



HOME



STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

IMPROVEMENT



Wanting to put down roots in a well-established community close to Barrie's urban centre, Krista and Olivier Maydew couldn't have chosen better than Kempenfelt Village. The subdivision dates back two centuries in what is now the city's east end.

"There's a lot of character in this neighbourhood," says Krista, a Sault Ste. Marie native who met her future husband while attending university in Ottawa. "It has evolved over time, so there's a lot of diversity in the style of homes here."

Olivier, originally from Belgium, is a commercial pilot. Following the recommendation of a colleague, the couple chose Barrie as a beautiful and convenient home base and settled in the city's south end. After about nine years, it was time for a change for the growing family, which now includes Sophie, who's 12, Ethan, 14, and their Welsh springer spaniel Nia.

Because of the popularity of Kempenfelt Bay's north shore, they were urged to make an immediate offer if a property sparked an

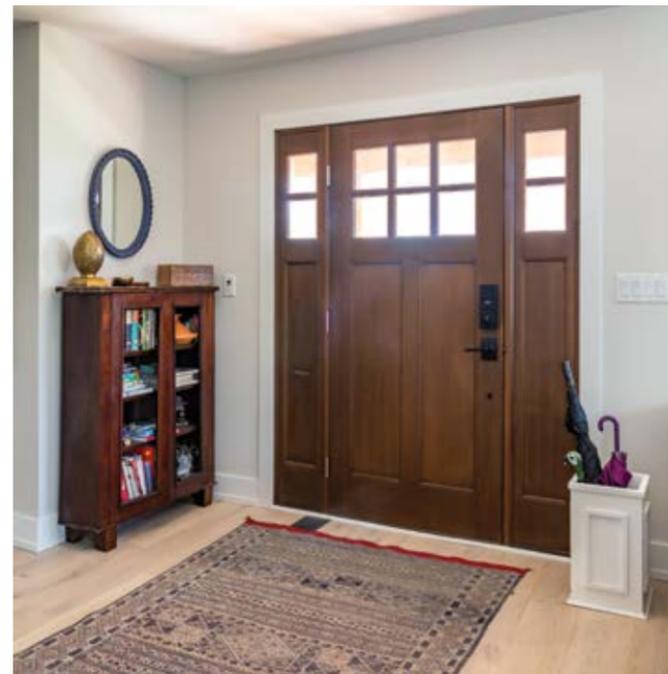
interest. That's exactly what they did when they found a rare deep lot. The house itself was almost irrelevant.

"We knew we could make the house what we wanted it to be," recalls Olivier, "but the lot couldn't be changed."

Although they initially considered tearing down the 67-year-old house, they hesitated to alter the look and feel of their street. They considered their options for two-and-a-half years before taking action.

"In the end, the front porch was the only change to the outside structure of the house," he says, referring to the timbered addition with durable Brazilian Ipe wood decking. The same wood was also installed on the back deck leading to a yard enhanced by

R Legacy Landscapes. *Continued on page 56*



TOP LEFT: The exterior and interior of Krista and Olivier Maydew's home received an extensive modern facelift by Oaklea Homes. The covered porch adds to the home's curb appeal. **ABOVE:** Krista and Olivier sit with their Welsh springer spaniel Nia on the glass-enclosed, open staircase crafted by Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc. **FAR LEFT:** A Craftsman-style front door makes a statement on the inside and outside of the home. The couple brought the rug back from Morocco.



High gloss cabinets with top pulls mix with modern walnut cabinetry in the kitchen. Open shelves display kitchen treasures from their travels. **BELOW:** A new larger window adds light and a view of the beautiful backyard.

Inside the 2,400 sq. ft. house, despite the charm, they were surprised to discover the rooms were small and the décor dark. They wanted to open everything up and let the light flow through from front to back. To set the stage, they chose a wide-plank flooring of engineered white oak from [Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home](#).

“It’s a Scandinavian style that was not easy to find,” added Krista.

Since they both cook, the kitchen was a natural focal point. A six-burner stove was essential. With open shelves instead of upper cabinetry, innovative storage solutions were required. A 10-foot island was included in the plan to accommodate guests and their extensive collection of kitchen equipment.

To turn their vision into reality within a strict three-month period, the couple trusted [Ryan Gradziel](#) and [Tyler Brown](#), owners of [Oaklea Homes Inc.](#) and experienced builders of custom homes and luxury renovations.

