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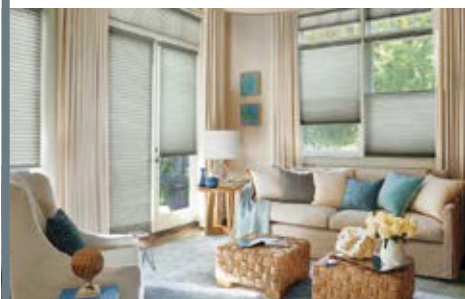
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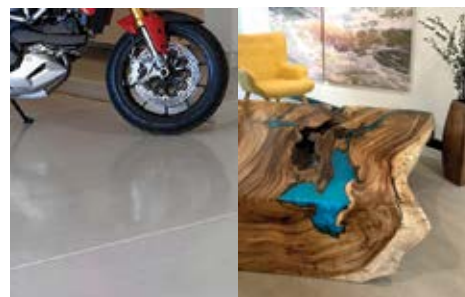
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I'm always reluctant to say goodbye to summer, but there is something warm and welcoming about returning to the routines of fall.

It's like pulling on well-worn jeans at the end of a long day, or catching up with an old friend. It just feels right. And after a season of soaking up the sun, fall is about reigniting our love for the great indoors – and the comfort that awaits.

Comfort at home means different things to different people. It's something that really resonated with me while producing our feature homes for this issue. All three are so vastly different from each other, but all represent the same feelings to the homeowners – comfort and calm.

Although I'm immersed in housing trends as part of my profession, I am unabashedly nostalgic when it comes to my own home. My aesthetic is based less on taste or trend and more on storytelling. Meaningful art, furniture and accents from my parents and grandparents are well-placed in my home amongst new pieces to create a walk down memory lane when the mood strikes. That's my idea of comfort at home.

In this issue, we discover three very different approaches to style and comfort that fit each homeowner. One home embodies

the experiences gathered over a lifetime to express style. Another home is completely reinvented by layering specific and unique design elements that mirror the homeowners' aesthetic. A third home's striking end result proves the value of total trust in creating a style statement.

We love to look through design media for inspiration to elevate at-home style, but there is always an opportunity for self-reflection. Ask: *What is your why for your home décor? What story does your home tell, or what story do you aspire to tell?* Questions to consider as we move back inside.

Enjoy the comforts of fall Ottawa!

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FALL 2021



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A total renovation of this Centretown home perfectly reflects the homeowners. Story, page 54.
Photography by Gordon King.



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It's raining friends and family! Hallelujah.

Normally in fall, the pastime I enjoy most is long nature walks on chilly afternoons with our granddaughters. This year I am most looking forward, hopefully, to the thrill of shedding the mask and opening my door to invite friends and family for dinner... inside. I will spend hours in the kitchen happily humming as I slice and dice in anticipation of familiar faces around the table once again. I will take time to be thankful and recognise the true value of our loved ones.

Back to school will be happily anticipated by some and dreaded by others. Either way, children big and small will give top grades to the peanut butter and jam cookie recipe designed with them in mind. Don't miss the article on the history of the cookie jar to understand why this piece of crockery is the ideal storage solution for those after-school delicacies. Also with the kids in mind, it is important to design rooms for them that offer the perfect spot for relaxing or doing homework. We haven't left out the other important members of our families – the fur babies. Pets also deserve to have their needs and well-being taken care of when designing our spaces.

As we relish the warm embrace of our loved ones in our homes this fall, we should consider the link between design and our well-being. Our advice column explains how to better connect the two. Our homes can fill the role of sanctuary and surround us with peace and enjoyment.

I'm heading to the kitchen to start cooking!

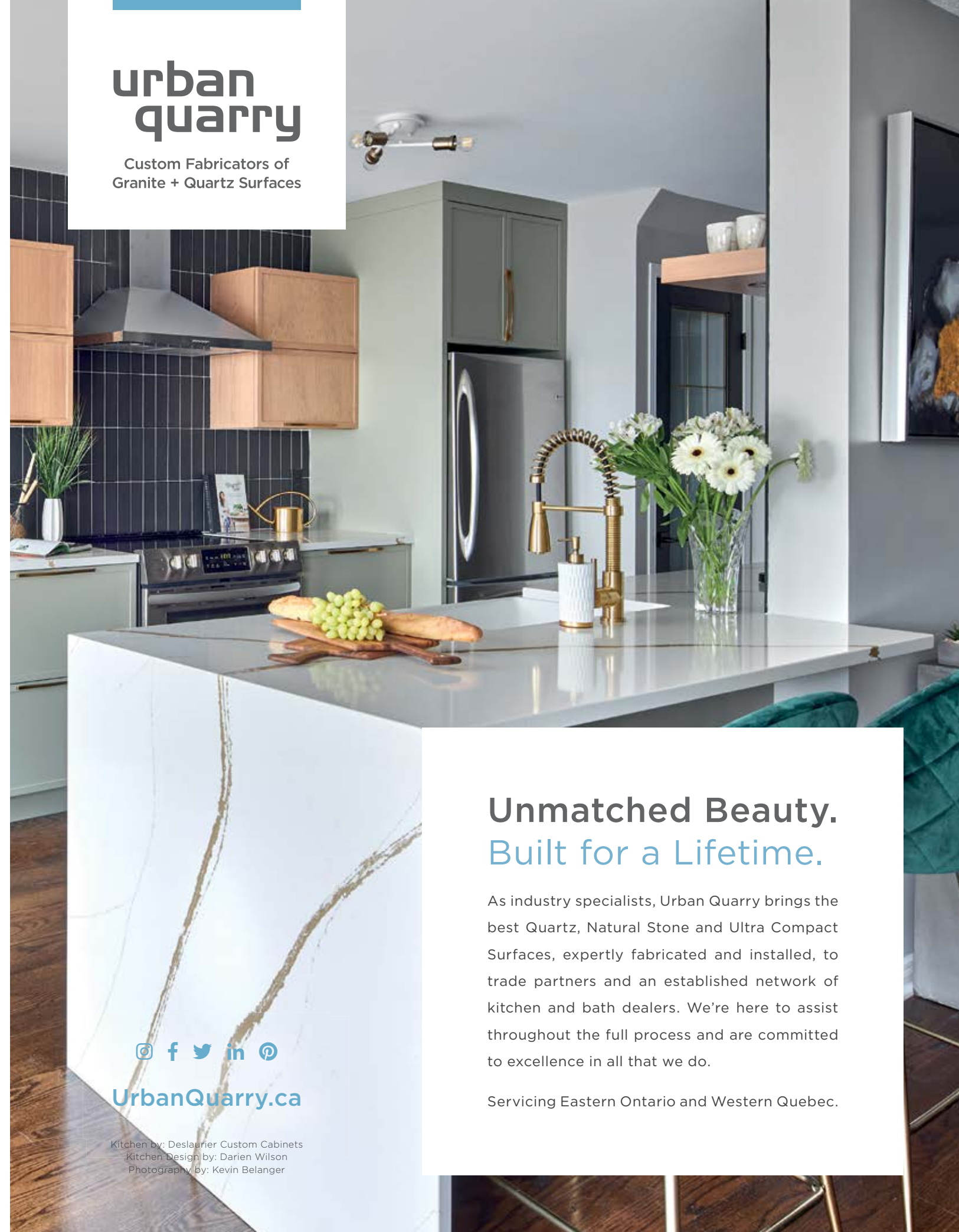
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Curate WELL-BEING AT HOME

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

Creating a home that nurtures overall health and wellness has proven to be an important topic of conversation.

The beautiful thing about a home is that it is (or should be) a unique reflection of the values, priorities and lifestyle of its inhabitants. However, there are some basic tenets that can be applied regardless of style, aesthetic and functional requirements to create an atmosphere that fosters a greater sense of well-being. These recommendations can be implemented without a complete redesign or renovation.

Determine the pillars of how you want your home to feel

It is a privilege to have a home where you and your family can retreat. Having the ability (financial and otherwise) to curate a home that feels welcoming, calming, nourishing and restorative – especially when unpredictable circumstances occur in the world – is a true blessing. Take the time to determine how you want your home to feel. For example, creating a calming space is especially important when the news of the world feels heavy. A clean and clutter-free space can quiet the nervous system and make you feel better physically, mentally and emotionally.



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Create peace of mind

Taking small steps to create a home that is a little more self-sufficient can contribute to a greater feeling of safety and security – especially when unpredictable circumstances arise. At the end of the day, food, water and shelter remain the fundamental and universal basic needs.

There has been a tremendous resurgence of people growing and raising their own food. There are also many local farmers who offer

CSAs (community-supported agriculture) throughout the year and frequent the seasonal farmers markets. Consider installing a pantry or transforming a closet into food storage so you can buy more items in bulk (flours, beans, etc.) and if you have a cold-storage area, you have the ability to store certain vegetables long into the winter. Investing in an appropriate freezer and learning to preserve food are other helpful options. Condo dwellers can experiment with container gardening, learn about becoming a member of a community garden or perhaps barter with family or friends to use a piece of land for a small garden patch.

Generating your own electricity allows you to be less dependent on the larger system. For those not connected to the grid, investing in a generator in the event of a power loss enables you to keep the fridge and freezer running so you don't



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lose your food supply – just create a regular maintenance schedule and ensure you have the appropriate fuel. Also having a stock of water on hand for a couple of weeks, or a filtration system (such as a

Berkey) if you have access to fresh water, can provide added peace of mind. The notion of creating a safe home extends beyond a security system.

