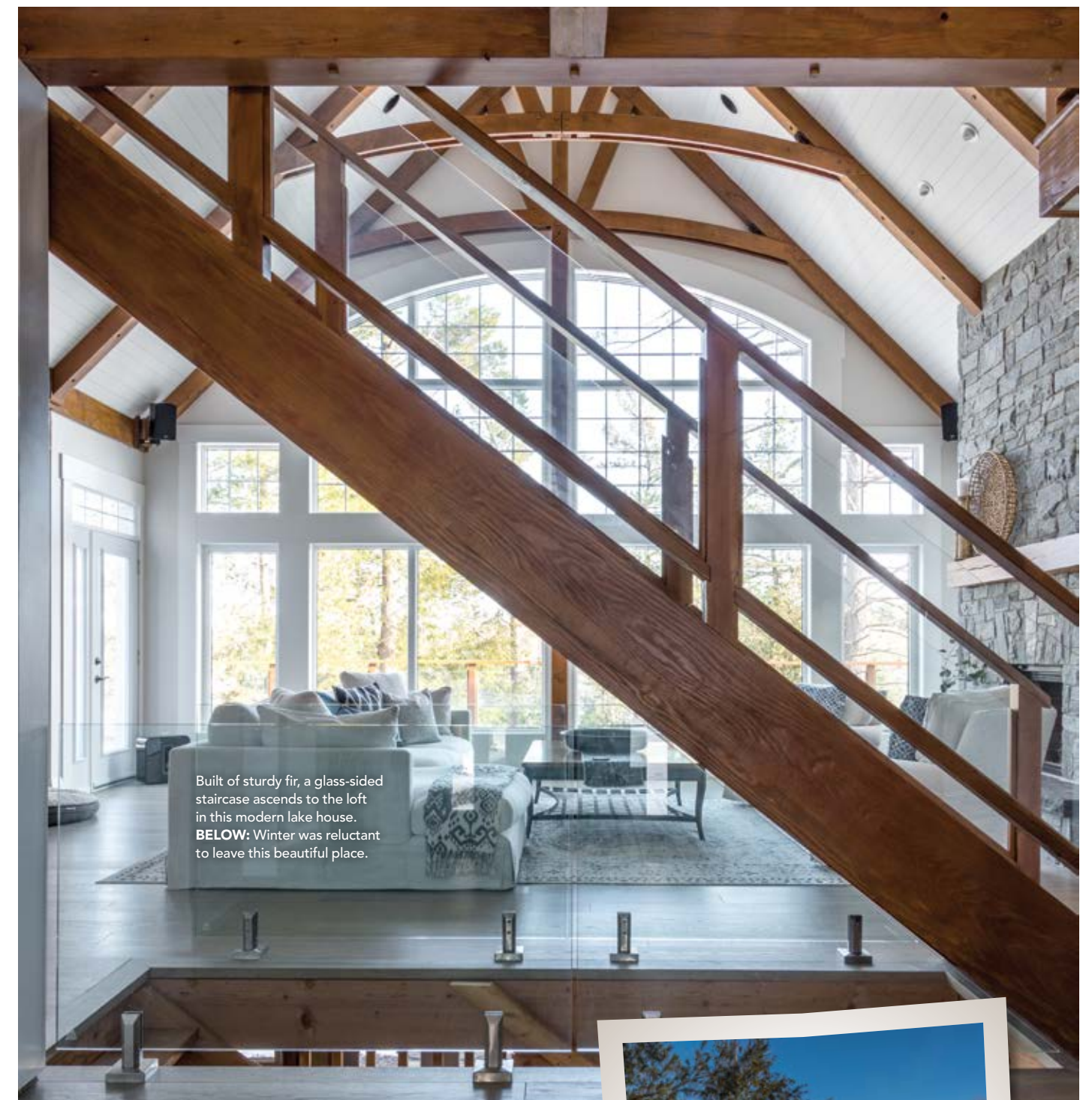


GORGEOUS *georgian*

RENOVATIONS CAN BE FUN,
ESPECIALLY WHEN LONG-CHERISHED
DREAMS ARE BEING REALIZED.

