

NEW START

NEW STYLE

STORY SARAH SLOAN | PHOTOS SANDY MACKAY

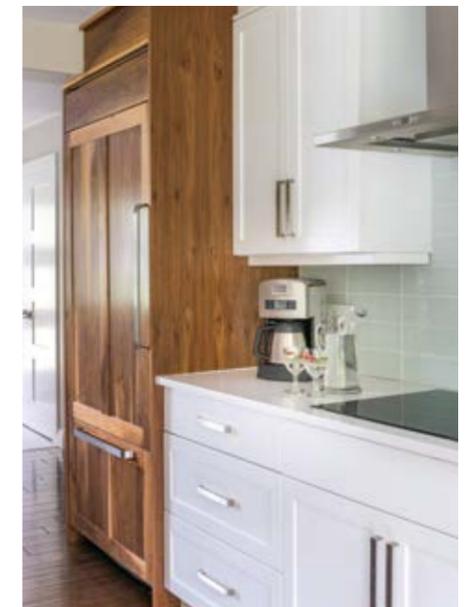
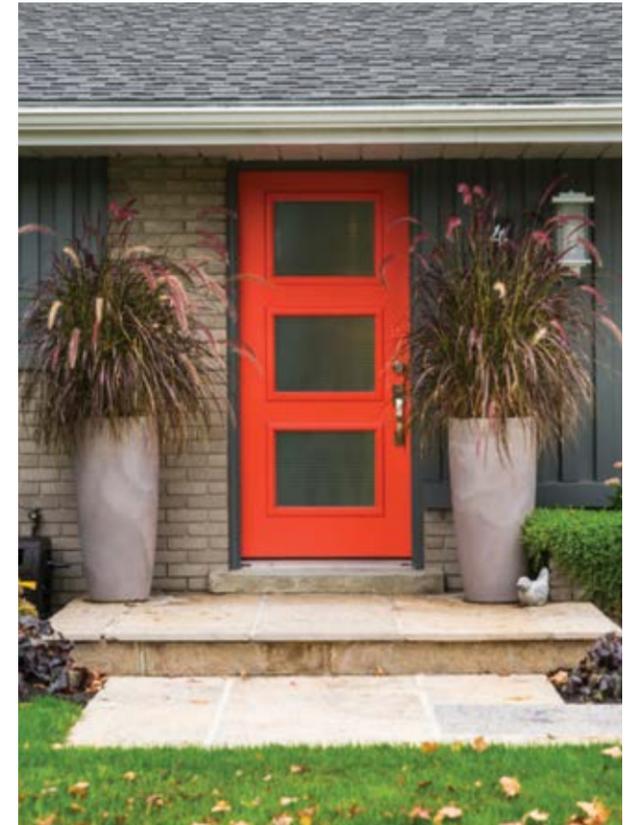


Homeowners Rick and Maureen Schuler

Rick and Maureen Schuler's Walkerton home greets you with open arms, making you feel welcome and at ease.

Perhaps it's their panelled, orange front door – a colour representing warmth, creativity, joy, balance and determination. And determination and creativity were required in order to transform the outdated 1962 bungalow they purchased three years ago.

While new windows and landscaping revitalized the 1,500 sq. ft. house, much of the home's exterior has remained the same. It was the interior that saw major changes. The main living space once cut up by small rooms is now an open floor plan with a clean, pared-down design. "It was a total gut," Maureen says of the process, which saw the walls torn back to studs. *Continued on page 52*



TOP: A pop of orange flanked by oversize concrete urns delivers a big design statement. **ABOVE:** A combination of white and walnut in the kitchen is a classic reference to the home's 1960s origin. **LEFT:** A raised counter and open shelving provides a display for items and conceals the sink when guests walk in the front door.

feature

Despite the new floor plan, it was important to Maureen and Rick to stay true to the home's original character. They were on site every day for three months with their contractor **Leo Al's Contracting**. Throughout the process, they were mindful to stay local when hiring contractors and services, including the Schulers' own **RKS Electric** in Walkerton, which they have since sold.

The Schulers sought guidance from **Pamela Farrow Architectural Technologist** who helped put Rick's vision to paper and reimagined the new layout while designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** helped bring the space to life. Maureen, who works from home, couldn't fathom designing and decorating a whole house. "I only knew I wanted an orange door," she laughs, "I don't know why, but I just knew."

Now, there's serenity in the home's minimalistic design, which is complemented by streamlined furnishings from **Smitty's Fine Furniture** with Scandinavian influence.

RIGHT: A stunning chandelier above the dining table forms the characteristic sunburst motif common in mid-century design. **BELOW:** Keeping a neutral palette allows Maureen to change out her accent colours easily. Modern floral arrangements throughout the home by Carrie Lynn Weber.



Every space needs a focal point. The chevron pattern was re-popularized in the 70s by Italian fashion house Missoni and it continues to make a bold statement today.

LEFT: A pair of swivel chairs can be moved around as the needs of the space demand. Tree painting by Cindy Dietz. **BELOW:** The repetition of the panel doors inside and out is another element that streamlines the aesthetic.



