I like looking at neighbourhood homes, especially at dusk when I can catch a glimpse of inside style. (Is that wrong?) But this past year, with things being the way they are, I've rambled further afield. I'm drawn to the wide open farmers' fields, rail trails and paths through the woods and near water.

I've never felt so connected to the changing seasons. I welcome the distinctive palettes and I'm recognizing what blooms, and dies, when. I've learned where the wild asparagus comes up, where to find the best hidden black raspberry patches and which paths to take to find wildflowers. So often now, my route is dictated by the foliage I want to see.

It fills me with such joy and even inspires me in our own garden. For landscaping inspiration though, you can't miss the home we feature on page 84. With multiple outdoor spaces overlooking park land, it's an extraordinary haven embracing nature, just minutes from downtown Dundas.

We also have a gorgeous new build on page 36 that makes the most of its environment. Set on rural acreage, there's even a creek! You'll be forgiven though if you can't look past the interior, Natasha has done wonderful things.

I do want to mention a special Spotlight in this issue (page 80), highlighting an invaluable nonprofit organization, Food4Kids. Give it a read – if you think you might be able to help, I encourage you to do so.

And so, to all the walkers and non-walkers out there, I wish you each a happy and healthy summer.

*Melissa*

Melissa North, *Managing Editor*  
melissa.north@ourhomes.ca

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editor's note



A NOTE FROM *Oakville Burlington Mississauga*

LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, our family slid into a new routine at the start of the pandemic. Admittedly, we've had it easier than most. At 20 and 17, our children are self-sufficient, so we don't know the struggle of corralling our kids for another day of online learning, or wrestling them into something other than last week's pajamas. We're not constantly diffusing silly shenanigans or cries of "I'm bored" while trying to catch Zoom meetings.

Like the rest of the world, the gentle beat of our day-to-day activity was gone. Suddenly, there was no coordinating pick-ups from our son's job and extracurricular activities, no rush to drop him at a friend's and make something for dinner. There was no jetting to our daughter's campus with cookies during a week of grueling mid-terms, or picking her (and her laundry!) up for the weekend. There was no setting sail in different directions, no need to coordinate errands and grocery shops and factor everything in. We were all moored together.

My husband and I have been married for 23 years. Before the kids, we did everything side by side. We grabbed coffee on our ride to work together. We grocery shopped. We cooked dinner and shared the household chores. It's a dance we've perfected after years of getting it all done. Post-children, things shifted. We coordinated to-do lists and handled obligations while rushing in opposite directions. It never seemed to stop, even as the kids got older. The rush-rush life became part of our daily beat, until it was gone.

Now, with our little family in the same nest, we eat dinner together, watch television together, go on walks together. It's a slower pace, but I've realized I like it this way. We don't have to fill every moment of every day to feel productive. I want this ordeal to be over as much as everyone else, but I'm glad for some of the gifts it's given me, like appreciating the chance to be side by side once again, and just enjoy being for the sake of being.

*Gina Makkar*

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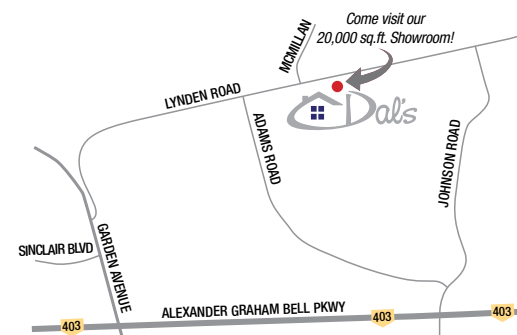
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### ON THE COVER

Country living takes on a whole new definition in a stylish and fresh family bungalow. Story, page 36. Photography by Kelly Horkoff.

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Elegant, peaceful and secluded country estate, on 102 acres \*2 road frontage\* with views of rolling cultivated fields, woodlands, stream and ponds! 4+1 Bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, approximately 4500 sq/ft luxury living space, "sprawling", custom built bungalow with many updates. Granite stone walls, 3 fireplaces, impressive glass atrium with spiral stairs. Separate 4 car garage (tandem) with 625 sq/ft loft studio space above. Drive-in barn (4+car). Minutes to Guelph Line and Hwy 401. 30 Minutes to Pearson airport.



Beautiful 5 + 2 bedroom, 5 bath, approximately 5,000 sq ft above grade mansion situated on 9 acres. This country estate home was crafted with the finest workmanship and materials for luxury living. No expenses spared. This home boasts a 2 way fireplace in the living/dining room, stunning stone features throughout. Sunny eat-in kitchen complimented by skylight. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Fireplace in master bedroom en-suite. Huge fully finished basement with full size bar and a walkout to the pool. Beautiful tree house in the backyard.



Stunning contemporary and luxurious custom built home with extensive lake views in sought after South Oakville. Finished using only the finest materials and craftsmanship. Scavolini Italian chef inspired kitchen. Huge centre island and top of the line Gaggenau appliances. 10' Ceilings in living room and kitchen. Solid oak staircase with monobeam and glass railings. Main floor master bedroom with breath taking lake views. 6-piece ensuite with heated floors. Motorised blinds and lighting carefully considered for space design.



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# THE ETHICS OF SOURCING

Interior Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** shares her ideas.

The housing industry contributes significantly to the Canadian economy and plays an important role in our local – and global – communities. However, the procurement of products involved in the construction, design and decoration of our homes can also have a significant impact on the well-being of both people and the planet.



To meet a growing expectation from consumers, businesses are adopting an ethical sourcing approach to ensure products are obtained responsibly and sustainably. To be effective, it depends upon the integrity of the entire supply chain to include environmental standards as well as a commitment to safe working conditions, fair labour practices and living wages for the workers producing the goods.

In a global economy, with different environmental and social standards across countries, this can be a complex, layered issue – so how do we know where to begin?

**Here are some simple ways we can all source more ethically:**

**Choose less.** The most sustainable product is the one that is not produced.

**Choose local.** A local supply chain reduces shipping, emissions and energy usage.

**Choose vintage, reclaimed, recycled or upcycled.** Reuse or repurpose a material or product that is already in circulation.

When sourcing, do your own research and don't be afraid to ask the supplier questions on the procurement of goods. Businesses must take responsibility for the goods they provide. A transparent process builds trust with customers.

- 🏠 Where was this product manufactured?
- 🏠 How was this product manufactured? What resources and energy were required?
- 🏠 What raw materials were used in the production? How sustainable are they?

**1. LUMINAIRE AUTHENTIK:** Talo 12 LA00 & Sub 09 03-LA43 (Drawn, designed and made in Quebec) **2. MYRA SCOTT TEXTILES:** Sydney Cushion Cover in Jive (Hand-sewn, designed and printed in Canada) **3. FUSION MINERAL PAINT:** Zero VOC Paints (Made in Canada) **4. PURPARKET INC.:** Engineered Hardwood Flooring (VOC free, CARB Phase II Compliant and made in Canada)

- 🏠 Does the production of this material cause environmental degradation to the local ecosystem?
- 🏠 What is the company's policy surrounding ethical sourcing?
- 🏠 Are the working conditions safe for those who produced the product? Are living wages and fair labour practices ensured?
- 🏠 What will happen to this product at the end of its useful life? Does the company offer a recycling program? Will it eventually biodegrade? Or will it end up in a landfill?

Several certifications have been developed to help consumers identify responsibly sourced products. Although these certifications provide a good starting point, it's important for buyers to continue asking questions and performing independent research to understand the certification requirements. Consumers can also identify products that may not carry certification, but the producer/supplier/business may still have high independent standards for their procurement of goods. Examples of certifications to look out for:

- 🏠 Fairtrade – sets standards for sustainable production and livelihoods for factory workers and farmers.
- 🏠 FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) – responsible forest-management standards.
- 🏠 GoodWeave – certifies child-labour-free rugs.
- 🏠 GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) – products meet strict organic criteria.
- 🏠 Nest Ethical Handcraft Program – monitors artisan supply chains for ethics and sustainability.
- 🏠 OEKO-TEX – textile certifications concerning health, environment and fair manufacturing.
- 🏠 RWS (Responsible Wool Standard) – supports the well-being of sheep and the land they graze on.

A criticism of ethical sourcing is that it does not address the core issue of consumerism. If sustainability is a basic tenet of ethical sourcing, as privileged as we are in the Western world, we must acknowledge that our current rate of consumption is simply not sustainable. We can begin to evaluate basic needs, research the environmental impact of purchases (big and small), prioritize the well-being of people and the planet, support local supply chains and become more intentional and mindful consumers. Aligning our habits of consumption with our values will help contribute to the world we wish to see today – and for future generations. **OH**

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# natural

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Continued on page 30

7



**7 TAPS BATH**

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We're still crushing on Benjamin Moore's colour of the year, Aegean Teal, chosen for its harmonious hue. Marion from Aftica coordinates it with Atrium White. For a pop of summery colour, how about Bermuda Blue or Arroyo Red as an accent? Sigh... colour love.

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cooking at home

# pack a PICNIC

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## CHARCUTERIE PICNIC BOX

There's nothing better than charcuterie for a picnic. Whip up a quick charcuterie box and head to the beach to enjoy the sunset!

### *A How-To Guide to Charcuterie:*



#### **WHAT YOU WILL NEED**

Meats and cheeses  
– choose 2-3 of your  
favourites

Fruits – grapes,  
berries and kiwi

Dried fruits – apricots,  
figs or dates

Condiments – olives, jams,  
grainy mustard and nuts

Crackers and bread

A portable to-go box  
– you can use a baking  
dish as well

#### **TIPS AND TRICKS**

Try layering a variety of textures  
and colours. You don't want  
similar items next to each other.