Define various zones

The experience of sharing space with the entire family at home for such an extended period of time, with multiple tasks happening simultaneously – such as working, learning, food preparation, etc. – has emphasized the importance of creating specific zones to maintain a semblance of order in the home. If you don't have a spare room you can transform into an office, or the floor space for designated desks and workstations, consider purchasing totes that hold everyone's individual work or projects. Investing in proper storage such as closed cabinetry or even open shelving with baskets (simple and easy to access) helps to keep everyone organized and the house from becoming overrun with the business of the day. It is also important to keep sleeping spaces reserved for rest and minimize technology there (avoid it if you can). We all know blue light from devices negatively impacts our circadian rhythm and the body's ability to prepare for sleep. It's difficult to relax at the end of the day if you're still looking at a large pile of work or if the notifications on your phone are going off at all hours.

Bring nature inside

Not only are houseplants an extremely cost-effective way to completely transform the feeling of your space, but adding greenery into your home can reduce stress and anxiety. There is the added benefit of air purification. Nature-inspired artwork can also help calm the senses. Connecting with natural materials such as linen, raw wood, beeswax candles, marble and wool can also help evoke a sense of well-being within the home. **OH**



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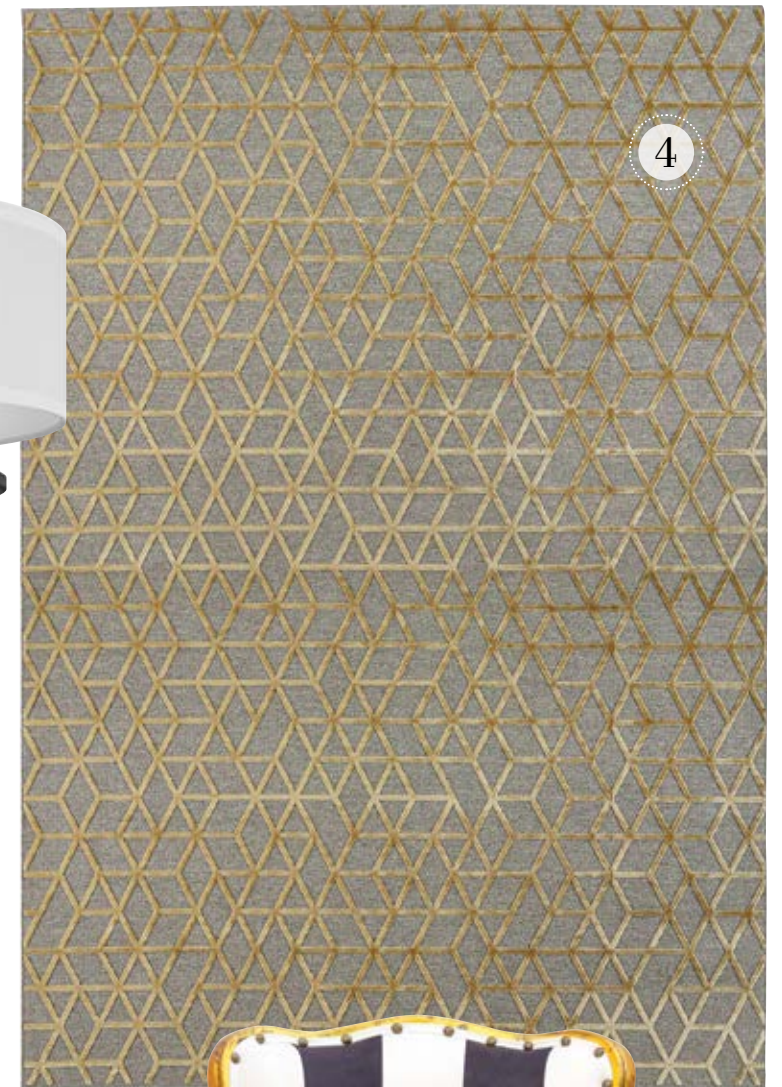
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7 WALL SPACE GALLERY

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Entitled *Take Me with You*, this painting is from the *Hello Happy* series from artist Sharon Kelly. The series draws inspiration from the landscapes of Prince Edward County and Lake Ontario as well as the healing qualities of being near water.
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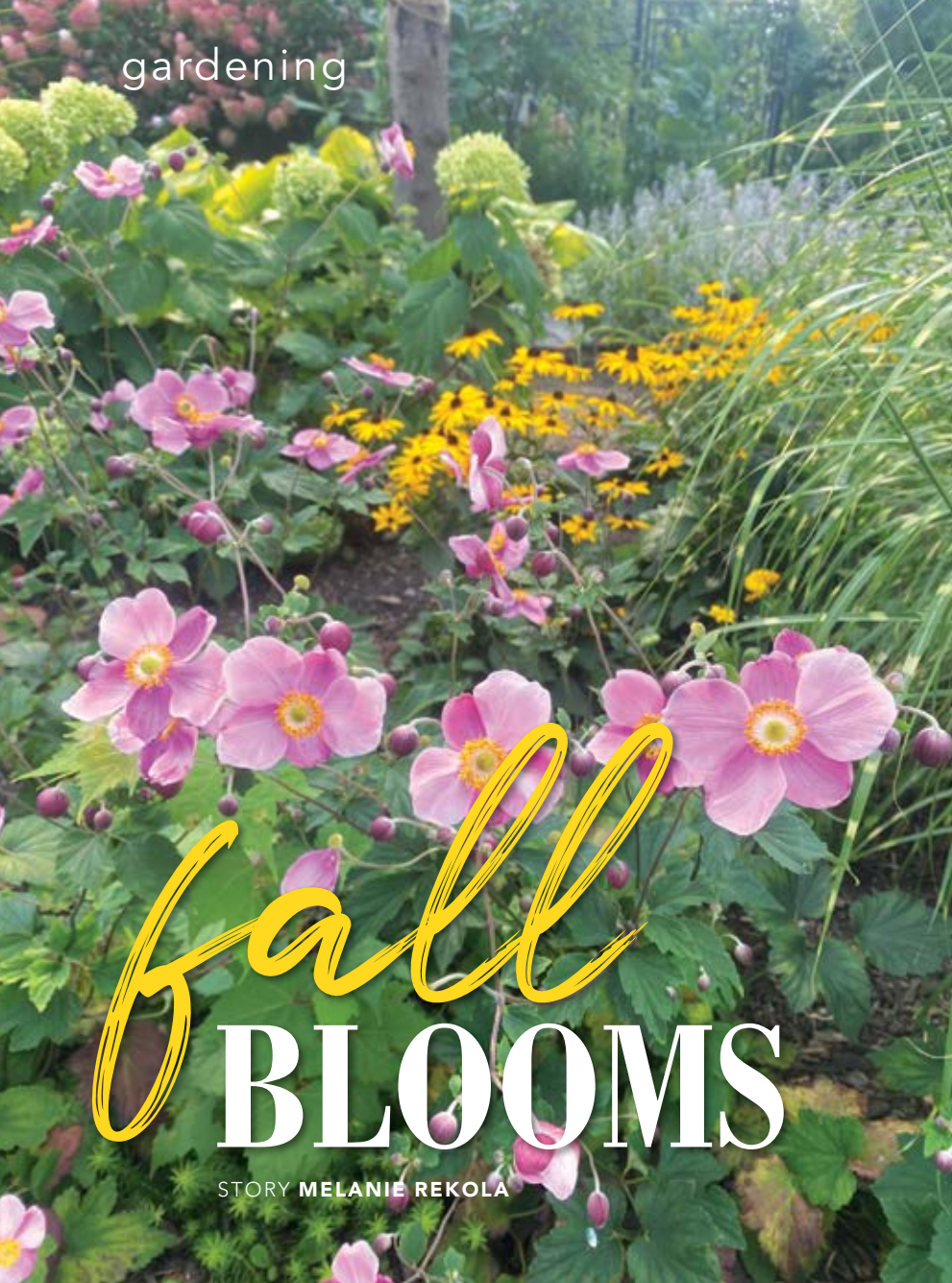
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STORY MELANIE REKOLA

When we think of fall gardens, many of us often imagine ornamental grasses, the changing colour of leaves and perhaps some berries. Of course these are part of the beautiful autumn season but garden flowers should not be forgotten! Add some spice to your blooming borders and keep your flower show going right up until frost with these beauties.



NEW ENGLAND ASTER (SYMPHYOTRICHUM NOVAE-ANGLIAE)

One of the first fall flowers that comes to mind, New England asters are the backbone of many attractive fall borders. These reliable, native perennials form dense, fluffy mounds of white, purple, pink or blue flowers. Growing between 36 and 72 inches and requiring moist soil and part shade to sun, they're also extremely attractive to butterflies, particularly hungry monarchs looking for a meal along their fall migration path.



DENIM 'N LACE RUSSIAN SAGE (PEROVSKIA ATRIPLICIFOLIA)

The distinctive, lacy flower spikes of Russian sage can last for weeks, typically blooming at the end of the summer to early fall. I prefer this smaller 36-inch variety as it doesn't require staking. The beautiful amethyst-coloured blooms begin slowly, and the flower colour gets more brilliant as the small blooms fully open. Mass planting is the best way to enjoy its frothy purple spikes, and it needs full sun and well-draining soil to look its best. It is yet another pollinator favourite. You may be noticing a theme here.

