

NEW DIRECTION

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

The time was right for Darlene Kelterborn and Thom Hagerty to say goodbye to their long-time home in an established and beloved downtown Guelph neighbourhood. The real estate market was favourable, and they were ready for the next stage of their lives.

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The contemporary kitchen design with deep drawers, waterfall island and ample space between the island and cooking space, is accessible and functional.



The sconces flanking the fireplace have a traditional style with a modern twist. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The oversized light fixture from Accents for Living fills the foyer. **RIGHT:** An unexpected four-piece bath off the foyer accommodates overnight guests staying in the den. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A neutral colour scheme grounds the living room with a pop of citrus colour.

“WE SAW IT AS GOING IN A NEW DIRECTION AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT THINGS.”

THEY LOVED living

in proximity to downtown amenities, so decided to purchase a penthouse condominium in **Fusion Homes’** premiere **Metalworks** development on Arthur Street. “Some people see this life change as downsizing and an arduous task,” says Thom. “But in our case, we saw it as going in a new direction and an opportunity to experience different things, not limiting at all.” Thom says this attitude helped them let go of the hold that things have on your life. “You don’t have to surrender your memories; you can embrace them as you let go of the things.”

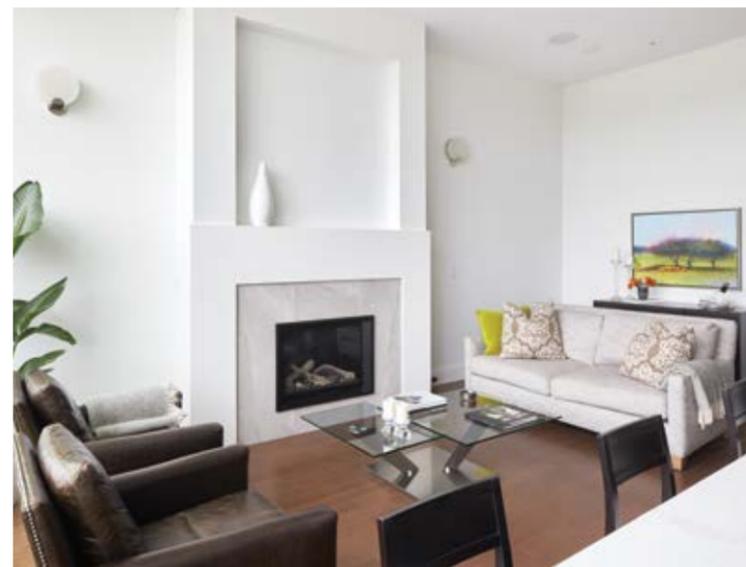
Both Darlene and Thom admit to enjoying their giant garage sale. They found value in people’s joy of finding treasures. “It was a story for us, and a treasure for them,” Darlene says. “We knew our things would find a place in someone’s home.”

Darlene has always had a good eye and the ability to develop and execute a vision. With the trusted help of interior design consultant **Cindy Gibson of Cindy Gibson Designs**, Darlene and Thom began the process of curating their penthouse condominium. They moved from a traditional two-storey Georgian revival home to a modern, one-floor, 1,682 sq. ft.

condo with soaring 12-foot ceilings. It was decided early that transitional style would be best to suit their new space.

For many, a new condo is turnkey. For Darlene and Thom the unit as left by the builder was a starting point. The condo was extensively re-wired by **Dallsons Electric Ltd.** to support the lighting design in each room.

Darlene’s mantra is that everything must have its place, so storage was a big factor. Her vision drove the decisions in the condo, integrating advice and expertise from a number of sources. The builder’s kitchen



design was modified to incorporate a pantry and a Thermador wine fridge from **AMG Studios** to add symmetry. Darlene remembers that “AMG Studios offered expert advice on how to integrate the appliance into the design.” The natural, honed stone backsplash from **Ceramic Decor** adds texture, warmth and interest in the monochromatic kitchen. **Benjamin Moore’s** Oxford White covers all the walls, except in the den and main bathroom. **James Obermeyer Painting** painted the condo.

Bast Home Comfort installed the Valor gas fireplace. Cindy recommended making the fireplace walls wider and specified the right proportions for the tile surround. The porcelain tile was laid by **Brian Jones of Sureset Ceramic Tile Ltd.** and **Frank Meyer from Meyer Wood Design Inc.** created the surround. The recessed area above the fireplace is awaiting the perfect piece of art. *Continued on page 66*



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The condominium has two bedrooms and the couple opted to use one as a den. It has a built-in office area where a closet would have been, with millwork supplied by Sutcliffe Kitchens. The result is a clean and organized space. A chair and tables from their former home, a new pullout sofa, a cow-hide rug and a more dramatic colour scheme, contribute to the relaxed nature of the room. The den doubles as a guest room for overnight visitors.

The principle bedroom features a large walk-in closet as well as a beautiful soaring oak bookcase as a centerpiece to a conversation area. The bookcase, designed by Darlene, and executed by Frank Meyer, displays much-loved books and provides additional storage. The rug in the master bedroom is Iranian – a favourite from their previous home. *Continued on page 70*



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In the en suite, they envisioned a spa-like space with mirrors to reflect the city views. There's a large walk-in shower, a free-standing tub and a built-in cabinet by Sutcliffe Kitchens with open shelving to store linens and toiletries.

Darlene and Thom love the direction they're taking in their transitional condominium. They've bonded with their new neighbours, making new memories and sharing different experiences. Their journey continues. **OH**



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Mirrors were installed post-purchase to direct light vertically and to reflect the city views. **TOP LEFT:** To create a serene environment, the couple installed the same tile on the floor and in the shower. **TOP RIGHT:** Ergonomics are important to Darlene and Thom. A well-designed and organized office in the den was key.



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