Start with the bowls you  
will use. These will act as a  
placeholder for the rest.

Next, layer in your larger items  
(the cheeses and then the  
larger fruits).

Crackers come next, then fill in  
the spaces with things like dried  
fruits and nuts.

Rule of thumb: Start with the  
larger items and work your way  
into filling the gaps. Finish by  
filling your condiment bowls.

*Continued on page 34*




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## TO-GO APEROL SPRITZ

This classic summer cocktail is perfect to enjoy outdoors. It's easy to make ahead and ideal for sharing.



### INGREDIENTS

Aperol  
Dry sparkling wine  
Soda  
Oranges, to garnish  
1L sealable container

### DIRECTIONS

The recipe for this cocktail is very simple – just follow this ratio: 1 part Aperol and 1 part soda to 2 parts sparkling wine.  
Simply mix together all ingredients in a resealable container.  
Serve over ice with a slice of orange.

## MASON JAR TIRAMISU

This recipe is the perfect to-go dessert this summer – easy to transport and eat outdoors. It also stays true to the original by utilizing egg yolk to give it a custard-like feel.

### INGREDIENTS (Serves 6)

4 egg yolks  
½ cup granulated sugar, separated  
¾ cup heavy cream  
1 cup mascarpone cheese  
1 cup espresso, cold  
¼ cup liquor of choice\*  
12-18 lady fingers\*\*  
Cocoa powder, for dusting  
6 500 ml mason jars

### DIRECTIONS

Over a double boiler, whisk together egg yolks and ¼ cup of sugar. Continually whisk for about 10 minutes until the sugar is dissolved and yolks double in size and turn pale yellow. Set aside to cool.

In a separate bowl, whip cream and the remaining sugar until stiff peaks form.

Once cooled, fold the mascarpone cheese into the egg yolk mixture until combined.

Next, gently fold yolk mixture in the whipping cream until combined.

In a shallow bowl, combine espresso and liquor.

### TO ASSEMBLE

Break lady fingers into pieces to fit the circumference of the mason jars. This will be a bit messy and won't be perfect. Quickly dip the lady finger pieces into the



espresso and place into the mason jar in an even layer.

Top with about two tablespoons of the cream mixture and repeat the layers.

Sprinkle cocoa powder on top to finish.

Place the lid on each jar and store in the fridge for up to one week. They taste better after a few days!

### RECIPE NOTES

\*Traditionally, tiramisu is made with Marsala wine but you can also use rum, brandy or coffee-flavored liquor.

\*\*Depends on the size of your mason jars.

Traditionally, tiramisu is made with raw egg yolk but this recipe tempers the yolks to ensure safe consumption and shelf life. **OH**

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**WHEN NATASHA GAUTHIER AND JAMIE ALTENA DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO BUILD THEIR FIRST HOME TOGETHER, THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO SEARCH FAR.**

"Jamie was living across the street in a home he had purchased from his great-uncle and renovated when we found this property," says Natasha. "A local farmer had severed the lot, and the builder had already started building the house." Jamie's parents live on the same road as well, in the home his great grandparents purchased in 1898, almost 125 years ago. "Jamie is the fifth generation to live on this stretch of land," she explains.

The couple's wish list included an open-concept kitchen and living area perfect for family gatherings. They also wanted big windows to welcome a lot of light, and a resort-like bedroom and bathroom that would pamper them at the end of a long day. Finally, they yearned for a backyard oasis in which to enjoy the outdoors with Natasha's boys, Hunter, age eight, and five-year-old Jackson.

*Continued on page 39*



PHOTO: VICTORIA JAMES, DE LA VIE PHOTOGRAPHY

# a new generation

STORY **DENISE WILLSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**



**ABOVE:** Attention to detail, right down to stylish vignettes. **TOP RIGHT:** Built-in shelving houses cherished items including a vintage record player, typewriter, camera and family bibles. Ten-foot ceilings extend to 13 feet in the family room. **RIGHT:** A combination of board-and-batten siding and stonework was used to create the handsome exterior.



The 3,800 sq. ft. bungalow sits on a two-acre parcel of land. “We love the area,” says Natasha. “Farms and country homes surround us, yet the town of Hannon is quaint, and only minutes from Hamilton amenities.” While the house, designed and built by **Mariman Homes**, was still in the framing stage, Natasha and Jamie could envision how they would make it their own. “**Shawn Stringer**, the foreman for our build, was awesome to work with,” Natasha says. “He understood our wants and needs, and despite COVID delays, kept the project moving smoothly.”

The original design included a primary bedroom, two guest rooms and an in-law suite. They made one large bedroom for the boys to share and created a feature wall of old barn wood from a local farmer who’d built a new barn, adding an element of local nostalgia and warmth to the room. One of the guest rooms was turned into a playroom. “It’s had a lot of use, especially now that the kids are in school online due to

COVID closures,” says Natasha. “The boys love their playroom – it’s a real boys’ den.”

The in-law suite was converted into a spacious retreat for Jamie and Natasha. “Our bedroom and en suite are one of our favourite features of the home,” says Natasha. “We love the built-in window seat overlooking the creek out back and the large walk-in closet.” In the bathroom, floor-to-ceiling 24 by 48-inch marble-look porcelain tiles ensure timeless appeal, and the polished marble mosaic feature wall behind the freestanding tub adds decorative flair. “We went wild on the tiles, naturally” says Natasha, referring to the unique tiles and patterns used in each of the bathrooms. She runs her family’s flooring and tile business, **Eden Tile-It**, and they supplied and installed the flooring and tile work throughout the home. *Continued on page 41*



Furniture in a variety of wood plus eclectic style fills the dining area with warmth and character. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The signature design of the La Cornue range cooker makes a gorgeous centrepiece in the wall of cabinetry.



Natasha's experience in the industry has advanced her eye for design. She had fun designing and decorating the new house, with the staging help of **Andrea Kluczenko** of **Gracewood Homes**. Every room is flooded with natural light thanks to extra-large windows (by **Pollard Windows & Doors**) and vaulted ceilings. European white oak engineered hardwood flooring, in nine-and-a-half-inch wide planks, runs the entire house. The light stain and natural character of the oak will do a wonderful job of hiding wear and tear over time. The gas fireplace in the living room, from **Broom's**, is tiled with a natural slate herringbone mosaic, repeating the colour of the kitchen island and marrying the open spaces.

"We love the open-concept kitchen, dining and living space," says Natasha. The couple extended the kitchen to incorporate an expansive island. "This is where everyone will gather for holidays and special occasions," she explains. They wanted space for an eat-in kitchen island while still having room for a sizeable table. Built-in appliances that disappear into the cabinetry and an altered layout draw the eye to Natasha's pride and joy, the custom La Cornue stove from France. **Wingers Cabinets** designed and installed the stunning kitchen cabinetry and millwork, as well as the built-ins in the living room, bathrooms and laundry room. "The cabinetry is another of our favourite features," says Natasha. The plumbing was completed by **Guest Plumbing & Heating**, and countertops were supplied by **Six + One Stone**. **Goemans Custom Climate** supplied and installed the heating and cooling systems, and **Multi-Werx Electric** did the electrical.

*Continued on page 44*



Both Jamie and Natasha cook. "When you're allowed to host, we love to host," says Jamie. "The kitchen is the gathering place for that, so we wanted a big island." The island paint is Benjamin Moore Wrought Iron.



MEMOIRS  
*European Hardwood*



“Our bedroom and en suite are our favourite features of the home.”



Natasha and Jamie's suite is all style. "Some days it feels like a hotel, it's so romantic," Natasha says. "Waking up on a spring morning to the birds chirping and the sun rising, drinking coffee on our porch swing." The bedroom looks over farmland and opens to the porch. The en suite, as well as the other bathrooms, have radiant in-floor heating. Fixtures are from The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom.

*Continued on page 44*

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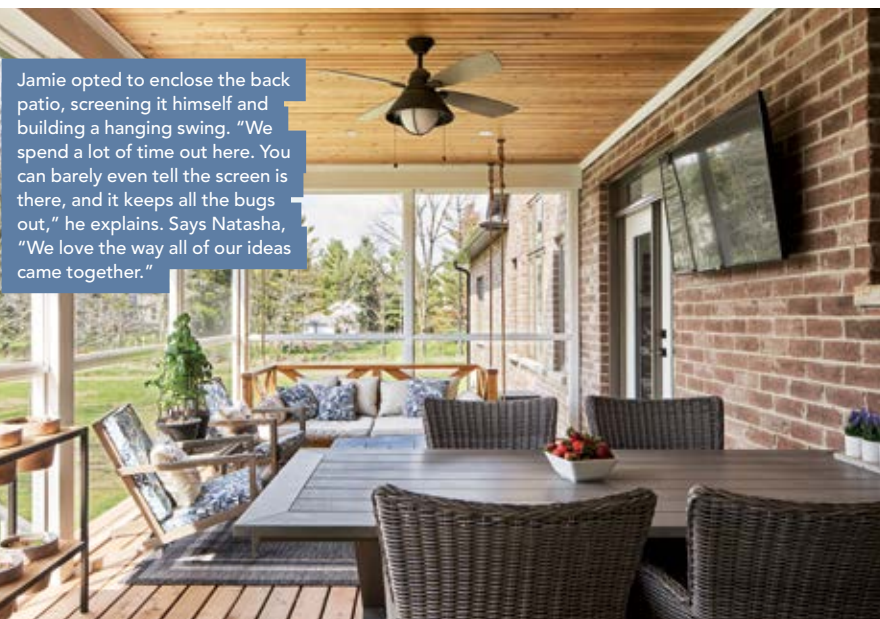
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**BELOW:** More gorgeous tiles. Natasha chose an encaustic pattern porcelain tile for the main bathroom. En suite bath and main bath tiles were installed by Massimo La Rosa of Maxco Tiling. **RIGHT:** The boys share a room, with beds mirrored on either side of the large window.