Continued on page 30

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JAPANESE ANEMONE
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Elegant Japanese anemone blossoms are a welcome treat to the late summer and fall garden. With pretty leaves and blossoms borne on tall, slender stems, the showy pink or white flowers come in abundance once the plant has had some years to establish. It's elegant in every stage – from tight round buds to spherical seed heads – and deserves a prominent place in the garden. Plant it in part shade to sun and give it enough moisture and you won't be disappointed. Like many of the other fall-blooming perennials, this one is also known to attract butterflies.



JOE-PYE WEED
(EUTROCHIUM PURPUREUM)

Perennials don't get much tougher than Joe-Pye weed. This tall and rugged native Ontario plant can reach up to a towering seven feet, though there are some dwarf varieties including Baby Joe available. It can spread aggressively, so be mindful where you plant it. It produces handsome burgundy-green foliage and has large, showy heads of whitish-purple flowers in the late summer and fall. Butterflies and bees love these nectar-rich flowers.



BLACK-EYED SUSAN
(RUDBECKIA HIRTA)

Likely one of the most popular wildflowers grown, native black-eyed Susans are a showstopper with their bright golden-yellow aura. These happy, daisy-like flower heads grow to about 36 inches, are drought-tolerant and require full sun. A very low-maintenance native perennial whose blooms make a long-lasting cut flower, these are also an excellent food flower for many hungry garden pollinators.



TOAD LILY
(TRICYRTIS HIRTA)

Unique and delicate, common toad lily blossoms appear much later than most other shade-loving plants. Reaching 24 to 36 inches, these upright, intricate, orchid-like and speckled flowers will stop you in your tracks. There aren't many plants that flower like these in shady situations. If you have a shade garden and need some fall flowers, this is the plant for you!



STONECROP / SEDUM

These rugged plants are virtually indestructible and come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Sedums have fleshy foliage that make them super drought tolerant. Plant them in a sunny spot and stand back in awe. It's the taller, upright varieties (growing 24 to 36 inches tall) that produce large flat heads of pink or red flowers through the late summer and fall. The nectar-rich blossoms attract all sorts of bees, butterflies and bird species. Some commonly seen fall-blooming varieties are sedum Autumn Joy and sedum Matrona but new varieties are popping up every year.



NIPPON DAISY
(NIPPONANTHEMUM NIPPONICUM)

Sometimes called Montauk daisy, Nippon daisy is well-known for its late-season explosion of perky, white flowers. It grows from 18 to 36 inches and thrives in full sun. Nippon daisy blooms from August to frost as both the leaves and flowers are frost tolerant. The nectar-rich blooms will also lure colourful butterflies to your garden.

Most of these gorgeous, autumn-blooming lovelies are food-flowers for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Isn't Mother Nature so clever, making these plants flower at exactly the time when many pollinators need them? Of course gardens are beautiful to look at but they are so much more than just good looks to a host of other creatures. Gardens are in fact beautiful, blooming ecosystems! **oh**

Melanie is a certified horticulturist and landscape designer.



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MEMORIES *on the* MADAWASKA

STORY **HEATHER WRIGHT**
PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**

Soaring windows in the great room provide incredible views of the Madawaska River.



It's common for homeowners to place their personal stamp on a property, but for Denis and Debbie Cauvier, expressing themselves through their lovely Burnstown home is the fabric of the design.

"Your house should reflect you," says Denis. "Vagrancies of fashion change, but you can have a timeless reflection of yourself with your home."

Nestled in a wooded lot on the banks of the Madawaska River, this home connects perfectly to its natural setting, with a calming palette of earth tones, rugged, textured tile, rich hardwood floors (installed by **Mark MacDonald**) and custom wood elements throughout (**Calabogie Rustic Farm and Market**). *Continued on page 34*



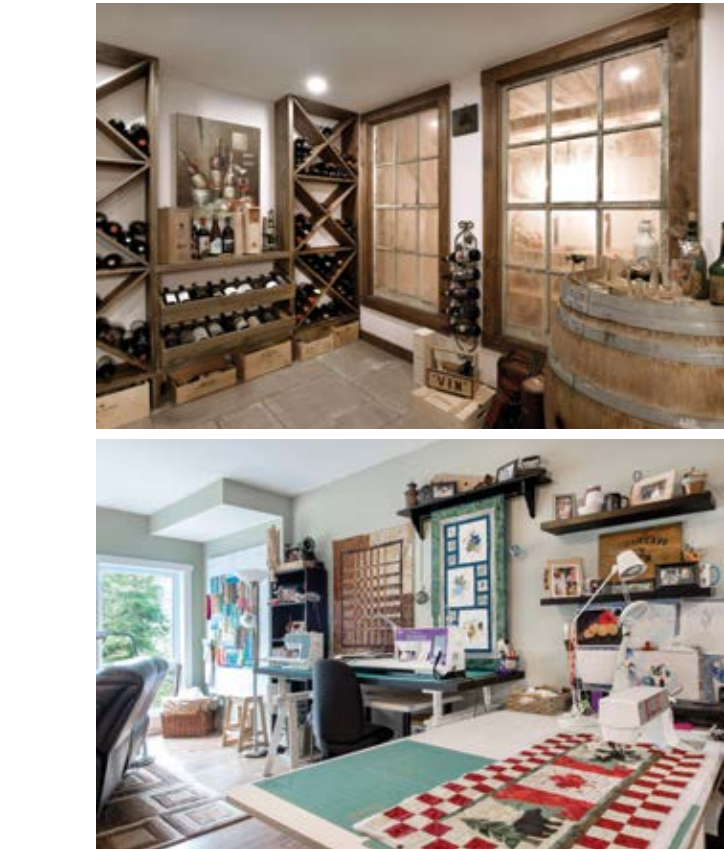
TOP LEFT: Denis and Debbie favour earth tones and textures, such as the rugged foyer tile. **TOP RIGHT:** The Cauviers started with Linwood's Jasper model and customized it to their needs. **ABOVE:** The homeowners relax with Chris Fleming of Generation-3 Homes in their tiered yard.



X X





XX



XX



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LEFT: The landscaping benefits from a natural ridge on the lot. **ABOVE:** A wooden accent wall provides stylish space next to the hot tub.

Debbie also has space to house her passions. The bright walkout lower level houses her cosy sewing room for quilting, a hobby that began 12 years ago.

Some impressive design features add to the overall impact. The real showstopper on the open-concept main floor is the bank of floor-to-ceiling windows (**Jeld-Wen**) that frame incredible views of the mighty Madawaska River. The Cauviers credit Chris for creating this picture-perfect masterpiece by suggesting the home sit on a slight angle. The

result is incredible views from the living room, as well as a lovely view up the river from the primary bedroom.

The kitchen has country farmhouse appeal, with light cabinetry (**Théo Mineault**) and earthy textured countertops (**Expressive Granite**). Just off the kitchen and dining areas is one of two screened porches (**Sunspace by Carnegie Custom Sunrooms**), creating space for the Cauviers to enjoy the nature that surrounds the home in comfort. The upper screened porch is home to a large dining table and the lower screened porch houses a hot tub.

Continued on page 40



A screened-in hot tub is relaxing, no matter the weather. **LEFT:** Cedar cleared from the land is utilized throughout the home including in the upper-level screened porch.

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ABOVE: The home is positioned on an angle to capture river views from the primary bedroom. **RIGHT:** Denis and Debbie have curated and collected antique accents over the years. **BELOW:** Custom bunk beds in a cosy nook are a favourite with the grandchildren.



The multi-generational experience and local connections of Generation-3 means they have the capacity to execute a home-build end-to-end, making the process more seamless for homeowners. “As we take care of various stages of the build process, we always have our eye on the end result throughout, which creates opportunities for efficiencies,” says Chris. The Cauviers loved the process and they love their home. The welcoming vibe is sweetly authentic, mostly because of the homeowners’ awareness of how the design and décor of their living space makes you feel. “Our home should be comfortable for us and anyone who comes to visit,” says Debbie. **OH**

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This year, we’re especially thankful for the comforts of home and everyone at Krumpers is committed to the safety protocols that go beyond the recommendations by public health. UV sterilization protocols for all components, PPE, regular deep cleaning and all staff has been double vaccinated.

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ROOM to GROW

STORY **MICHELLE BERWICK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **LARRY ARNAL**

The return of childhood: Prior to March 2020, our kids were being pushed to their limits. Full-time school, homework and tutoring after school, sports, music lessons, martial arts, birthday parties every weekend. Bam! The pandemic hit. Finding ourselves at home for weeks at a time, the need for whimsy and daydreaming became a thing again. So we're back to creating spaces for fun and creativity at home. Their bedrooms are a great place to start. Here are some of our favourite whimsical kids' rooms.



*Pretty
in Pink*

A bedroom that is just as bright and special as the little one who gets to call either one of these spaces their own.

Continued on page 44



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A bedroom fit for two. Sharing a bedroom can be a struggle, but if this were my room I'd be happy to share it!



Blue Heaven

This room is easy to accessorize with your child's favourite things. Blue is the perfect backdrop to add personality.



An outdoorsy mountain mural creates a serene and tranquil spot for growing up.

A themed element adds a personal touch. Here we brought a sophisticated nod to a nautical, cottage vibe through small accessories that can easily change out as tastes evolve.

You can have a ton of fun creating a special place for your little one to grow up. Playing with colours, textures, wall decals and décor will set the stage for creativity to run wild and dreams to become endless.

Michelle Berwick is an award-winning published designer and principal and creative founder of Michelle Berwick Design.



