

A large fireplace, furnished by Comfort Zone Heating & Air Conditioning, warms the open concept living room in Beth and Steve Nickerson's new home.

STORY WALTER FRANCZYK | PHOTOGRAPHY HAROLD CLARK

# DESIGNING *in unison*

*WHEN DESIGNING AND STYLING THEIR NEW HOME, BETH AND STEVE NICKERSON SHARE THE SAME PAGE. "STEVE AND I HAVE THE SAME VISION WHEN IT COMES TO DECORATING AND DESIGN," SAYS BETH. "IT WORKS OUT WELL," STEVE AFFIRMS. "WE AGREE ON EVERYTHING TOGETHER."* Continued on page 38

USING THEIR SHARED STRATEGY, they modified a stock floor plan to create an elegant and spacious two-bedroom home, built by **Stalwood Homes**, overlooking the rolling hills of Baltimore.

They were both familiar with Stalwood and its excellent reputation. Beth is a co-owner of **Comfort Zone Heating & Air Conditioning**, a company that's been installing heating and air-conditioning for Stalwood homes since 2006. "We were able to see what kind of home they built and we are very happy with what we've seen. They build an amazing home, the kind of home we wanted," Beth says. Steve, an information technologist for nearly 30 years, switched careers to building inspection, so he knows quality construction when he sees it.

The couple were looking for a one-acre property for their new home. They approached Stalwood president **Al Rose** who told them about the company's **Deerfield Estates**



**LEFT:** A dinner table and matching hutch made of reclaimed barn board lend a rustic yet elegant touch to the formal dining room. **BELOW:** Homeowners Steve and Beth Nickerson married recently in Las Vegas.



Day lilies and ornamental grasses green the home's front yard. Stalwood sourced the red brick and grey stone exterior at the couple's request. **ABOVE:** Delray Granite supplied granite for the kitchen working surfaces and quartz for the bathroom vanities.

*"We got to design the entire thing and they were really accommodating with any changes that we wanted. They made it work for us."*

development in Baltimore. "He drove us up here. We saw the view and said yes," says Steve, who became Stalwood's customer service manager after their house was built.

The Nickersons collaborated with Stalwood in planning the 2,365 sq. ft. bungalow. "We got to design the entire thing and they were really accommodating with any changes that we wanted. They made it work for us," says Beth. They substituted a main-floor office for a planned bedroom spot. Crews extended walls at the front of the home to transform another bedroom space into a formal dining room, furnished with a dinner table and hutch, custom made of reclaimed barn wood by HD Threshing Floor Furniture. With a covered porch at the back, they created an ideal spot for watching sunsets and wildlife.

Stalwood kitchen designer **Jocelyn Mason** helped the couple define the large

open-concept kitchen with stone countertops from **Delray Granite**, Bosch appliances and white cabinetry by **Decor Cabinets**. White California shutters from Vosburgh Home Decor shade windows and glass doors in the adjacent living room, where a vaulted ceiling soars over the space. Built-in white shelving and a mantel by **Central Ontario Trim Supply** surround the large fireplace, supplied and installed by Beth's company Comfort Zone. In the master bedroom, Beth and Steve installed sliding barn doors on his-and-hers walk-in closets.

**Judy Ball** at **Floortrends** expertly steered their choices for hardwood flooring and tiles for the kitchen backsplash and four bathrooms. "You can tell her what you're looking for and she will go to her supply and pick out exactly what you're looking for," says Steve. "It's like she can read your mind or share your vision with you." *Continued on page 40*





**f FLOORTRENDS**



**TOP LEFT:** A well-equipped ground floor gym helps Steve and Beth stay fit. **TOP RIGHT:** The laundry room is conveniently located on the main floor. **ABOVE:** A cushioned window seat does double duty as storage space in the couple's shared office. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The pool table is just steps from the bar in the ground-floor games room.

For the exterior, the Nickersons saw a multi-shaded red brick and grey stone that they liked on a house in Port Hope. Stalwood researched the products, found a supplier and installed the desired finish. Inside the home, high-end touches – wide baseboards, coffered ceilings and crown mouldings – were pleasant surprises. “Things we didn't even ask for just happened,” says Steve.

Once the ground floor was finished, Beth and Steve, using Stalwood's experts, finished the basement to create a large games room

with a shuffleboard, pool table and well-stocked bar. They installed barn board on a feature wall with a large television. To make it open concept, they installed half-walls around the family space. “I'm really pleased with that,” Beth says. “It looks exactly as we envisioned it to be. It's a great entertaining area for family when they come over.” Gatherings feature games nights with darts, billiards and shuffleboard.

The couple also installed a well-equipped gym at one end of the games room. “We like to stay fit and work out,” Beth says.

*Continued on page 42*

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- Alliance Security Systems • Bennett's Furniture & Mattresses • Central Ontario Trim Supply • Comfort Zone Heating & Air Conditioning • Decor Cabinets • Delray Granite • Floortrends • HD Threshing Floor Furniture • Rock Ridges Landscape Supply Yard • Stalwood Homes • Tasco • The Bar Store Canada Inc. • Timberkits • Vosburgh Home Decor • Water World Pools • Wentworth Landscapes

They continued enhancements outside in the backyard with a large wooden pavilion, built by **Timberkits**. "We were very pleased with them," says Steve. "They were very professional. They were in and out in a day, on time and on budget." Supported by heavy timbers, the pavilion shelters a stamped concrete patio furnished with cushioned, woven resin armchairs, a charcoal grill and a dining area. **Rock Ridges Landscape Supply Yard** bordered the patio with armour stone.

Just steps from the pavilion, the newest backyard addition, bound to be a popular summer spot, is an in-ground pool, supplied and installed by **Water World Pools**.

"They were amazing," says Steve. "I would recommend them in a second." Beth and Steve built the black metal fence surrounding the blue-tiled pool and its stamped concrete deck. They also erected a new shed to house pool equipment. Comfort Zone installed the pool heater, as well as the home's heating and air-conditioning, in-floor basement heating, tankless hot water and garage heater.

**Wentworth Landscapes** groomed the property with ornamental grasses, Korean lilacs and day lilies. Beth surrounded a red maple with lavender and silver mounds in the front yard.

The Nickersons' neighbourhood is slowly growing with new custom homes, but it retains the character and convenience that first drew them to the spot. "It's quiet," says Steve. "It's nice that it's only five minutes from town, but it still feels like you have the country setting." **OH**



A tempting backyard pool is the newest outdoor amenity at the Nickerson home. **TOP:** A great space for barbecues and outdoor meals, the furnished backyard pavilion offers shady shelter from the afternoon sun. **BELOW:** A tray ceiling rings the master bedroom where a walkout leads to the back porch.



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