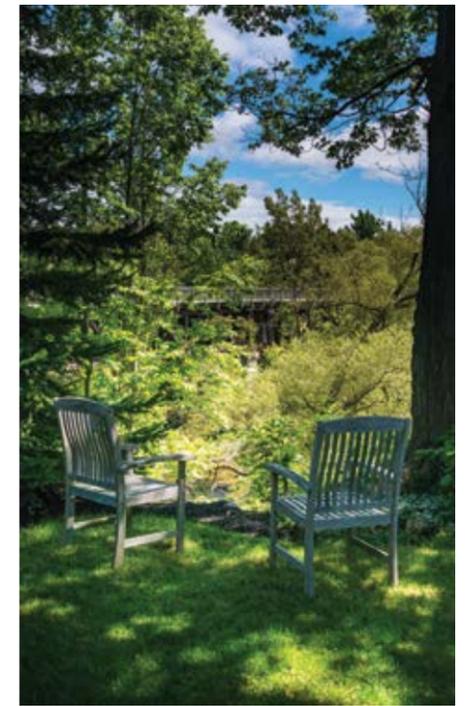


The simplicity of this home and its historical presentation disguises the fact that it is entirely new. The Cape Cod-style siding was sourced at Thornbury Home Hardware. It arrived pre-painted in Benjamin Moore's Stuart Gold with the trim in Maritime White. Wooden soffits and fascia, and the galvanized aluminum roof, show the attention to detail in keeping with its historic character.



PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

BUILDING CHARACTER



“WE’RE SO CLOSE TO THE STREET AND ALL ITS ACTIVITY IN THE FRONT, YET THE BACKYARD, NEXT TO THE RIVER, IS QUIET, PEACEFUL AND REALLY VERY PRIVATE.”



Scott Gloster, Helen Lansdale, Deb Lee, Andrew Lansdale, Alasdair Lansdale, Kristin Schnelten and Willa enjoy some music on a beautiful sunny day.



Andrew Lansdale and Kristin Schnelten have always been drawn to historic homes. “Old houses are just so rich with character,” Lansdale says, “The balanced design, attention to detail and proud craftsmanship all contribute to their charm.”

When the couple, along with their children Alasdair, 10, and Helen, 7, relocated to Ontario from the Maritimes in 2015, they naturally searched for century homes. “We were hoping to find a small, older home in the country,” recalls Schnelten. But when a tiny bungalow in Thornbury presented itself instead, they made the quick decision to start their new life in town while waiting for the perfect country property.

The temporary house quickly proved it required more than their planned renovations. It needed a complete rebuild. Having now fallen in love with in-town living, the family was excited at the prospect of rebuilding the home right in Thornbury.

To design their new home, Schnelten says, “We took our initial cues from other homes on our block – they’re solid, hundred-year-old farmhouses, and we wanted to maintain this general feel.” The couple searched the area for the right historic design, and stumbled upon a 175-year-old home in Heathcote with similar dimensions to their 600 sq. ft. footprint, which building code required them to maintain.

“We visited the homeowners so many times, asking questions and taking measurements,” says Schnelten, who notes that the two families have become friends along the way. “I’m not sure we could have made

Continued on page 110



Alasdair and Helen enjoy eating or playing at the kitchen table. The “chicken coop” chairs were spotted in Meaford, and fit with the time frame that has been created. Flowers provided by Sideroad Farm Floral, and displayed in vases by Marcelina Salazar. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Custom cabinets extend to the ceiling, maximizing storage in the kitchen. The white appliances, sourced at MacDonald’s Furniture & Appliances, let the craftsmanship of the cabinets shine. **BOTTOM:** The pantry was inspired by spaces where friends gather, including general stores and pubs. It is one of the family’s favourite features.



ABOVE: Music is enjoyed immensely by the family and so the piano has pride of place in the living room. The water lily painting is by Don Kilby. Walls throughout the main floor are painted in Farrow & Ball's Shaded White. Flowers from Sideroad Farm Floral. **TOP RIGHT:** Hand-painted, salvaged glass panels were repurposed in custom-made doors from Desboro Doors. The guest bathroom is overseen by *The Captain*, as the family affectionately calls this painting.



it through the design stage without them." Beyond inspiration from the Heathcote house, the couple found answers through meticulous research at local libraries, online and "many, many drives through southern Ontario," Lansdale laughs.