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Owner, Bert Plomer

THE HEART OF THE HOME



PHOTOGRAPHY ANNEMARIE GRUDEN

THE PLACE

Kanata's **Grace in the Kitchen** is the ultimate kitchen store, dedicated to providing culinary inspiration for amateur and seasoned home cooks alike.

WHAT'S IN STORE

Grace in the Kitchen has an amazing range of high-quality cookware from Germany, France and Japan, with products like Staub cast iron, knives, frying pans and pot sets. They stock a wide selection of gadgets, home décor and gifts. Food products are also for sale, including specialty spices and dried peppers, local coffee beans, award-winning olive oils and vinegars, frozen entrées and more. In addition to a large showroom with general wares, there are two "shops within the shop" located at Grace in the Kitchen. **Zwilling J.A. Henckels** offers a large selection of their high-end cookware, and at the **Serious Cheese** shop, customers can purchase cheese from France, England, Sweden, Italy and Canada. Some of the top sellers are the Serious Cheese Truffle Brie made in house; Chateau de Bourgogne, a buttery, triple cream brie from France; and Grey Owl, an ashy goat cheese from Québec. Later this fall, Grace in the Kitchen is moving to a new home in Kanata. Although the storefront is changing, the offerings inside will remain the same.



MUST-HAVES

A good knife is the best tool you can have in your kitchen. Grace in the Kitchen offers a variety of knives, from heavily weighted German blades to lighter, perfectly balanced Japanese knives. "Make sure the knife feels right in your hand," says owner and founder Bert Plomer. Kosher salt, specifically the Diamond Crystal brand, is another kitchen essential.



BEHIND THE NAME

This store originally opened as a china and crystal store on Bank Street. The name came about serendipitously when a passerby peered in the shop window and commented: It looks graceful in there. "After I heard that, I immediately knew that grace had to be included in the name," says Bert. The name was first Grace Designs for Dining and when more food products and kitchenware were added it changed to Grace in the Kitchen.



WHAT'S POPULAR

"With the pandemic, people have spent a lot more time cooking and experimenting with new dishes, and are keen to invest in good kitchenware products. Bestsellers include knives, pots and pans," says Bert. **OH**



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Peanut Butter & Jelly SANDWICH COOKIES

Your favourite childhood sandwich just became your new favourite cookie. Perfect for after-school snacks, these PB & J cookies are your classic peanut butter cookie with a tangy raspberry filling. They'll bring back childhood memories and create new ones.

RECIPE AND PHOTOS **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

INGREDIENTS
Makes 12 Cookies

- 2 cups raspberries, fresh or frozen
- ½ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder



HOW-TO

Prepare the raspberry filling. In a saucepan over medium heat, cook raspberries into a jam-like consistency. Press through a fine strainer to remove the seeds and return to the saucepan. Cook purée until thickened. Line a sheet pan with foil and spread the puree flat. Freeze for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter and sugars together. Add peanut butter and mix until combined. Add egg and vanilla and mix until combined. Add flour and baking powder and mix just until the dough comes together.

Remove the frozen raspberry puree from the freezer and cut into 12 squares. Take a golf-ball-size piece of dough and split it in half. Flatten one half of the dough and place the raspberry puree in the middle. Cover with the remaining dough and form into a ball, ensuring that all of the raspberry puree is covered. Place on baking sheet and score the top by gently pressing down on the cookie with a fork.

These cookies are quite big, so they will take a bit longer to cook. Bake for 15 minutes or until cookies begin to brown around the edges. **OH**



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in the kitchen

COOKIE CRUSH

THE BITE-SIZE HISTORY OF COOKIE JARS



STORY JULES TORTI

Children and dogs have one superpower in common. Both have the uncanny ability to sniff out a cookie jar at 50 paces, even if the jar is located out of their field of vision.



Cookie jars, long synonymous with doting grandmothers in flour-dusted aprons, have found their place in nearly every kitchen, regardless of whether the cookies inside are from scratch or a package.

While millennials clamour to the romantic ideal of cottagecore, Gen Xers prominently display Star Wars stormtrooper and Death Star cookie jars alongside shiny espresso machines and living green walls.

From skulls to pineapples, vintage to Tuscan, cookie jars are nostalgic and timeless with a magnetic attraction. Andy Warhol fell prey to the captivating designs with more than 175 ceramic jars in his coveted collection. Just how many jars are acceptable for one kitchen counter? How does one choose between the vintage VW camper or smiling chihuahua? Kitsch features largely along with throwbacks to Smokey Bear, the Pillsbury Doughboy, Little Lulu and every Disney character you can recall. *Continued on page 52*



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Dominique Normand's *Low Tide*, on display September 10 - October 9
Image: Dominique Normand, *Sous le chemin du portage (detail)*, mixed media

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in the kitchen

All vintage cookie jar images are courtesy of [etsy.com/ca/shop/TrinketsnTreasuresBC](https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/TrinketsnTreasuresBC)



Vintage McCoy "Cookies" Cookie Jar

Edible history traces the invention of biscuit jars (or barrels) to the 18th century and jolly old England. Glass, metal and stoneware varieties evolved into more creative ceramic options. The designs began simplistically with floral embellishments or images of fruit and vegetables. With innovation, the jars took on the form of animals and popular characters. Post-war, companies decided to take a bite out of the growing popularity by incorporating advertising onto tins. Cookie tins and jars were becoming collectible, and for brands that had nothing to do with cookies – like Harley-Davidson or Coca-Cola – the tins were a surreptitious way to imprint.

With history comes controversy, as cookie jars were a popular outlet for stereotypical racial caricatures. McCoy Aunt Jemima jars



Vintage American Bisque Pottery Co. Smiling Cow Cookie Jar

issued by Quaker Oats in the 1940s remain highly sought-out Black memorabilia items by the public and museum collectors alike since the recent branding change to Pearl Milling Company.

McCoy Pottery of Roseville, Ohio, and American Bisque of West Virginia are touted as foundational companies in the cookie jar movement, with the earliest kitchenware design appearing in 1929 by another Ohio manufacturer: Brush Pottery Company. American Bisque designs are easily recognized as the company specialized in generic clowns, Dutch girls and boys, grannies and chefs.

Jump ahead several decades to the 80s and the innovative scheme by Kraft to market peanut butter jars that could be repurposed as cookie holders. The bear head-shaped glass



Vintage McCoy Raggedy Ann Cookie Jar

jars topped with a plastic green lid (or red, for the crunchy-PB devout) are iconic, right down to their jaunty bowties. Whether the jars were filled to their brims with cookies or coins, both were an ideal investment. To boot, Kraft's classic three-ingredient cookies (1 egg, ½ cup of sugar and 1 cup of Kraft Smooth Peanut Butter) continues to provide an entry-level recipe for kids and newbies to attempt with a high-level of success.

Cookie jars are sentimental, purposeful and a whimsical way to showcase your interests and style. The options are so niche that they can be an ideal, unexpected housewarming gift. You can actually find a Mr. T-inspired cookie jar for your in-law who is a rabid A-Team fan. Don't forget to fill the jar with cookies for the ultimate surprise, though! **OH**



Vintage Coca-Cola Cookie Jar



Vintage Eden Toys Inc. Paddington Bear Cookie Jar



Vintage McCoy Coffee Grinder Cookie Jar



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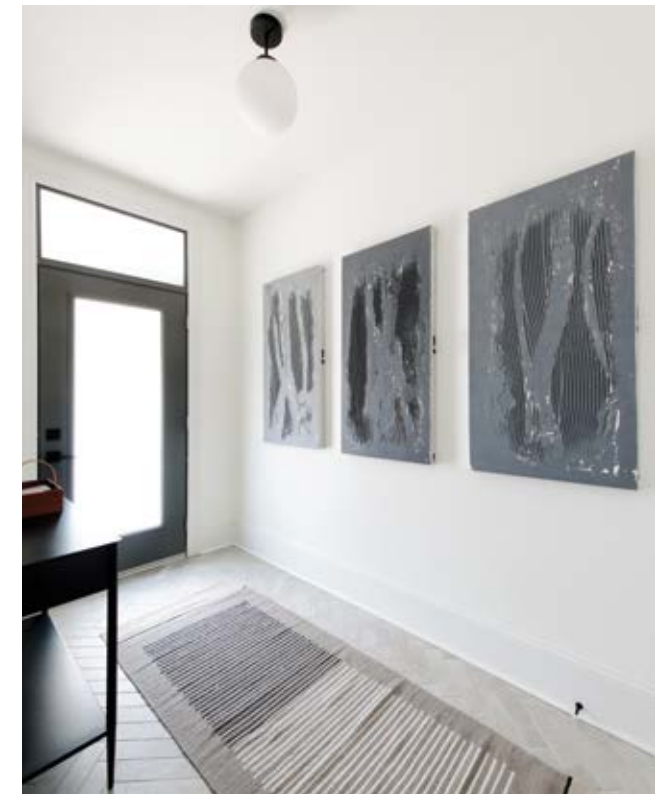


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It's hard to imagine, but this free-flowing home used to be separated into two apartments. **RIGHT:** Bold tonal artwork welcomes guests in the foyer. **BELOW RIGHT:** This charming Centretown home went through a complete reinvention.



FEELING *Zen*

STORY **SUSAN SYKES**
PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**

After almost two years, dozens of showings and 10 – yes, 10 – failed offers, Mitchell Ethier and Alexandra Christie had to concede defeat in their search for a move-in ready home. It seemed it just wasn't in the cards.