The great room of the newly renovated cottage overlooks a sheltered inlet on Georgian Bay.

STORY CHARLENE PECK
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY
STAGING RED CANOE INTERIORS



Built of sturdy fir, a glass-sided staircase ascends to the loft in this modern lake house.
BELOW: Winter was reluctant to leave this beautiful place.



For the design and building team at **Northern Living Kitchen & Bath Ltd.**, the excitement began when they welcomed a client into the showroom, carrying a thick binder full of ideas for tackling a project that had been in the planning stages for the last 10 years. It was September 2017, and with a son off to university, she and her husband saw a window of opportunity for finally completing their retirement home on a wooded peninsula that juts into Georgian Bay. The hope was that it would be finished by the end of the spring school term. And much to her delight, it was. *Continued on page 88*

feature

The homeowner first observed the professionalism of the Northern Living team back in 2008, when the company supplied fixtures to ensure two of the three bathrooms in the house were up and running within a tight timeline. Dreaming of the day she could work with Northern Living to finish the home, the client would often shop for new ideas in the Parry Sound showroom. “She’s very organized and literally handed me her vision binder,” recalls Northern Living’s designer **Trina Hogg**. “She had pictures from European magazines, of kitchens and backsplashes, countertops and fixtures that made it really easy to understand her style.”

During an on-site walk-through, homeowners entrusted Northern Living co-owner **Jason Robertson** with managing the kitchen installations, the mudroom/laundry room, pantry, great room cabinetry, master bedroom fireplace, walk-in closet and en suite. During the home’s original construction, **Marshall Black Carpentry** built the intricate web of Douglas fir ceiling beams as well as the central, glass-sided staircase to the loft. **Bowman Landscaping & Excavation** groomed the property to fuse the building site with the steep, rugged terrain. Nearly a decade later, there was still plenty to do inside.

“They hadn’t finished a lot of it,” Jason remembers. “It was pretty bare bones, because there was always a plan for our clients to finish it right. So on this particular project, it was less of a transformation and more about maintaining our clients’ vision – what they wanted out of the home when they originally built it 11 years ago.” *Continued on page 90*



Designers Amanda Yake and Trina Hogg with Northern Living co-owner Jason Robertson.



A pine trestle table, bought from Of Things Past when the cottage was originally furnished, has held many happy meals, shared with family and friends. Surrounding chairs are outdoor-friendly wicker. **OPPOSITE:** Red Canoe Interiors supplied the new couch to match the living room armchairs.



ABOVE: A feathery triptych floats in a quiet corner of the cottage. **RIGHT:** Northern Living Kitchen & Bath designed the new kitchen for easy entertaining. Living Lighting sourced the Curry & Company chandelier over the dinner table.

Clear communication and getting to know each client’s specific needs, tastes and wants begins early in the planning and design process at Northern Living.

“We ask the right lifestyle questions to get to know our clients, to better understand how each space will be used, and who will be using it,” explains Jason. “Then we can use this information along with the clients’ dream, and create our design to fit. At the end of the day, we want every Northern Living space to be unique to the client.”

Trina created three-dimensional CAD drawings for each room, creatively understanding the client’s vision and finding the ideal products and finishes including all fixtures, tiles, flooring, cabinet colours and countertops.

Describing this as “one-stop shopping,” the client appreciated seeing the design outline and being able to choose from a carefully selected variety of in-store products.

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New kitchen appliances include a warming drawer near the dining space. **BELOW:** The kitchen island is painted Newburyport Blue by Benjamin Moore. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Just off the kitchen, a walk-in pantry provides extra storage.



All countertops in the renovation are quartz, aligning with the client's vision for a calm, serene palette that worked with the natural environment, and her desire for a durable material. Maintaining that vision meant neutral, engineered hardwood wide-plank hickory flooring from **Gray's Paint & Flooring** would flow throughout the entire home, blending with the exterior decking and its surroundings.

