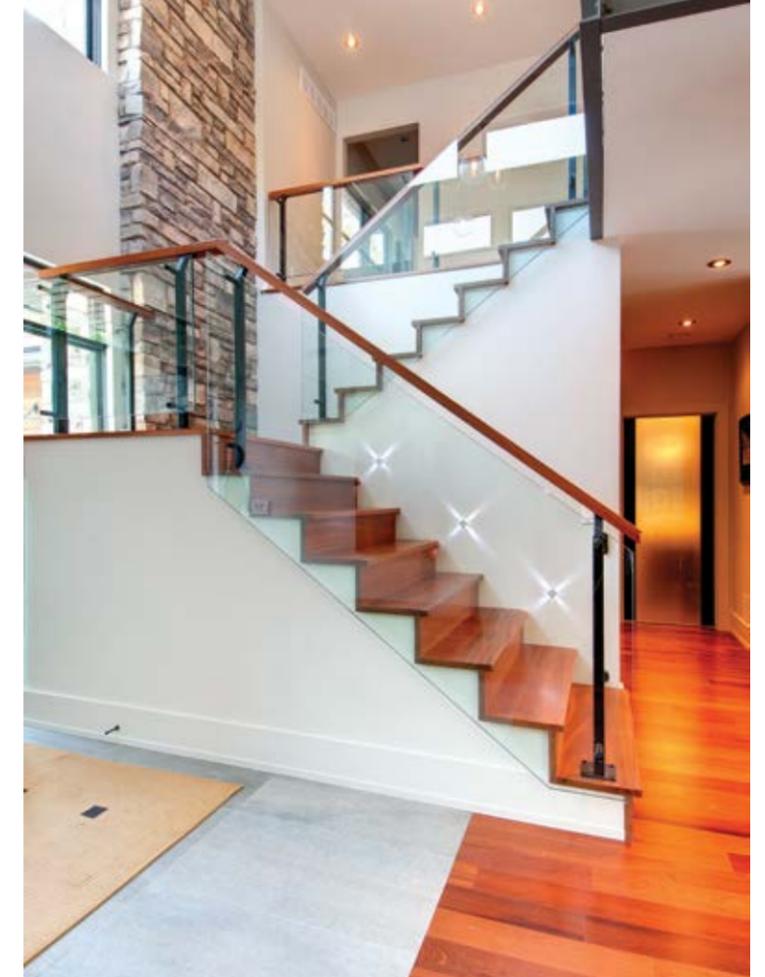




HESHOOOTSSHE SCORES!

STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**
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 FLOWERS **BRADFORD GREENHOUSES**



After an early relationship challenged by long periods apart, these high school sweethearts wanted a dream home to maximize time together.



“We’re unconventional,” reflects Daniel Tkaczuk, a retired pro hockey player-turned-entrepreneur and coach. “That’s mirrored in the house. This is our normal.”

Their previous home had a lawn that became a source of contention for the couple, so it had to go this time around.

Instead, the lush green carpet across their new yard is just that – a high-quality synthetic turf from ALG Grass that negates the need for lawn mowers and arguments.

“We don’t enjoy yard work or maintenance,” admits **Lyndsey Tkaczuk**, founder of the Barrie-based architectural design firm **Bailey Designs**. “We’d rather swim, go biking or head to the park.”

Indeed, watching their shining eyes follow the active play of their toddler Weylan and his beloved cousin Preston, it’s clear where priorities lie for this busy couple. When work hours conclude, it’s full-on playtime for this young family that values every precious shared moment.

In fact, Lyndsey’s favourite aspect of her rustic modern home is its practical functionality that minimizes fussing. Industrial touches – like the raw concrete feature above the Montigo see-through fireplace – brings both style and durability. *Continued on page 31*

TOP LEFT: This stone and wood home is comprised of a series of boxes and lots of windows. It is stunning to look at from the street. **FAR LEFT:** The backyard has a synthetic turf for play, a fibreglass pool, a contemporary pool house, a playhouse and a corrugated metal fence for privacy. **LEFT:** Daniel, Lyndsey and Weylan enjoy some downtime on the front porch. **TOP RIGHT:** The stone wall is a focal point inside. Three LED lights help Weylan find his way up the industrial, glassed-in stairs at bedtime.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Walnut cabinets hung on the horizontal grain line the walls in the kitchen. The waterfall Shitaki Caesarstone island tops a dark-stained walnut island. The perimeter cabinetry is topped with a dark Silestone. There's even a butler's pantry tucked behind a wall. **THIS PAGE:** A floor-to-ceiling three-sided gas fireplace with a concrete, plaster finish separates the kitchen from the living area. There's additional, hidden storage on the kitchen side.

