

PICTURE PERFECT

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**
FLOWERS **DUTCH MILL FLOWER SHOP** | OUTDOOR STAGING **DESIGN FACTORY INTERIORS**

The Reeves family is not afraid of colour. Artist **Allyson Schmidt-Reeves**, her husband John Reeves and their two daughters, Lauryn and Ireland, live in a happy, colourful home filled with meaningful items, special finds, art projects, gifts and keepsakes.

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Two unique doors lead into artist and homeowner Allyson Reeves' art studio; one was the home's original back door, the other is a custom loft door made with wood from her grandmother's home – and painted bright blue to fit the décor. **OPPOSITE, LEFT:** Black walls make the art studio feel like a gallery. **RIGHT:** The walls in the rest of the addition to this home are bright white and are the basis for the beachy oasis.



LEFT: This sliding wood door near the front entrance was a selling feature when Allyson first viewed this home. She says she absolutely fell in love with it. **BELOW:** Muskoka chairs and Allyson's art welcome visitors to this friendly, warm home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The formal dining room, in the original home, remains mostly unchanged, including a feature window with beading the previous owner asked the Reeves to promise not to remove.



The Reeves family gathers in their new kitchen, an addition off the back of the original home. **BELOW:** This blue hutch, which the Reeves found in cottage country, fits their beachy theme perfectly. **BELOW RIGHT:** Just above the breakfast nook, in the corner, is the entrance to Lauryn and Ireland's clubhouse, where they can host sleepovers.



The only thing in their home more vibrant than Allyson's art is everyone's demeanor. Clearly a close-knit family, all of the Reeves are passionate about art, whether creating it (both daughters have a love for music and art) or simply enjoying it.

And, just like a great piece of art, their Kitchener home has a story to tell. Although it is 116 years old, the Reeves are only the second family to have owned it. They purchased the home about 21 years ago from a man in his 90s who was born in the home.

John and Allyson were renting a home up the street when this one went up for sale. Allyson toured it alone and fell in love immediately, especially with a large, sliding wooden door just inside the entryway. It was a selling point for her – so she left set on buying it. And they did.

Over the years, when they felt like they needed more space, the Reeves considered moving. They explored a variety of model homes around Kitchener-Waterloo and explored the idea of building a new home from scratch, but it just didn't sit right with them. Not only do they love the character in their old home, but “we love our neighbours and neighbourhood too much to leave,” says John.

Plus, they have a fantastic lot and yard (featuring three large walnut trees) where they are, so instead of moving, they decided to put an addition on their home and stay put. They called **Sequoia Woodworks & Restoration** to help with the addition as well as a new front porch.

Now, off the back of the original home is a large open-concept kitchen and living space inspired by the beach and the vibe they love at their Port Elgin cottage. “We wanted to feel like we were at the beach even when we weren't,” says Allyson. “We added 30 feet out the back of our house and decorated it in modern beach style. Now I have the studio I've always dreamed about to get creative and messy!” Her lake-inspired paintings dot the walls both inside and outside of her studio, and 13-foot ceilings make the space feel even bigger than it is.

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Allyson's beach-inspired art livens up the walls in this bright new space.

The new great room is open to the kitchen and walks out to the brand new back deck. Large windows fill the space with light. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Even the main-floor bathroom, which also includes a full shower, gets a bright colour scheme. **BELOW:** The view from the studio out towards the great room.



This charming television wasn't yellow until Allyson got her hands on it, but it does hold many special memories for John, who watched man land on the moon on it at his parents' house.

LEFT: Allyson works her magic on a canvas in her new art studio. "The floor has many paint splatches from hours of different artwork," she says. "I don't worry about spilling!" **BOTTOM LEFT:** The picket fence headboard on this bed is actually made from the fencing that once lined the backyard.

The Reeves coordinated the new addition to tie into similar styles from the original home. They selected multi-pane windows that looked similar to the originals and installed thick trim, mouldings and baseboards that match the rest of the home, too. Many of their light fixtures were purchased through [The Lighting Shoppe](#).

Two doors with stories of their own separate Allyson's art studio from the main space: one was the home's original 100-year-old back door, which the Reeves moved inside. The other is a sliding blue barn door. Allyson salvaged floorboards from her grandmother's home in Shakespeare, which has since been torn down. [Scott](#) from [Artefacts Salvage and Design](#) transformed the floorboards into this door.

The made-in-Kitchener Electrohome television outside Allyson's studio came from John's parents' house. He watched man land on the moon on this TV and although he hasn't fired it up since bringing it to his own home, it's a statement and conversation piece, especially since Allyson painted it yellow.

A larger kitchen means a new gathering space, plus all the storage the family needs and plenty of space for cooking and entertaining. [Adrian Betker](#) of [Absolute Custom Woodworks](#) designed and built the kitchen and [Cory](#) and [Tammy Stewart](#) of [Plaid Designs](#) installed the backsplash.

The Reeves installed a built-in banquette just inside the door to the addition. It's just big enough for the four of them to sit down to eat (when they aren't using their formal dining room in the old part of the house or their new island), but it's what's above that's most unique: a clubhouse where Lauryn and Ireland have sleepovers. John says the space was intended for storage but wasn't entirely useful or necessary. So they added some electrical outlets so the girls can plug in their various devices, tossed down some mattresses, blankets and a bevy of throw cushions, and it's a comfy little nook where the girls can host their friends.

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feature

Under the canopy of some large walnut trees, the Reeves just built a multi-layer deck. A Hauser Furniture conversation set fits perfectly on one level, while another is left open as a dance floor – the family loves to entertain. On the flagstone patio, a new fire pit is the perfect spot to cosy up and have a conversation with friends over toasty marshmallows.



Most recently, the Reeves updated their backyard as an extension of their beautiful addition. They had Plaid Designs build a large deck off the back of the house, which includes a cooking and eating space, room for a conversation set, and a large open space they call their dance floor – overhead twinkle lights and all.

Below that, they had **Steve Fraser** of **Fraser Stone** install a flagstone fire pit, where the Reeves love to cosy into Muskoka chairs and roast marshmallows, even when the weather cools down in fall.

Between their new indoor and outdoor spaces, it's tough to choose where to spend their time, but wherever they are, the Reeves are usually all together – and embracing colour at every turn. **OH**

Outdoor furniture was generously loaned by Hauser Furniture in Waterloo. Shannon Eckel-Braun from Design Factory Interiors staged the Reeves' backyard.

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