The home's original makeshift kitchen – a random assembly of freestanding cabinetry without uppers – begged for a designer's touch. "The owners were lacking storage," recalls Trina. "The functionality was enough to get by, but for them to be using it as their future retirement home, it didn't flow very well. So we changed the layout to make it more functional."

All Northern Living cabinetry is made specifically for the client. Possibilities are endless, including custom colour choices. Smoke Embers, a natural neutral Benjamin Moore colour was a hit with the client who wanted kitchen cabinets to meld with the outdoor setting captured by an abundance of windows. "The island is Newburyport Blue," Trina points out. "They're very nautical, avid sailing people, so the blue reflects that."

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Northern Living furnished the custom-built vanity in the master bedroom en suite. **ABOVE:** Anyone using the en suite tub can relax with a forest view. **RIGHT:** Mason Garry Jacobson crafted the stone fireplace in the master bedroom.



The kitchen design included a bar hidden behind bi-fold cabinet doors that can be left open while entertaining and attractive marble backsplash tiling with a natural texture. A stunning custom metal range hood with antique black strapping was a treasure the client discovered in the showroom.

A visual presentation by **Amanda Yake**, Northern Living's design and sales consultant, helped clients view groupings of fixtures, either in person or online. "With the fixtures, I narrow down the multitude of options by finding what will work in the space, and then I look at their style and vision to determine the best choices," Amanda explains. With all the decisions that need to be made, the Northern Living team makes the process easy without overwhelming homeowners.

Amanda ensured sufficient lighting in the kitchen with under-cabinet lighting, pot lights, and task lighting over the island. "For the island and the dining room table, Amanda picked some really creative lights designed by artists," Trina points out. "They're not a mass-produced light, they're statement pieces."

Bohemian style lighting fixtures and a natural stone pebble floor in the shower created a spa-like feel in the master en suite exactly how the clients envisioned. **Ryman Plumbing & Electrical** installed the bath fixtures.

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Joy Crookshank of Red Canoe Interiors supplied towels, art, candles and furnishings, including the large, comfortable new sofa that matches the couple's great room armchairs. Garry Jacobson, of Jacobson Construction, a mason, well-known locally for his wildlife carvings, built the stone fireplace in the master bedroom. Upstairs, Carpets-N-Colours supplied and installed soft grey carpeting for the upper floor and stair treads.

As Northern Living's project manager, Jason operates as a general contractor for kitchens and baths. Some of the local trades involve included Jackson's Tile, Vandermeer's Painting and Georgian Bay Glass.

The clients describe the end result as beautiful: "Everything works perfectly and there is careful attention to detail. I found Trina's knowledge of kitchen and bath fixtures and furnishings a great asset as well and enjoyed her fun approach to the project. Amanda and Trina worked together with me on lighting and were tireless in their efforts to ensure that we found the perfect fixtures for each room," says the owner.

The homeowners appreciate Jason's insightful advice in helping them overcome any challenges. "Nothing is ever too much of a problem for Jason," they observed. "He has a calm, professional, kind, fun way about him. As a client, you always feel as if everything is going to be fine. It didn't matter if there was a snowstorm or power failure, they met every deadline and were phenomenal to deal with. It was actually a lot of fun." OH



Tulips in a gurgle jug from Red Canoe Interiors nod at the tiny sink in the mudroom.

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Bowman Landscaping & Excavation • Carpets-N-Colours • Georgian Bay Glass • Gray's Paint & Flooring • Jackson's Tile • Jacobson Construction • Living Lighting • Marshall Black Carpentry • Northern Living Kitchen & Bath Ltd. • Red Canoe Interiors • Ryman Plumbing & Electrical • Vandermeer's Painting

The laundry room sits in the mudroom that joins the garage with the main house. TOP RIGHT: The homeowners built and painted this mudroom shelving and coatrack.



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