**SIX + ONE**  
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**WINGERS**



Jamie opted to enclose the back patio, screening it himself and building a hanging swing. "We spend a lot of time out here. You can barely even tell the screen is there, and it keeps all the bugs out," he explains. Says Natasha, "We love the way all of our ideas came together."

Jamie and Natasha are just finishing the walk-out basement. They hope the gym, wine room and in-house theatre will see many years of family bonding. They are now looking forward to tackling the outdoors. "We'd like to put in a pool next year," says Natasha, "where the kids can swim and play." For now, one of their most prized spots is the screened back porch where this young family can enjoy family dinners, watch movies together by the outdoor fireplace or look out and see the silo where Jamie proposed. "It was the most romantic moment of my life," Natasha declares. Now the couple dream of watching their kids grow up here. And maybe their kids' kids. This is, after all, the family nest, where generations have flourished. **OH**



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STORY **MELISSA NORTH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

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## THE PLACE

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## THE STYLE

Barton caters to those in the trade – designers, contractors and custom builders – who refer their clients to the vast showroom for easy decision making. Their 8,000 sq. ft. showroom houses a comprehensive and inspiring array of major-brand products for bath, kitchen and flooring. No space is wasted – faucet displays stretch from floor to ceiling, vanities line one wall and an entire room is devoted to floor and tile samples. Competitively priced, the company motto is “best brands for less.”



## WHAT'S HOT

In flooring, vinyl plank is still number one by a long shot. “Definitely lowest lustre and wider planks,” Aaron says. “Greys are working their way out, and people are starting to look for cheerier-looking floors.” So too with wall tiles. While the subway tile is still very popular along with florals and geometrics, demand for colour is growing. “People are more excited about going with colours now,” Aaron explains, “because it’s an antidote to the grey of the last decade.” In low-lustre and variegated looks, they complement a rustic style.



## WHAT'S NEW

While not technically new, open-concept and wall-hung vanities are gaining in appeal. They work well in both large and small bathrooms and Barton has a good selection available, including accented, matte black vanities. Barton has remained open since the start of the pandemic, while complying with all restrictions. They offer delivery from Niagara Falls to Mississauga. “We want to be a good resource for anyone who’s got a business that involves products that we sell,” Aaron says. “We want to be their go-to. And we are.”

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STORY MICHELLE BERWICK  
PHOTOGRAPHY LARRY ARNAL

# Pastel PALETTE

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## Purple



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## Mint & Teal



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### HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO INCORPORATE THESE SOFT HUES INTO YOUR SPACE.



## PAINT

Paint an accent wall and repeat that colour through accessories. The shade doesn't need to match perfectly; mixing and matching shades of the same colour creates dimension and sophistication.

Spray your kitchen island. People are usually scared to do this. We often hear, “What if we don't like it in 10 years?” We would rather you be in love with something for seven-to-10 years than feel blah about it for 15.

Refinish your furniture. You don't always have to resort to white. Sometimes a soft colour can feel like a neutral.

Paint your cabinetry. A minty hue on lower cabinets can be an unexpected surprise when entering a kitchen. Don't forget about your laundry room! A perfect spot to really go for it. *Continued on page 50*

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## decorating



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### ARTWORK

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### ACCESSORIES

It's one of the easiest ways to take the plunge into pops of colour. Little art pieces for shelves, decorative objects and books are all small ways to make a big impact.

### FLORALS

Make it temporary. Florals are a wonderful way to incorporate a fresh pop of colour. The best part is you can switch between whatever colours you want that week. **OH**



*Designer Michelle Berwick specializes in residential and commercial interior design.*



### FABRIC

A few toss cushions? A comforter? Even a throw blanket. No need to go wild; we want the colours to speak for themselves.

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STORY **GINA MAKKAR** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NIAMH BARRY**

# MODERN *makeover*

A RENOVATION CAN MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR HOME ALL OVER AGAIN, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE DESIGN TEAM OF **FONTANA & DAMES** TRANSFORMED THIS HOME FROM FADED AND FUSTY TO MODERN AND MARVELLOUS.

The subtle use of colour and texture creates an effortless and chic result. **OPPOSITE:** Layering accessories adds personality to the space.



**W**HEN THE VANDERCRAATS bought a new build in Stoney Creek in 1997, there was nothing to do but move in and enjoy. Twenty years later, daily use, household traffic and many layers of paint took a toll. While still beautiful, the home felt dated and due for a refresh. “Time passed by and before we knew it, we were living in an outdated house with the original décor, furniture and kitchen cabinets,” says Janet Vanderkraats.

In 2018, the family decided to initiate a main-floor makeover, and knew they needed expert assistance to maximize the home’s potential. They searched for a contractor to complete an extension that would provide the extra space they always wanted. They selected **Shane Van Barneveld** of **Shane Renovations Inc.** to complete the renovation.

**TIP:** *Extending walls can have big impact. It adds living space, creates light and improves quality of living.*

Next, they enlisted designers to help plan how the new kitchen, dining room and living room would look and function. “We were referred to **Romina Fontana** and **Jenny Dames** by our contractor, and from our first meeting, we knew that we found our designers.” Designers bring a lot to the table, and when the design and build teams collaborate from the start of the project, magic truly happens. *Continued on page 55*



The open dining and living rooms are anchored together with complementary colours and tones for a cohesive design. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Using a graphic fabric adds a playful element and breaks up the sleek neutrals. **RIGHT:** Blue takes centre stage with an oversize art piece.



**TIP:** A designer helps blend form and function to create a meaningful space that will meet the needs of a homeowner in a beautiful, practical way.

Jenny took the family through the design process from inception to completion, presenting a myriad of product options and finishes, from paint colours to décor, drapes, rugs and furnishings. “From the onset, we were worried and stressed that our lack of design abilities would delay the process, but Jenny provided a calming influence, and her knowledge of interior design helped us create a new home that we are so happy with and proud of.”

Some of the best design projects happen when designers and homeowners have mutual trust and respect, resulting in a true collaboration. Find out how Romina and Jenny of Fontana & Dames brought the homeowners’ vision to reality.

**TIP:** Before the hammer hits the wall, hire a designer to help plan everything from layout to flow to finishes. Strategic design choices help avoid costly mistakes later.

**PERFECTING THE PROCESS**

The design process begins by getting to know clients’ wants and needs by asking questions to determine how the space will be used. Then, a floor plan is developed to optimize daily living, from how a space flows to how it’s used for entertaining. *Continued on page 56*



“Some of the best design projects happen when designers and homeowners have mutual trust and respect, resulting in a true collaboration.”



Mixing contemporary and timeless elements results in a truly unique design. **BELOW:** Mirrors help open a space and make it appear larger.

Traditional, transitional, modern or timeless? Often, homeowners have trouble homing in on their own unique style. The myriad of design choices can be overwhelming. The Fontana & Dames team often pre-selects finishes like tile, plumbing fixtures, lighting and fabrics to help narrow options before presenting them to clients.

**CONTEMPORARY AND TIMELESS**

For the Vanderkraats' home, the designers achieved a result that feels contemporary yet timeless by blending new furniture pieces with antique accessories for warmth and personality on the main floor. Blue is a calm, serene, classic hue in the colour palette. Unexpected elements create distinctive design. A mix of clean lines with a vintage Persian rug and antique brass candlestick lamps with a vintage velvet sofa results in a thoughtful, layered aesthetic. Many of the pieces were sourced from Restoration Hardware, Elte and Pavilion.

**TIP:** *Neutral doesn't mean boring. A neutral foundation allows the addition of metals, colours and textures to shine through.*

**UNIQUE ELEMENTS ADD PERSONALITY**

In the living room, the designers addressed the large window elevation with custom drapery to add texture, interest and much-needed privacy. The fabric softly frames the view to the outside while preserving the architectural interest of the delicate curve of the window.

*Continued on page 58*



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Amanda Kenney



Gold and brass add richness and relaxed luxury to the room.



**LEFT:** Hints of grey, gold and antique brass add warmth against the fresh white of the kitchen. **BELOW:** The kitchen is redesigned for both beauty and function.



In the dining room, the vintage Persian rug with its muted, watercolour hues is an interesting backdrop for the modern dining room furniture that will stand the test of time. The use of steely, grey-blue fabric in the living and dining room creates warmth, texture and depth in the bright, open space. In the kitchen, gold and antique brass are a lovely way to warm up fresh, crisp white. A well-designed faucet makes a statement. Wide ribbons of brass in the range hood and the mullions in the cabinetry add drama.