With their rough floorplan and detailed measurements in hand, they consulted **Greg Murphy at Big Foot Design & Construction**, who drafted their plans. "Greg is such a great guy to work with, and he gave us something we didn't ask for – nine-foot ceilings. This suggestion of his really makes our space feel larger than it is," says Lansdale.

The couple acted as general contractors for the build, which gave them the freedom to choose their tradespeople. "I was thoughtful about assembling the team for this house," Schnelten says. "Our contractors were not chosen based solely on their bids; it was really all about character. I wanted good, honest people, doing amazing work to build this home."

Steve Hanley Construction Ltd. tackled the initial stages of the project – framing, siding, roofing and window installation, while working closely with **Ian Batchelor of Batchelor Plumbing**, **Mark LeBlanc of NX Generation Mechanical**, and **Dan Fisher of Beaver Valley Electrical**. "These guys worked so well together, and have continued to collaborate on other projects. I recommend each of them every chance I get," says Lansdale.

Continued on page 112



***INSTRUMENTS
ARE AT THE READY
FOR THE FAMILY'S
REGULAR MUSIC
NIGHTS.***



When it came time for the finishing touches, the couple spent months finding just the right contractors. Schnelten notes, "Because our home is so small, we knew the finish carpentry really needed to shine. We wanted the best carpenter in the area, and I believe we found that in **Mike Millard of Millard-Bautista Designs**. He is a true craftsman, in every sense of the word. He and his partner **Venecia Bautista** are simply top-notch."

The home is filled with small details and endless stories. The doors leading into the spare bedroom and powder room are custom-made, with antique hand-painted glass panels salvaged from an office building in London. An antique door from a Collingwood farmhouse leads into the panelled mudroom. "We've been collecting and moving old doors for a decade, knowing they'd come in handy one day," says Schnelten.

Upstairs, the sloped beadboard ceiling, installed by the couple with the assistance of friends and family, adds to the historic feel of the space. Lansdale says, "It was a long, slow process, but it was worth it in the end. Visitors comment on it first thing as they ascend the stairs."

All three sinks in the home are salvaged, and finding each one was an adventure in itself. "We had clear specifications in mind, and through hours and months of searching online and in antique stores, salvage shops and old barns, we finally found exactly the ones we needed," says Schnelten.

Every decision made in the house-building process required a fair amount of research, and the countertops were no exception.

City Stone provided and installed the right surfaces – quartz in the kitchen, and slate in the washrooms – to keep with the historic aesthetic. Slate, sourced from **Floorcrafters**, was also used as flooring in the mudroom and washrooms. *Continued on page 114*

LEFT: In the mudroom, the heated slate floor keeps this active family's gear warm and dry. The couple wanted this room to have the feel of being a later addition, hence the horizontal panelling and striking wall colour, Farrow & Ball's Inchyra Blue.

HUNDREDS OF OPTIONS

Whether you love the classics, live for the latest trends or prefer a more relaxed look, we have styles to match what you love and how you live. From sofas, sectionals and loveseats to occasional chairs, ottomans and reclining furniture, you'll find the perfect mix of style and comfort.



Ashley Furniture • Décor-Rest • Magnussen • ELRAN • Brentwood • Palliser • Superstyle


simplycountry www.simplycountryfurniture.ca
 CASUAL FURNITURE & HOME DECOR 323 King St. Midland ON 705.526.7630

 **SIMPLY HOME**
 FURNISHINGS INC.
www.simplyhomefurnishings.com
 900 King St. Unit B Midland ON 705.526.5678

WE CREATE AND CARE FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE SO YOU CAN ENJOY
the best things in life

HACKStONE Landscapes 
a Refreshing Experience

www.hackstone.ca 519 922 2929   

feature



“WE’VE BEEN COLLECTING AND MOVING OLD DOORS FOR A DECADE, KNOWING THEY’D COME IN HANDY ONE DAY.”



TOP LEFT: In the second-floor bathroom, the large repurposed sink also fills in as a laundry sink as the washer and dryer are in a closet just down the hall. The pen and ink illustration is by Becky Comber. **ABOVE:** This spare bedroom on the main floor is used frequently by Schnelten’s father and is known by everyone as “Pappy’s room.”