Disappointed and frustrated, the couple credits their realtor, **Anthony Johnston** of **Sutton Group, Ottawa Realty**, for convincing them to consider the possibilities of a major renovation. At first, Mitchell was firmly against taking on a fixer-upper, but he eventually warmed up to the idea of creating a space that would be exactly what they wanted.

Once they found the right home in the heart of bustling Centretown, Alexandra and Mitchell turned to intern architect and designer **Michelle McKenna** to bring their dream home to life. Formerly divided into two apartments, the home's layout was choppy and cramped. By removing all the walls on the main floor, Michelle was able to create the highly functional open-concept space that was at the top of Alexandra's wish list. *Continued on page 56*

Plans in hand, the homeowners engaged **ARTium Design Build Renovations** to handle the extensive construction. The project was scheduled to begin in early 2020 when everything came to a sudden halt due to pandemic-related shutdowns.

Once the project eventually got underway, it took much longer than anticipated as the ARTium team, led by President **Norm Lecuyer**, navigated material shortages and ever-changing protocols and restrictions.

“It wasn’t anyone’s fault, but it was still frustrating,” says Mitchell. “Norm was transparent and kept us updated through all the delays, which really helped.” By late 2020, however, the project was complete – and the end result was well worth the wait.

Light spills into the compact-but-functional foyer through the frosted glass front door from **Scheel Window & Door**. Alexandra and Mitchell’s aesthetic is both minimalist and eclectic, a blending of styles that represents a middle ground for the couple.



ABOVE: Mitchell and Alexandra are pictured in the living room with their furry family – Jasper, Yuki and Shadow. **BELOW:** Some original details remain in this ultra-modern home, such as this bank of windows.



Walnut cabinetry is in perfect contrast to the sleek island and countertops. **BELOW LEFT:** Built-in appliances aid in creating a clean look. **CENTRE:** The dining room is minimalist, yet incredibly inviting and warm. **RIGHT:** Mitchell and Alexandra spent time in Japan, as reflected in their accent choices here.



The décor and finishes draw heavily from Scandinavian and Japanese design, inspired by the couple’s extensive travels. The home’s palette is predominantly neutral, layered with texture and a strategic use of colour. An extensive collection of original artworks from **Studio Sixty Six** features numerous local and Canadian artwork.

“It’s not your standard look and feel,” says Norm. “I love that their personality shines through.”

From the living room at the front of the home, the sightline is clear through the kitchen and dining area to the cosy lounging space

at the back. Wide-plank hardwood flooring from **Logs End** is used throughout, its natural stain adding character and warmth.

Connecting the living room and dining area, the inviting kitchen features rich walnut cabinetry by **Ottawa Valley Kitchens** topped with white quartz countertops from **Mountain Granite**. The expansive central island seats four, providing plenty of space for guests to gather when entertaining. The built-in refrigerator and dishwasher keep things streamlined, letting the home’s original gas range take centre stage. *Continued on page 58*





TOP LEFT: The tile fireplace stands out against rich green walls. **TOP RIGHT:** The oversized island is perfect for hosting and hanging out. **ABOVE LEFT:** A social commentary series adorns the walls of the aptly named Gallery Room. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The dark powder room gets a boost from boldly printed wallpaper.

Tucked off to the side of the dining area, the dark and moody powder room has real wow factor. Alexandra jokes that the boldly patterned wallpaper and side-lit mirror are perfect for taking bathroom selfies.

Colour also comes into play in the gallery room, aptly named by Mitchell for its numerous pieces of gilt-framed artwork. Deep green paint offers a visual break and contrast to the white walls in the rest of the home. The fireplace from **Protech Inc.** is the focal point here, its facade finished in a

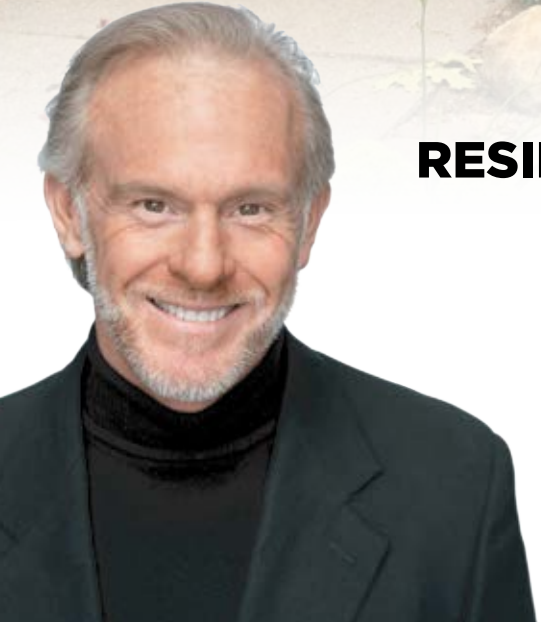
combination of linear tile from **Euro Tile & Stone** and yakisugi from **charclad**, which is charred wood crafted using a traditional Japanese technique.

The staircase to the second floor presented a design conundrum. The couple did not plan to change it, but reconsidered when they realized it would be the only thing untouched by the renovation. Ultimately, they seized the opportunity to turn it into a feature by opening the lower wall and installing bold, dark-stained custom spindles and railings.

Continued on page 60



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Another unique Japanese element can be found upstairs, in the spa-inspired primary bath. The bathroom's centrepiece is a bathtub made from hinoki wood that Mitchell says was his "no-movement clause." He had his heart set on incorporating the piece, which reinforces the minimal Zen feel the couple wanted for the space. Heated tile floors, a spacious shower and generous double vanity feature clean lines and simple finishes that add to the overall sense of calm.

The adjacent primary bedroom is spacious and bright, offering the homeowners a welcome sanctuary to rest and recharge. Down the hall, the second bedroom welcomes guests with soft millennial pink walls. Another well-appointed bathroom completes the upper level, featuring a crisp navy vanity that contrasts beautifully with warm brass hardware and fixtures. *Continued on page 62*



TOP LEFT: The primary bath is spa-like, with a rainfall shower, wide tiles and a unique Japanese tub. **LEFT:** The muted colour palette continues in the primary bath, relying on artwork for contrast. **ABOVE:** The wide-planked hardwood is warm and stylish in the primary bedroom.



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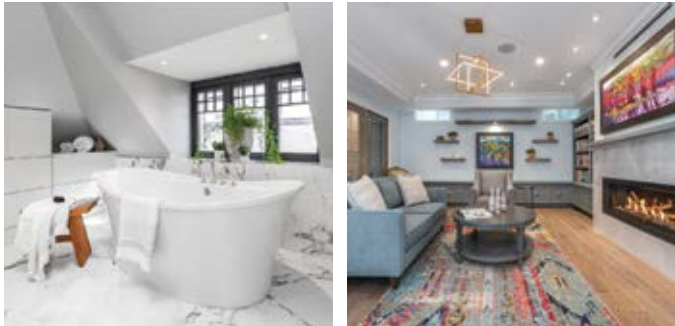


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The complete overhaul of this home was no small undertaking, but jobs like this are ARTium’s specialty. “We embrace the dance of form and function,” says Norm. “For us, it’s critical to respect the design intent while building a solid home to today’s standards. It requires a lot of restructuring and creative thinking, and above all it is a team effort.”

As for Mitchell and Alexandra, they are thrilled with the transformation and can’t say enough about the entire team that helped them overcome a crazy real estate market and a global pandemic to end up with the perfect place to call home. **OH**



TOP RIGHT: A vibrant vanity grabs the eye in the secondary bathroom. **ABOVE:** Dubbed The Pink Room, this room is cheery with its subtle colouring. **RIGHT:** Mitchell and Alexandra make the most of the space in the primary bedroom with a cosy home office tucked off to the side.



1984

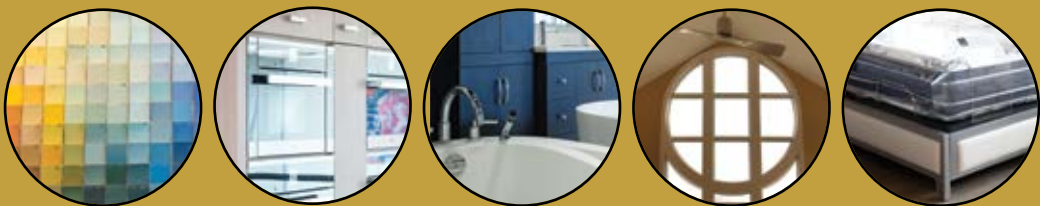
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Make your next home project a winner with advice from these local experts.



PHOTOGRAPHY ANNEMARIE GRUDEN

RANDALL'S HOME IMPROVEMENT & DESIGN SPECIALISTS

Randall's Home Improvement & Design Specialists is the go-to place for quality paints and stains, with the ability to match any colour. They also specialize in custom blinds, shutters, side panels, drapes and sheers and are the largest independent Hunter Douglas dealer in the region. Customers can also select from designer wallpapers and fabrics, flooring, countertops and kitchen and bathroom hardware with the support of a knowledgeable team of specialists.

WHAT'S TRENDING

Designer-banded window shades for their light-control versatility and clean look. Sleep quality has become a top priority for health and well-being and having a completely dark room can help ensure a great sleep. Blackout and noise-reducing blinds come in many different colours and fabrics.