**FONTANA & DAMES ADVICE ON STARTING A DESIGN PROJECT**

Ask questions! They often ask their clients what they are most eager to improve, and then provide a variety of solutions that will come in on-time and on-budget. Working with an interior design firm is a value-added professional service and an investment. They always strive to deliver an exceptional experience and a polished return on their clients' investment. **OH**

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# smooth RENOVATION

STORY DENISE WILLSON | ILLUSTRATION SHEILA BRITTON



A smooth renovation requires partnership, a melding of minds. Beyond sheer manpower and expertise, a homeowner needs to know that a contractor or builder shares their vision. It might surprise you to learn a contractor needs the same from a homeowner. The result of this perfect pairing is often visible: a well-built home that meets or exceeds the expectations of both sides – the builder and the homeowner.

How does this kind of magic happen? Here are the top five things a contractor and homeowner need from each other to make a renovation run smoothly.

## BIG-PICTURE SCOPE

While details such as lighting, flooring and cabinetry are always discussed, both parties need more. “It’s imperative we draw out the homeowners’ core needs,” says Brent Pym, president of Pym & Cooper Custom Homes in Niagara. “Details like why the homeowners want to renovate, and why renovate versus move or build. Most homeowners are surprised to discover their needs aren’t what they originally thought.” Answers define the project scope – noted in writing, discussed and agreed upon before the work begins. “By creating and following a concrete plan,” says homeowner Margaret Graves, “we met with vendors to choose fixtures, appliances, paint colours, etc., in an order that retained our vision while helping our contractor, Pym & Cooper Custom Homes, keep a steady schedule and finish on time.”

## BUDGET

By wading into financials, builders can help homeowners refine their wish list. “Budget is not a bad word,” says Louie Zagordo, owner of SLV Homes and VP of the Ontario Home Builders Association. “Pricing and costs should be clear, documented and

discussed at length. It’s the only way to ensure the homeowners’ wants and needs are financially viable.” A payment structure with clear instructions ensures contractors and their trades are paid at specific stages while homeowners understand what they’re paying for. “Most projects don’t go over budget,” adds Louie. “The ones that do are usually homeowner-driven – add-ons or a change in the plan.”

## CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

When both parties discuss and document expectations, disappointment is rare. For example, when a builder creates a schedule and sticks to it, the homeowner understands how long each stage takes and respects those requirements. Renovations are messy, loud, inconvenient and sometimes dangerous for young children. When homeowners relocate and store personal items, contractors can work unencumbered. When moving out isn’t possible, a contractor can make a plan to minimize any negative impact on the homeowners’ lives. Communication is key to setting clear expectations. When both sides provide contact names and numbers and respond promptly, questions don’t cause confusion or delays.

## QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

When we think of quality workmanship, building materials come to mind, or the expertise of the principal contractor or project manager responsible for the renovation. While these elements play a part, quality workmanship must extend to the builder’s staff, designers, vendors and experienced trades. “When a contractor and their trades present themselves in a professional manner, you can rest assured your home is in good hands,” adds Ben Helder. Ben and his partner Rachel spent most of 2020 living in a rental while their home was under renovation.

## TRUST

Trust flows both ways. Both sides must be professional and honest at all times. A contractor must trust the homeowner will respect an experienced perspective. “Trusting your contractor is paramount,” says Ben Helder. “Rely on the professionals you hire, on their judgment, on their creativity. A contractor must respect your wishes, but you must respect theirs as well since they are the experts.” When both parties understand what the other needs, the renovation experience is not only smooth but spectacular. **OH**

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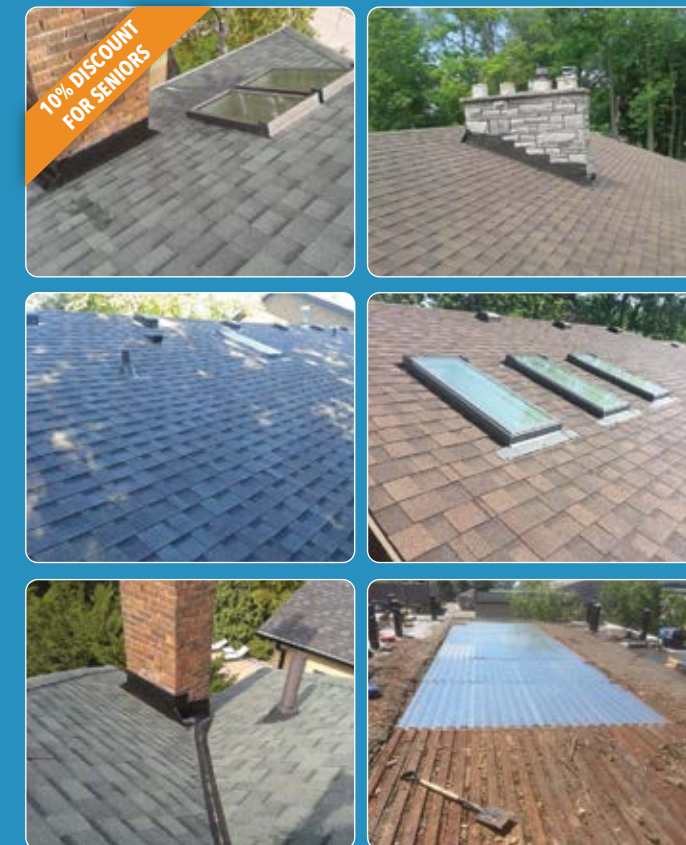
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STORY **GINA MAKKAR**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA WEST**

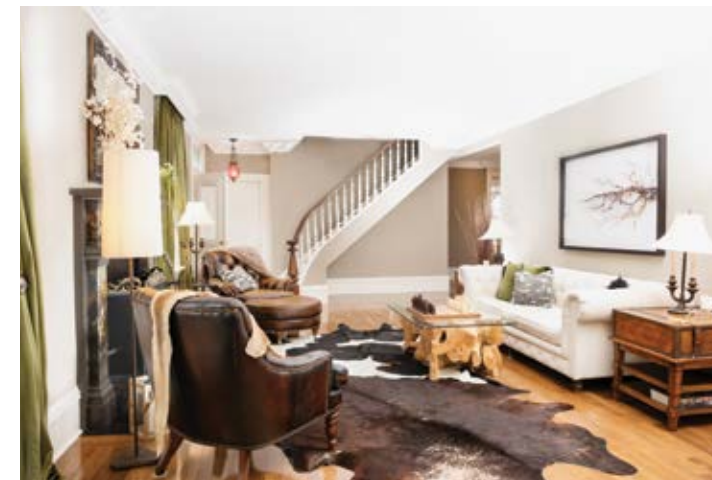


Velvet green drapes are reminiscent of those that hung in the original farmhouse. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The intricate details of the gingerbread trim are a standout feature of the home's original elements. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Each room came together with the use of a mood board to get things just right. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The chandelier in the dining room is a favourite element.



# *historical* BEAUTY

In 1850, Thorold district Public Works Inspector William Panton and mill owner Francis Baker saw potential in the land along the Twelve Mile Creek north of Burlington. They partnered to establish the Village of Kilbride, named after William's birthplace, Kilbride, Ireland. *Continued on page 64*













COVID-19 restrictions posed the biggest challenge during the renovation process. Without the ability to shop at stores, the team relied on Zoom calls, online shopping and ordering samples to select most of the finishes. At times, the process stalled when restrictions permitted only one trade in the house at a time.

Despite the challenges, the renovation was completed in six months. “As far as renovations go, ours was as smooth as I could have hoped for, especially given the pandemic,” Jen says. “My aunt Anne and I worked really well together and had a similar vision for our project, so it made the process amazing.” **OH**

✕ **ABOVE LEFT:** An oversize sofa is the perfect spot for the family to get cosy. **ABOVE:** A barrel vanity is a charming addition. **BELOW:** The wine entertainment room is rustic and elegant, the perfect backdrop for hosting friends and family.



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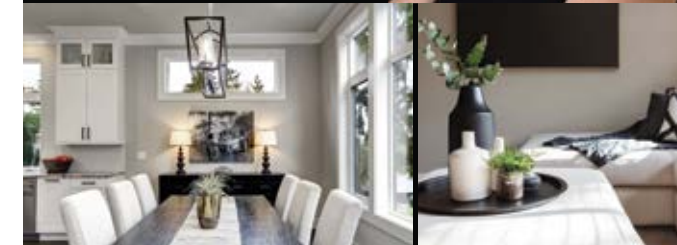
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# expert **ADVICE**

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PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF AND JASON HARTOG



**John Parcher**

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### FAVOURITE FINDS

Recent highlights include a set of 1880s Victorian doors complete with original windows and hardware, a salvaged built-in kitchen cabinet from an 1830s stone house, NOS green enamel lights from a closed mine in Eastern Pennsylvania, and a general store counter.

*Continued on page 74*



### CURATE, CURATE, CURATE

Ontario is our major source from contractors or job sites – but some items we just cannot find in Canada source from Europe or the U.S. G&B Salvage works with commercial architects and designers from across Canada.





**Andy Johnson**

## BARNBOARDSTORE HAMILTON

Andy has been working with wood since his dad first recruited him to help with the basement renovation at 10. His path eventually led to the College of the Redwoods in Northern California and a career in high-quality custom furniture and woodworking. He now owns and operates Barnboardstore Hamilton with a team of skilled woodworkers.



### RECLAIMED BECAUSE...

We place a high value on wood and as a result we work hard to preserve, reuse and reclaim it whenever possible. Old-growth timbers that were milled 100 years ago and have stood the test of time are an ideal option for custom furniture that truly has a story to tell.

