

at home with



STUART ASH

Graphic designer and typographer Stuart Ash's design influence has been recognized across the country since his early work for Canada's 1967 centennial celebration. Over 50 years ago, he and Fritz Gottschalk founded the design firm Gottschalk+Ash International. Some of his most iconic visual collaborations include logos for the Toronto PATH underground walkway and Labatt Breweries. This summer, a book about his firm's history and how it has shaped Canadian design will be published by Entro Communications. Stuart and his wife Susan live in a renovated log house outside of Thornbury.

OUR HOMES How has your career affected your home's design aesthetic?

STUART ASH I am a modernist. My office in Toronto was an architectural landmark, designed by Barton Myers, a renowned architect. My taste is that of classic modern glass, steel and concrete. Our home is the complete opposite but the combination of Susan's more eclectic, rustic style and the historical logs provide a fabulous backdrop for our modernist furniture and abstract art.



"Design is a tactile thing, and to be great, a designer must be sensitive to the feeling that is projected from an object."

— Stuart Ash, from the forthcoming book *Cultivating A Design Legacy: The First 50 Years*



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

OH Tell us about your home:

SA Originally, two centenary log cabins had been relocated from the Ottawa Valley and placed overlooking Georgian Bay. For our family, the simplicity of the home's design centred around the warmth of the fireplace and the ancient log walls. When Van Strien Developments Inc. renovated our house some 10 years ago, we relocated the fireplace and the living room and created a vaulted ceiling with an astounding view of Christian Island where we sail in the summer. The Georgian Bay Golf Club, which surrounds our home now, only came later.

OH Why did you settle in this region?

SA We had spent decades here as weekend family skiers, and after we renovated our cabin-in-the-woods, I found my desire to retire increase! We now golf, sail, ski and curl and Susan enjoys riding her horse with a talented trainer. I have never been so active and I don't know how or why I worked for so long! We have a close group of friends locally, many of whom have moved up from Toronto and retired here for the same four-season attractions we enjoy. Our sailing yacht *Masquerade* is docked five minutes away in Thornbury Harbour — we traditionally spend a month in the summer sailing the North Channel. We are still members at Georgian Peaks Club where the children learned to ski and snowboard, and Susan and I both golf at Lora Bay Golf Club. We have much to be thankful for. **OH**



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