IN-HOUSE DECORATORS

Our experienced decorators offer fresh eyes to evaluate your space and present ideas you may not have considered, ensuring you'll get the most value and pleasure from your home. The scope includes colour consults, window treatments, fabric selection, upholstery, wallpaper, furniture selection and placement, lighting, flooring, kitchen and bathroom countertops and hardware.

Continued on page 66



THE APPLIANCE GALLERY ON BANK

A visit to this bright and spacious gallery sets the stage for inspiration, with the support of a team of seasoned professionals with more than 30 years of experience in culinary products and services. Over the last 12 years, they have earned an unparalleled reputation for understanding clients' needs and providing exceptional customer service, one client at a time.

WHAT'S TRENDING

Built-in and smart connected appliances are attracting attention. Built-in appliances enhance any kitchen design and elevate your style. Connected appliances, where your phone is your user manual, are fun, flexible and efficient.

"The Appliance Gallery on Bank: Taste the difference."



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Our clients love our combi-steam ovens from Miele or Gaggenau. A combi-oven uses steam heat and convection heat to cook foods at the precise temperature, resulting in juicier, higher-quality dishes. As a combi-oven utilizes three different cooking methods (steam, convection and combination), it replaces the traditional steamer and convection oven units.



RENO SUCCESS

Consult a knowledgeable kitchen and bathroom designer/renovator to consider the design and construction possibilities within the context of your budget. Planning ahead in detail is your best path to a successful renovation. To avoid pitfalls, be sure the significant details of your plans are fully documented and communicated before you start.

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS FIRST

Kitchens & Bathrooms First has been providing turnkey kitchen and bathroom renovations in the Ottawa area for almost two decades and are proud of their A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. They offer comprehensive solutions from initial design and product and colour selections to the renovation itself. They also have a wide selection of kitchen and bathroom products competitively priced for those who DIY.

"Our customers trust Kitchens & Bathrooms First because we provide them with peace of mind."



BATHROOM TRENDS

Beautiful granite and quartz countertops. Black matte finishes. Gold is the new brass. Large format tiles on both floors and walls provide a sleek and sophisticated feel. High-tech showering systems are on the rise and statement tubs are adding a bolder look to larger bathrooms.

Continued on page 68

LAPENSÉE MATTRESSES

Since 1902, Lapensée Mattresses has been a leader in mattress manufacturing and sales in the Ottawa region. This fourth-generation family business is now headed by Valérie Lapensée and her brother Pascal. With specialized machinery for the manufacturing of mattresses, they are proud to offer best-in-class products in several stores across the region, where customers can also browse bedding, accents, bedframes and more.



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Good sleep is essential to good health and if you are not sleeping well lately, it could be because of your mattress. Studies show that most people overlook how a good mattress can improve their quality of life.



“Lapensée Mattresses believes everyone deserves a good, restful night’s sleep.”



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

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Valérie Lapensée



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Manufactured in Ottawa, Krumpers Solar Blinds are a unique Canadian smart-tech product that has won several national awards, including the ScotiaBank Ecoliving Award and BMO’s Innovation of the Year award. These solar blinds let you enjoy the view without compromising on energy efficiency or comfort. In addition to traditional shapes and sizes, Krumpers can engineer solutions for odd-shaped windows and skylights.



DÉCOR TIPS

Add value anywhere in the home where you have an issue with heat or cold and where the light and the view are important. We recommend doing your critical areas first, creating the most comfort and style where you will see the most benefit.

“At Krumpers we believe that price is what you pay and value is what you get.”

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Diana Livshits



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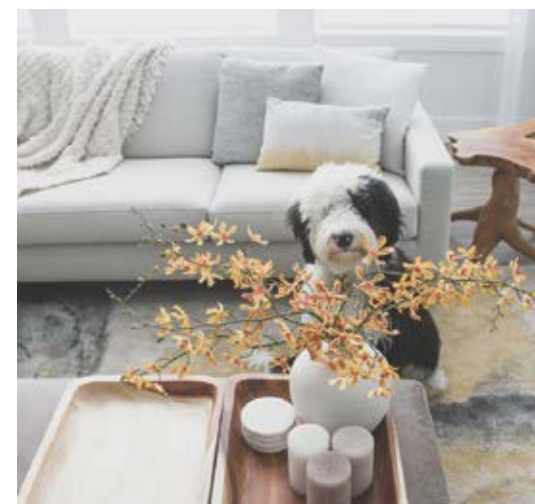
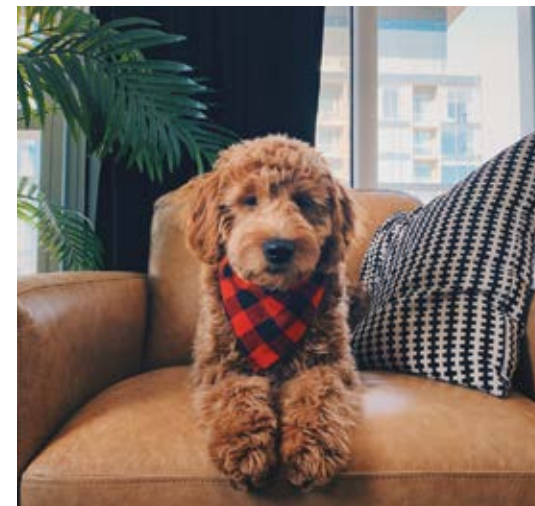
decorating

Pet-Friendly BY DESIGN

STORY LOUIS DUNCAN-HE | PHOTOGRAPHY HEATHER DUNBAR

Dogs

Dogs are probably the most common pets in homes, because really, what's not to love? What other member of your family will greet you with the same level of vigour and excitement after simply checking the mail? However, from a design perspective, dogs come with plenty of challenges. Consider paw prints, drool, general stains, shedding of hair and furniture chewing. When selecting fabrics with a dog in mind, focus on performance, colour and pattern to visually camouflage as much as you can. Consider using a medium-to-darker-toned fabric (greys, earth tones or navy), a print or a subtle heathered texturing as these have natural camouflaging properties for your heavy-use pieces.



Birds, Lizards and Fish

For other pets like birds, lizards, fish or any type of creature that requires a cage or tank, don't try to work around them, work with them. Treat this as an opportunity to get creative and design with intent and purpose. A client's daughter wanted her songbird in the living room next to the piano, so we looked for a beautiful antique cage and painted it white to match the overall tone of the space. Having it hung with a custom chain next to the grand piano created a beautiful vignette. Fish tanks or aquariums can be beautiful as well, especially when integrated into millwork. If you are able to customize in any way, it's well worth the money.



Homeowners face the challenge of finding ways to live in a space they want with the realities they face.

Yes, most of the beautiful homes we see online and in magazines are art-directed and styled. They're meant to be aspirational, but the realities of day-to-day living are not always captured – makeshift work-from-home stations, designing for toddlers, teenagers and of course, living with pets. Good design always stems from function. A home's design direction needs to be sustainable and stand up to how it's used. When designing a home with pets, work with their needs, not against them. Here are some tips and tactics to keep your space looking its best while still housing your favourite friends.



Louis Duncan-He, founder and principal of Louis Duncan-He Designs, is an award-winning Canadian designer.

Cats

Compared to dogs, cats don't usually make as much of an obvious mess, as they tend to be a little more agile and are more likely to be inside. But what they lack in brute strength and chaos, they more than make up for in the sheer carnage they can cause by tearing into your furniture with their claws. When designing for cats, focus on the texture and weave of the fabric as opposed to the hue (granted, darker colours tend to hide stains better). Cats love any type of fabric they can literally sink their claws into. Broader weaves, rattan or macrame are not your friends. Instead, opt for tighter and more condensed fabrics like velvet, suede, microfiber or other synthetics like acrylic, polyester or nylon. They will be harder to scratch without ample grip. Keep your cats away from the furniture by having a spray bottle handy – this will help to teach them their limits.

When it comes to designing any space, it's easier to go with the flow and embrace the challenges, using them as a gateway to spark innovation and creativity. This is especially true when designing a home with pets. You can have a beautiful home with pets, it just takes a little planning, strategizing and thoughtful material selection. Pets are an integral part of our families because they often add the most important ingredient to designing a truly welcoming home – love. **OH**

STORY **BRIANNE SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**

CANAL *living*

WITH SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE RIDEAU CANAL, FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS AND CRISP WHITE FURNISHINGS, THIS CONDOMINIUM IS A GEM IN THE HEART OF OTTAWA.

Continued on page 74

Accents from Cadieux Interiors add visual interest in the open living space.



The terrace extends the living space in style with lovely views of the Rideau Canal.

TOP LEFT: The living room is undeniably sleek, with black built-ins enriching the vibe. **LEFT:** An elegant piano is one of the only pieces the homeowners retained from their previous home.

Designed by **Barry Hobin** and built in 2019 by **Roca Homes**, the residence is one of 18 luxury condos in the Central Ottawa complex, just steps away from the hustle and bustle of Bank Street.

The homeowners commissioned Ottawa-based designer **Susan Bryson** of **Susan Bryson Interior Design** to pick furnishings and lighting that best represented their aesthetic and lifestyle, while highlighting the beautiful views of nature beyond.

Well-known in the Ottawa design community for her elegant yet edgy interiors, Susan says the project stands out as one of her favourites because of the homeowners' willingness to hand her so much creative control.

"The homeowners were very open to my design aesthetic and my concepts," she says. "They were coming from a traditional home in Rockcliffe so this was an opportunity to start with a fresh canvas. A few pieces of treasured art and their beloved grand piano were the only things that made it into the new design scheme."