*"In an era where many products, including furniture, are cheap and disposable, we believe it's important to build things that will stand the test of time and will be handed down to future generations."*



### SPECIALTY

Live-edge and reclaimed wood supply as well as fabrication of custom furniture. We have a highly trained team of craftspeople who believe in providing the best-quality product possible, using a mix of traditional techniques and modern technology.



*"Great design is about how it looks, feels and works."*

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### TRENDING

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### EXPERTISE

As a design-first oriented contractor we have the knowledge, experience and resources to help you with any renovation project. Our general-contractor roots make sure that the vision is doable and practical for the long run.

*Continued on page 76*



**Vanessa King & Russ Woodward**





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Arborwood is a full-service tree care company. Our team roster is filled with arborists who are ISA Certified, TRAQ Qualified, Ontario Qualified, Arborists, Utility-Tree Specialists and/or graduates of post-secondary urban forestry programs. Our values are safety, integrity and professionalism.

### SERVICES

Arborwood offers tree pruning, tree spraying, organic and pesticides where needed, tree injections, organic tree fertilization and soil conditioning. We also handle gypsy moth control, hedge trimming, tree removal, stump grinding, arborist reports and pre-construction tree preservation and plans, and consulting.

### MAINTENANCE TIPS

Plant health care is a fundamental need for trees in the urban environment. Because they are out of their natural habitat and subject to all sorts of pollutants, it is key to replenish the soil and care for your trees accordingly.



**Andrew Hordyk**

*"Trees in the physical form are like people in the spiritual form – they don't heal, they seal over old wounds. They are who they are because of the environment they are in."*



**Anita Puls & Kim Giancaterino**

## BURLINGTON DESIGN STUDIO

Designers Anita and Kim are committed to personalizing each client's space and begin each project by getting to know each client's individual wants and needs. They are passionate about details and are always looking for the perfect finish to complement each design. This focus on customization is the hallmark of every BD Studio project.

*"Trends come and go, but a classic design will never go out of style."*

### CURRENT PROJECT

Our latest 2021 project was designed with a modern Tuscan vibe. We elevated the space by replicating elements of old-world charm, like an arched doorway and a black metal spiral staircase. Warm woods were used in the custom wine cooler along with a cobblestone floor feature. This unique space has the flair of a European villa.



### DESIGN MUST-HAVES

- An element of architectural interest like a focal point or feature wall.
- A functioning space that is tailored to your personal needs.
- A powder room that wows!
- Invest in having personal photos framed professionally to showcase your fond memories.

*Continued on page 78*

## NICETYS

After many years in the gourmet kitchenware industry, my husband encouraged me to open a store of our own. It's a pleasure to share my passion with family, friends and our community who know me well. I'm happiest when sourcing special requests or using our wonderful products in the kitchen.



**Holly Lacher,  
owner Carol Lacher,  
& Paige Lacher**

### IN-STORE

Dining outside is here and summer dishes have arrived. These beautiful dishes look like hand-painted china but

are safe for use outdoors. We also carry outdoor-safe glassware and tumblers. Cleanup is a breeze because it's all dishwasher safe.

### MUST-HAVES

Good-quality pots are easy to clean and a joy to use. You'll use them for years, and let's face it – we cook almost every day. Make preparing dinner a pleasure and let the cookware influence your palate. Cristel cookware is a popular choice; users become believers. Made in France, it maximizes storage space efficiently for performance at its best. Express yourself with your choice of walnut, Olivewood or coloured handles. **OH**



*"We love to chat with our customers to help inspire what they are doing in the kitchen or at home."*

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PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF

# FOR THE CHILDREN

STORY MELISSA NORTH

## THE ORGANIZATION

**Food4Kids Ontario** is a non-profit grassroots organization working to serve children in Hamilton, Halton, Mississauga, Guelph and Niagara. Founded by Executive Director Lena Bassford in 2012, Food4Kids provides packages of healthy food for children with limited or no access to food on weekends or during summer months.

## THE GOAL

Food4Kids currently feeds 3,050 children each week, but there are 6,000 children in need. "It's hard to believe kids in our own community go hungry, but it is a reality," says Lena. "It's not that



parents do not want to feed their kids, they can't. Whether it is the worsening economy, job loss, physical or mental illness or they are refugees fleeing their home country for a better life in Canada, there are many reasons parents find themselves turning to Food4Kids for support."

## THE PEOPLE

Volunteers ensure Food4Kid's success. They assemble food packages, which they deliver to schools each Friday. At each school, the package is quietly tucked into the child's own backpack to ensure a non-stigmatizing approach. In the summer months and during COVID restrictions, the food or grocery cards are hand-delivered right to the children's homes.

## WHAT'S NEEDED

It costs \$15 a week to provide a balanced food supply for each child participating in the program. Donations from the community as well as volunteer participation are sorely needed. "While children have many things to be concerned about, they should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from," says Lena. "No child in our community should go hungry." ❦



*Find out more* [Food4Kids.ca](http://Food4Kids.ca)

double take

# All DECKED OUT

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PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



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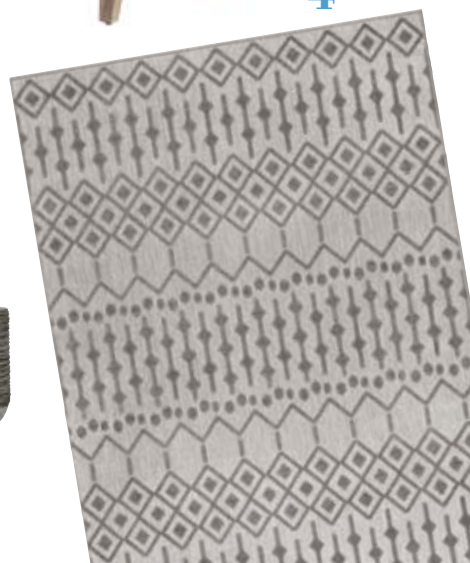
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STORY **DENISE WILLSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

# SUMMER LIVING

Nothing says summer like a backyard oasis, which is exactly what Patricia and Doug Phillips envisioned when they came across this Dundas gem.

**“WE BOUGHT THE HOUSE BECAUSE WE LOVED THE BACKYARD,”** says Doug. The massive property backs onto mature conservation land, giving the homeowners a taste of wilderness at home. “It’s like living in the country, in the city,” says Patricia, smiling. The couple adores the small-town vibe of Dundas, particularly the unique shops and cafes along Main Street, which is a short 10-minute walk from home.

The backyard was a steep slope down to a stream surrounded by tall trees and natural brush. The hill was a logistical nightmare, especially on or after rainy spells, but **Brad Paton** of **Shades of Summer Landscaping** didn’t shy away from this amazing parcel of land. “This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” says Brad. “A project of this scope doesn’t come along often, and to this day, I’m in awe of the results. As the gardens mature, the setting gets more beautiful every year.”

*Continued on page 86*



EXTERIORS: MCNEILL LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY



**ABOVE:** Each tier of the back garden is landscaped to incorporate natural surroundings with functional spaces. **TOP RIGHT:** Designated areas cater to entertaining and relaxing. **CENTRE RIGHT:** Brad Paton is a master of nightscaping, creating a magical ambience. **RIGHT:** The front exterior is no less dressed.



Large windows, 12-foot ceilings and a light palette make for a serene vibe in the spacious living room. **BELOW LEFT:** Elegant touches abound. **BELOW:** Alison Knapp styled the outdoor spaces, including the upper deck, which includes a retractable awning.



also loves the outdoor fireplace and television, expanding the use of their outdoor space, even on chilly evenings. **Paradise Decks & Landscape Design** built the cantilevered two-tiered wood composite deck meant to last many years with little maintenance.

“Right now,” says Patricia, “as we struggle with COVID, the backyard has been a summer escape. There are lots of outdoor spaces to get out of the house and spread out, surrounded by nature.” *Continued on page 88*

**FAR LEFT:** Crodon Kitchen & Bath Centre transformed all the bathrooms, including the guest bath, which used to be all black. **LEFT:** A pretty vessel sink adds to the charm of the powder room. **BELOW:** The double-sided fireplace can be simultaneously enjoyed in the generous dining room and the living room. Barnard & Speziale used standout lighting fixtures, each suited to that rooms’ personality.



Shades of Summer Landscaping has won several awards for this coveted sanctuary, including provincial awards for the landscape design, lighting, construction, maintenance and spectacular water feature. “The waterfall runs day and night,” says Brad, “making calming trickling sounds.” Both Brad and the homeowners love the Japanese maples dotted throughout the cascading stone tiers leading to the deck overlooking the ravine. The local deer are also fans. “We had to be super-careful choosing plant life that respected the natural order of the land without feeding the deer an expensive buffet,” says Brad. The family



# feature

While the backyard was the lure that caught the Phillips' attention, they could envision the house with their added touch. "The house was only 10 years old when we purchased the property in 2013," says Doug. Other than replacing the front entrance door with a new system by **Ridley Windows and Doors**, the exterior was left untouched. The interior, however, was revamped. "We liked that the house was open and spacious," adds Patricia, "but we needed to make it our own, to match our lifestyle and tastes." The couple didn't hesitate to call **Barnard & Speziale | The Interior Design Company**, who they'd worked with on a previous house and cottage, and who they knew would understand their vision. Patricia was thrilled with the work of their designer **Alison Knapp** (now of **Alison Knapp Interior Design**). "She was given a lot of leeway," says Patricia. "We approved choices and picked items, but Alison pulled our ideas together." And their designer recommended **Paul Bottos** of **Grand Construction** to do the heavy lifting.