"Everything makes sense," Lyndsey says of the 3,200 sq. ft. home in Barrie's south end. "The laundry room outside the closet, the vacuum cupboard (by **Olde Town Woodcraft**, which also constructed the custom doors and walnut cabinetry) right by the high chair, the hockey equipment room off the garage..."

"There's a lot of detail, but nothing's ornate." Those details include a unique Sapele hardwood floor (by **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home**) and staircase (**Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.**), glass stair railing (**RCM Glass & Mirror Ltd.**), Owen Sound LedgeStone wall, and quartz countertops (Silestone and Caesarstone) from Maple Group. The beautiful outdoor urns and fresh flowers throughout are from **Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery** in Barrie.

Also practical for the hockey-loving husband is the practice rink in the basement with authentic side boards. Painted lines are in the plans and artificial ice has been discussed. Wall colour elsewhere was completed by **Snape Paint** (off-white Benjamin Moore OC-28 predominates).

"The kids across the road love to come over and play in there too," she smiles, adjusting the home's temperature (heating/cooling by **Plancaster Heating & Air**) on her iPhone. When asked about the modcon, she said her father Dan Bailey (who travelled weekly from Restoule to supervise his daughter's project, and who crafted the pool house and corrugated steel fence out back) also installed radiant heating throughout.

"I would sacrifice pretty much anything to make sure I have it," she added about the in-floor warmth (covered in the kitchen and mudroom by **Tilemaster** ceramics). "It's expensive to put in, but it saves money in the long run." *Continued on page 33*





Light pours in from windows at the top of the second floor. You can see the open living space from above and a perfect wall of photos in the living room with scenes from destinations travelled while Daniel played professional hockey in Europe. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP RIGHT:** The office at the front of the home has a desk repurposed with Annie Sloan Chalk Paint and industrial shelves for files and more. **FAR RIGHT:** Weylan is a Colts fan and is already lacing 'em up. **BELOW:** A peek inside Weylan's bathroom on the second floor. All flowers, including those in the front porch urns, are courtesy of Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery.



While Lyndsey was fortunate her design career took off shortly after graduating from Calgary's SAIT Polytechnic – with a boost from an early mentor – this house was the first home she's designed for herself.

"It was a great challenge," she recalls. "I was second guessing myself about everything – and I never do that in my business."

The process also provided a new perspective.

"I can better appreciate the value of each decision," she adds. "Also, I tried out a lot of new products, so I can use them and live with them before I recommend them."

Her project partner was **JG Contracting's Jeremy Guergis**, who sold Lyndsey and Daniel their first home.

"We've become really good friends," she smiles. "He's meticulous."

She also relies on her talented staffing team, which provides constant support as their project roster expands. Designer **Krista Howe** and architectural technologist **Cassie Harris** are currently working with Lyndsey on many exciting projects. They range from residential, commercial to industrial with new builds, additions and renovations.

"A warehouse building with offices in Barrie is really up my alley with its industrial feel," she says. *Continued on page 36*



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TOP: The master bedroom has a funky fan and a double-sided fireplace that can be enjoyed from the ensuite. **BELOW:** Weylan has a secret playroom behind the closet in his bedroom, where friends can sleep when they come for a visit.



But despite that style connection to her new home, she embraces all types of design. "I like anything that's interesting – for example, different rooflines or textures. And I enjoy learning about new material," says the woman who put a bathtub in her son's shower to facilitate splashy fun. "My pet peeve is hearing 'I've never seen that before – you can't do it.' That's just not true!"

"I always tell my clients: at the end of the day, I go home, so it has to be all about you." She finds inspiration everywhere – including visits to her globe-trotting husband.

"After a winter in Finland, the house I designed had a Scandinavian influence," she explains. "And when I was in Austria, I was working on a ski chalet in Collingwood. It was an Austrian ski chalet in Collingwood."

"Because of his hockey career, I've had the opportunity to see the architecture of the world. I've seen all the buildings I studied in my History of Architecture course. How cool is that?"

Not bad for someone who isn't keen on the sport. But then again Daniel is apathetic about design. He didn't step a foot inside the new house until the day before they moved in.

"She's really good at what she does, and she knows my needs and wants," he shrugs.

That said, Daniel credits his wife's business focus for giving him an opportunity to launch a second career.

And, at the end of the day, when skates are hung up, measuring tapes are stowed and devoted nanny Michelle says good-night, all differences fade away in the excitement of being back together. **OH**

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