The custom kitchen cabinets, installed by family friend **Peter Shiermeister**, were inspired by those in Thomas Edison’s workshop, constructed in the mid-1800s. The poplar fronts were brush-painted, rather than sprayed or rolled, to achieve a more aged finish.

When it came time to choose paint colours, the couple reached out to Connecticut-based Heide Hendricks of Hendricks Churchill. Schnelten says, “Heide has an impeccable reputation for her work with historic homes, and we knew she would lead us in the right direction.” Working with Heide, they chose a colour palette with both historic and classic tones. “We wanted our space to be warm and welcoming; a place where you cosy up with your friends, a pint and a fiddle.”

The couple chose all Farrow & Ball colours, and **Anne Wildeman** at **Birch and Benjamin** recreated those colours with custom **Benjamin Moore** paint. Says Schnelten, “There’s such a small-town satisfaction in walking home from the store, can of paint in hand, waving hello to friends along the way.”

After a chance meeting at a local store, Schnelten knew **Jim Keast** of **Jim Keast Painting** would be their only choice for the final step. “Hiring Jim Keast to paint the interior of our home was one of the best decisions we made,” says Schnelten, “He takes meticulous to a new level, and is such a complete character. Jim really has become a good friend.” *Continued on page 116*

BLUE MOUNTAIN 705.888.7480 GILLIANCO.COM

201 Marsh St. Clarksburg 519 372 7971
donkilby.com donk@rogers.com

FOOD.BOOZE.MUSIC
Lunch. Happy Hour 3-6. Dinner. Live Music
Check our website for sample menus and music listings including "Crow Sessions" dinner shows
18 Huron St. Collingwood. 705-445-0509.
crowvariety.ca

Re-defining Quality, Craftsmanship, & Service

MILLARD BAUTISTA DESIGNS

Clarksburg, ON | 705-446-5047 | millardbd.com



LEFT: Although small, Helen loves her space. All the trim and walls were painted in the same colour (Farrow & Ball's Shaded White) to create visual space. **BELOW:** Millard-Bautista Designs constructed the built-in storage adjacent to the hobbit door of Helen's bedroom. **BOTTOM:** An heirloom quilt and simple thoughtful furnishings create tranquility in the master bedroom. The wood flooring was stained with a custom recipe created by Birch & Benjamin.



Lansdale, a landscape designer, tackled the landscape design and installation. He chose simple, classic lines and materials appropriate for the time period, including hydrangeas found in photographs of old Ontario homes. Although the front yard is small, he was able to create a sense of privacy in the small seating area with a clear view of Georgian Bay.

Passersby often stop to chat about the home, offering comments on the colour and design, "So many people have thanked us for simply building a house that fits in," says Lansdale. "But the greatest compliment we received was from a couple who couldn't believe it was new – they assumed it was a historic home, recently raised onto a new foundation." Of the bright yellow paint, the couple admits they were merely continuing with the theme of the other houses of the street, each of them painted a bold, historic colour.

The family is quite satisfied with what their home has become. Lansdale appreciates the outdoor spaces the most: "We're so close to the street and all its activity in the front, yet the backyard, next to the river, is quiet, peaceful and really very private." Schnelten favours the kitchen/dining area. "We envisioned an intimate gathering place for friends, and it's really worked out to be just that," she says. "We realize you can't manufacture old-home character, but by making the space warm and filling it with life, we certainly hope we've given character a place to grow." **OH**



KNIGHTS' Home building centre

519.538.2000 | 206532
Highway 26, East of Meaford

3 REASONS TO COME TO KNIGHTS'

- Tracy, who has a wealth of design experience
- Free 3D design
- With our installation program we will see your job through from start to finish.

KitchenCraft CABINETRY
www.kitchencraft.com

EXCEPTIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP
SUPERIOR RESULTS... EVERY TIME

CUSTOM BUILT HOMES | RENOVATIONS

VALLEYVIEW CONSTRUCTION
PAUL ROGERS | 519.599.3694 | paul.valleyview@gmail.com | www.valleyviewconstruction.com

since 1980