The interior renovation took four months and brought new life to the bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room and loft. All five bathrooms and the kitchen were gutted to the bare walls to start afresh. The lower level and bedrooms received a facelift. "We love how the bathrooms came together," says Patricia. The primary en suite and guest en suite were updated with marble flooring. Kitchen and bath fixtures were sourced from **Tiles Plus**. *Continued on page 90*



Kitchen magic: the heavy, stone custom hood had to be chained in place, and the cabinets to the right hide a 43-inch television. **ABOVE:** Patricia has a soft spot for cow décor, a nod to her heritage. She lived on her grandparents' dairy farm for a time when she was a child.



**ABOVE:** No opportunity has been wasted to make the most of the views. **FAR LEFT:** Function is everything – a built-in compost bin adjoins the prep sink. **LEFT:** Auggie (named for the Masters Tournament) has his own cubby in the kitchen.

feature



Unique details help create a one-of-a-kind home.



“The kitchen was nice,” says Doug, “but dark and cluttered. We prefer the look of creamy white cabinetry, marble countertops and elegant millwork.” The couple recruited **Vanessa Bell** and **Russ Woodward** of **Crodon Kitchen and Bath Centre** to design and install new cabinetry and built-ins for the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry room and the lower-level bar. The spectacular stone range hood in the kitchen is a feature the homeowners love, along with the dog bed designed within the cabinetry so their pup Auggie can watch the hustle-bustle of the kitchen. “We also love the two-way fireplace between the living room and dining room,” says Patricia. “It’s a focal point that draws everyone’s attention.”

“Doug really wanted a zinc countertop for his downstairs bar,” says Russ. “His family is in the metal galvanizing business and he wanted this countertop to represent his heritage.” The Crodon team had the solid zinc countertop custom made in Georgia, U.S.A. It weighs more than 500 pounds. Doug and Patricia gather around their unique creation at family get-togethers with their five adult sons.

*Continued on page 92*



**ABOVE RIGHT:** The well appointed en suite includes a freestanding tub, dual vanities and inlaid floor tiles, which are echoed on the wall in the large shower.

**RIGHT:** Doug and Patricia took advantage of the high vaulted ceiling to feature a striking chandelier in their bedroom retreat.

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“This house was meant to be a place we could gather,” says Patricia. She loves birthday celebrations and holidays with her sons and their loved ones and looks forward to a house full of grandchildren. Their first grandson will be two in July.

“This project was an amazing collaboration of several professional trades,” says Vanessa. Russ had worked with Doug and Patricia before, as he’s been designing and installing kitchens and bathrooms for the better

part of 30 years. Plumbing was completed by **Plumbway**, and electrical work was done by **Broek Electric**.

“We love to entertain,” says Patricia. “We like to hire a chef and servers and enjoy time with our guests. The design of our home and yard contribute to these good times.” With this spectacular backyard oasis, the Phillips family and their friends can enjoy summer to the fullest. **OH**



**TOP LEFT:** The lower level has a more casual style, perfect for hanging out. When the Phillips moved in, two of their five sons still lived with them and have since moved out. **TOP RIGHT:** Timeless geometric patterned wallpaper stands out in the lower level bath. **ABOVE:** Weather not cooperating? There’s lots to do inside, too. **RIGHT:** The wine room. “What gets you through COVID,” Patricia jokes.

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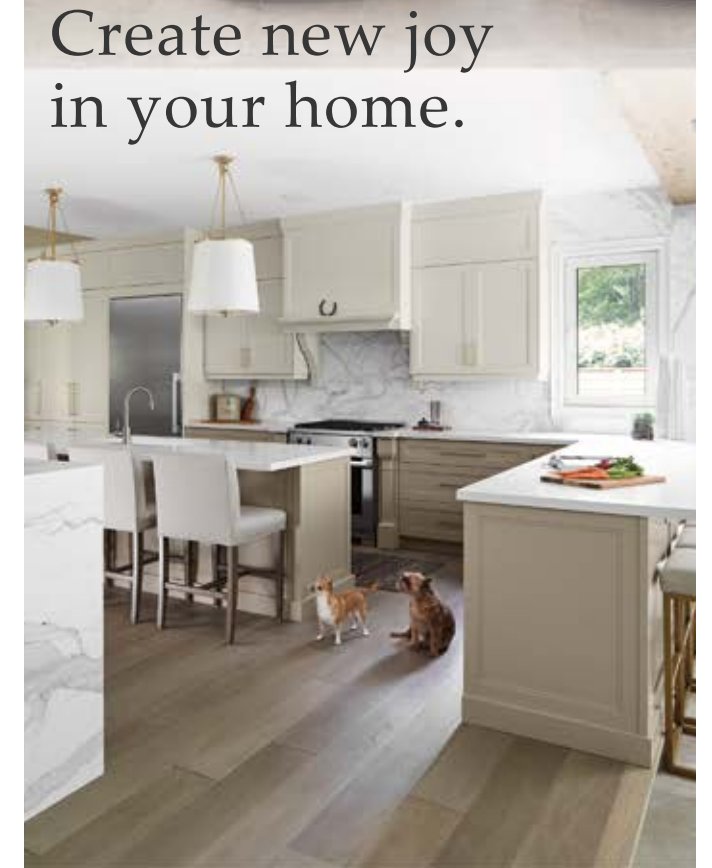
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# DRIFTWOOD WREATH

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY TARA CHATTELL

Add a beachy vibe to your space with this fun and easy-to-make driftwood wreath. Plus, there's the added benefit of long walks along the water to collect driftwood!

## TOOLS

- Pencil
- Jigsaw or scroll saw
- 7-inch diameter bowl
- Paintbrush
- Glue gun
- Screwdriver
- Wire cutters

## MATERIALS

- ¼ to ⅝ inch-thick plywood (large enough to cut a circle 14 inches in diameter)
- Roll of kraft paper
- Lots of driftwood pieces, 9 inches in length or a little shorter
- Sandpaper
- Hot glue sticks
- Acrylic paint in three colours (we've used navy, light blue and white)
- Picture-hanging hardware (screws, D-ring hangers and wire)

## HOW-TO

To create the plywood backing for your wreath, draw a 14 inch-diameter circle with a 10 inch-diameter circle inside. Don't worry if it's not perfect; it will be hidden behind the driftwood. Cut your circles with either a jigsaw or scroll saw to create a wooden ring.

Place your ring on a large piece of kraft paper. Using something round, with a diameter of about 7 inches, trace a circle with a pencil inside your wood ring. This will be your guide as you begin gluing the driftwood pieces onto the ring. You can temporarily glue your backing to the paper to prevent sliding. Peel paper from wood when complete.



Paint approximately 10-12 pieces of driftwood in each of the three colours you've chosen and leave the rest of the pieces natural. Let dry before gluing onto backing.

Begin gluing the driftwood pieces onto the wood ring, using the longest pieces first. Do not go too far past your pencil guideline on the inside of the ring. Leave some space between each piece to get a nice starburst shape.



Once you have the first layer glued around the entire ring, begin filling the spaces with slightly shorter pieces. Continue layering driftwood pieces until the backing is completely hidden.

Use shorter pieces and layer with the smallest pieces on the top layer.

Decide which way to hang the wreath and attach hardware and wire to the backing.

Now you're ready to hang and enjoy your work of art! **OH**

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(Please see ad on pg 91)



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(Please see ad on pg 27)



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(Please see ad on pg 83)



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The shop is an eclectic collection of unique items such as fine art, jewelry, clothes, home décor, and kids/baby items. You will discover creative gifts that will wow your friends and family!

This year we have focused on DIY kits and activities, both for kids and adults – needle felting, colouring and embroidery are popular!

As always, we spotlight original art such as our large oil paintings and smaller custom pet watercolour portraits.

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We also recently rolled out some curated gift box sets to make your shopping easier – they are wrapped and ready to go! Ideal for Moms, Dads crafty kids, and folks on the go! Digital gift cards are also now available.

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To learn more about Merry Maids and our home cleaning services, please visit [merrymaidsoakville.com](http://merrymaidsoakville.com), [merrymaidsmilton.com](http://merrymaidsmilton.com), or [merrymaidshamilton.com](http://merrymaidshamilton.com) (Please see ad on pg 3)



### FOOD4KIDS

Food4Kids provides packages of healthy food for children with limited or no access to food weekends or summer months. Volunteers assemble food packages and deliver to schools each Friday. At the school, the food package is quietly tucked into the child's own backpack to ensure a non-stigmatizing approach. When the child arrives home on Friday, they open their backpack filled with healthy food.

The food packages include kid-friendly, easy to prepare and most of all, healthy food critical to a child's physical and emotional development. Apples, oranges, kiwi, peppers, cucumbers, carrots, soups, stews, and grains are included in food packages.

Food4Kids is funded through donations or one-time-grants. This is truly a community program. If we all give a little, we can ensure children have a consistent supply of food.

Currently, there are 3,050 children receiving healthy food packages each weekend, 52 weeks annually.

Children have many things to worry about...where their next meal will come from should not be one of them. We believe no child in our community should go hungry.