Before launching her interior design business more than 10 years ago, Susan worked as an international fashion model and television commercial actress. The industry, the places she travelled to and the hotels she stayed in have all served as inspiration for her design career. *Continued on page 76*



In the kitchen, soft grey cabinets ([Astro Design Centre](#)) pair elegantly with a white-and-grey marble island ([Euro Tile & Stone](#)), crisp white linen bar stools and silver accents. For homeowners who love to entertain, the kitchen is a focal point and gathering space to share and make memories. The uninterrupted sightlines from the kitchen that extend through the living areas to outdoors are incredible.

The open-concept floor plan allows for easy flow between the main living spaces. In the living room, black built-in shelves stand out against soft neutrals. A large terrace just off of the living room provides a tranquil escape where the homeowners can watch the ever-present foot and bike traffic along the canal below. The dreamy terrace includes an entertaining area with a firepit. The primary bedroom also has terrace access, with a private lounging area. *Continued on page 78*



RIGHT: The foyer hints at the elegance that awaits inside. Floral arrangement by Flowers Talk Tivoli. **BELOW:** Floor-to-ceiling windows permit stunning sight lines.



In creating a modern yet elegant feel, Susan opted for a palette of mostly white with hints of grey and wood tones. She used silver accents, glass and sleek light fixtures to add sophistication and glamour to the Glebe residence. Of note is the striking wave-like pendant that grabs the eye over the dining table in the open main floor.

White brings a calm serenity to the space, making those who enter feel instantly at ease. For Susan, white was a tactical choice.

“There’s so much going on outside the windows; it was nice to have that sense of calm inside,” Susan explains.

This colour theme is carried through the entire three-bedroom condo, with strategic supportive style. A bold all-black powder room is dramatic; the wallpaper in the front foyer gives the illusion of texture, and contributes subtle subtext to the décor.



feature

“There’s so much going on outside the windows; it was nice to have that sense of calm inside.”

RIGHT: This white bed is one of Susan’s favourite features in the primary bedroom.
BELOW: Textured wallpaper is used in a number of rooms to add dimension, such as here in the powder room.




Susan’s favourite feature is the white tufted channel bed found in the principal bedroom. Stretching from wall to wall, the custom headboard gives the room a sense of grandeur while at the same time instills a soft balance.

“I just love how it looks so sleek,” says Susan.

A passionate enthusiast of character homes, Susan has been commissioned to work on many in the Ottawa area. For her, the newly constructed condo offered an exciting opportunity to work in a modern, untouched space – very different from her usual projects.

“I love working in the older homes in Ottawa that have classic architectural details and putting contemporary or sculptural wow elements into an older environment,” she says. “This condo was a really nice change in opportunity for me, to work in a more contemporary shell and put in very sleek furnishings.” *Continued on page 80*




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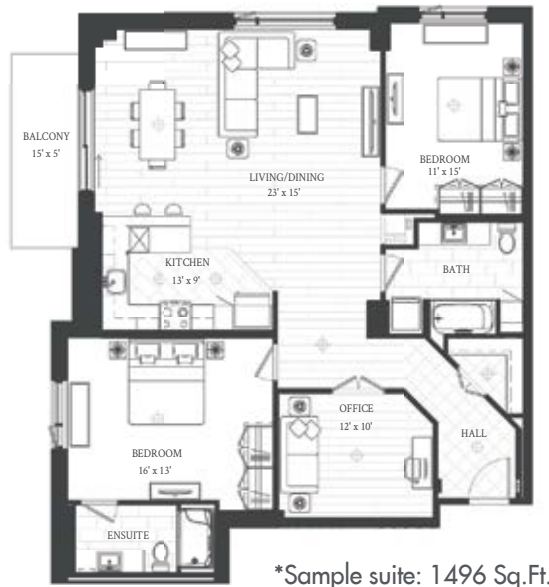
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feature



True to her aesthetic, the homeowners happily accepted Susan's suggestions of adding bold accents and pops of colour to the residence. The guest bedroom put Susan's creative freedom to the test where she decided to pair a funky black-and-white Kelly Wearstler wallpaper with neutral furnishings and orange accents.

"It's a small room, so I was looking for some sort of pop in there and also a way to make it feel bigger," she says. "I always find having wallpaper on the end wall is a great way to draw the eye to the end of the room and make the room feel bigger."

In undertaking such a large project like this canal condo, Susan stresses the importance of building a strong, trusting relationship with her clients.

"There has to be a connection, and definitely a trust," she says. "Ultimately, I want my clients to feel joyful, calm and happy in their homes. For me it is the thoughtful combination of elements together that create the energy in the room. This is where the magic happens!" **OH**



ABOVE: Susan appreciates the creative control that her clients awarded her to create a stunning home. **TOP RIGHT:** The main bathroom is sleekly styled with neutral colours. **RIGHT:** The large terrace winds around the condo, featuring a conversation area with fire table.



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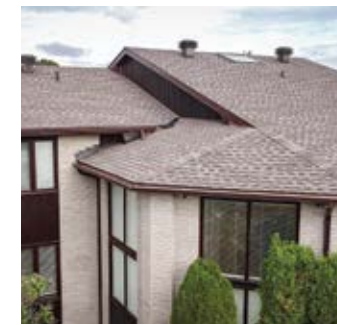
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cooking at home

WARM ROASTED ROOT-VEGGIE Salad

RECIPE AND
PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE
MCCULLOCH



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INGREDIENTS

Serves 4

SALAD

Root vegetables such as beets, carrots, radishes and onions

Olive oil

1 Tbsp allspice

1 cup farro

Feta cheese, to garnish

Pumpkin seeds, to garnish

DRESSING

¼ cup olive oil

2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar

2 Tbsp honey

½ tsp each salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Clean vegetables and cut into similar sizes.

Toss with olive oil, allspice, salt and pepper.

Place on a baking sheet and roast for 25-30 minutes, adjusting the time to the size of your vegetables, until cooked through.

Meanwhile, cook farro to package directions.

To assemble, toss warm farro with a drizzle of dressing and place on a serving plate.

Top with warm roasted vegetables and remaining dressing.

Garnish with feta cheese and pumpkin seeds. **OH**

Visit your local market or farm for the freshest ingredients to make this simple, rustic and warm roasted root-vegetable salad. The veggies sit atop a bed of farro, an ancient grain packed with protein and fibre.

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STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**
ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**



Housing prices across Ontario are soaring. A recent Aviva Canada report found 31 per cent of Canadians are considering relocating as a result of the pandemic, with more than one third considering a move to a semi-rural or rural location. And that doesn't include the thousands of people who have already moved to greener pastures over the past year.

THE LATEST PASTIME on every street in Ontario is finding the answer to “How much did they get?” and then dreaming of upsizing or downsizing with a pocket full of dough. Imagine being a realtor in this crazy housing market.

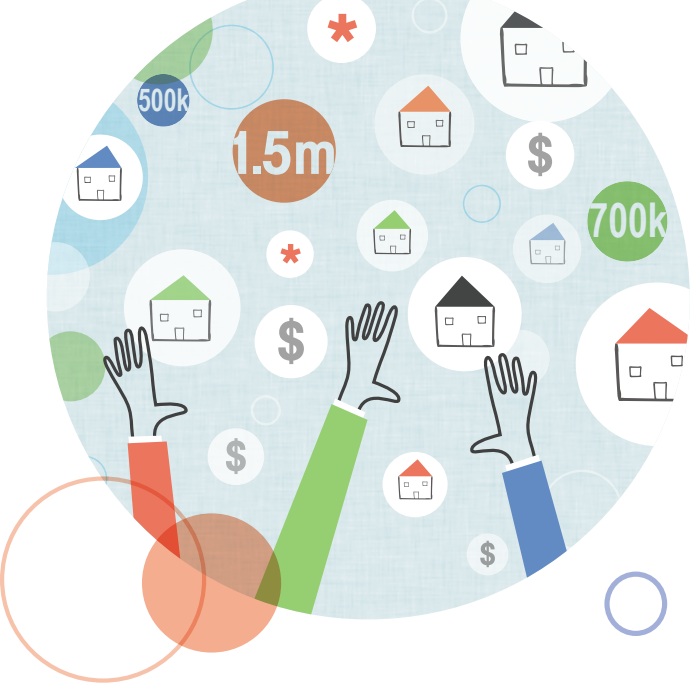
Sherry Rioux, with the Rioux Baker Team at Clairwood Real Estate Corporation, has been a realtor for 16 years in the Southern Georgian Bay region, where home sales have reached historic levels and housing prices are at an all time high.

“Sellers have to be reminded that although we remain in a strong seller’s market, we can’t let greed overtake common sense,” says Sherry. “Many sellers are doubling and tripling what they originally paid for their properties in a very short time. But sometimes we can easily lose sight of what is a “good and fair” offer. That can come back to bite you if you lose perspective and don’t listen to the advice of an experienced, knowledgeable realtor. Sherry uses waterfront measurements, price per square foot, comparables and local real estate statistics to guide her sellers. “There are many ways to create a list price, and it takes experience, market knowledge and a bit of good luck!”

Home values in Windsor and Essex County barely budged for years until the onslaught of the pandemic. In June, the average price of a home jumped a whopping 38 per cent, and sales increased by almost seven per cent compared to a year ago.

Windsor’s John Rauti, the top producer for 17 years at Remo Valente Real Estate, represents both local and out-of-town buyers. “Most are buying in this region because prices are lower than where they’re coming from,” he says. He too has to temper the expectations of sellers. “My advice to sellers is simple: Price the home properly and accordingly. Do not let a hot market go to your head; you could price yourself out and pay for it later.”