The large sectional draws you in and maple hardwood from **Cuneo Interiors** is a perfect balance beneath your feet.

Admittedly, this is not the type of design Maureen and Rick were used to. In fact, it was a total flip of the coin compared to their previous stone farmhouse, which was cut up by small rooms filled with antiques. "We always knew our next home would be open concept," explains Maureen, who sees her new space as "comfortable, calming and family friendly."

Once cordoned off on its own, their compact and efficient kitchen

now looks into the living and dining space. Eye-catching, custom walnut cabinetry was built and installed by **Kreller Kitchens** and even incorporates a slice of history in a special feature above the fridge: a piece of a walnut tree from Rick's father's property. The appliances are concealed behind the cabinetry, a detail Maureen loves because of the open-concept living. "I didn't want to be looking at the fridge and dishwasher while relaxing in the living room," she says. Accenting the cupboards are white quartz counters by **The Old Barn**, light grey walls (Cuneo Interiors and **Rick Weiler Painting**) and subtle, clear-

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best friend **Debbie Schenk**. A large painting portrays Rick and Maureen's old property and farmhouse on the outskirts of Walkerton, a lovely reminder of where they came from. Maureen's favourite piece by her friend is called *Little Black Dress* and it hangs in the hallway on the opposite side of the house, which leads to the guest bathroom and two bedrooms.

In the guest room, original Bogdon and Gross bunk beds (that were purchased new for Rick and his brother when they were young)

are positioned as a pair of twin beds, which is perfect for visits from their grandchildren.

The master bedroom with walk-in closet and en suite are painted in a rich grey called Metropolitan by **Benjamin Moore**. Fine craftsmanship can be seen in the trim work throughout the house by **Bernie McGlynn Lumber Ltd.** and the same attention to detail found in the kitchen cupboards is reflected in the walnut cabinetry in the master en suite. *Continued on page 56*



glass subway tiles. All of these features are enhanced by the magnitude of natural light that beams into the living space from the near floor-to-ceiling windows from **Strassburger Windows and Doors** that run along the back of the home. In fact, all but two windows in the house were replaced to make the most of their beautiful surroundings.

While the new interior may be simplistic in design, it is anything but boring. Across the room, a bold accent wall dressed in a black and white chevron wallcovering made from hand-woven sisal fibres (Tamarisk Interior Design) sits next to the original wood burning fireplace that was updated with sleek ceramic tile (Cuneo Interiors).

Beyond the dining and living combination, the stairwell that leads to the basement was opened up and allows for the natural light to cascade down to Maureen's office, to a walkout basement and soon-to-be guest bedroom and bathroom.

Beyond the stairwell, once wasted space has been converted into a wide corridor that also doubles as a mudroom and allows room for a pantry and a ventilated space for hockey gear, not to mention a large laundry room with a view. "Rick loves Pam for his hockey closet," Maureen jokes. "And I love ironing now!"

Complementing the design and palette throughout the main living space is artwork created by local artists, including Maureen's



TOP: The long and low exterior remains true to its origins. **LEFT:** An abstract angular garden sculpture was made by artist and friend Debbie Schenk. **ABOVE:** The back deck is a quiet place to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings and is large enough to entertain family and friends. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** To keep the open space cohesive, the white and walnut cabinetry is repeated in the hallway from the garage entrance. **TOP RIGHT:** A border of blue glass tile adds a splash of colour to an otherwise all-white palette in the guest bathroom. **BOTTOM:** The laundry room offers a pop of jewel tone at the end of the hallway.



The drapes in the principal bedroom flow the width of the wall to add a layer of softness and the illusion of a larger window. **RIGHT:** Instead of double sinks, the en suite millwork includes a towel tower beside the sink to optimize functionality. Art by Susan Seitz.



A cosy guest room hosts sleepovers for Rick and Maureen's grandchildren.

The large back deck off of the kitchen is Rick and Maureen's happy place. "You can see why we bought the house," she says, looking down into the gardens and wooded ravine below.

New glass railings surround the deck in order to take advantage of the view. What makes the neighbourhood even more special to the couple is the fact that Rick was raised just down the street and tobogganed down what was then a treeless ravine. And when growing up, Maureen remembers coming to town with her family to see the Christmas lights in the new development.

The remodel was a perfect homecoming for the Schulers and they have no intentions of moving again.

"We can fit wheelchairs in here," Maureen laughs. "We always feel comfortable. There was never a moment where we haven't felt at home." **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Bernie McGlynn Lumber Ltd • Cuneo Interiors • Debbie Schenk • Cindy Dietz • Kreller Kitchens • Lang's Plumbing & Heating & Air Conditioning • Leo Al's Contracting • Pamela Farrow Architectural Technologist • RKS Electric Inc. • Smitty's Fine Furniture • Strassburger Windows and Doors • Susan Seitz • Tamarisk Interior Design • The Old Barn • Rick Weiler Painting

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