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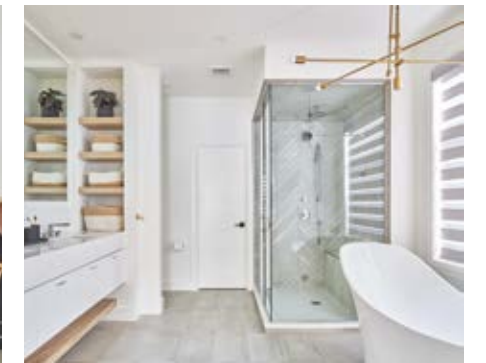
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STORY  
GINA MAKKAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
JASON HARTOG

# Lorne Park LUXURY



The great room's ceiling height is well-defined with layers of moulding. **RIGHT:** The châteaustyle exterior blends into its surroundings.

**RIGHT:** Andy and Lucie's thoughtful renovation created a beautiful, cohesive home. **BELOW:** Even though it wasn't initially for sale, the couple purchased the bubble gum machine at an art sale.

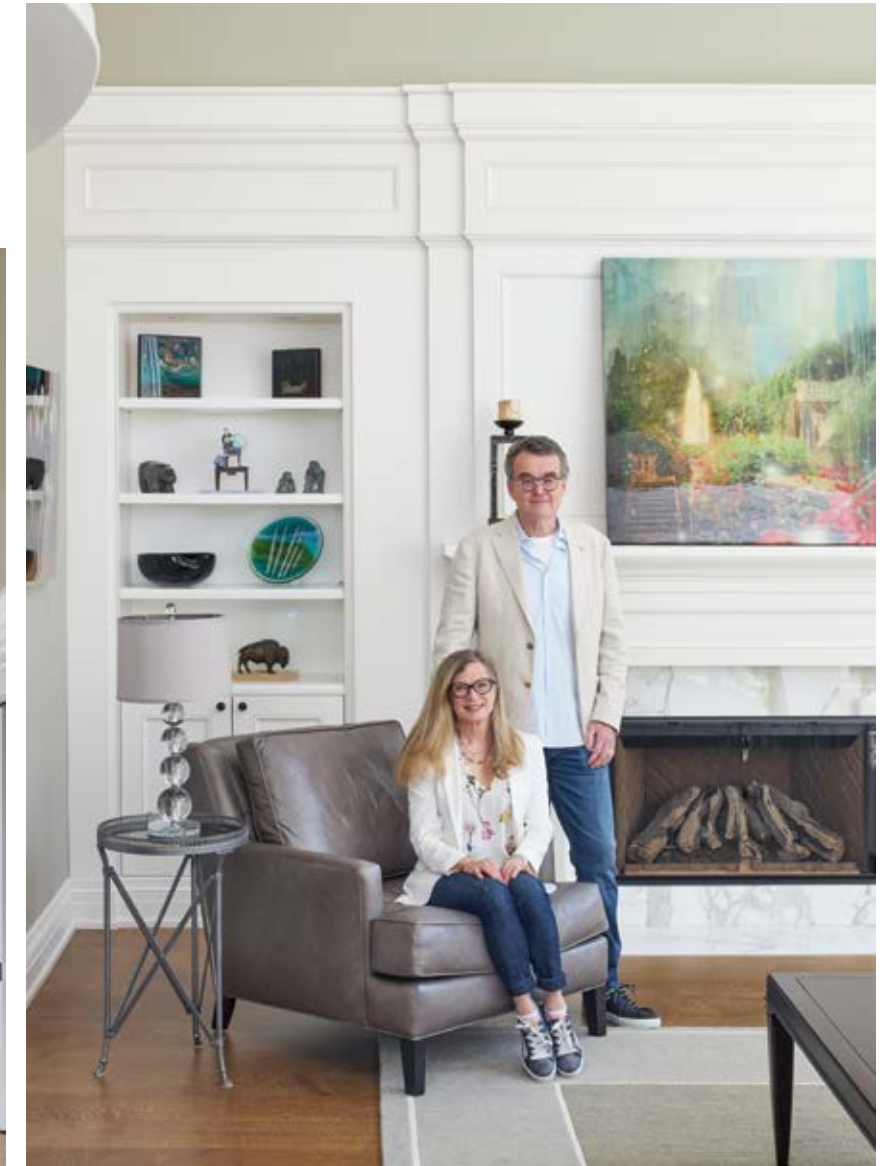
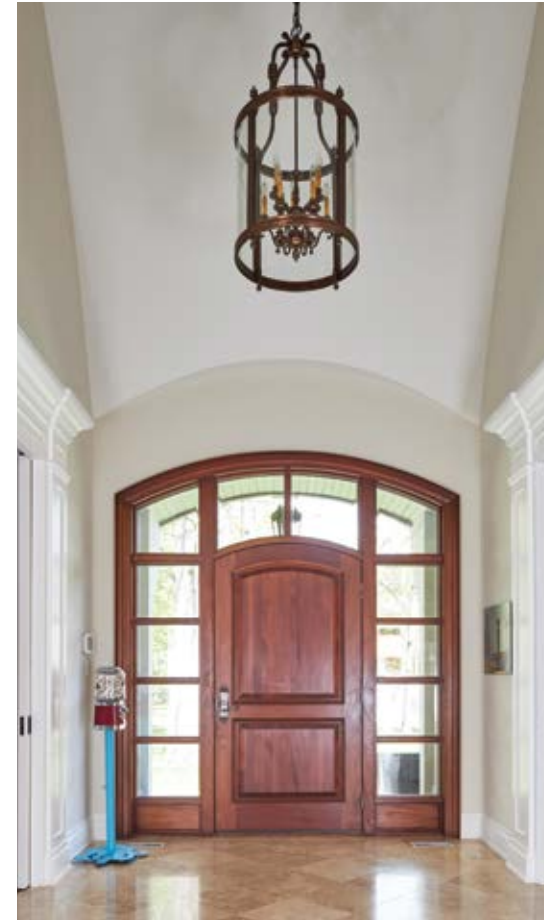


PHOTO: COURTESY OF HODGINS REALTY GROUP INC.



**WHILE TRAVELLING THE TREE-LINED BOULEVARDS OF LORNE PARK, IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY THE AREA WAS ONCE CONSIDERED COTTAGE COUNTRY.**

**IN FACT,** a seasonal resort named after the Marquis de Lorne, Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883, was first established in the 1800s along the south side of Lakeshore Road. It was accessible by rail, steamboat or carriage and families flocked to the area in the summer. Back then, lots were sold to those willing to build a "neat and respectable" home or cottage costing not less than \$400.

*Continued on page 102*



White cabinetry, stone counters and backsplash come together to create a stunning, neutral kitchen. **BELOW LEFT:** James Hodgins helps discerning homeowners with their buy and sell needs. **BELOW RIGHT:** The artwork in the dining room adds colour and drama.



renovation and add an elevator. David redesigned the space to create a seamless flow that effortlessly marries beauty with function.

The couple also worked with **Tania Parkyn** of **Parkyn Design** to plan a fresh yet timeless redesign of the aesthetic throughout. With much of the home's layout reconfigured, Tania created a relaxed yet elegant design aesthetic that lends a welcoming feel but still reflects classic good taste. A Romeo and Juliet balcony in the upper hallway looks down on the great room and floods the space with airiness and light. A drum-shaped light fixture hangs over the contemporary furnishings to complete the space. The great room opens seamlessly into the crisp, white kitchen and cosy breakfast area. Substantial mouldings add architectural interest and delineate each space. "Thanks to some great advisors, we think it turned out wonderfully," says Andy.

The couple's love for collecting unique art is present throughout the space. The vibrant colours, unique textures and interesting shapes leap from the frames and tell riveting stories. When they first buy something new, they often leave it on the floor for a while until they decide which place it will call home. "It takes a long time sometimes," says Andy.

*Continued on page 104*



Today, Lorne Park still radiates with the charm of narrow, tree-lined avenues and large lots, and is home to a variety of beautiful properties. Algonquin Drive is a meandering cul-de-sac with stately dwellings, including the home of Andy and Lucie. Situated on a 1.85-acre ravine lot, the 7,200 sq. ft. estate features anything a homeowner could want or need. Nestled among the trees, the classic stone exterior and gabled roofline blends effortlessly into the landscape but still invites glances of passersby. When Andy and Lucie first bought the home, they were attracted to the sprawling ravine lot and the home's unassuming nature, despite its size.

Though the home was beautiful, the homeowners decided to undertake a renovation to create a space that reflects their unique needs and tastes. They hired custom home designer **David Small** of **David Small Designs** to complete an architectural



**TOP:** The office is bright and sunny. **LEFT:** The eat-in nook in the kitchen looks out onto the lush landscape. **ABOVE:** There's an abundance of built-in cabinetry in the main floor powder room.

feature



He points to the vibrant painting that graces the dining room wall and can be seen from the main hallway. “The painting just pops in that room and that makes both look better,” he says.

One of the home’s attractive qualities is the feeling of hominess that often eludes a property this substantial in size. Andy says the home is often a favourite among visitors, a reaffirmation that they’ve crafted a space that is beautiful and exceptional. “It’s not ostentatious,” says Lucie. “If someone wants ostentatious, this is not

their house.” The extra space was certainly a benefit in COVID times. The couple was able to retreat to their offices, close their doors and continue to work. With plenty of room to roam, they never felt penned in. “We’ve been lucky to have it,” says Andy.

The backyard is a haven, with the serene backdrop of the ravine, the gentle rustle of the trees and a stillness that brings peace and tranquility. “When there’s stress at work, I go out and sit on my chair, and with the water feature, it’s like being at a resort; it’s an oasis,” says Lucie.