In Ottawa, Brent Conley of Royal LePage Team Realty says it’s more strategic to list at equivalent market value to similar sales that have recently sold. “In some instances, it may motivate and spur activity and showings to list slightly below market value,” he says. Brent says his buyers must be pre-approved so he knows what their top-dollar purchase power truly is. Ottawa’s resale market is starting to stabilize after a busy spring. The average price of a residential home in July was \$645,426.



Buyers, of course, are still on edge, some forced to put most of their nest egg into the housing basket, yet getting out-bid for properties over and over again.

“We are experiencing a lot of buyer fatigue right now,” says Sherry. “My team members and I have had clients who have submitted offers on four or five different properties and have lost out.” That forced Sherry and her team to change their strategy. “In the beginning we would suggest that they put their best foot forward with the highest price they were prepared to pay and add in some representations and warranties to protect them,” Sherry explains. “As you start to lose out on the bidding process you quickly turn your strategy to, ‘If the next buyer gets this property for even one dollar more than you offered, will you be upset? If the answer is yes then that is not your number.’ That means submitting the offer as clean as possible, meaning no conditions, no seller representations and warranties. I don’t personally feel that this is the best way to represent buyers, but if you don’t follow those rules, your buyers always lose out.”

John urges his buyers to think long-term. “When you are interested in buying a specific home, take a look at the potential future value,” he advises. “Do not look at the past or historical value. Remember the area comes into play as well. This can help you to make a proper offer and get the home!”

For these realtors, the current market is exhilarating, lucrative and frustrating.

John tells clients who have been pushed out of the market to cut frivolous spending and start saving, just like house hunters in expensive cities like Toronto and Ottawa have to do. “I tell them to start off in their price range and respect and take care of their home investment so it appreciates to its fullest potential,” he says.

Brent says his biggest frustration is low inventory. “I can’t satisfy expectations,” he says. “I find this difficult to navigate as I truly want my clients to be happy and satisfied and to achieve their personal and financial goals.”

Without a crystal ball, it’s anyone’s guess how long the red hot market will continue.

“Buyer fatigue is showing its true colours right now,” says Sherry. “But I do expect to see a continued seller’s market. With low interest rates and a strong demand to own in Southern Georgian Bay, I could see this continue well into 2023.” **OH**

Brent Conley
Sales Representative

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“For anyone looking for expert advice and assistance through the whole selling process, no one is better than Brent. We have had plenty of experience with realtors in the past - Brent has been the best realtor we’ve ever worked with.” – John & Leeann

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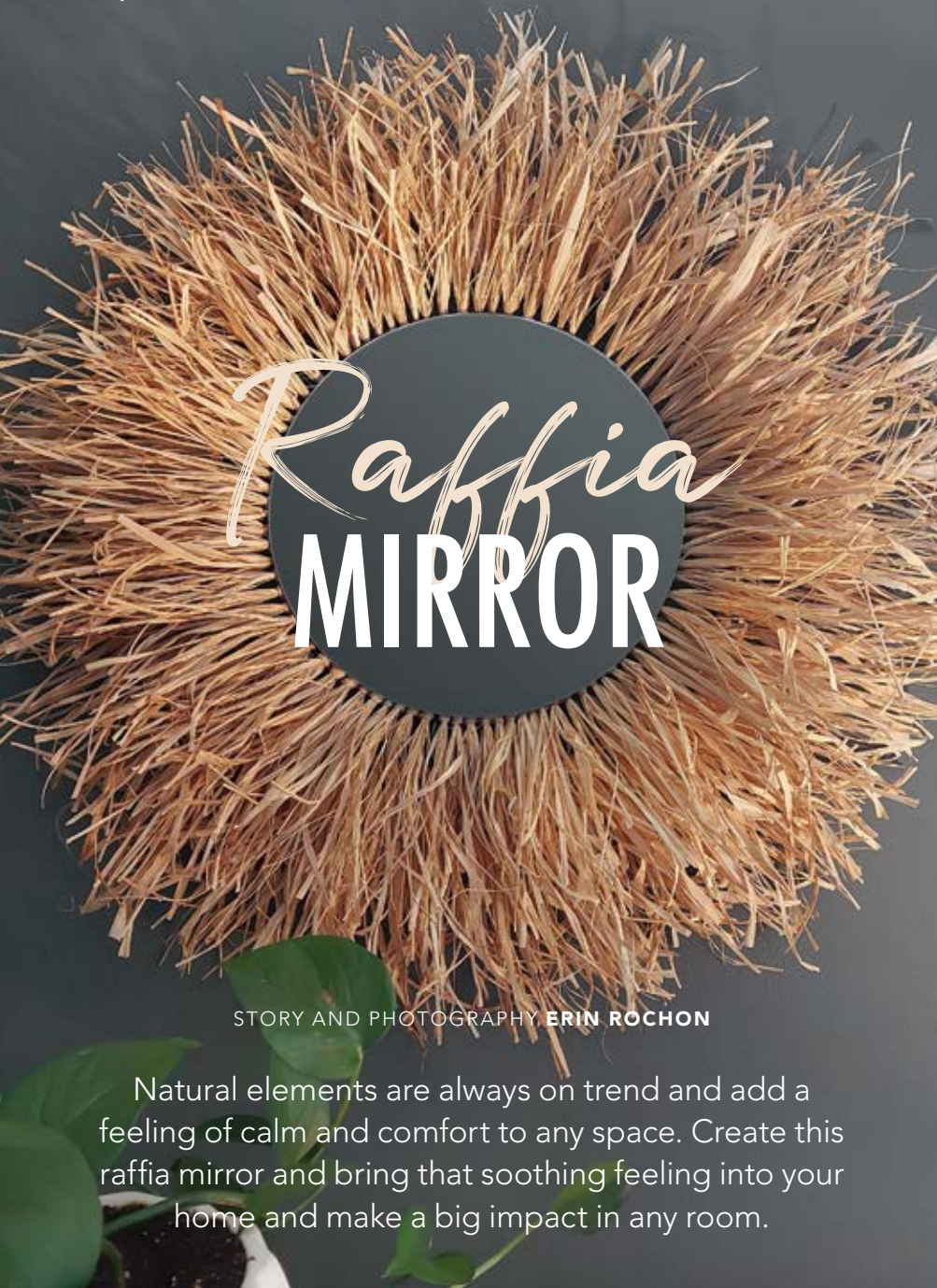
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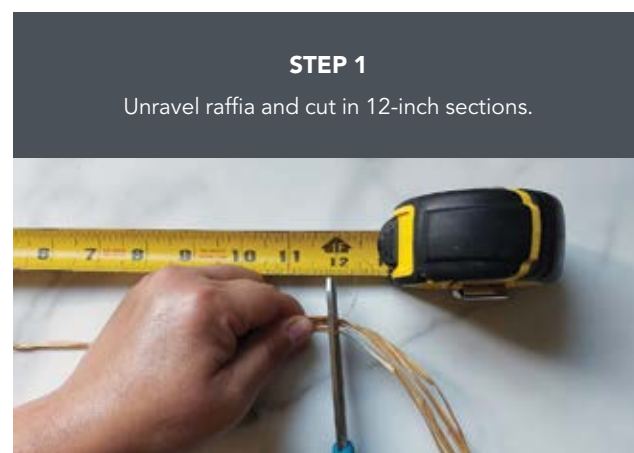


STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY ERIN ROCHON

Natural elements are always on trend and add a feeling of calm and comfort to any space. Create this raffia mirror and bring that soothing feeling into your home and make a big impact in any room.

MATERIALS

14-inch round wire wreath frame
12-inch round mirror
2-3 raffia bundles
Scissors
Tape measure
Mirror or construction adhesive



STEP 2

Take 3 or 4 strands of raffia, fold them in half. On the second-to-last ring on the wreath frame, make a lark's head knot by taking the folded raffia and placing the rounded end underneath the ring. Take the other ends of the raffia and put it through the rounded end to make a knot. Make sure to pull it tight. Repeat this process until the entire ring is filled with raffia without any gaps.



STEP 3

Move to the inside ring of the frame. Repeat step 2, attaching raffia using lark's head knots until the entire ring is filled.



STEP 4

Once your raffia completely fills both rings, apply mirror adhesive to the back of the mirror along the outer edge. Carefully place the mirror on the inside ring on top of the raffia. Flip upside down and add a few more drops of adhesive to ensure your mirror is properly attached. Follow adhesive instructions and drying times.

Once the adhesive has fully dried, find a great spot in your home to showcase this gorgeous raffia mirror for your friends and family. OH



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Wicker furniture is increasingly popular, whether made with natural rattan or newer synthetic materials. The particular weave of fibres is what gives wicker its timeless look. Not just for outdoor furnishings, bringing wicker inside is a design trend worth trying. These woven wonders add texture and a relaxed look throughout your home.



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- 2. **ABBOTT:** Round Wall Mirrors
- 3. **CURREY & COMPANY:** Cape Verde Orb Chandelier
- 4. **SURYA:** Manning Pendant
- 5. **SURYA:** Dustin Sconce
- 6. **CURREY & COMPANY:** Saxan Rattan Chandelier
- 7. **MADE GOODS:** Tatum Upholstered Bar Stool
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- 12. **ABBOTT:** Rattan Handle Cheese Knives
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