“They did a phenomenal job,” Krista says. “We threw them a few curveballs, but they still came in on time and on budget. The process was easy.”

Wider kitchen windows weren’t in the original plans, for example, but when the Maydeus saw the room in progress, they opted to maximize natural light. The children’s rooms upstairs also benefitted from additional windows and skylights.

“Sometimes construction does not go according to plan,” acknowledges Ryan. “So, we expect the unplanned. If you know what to anticipate, then you should be able to stay on schedule.” *Continued on page 58*



ABOVE: From the engineered white oak floors from Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home, to the 10-foot quartz-topped waterfall island, the new Scandi-inspired kitchen is the heart of this home. **TOP RIGHT:** This family cooks healthy food together. **RIGHT:** The family enjoys greens year-round from their Urban Cultivator.





In keeping with their philosophy of transparent communication, the partners let the homeowners know what to expect from the beginning. “We spend a lot in the beginning going over their wants and needs and budget so we don’t have any hiccups later on,” Tyler explains. Before the finishes, Oaklea Homes called upon **Maple Electric Inc.**, **Canpro Plumbing** and **Georgian Home Comfort** to set things up. Throughout the demolition, the homeowners were diligent in diverting as much as possible from the landfill.



The office off the foyer is also used as a music room. The black wall gives the room an edge. **ABOVE:** A lovely armoire provides storage and a focal point across from the front entrance.



White vinyl shutters cover the windows and provide a clean finish throughout the home. **ABOVE:** A linear gas fireplace in a simple surround provides warmth in the living room, located at the front of the home adjacent to the kitchen.



The upstairs is for the kids. They have a cool lounge for reading and watching television just outside their rooms. **RIGHT:** A Moroccan pendant globe is Olivier’s favourite home furnishing. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The door to Ethan’s room.



The Moroccan pendant, a family treasure, leaves a beautiful pattern of light on the upper stairwell.



“We struggled tearing down things that worked,” Olivier explains. “From an environmental point of view, we didn’t want to waste. We worked to find a balance.” With most of the main floor gutted, Krista and Olivier faced a staggering number of decisions. For some, they deferred to the experts. For most, they chose their own path. “It’s eclectic,” she says of their approach. “We didn’t want to be constrained by a single style.” Together, Krista and Olivier created a unique environment.

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feature

“We weren’t doing it to sell the house afterward, so it didn’t matter if someone else didn’t like it,” Krista says.

The high-gloss white kitchen by **Camty Cabinets** contrast with open wooden shelves displaying treasured souvenirs: a tagine from Morocco and ceramic bowls from the South of France.

To make the most of those new, larger windows, the reflective surfaces of the cabinetry are matched in the stainless-steel range hood and appliances, a grey subway tile backsplash and the white quartz island with a waterfall installation.

Across the dining room, the light dances along a glass wall that contributes to the airy ambience while showcasing the artistic floating staircase with a railing from **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.** Barrie Trim also supplied all the trim and doors for the renovation. *Continued on page 62*



The lot is an amazing 330-feet deep. There’s plenty of room for an in-ground pool, extensive landscaping, family barbecues and outdoor dining.

Sherry Edwards
Professional Stager

Phone: 705.331.6018
Email: sher@ArtofStagingandDesign.com
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LEFT: Kids Ethan and Sophie share the bathroom upstairs in their loft space. **ABOVE:** The rooflines upstairs provide interesting space in Sophie's room. **BELOW:** The master en suite is huge, with his-and-hers separate vanities, a tub and separate shower.



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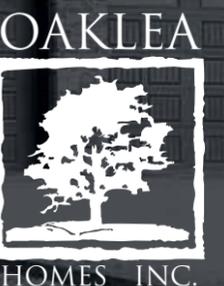
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The Moroccan pendant globe showers the upper stairway in light and lends the otherwise neutral palette applied by **Bob's Painting and Decorating** a rich, golden pattern. It also adds to the happy memories of this globe-trotting family.

"There are influences everywhere," Olivier says, indicating the hexagonal floor tiles in the upstairs bath and the painted tiling in the basement laundry that point to his European background. "I really love our kitchen and having that space where we're all together."

Krista has a harder time picking a favourite room.

"I like the whole atmosphere," she smiles. "This house is the culmination of a dream." **OH**