*Continued on page 106*



PHOTO: COURTESY OF HODGINS REALTY GROUP INC.

**TOP LEFT:** The walk-in closet is customized for maximum storage. **TOP RIGHT:** Muted hues allow for easy relaxation in the bedroom. **LEFT:** Dual vanities in the centre of the en suite are functional and detailed. **ABOVE:** The backyard is a vacation-like oasis.

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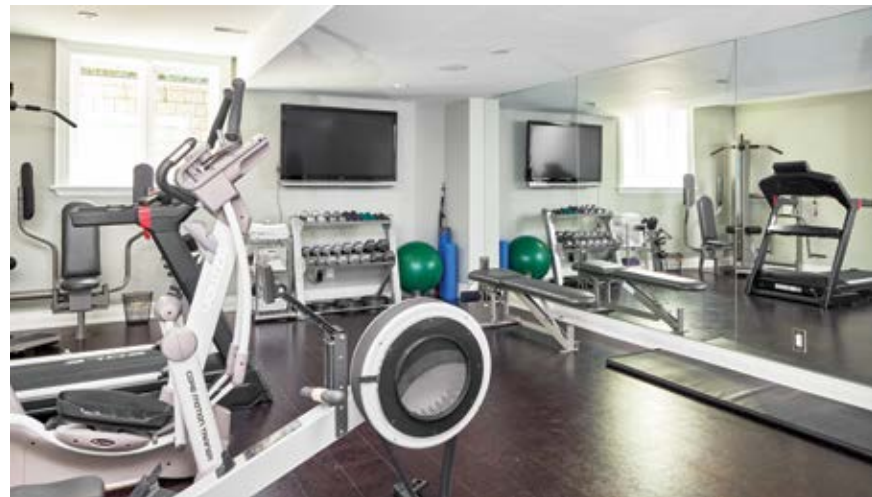


The lower-level walkout boasts a home gym, wine cellar, recreation room, bar area and enclosed Muskoka room that opens to the outdoor pool and hot tub area. It's a veritable retreat that the grandchildren enjoy when they come to visit.

**James Hodgins**, founder of boutique realty company **Hodgins Realty Group**, says 1128 Algonquin is truly a destination retreat unlike any other in Mississauga. "The street was aptly named and beautifully envelops this incredible signature home in an exclusive natural setting reserved for only an elite few. For those who cherish privacy, nature and a timeless world-class home, this estate delivers on all fronts," says James.

With their children grown, the couple is moving on to a new phase of life. Although torn at the thought of leaving the home they've come to love, they're open to the possibility when the time and opportunity is right. "It would make practical sense to move on. We've lived here a decade and we've enjoyed it. We've been lucky." **OH**

**TOP LEFT:** The wine cellar is stocked for friends, family or easy nights of relaxation. **TOP RIGHT:** The Muskoka room opens to the outdoor deck. **MIDDLE:** The home gym has everything one could need. **RIGHT:** The lower-level recreation room is a cosy place to watch movies or relax.



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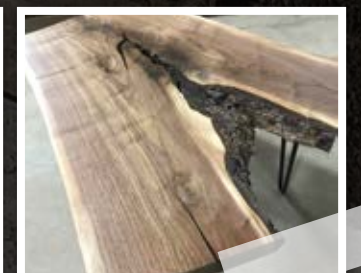
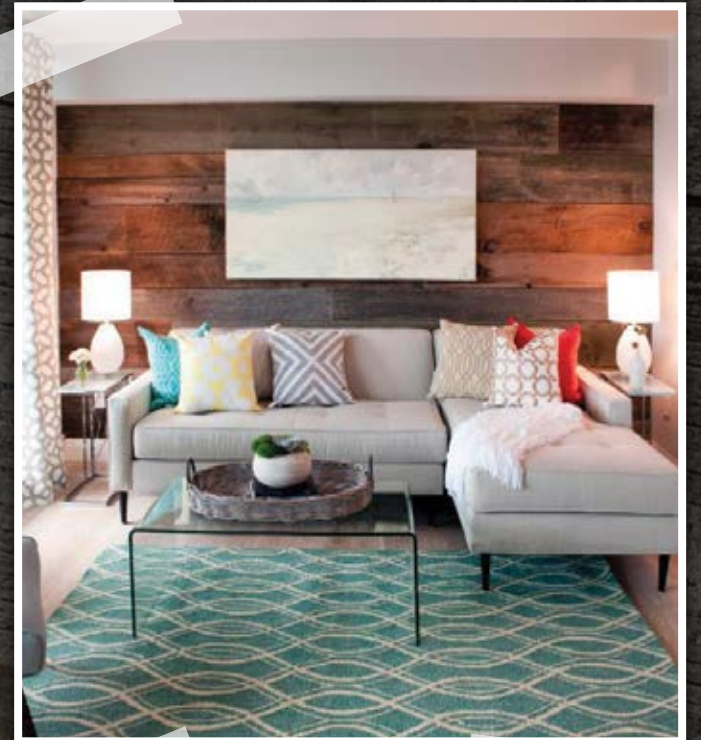
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From a design perspective, “imperfectly perfect” interiors have been gaining popularity as the world becomes more accepting of imperfection and increasingly seeks out the beauty in it. Gone are the unattainable, stress-inducing standards of perfection. This interior trend is all about living our best life in comfort and style. Here’s how to get this look.

### MIX OLD AND NEW

Vintage pieces are key to this aesthetic. If it’s distressed, aged and faded, all the better. Remember, they’re not just scratches, they’re stories. One reason I really love this style is that it doesn’t demand the purchase of all-new items; the contrast between old and new can be quite beautiful. Some newly purchased furnishings and accessories can make your vintage pieces pop in a way that’s uniquely you. This style is also conducive to upcycling cast-off furnishings with some new upholstery and a fresh coat of paint.

Generally speaking, avoid anything that’s too matchy-matchy and aim for eclectic and artisanal. Look for contrasts and combine a variety of materials such as wood, glass, lacquer, metal and mirror. The goal is for your items to look collected rather than purchased in one afternoon at your local big box store.

*Continued on page 110*

# PERFECTLY

# imperfect

STORY **SASCHA LAFLEUR**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **WEST OF MAIN DESIGN**

This world is full of wonderful things that happen entirely by accident, but when it comes to our homes, the “perfectly imperfect” aesthetic doesn’t always come by chance. Though effortlessly curated in appearance, this distinctive style is quite deliberate, reflecting unique lives and interests, and the home that’s at the heart of it all.



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## design ideas

Try this: In the kitchen, take the mix-and-match approach to your metallic finishes. For example, try pairing brushed nickel cabinetry hardware with gold-toned lighting or plumbing fixtures. Just keep a consistent temperature – warm with warm, or cool with cool. Alternately, matte black metal is a neutral and trendy option that pairs well with everything.



## TELL YOUR STORY

Incorporate sentimental items and found objects that speak to your personal interests and experiences. Find a place to display that retro typewriter or your vintage camera collection. Put yourself out there through things that bring you joy and help tell your story.

Bring added interest to your collections by peppering your display with plants, books and artwork to create mini focal points through the space.

Think in odd numbers when displaying your collections and curios on tabletops, shelves or the fireplace mantel. Arrange your accessories in groups of threes or fives, with the largest item in the middle. This draws attention to the centre of your display and creates balance.



The final piece of decorating advice could easily apply to life as well. Rather than trying to fight the randomness that sometimes surrounds us, embrace it. Do things just because and you might be surprised by the outcome. **OH**

*Sascha Lafleur is the principal senior designer at West of Main.*

## LIVE IN LAYERS

Textiles can completely change a room, adding warmth and dimension to what would otherwise be a cold and sterile space. Along with this particular aesthetic, pillows and throws were never intended to be neatly lined up and folded into a perfect little square. Just toss, drape and pile them where needed.

Your fabric choices create a mood and set a tone. Layer bold animal and cultural prints with more subtle patterns and solids for instant impact without having to make a huge investment or commitment. You can lighten up your fabrics during the warmer months with linens and cottons and go warmer and heavier during the winter with wool, faux fur and chunky knits.

Consider adding reclaimed antique rugs, window coverings, wall coverings, upholstery and accessories such as cushions and throws. Again, look for variety in colour, vibrancy, pattern and texture.



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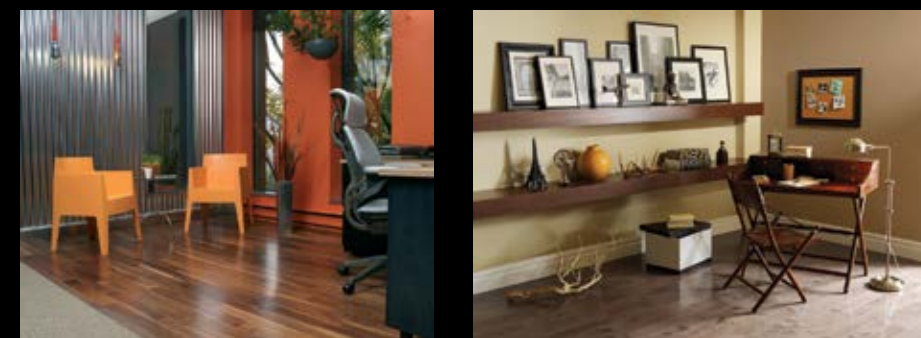
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