

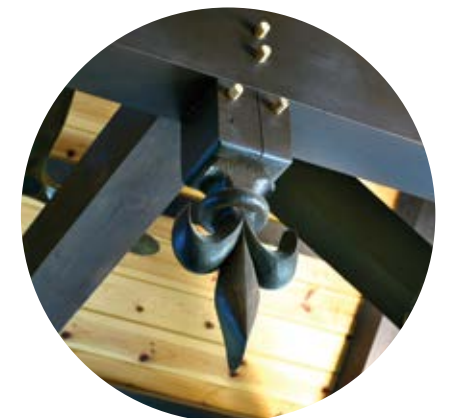
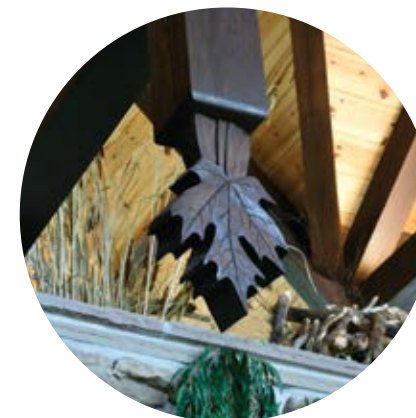


This medieval-inspired custom table is the perfect centrepiece in the wide open ground floor space. **OPPOSITE:** There are some meaningful details in this home. Each carving holds significance to the Lépines.

—A MANOR— *Nestled In The Woods*

At work, Francis Lépine is a master builder who knows the value of quality and enduring design. It comes as no surprise that he turned to these guiding principles when it came time to build his own home.

STORY **SUSAN SYKES** | PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**



NESTLED IN THE WOODS on the outer edge of Ottawa, the Lépine residence sits in a clearing at the end of a peaceful, winding drive through the trees. Approaching the home, the expansive stonework by **Arctic Masonry** and grand, solid-wood and bronze front doors immediately convey a sense of permanence and strength.

“The design was influenced by a number of different styles,” notes Francis. “You can see elements of a French seigneurial manor, stone fort and outpost lodge all combined to create a true Canadian style of architecture.”

Walk through the front door and you are transported back in time. Although the home was built in 2017, it has all the character and grandeur of a historical property. Overhead, dark timber

beams by **Wooden Shoe Timberframe Co.** are accented by hand-carved finials, contrasting beautifully with the lighter wood tone of the soaring two-storey planked ceiling.

The centrepiece of the foyer is a magnificent stone wall dividing the entry and main hallway from the kitchen beyond. It features a gurgling waterfall, greenery and numerous natural elements to bring the outdoors in.

Francis and his wife, Johanne, ultimately wanted to build something that would stand the test of time: a comfortable, thoughtfully constructed environment that could easily be adapted to suit their family’s needs now and into the future. Whether to accommodate the growth of the family, or the aging of its current members, “We planned ahead for

long term use,” says Francis.

For example, the wide hallways are designed to accommodate wheelchairs and are lined with attractive yet functional handrails to assist with mobility. With multiple generations currently residing in the home, accessibility was an important consideration throughout the space.

Wood and stone are used extensively as both structural and decorative elements, often repurposed from the building site. In the living room, the rustic fireplace is constructed using stone that was excavated for the basement. “At one time, this stone was on the bottom of the sea,” remarks Francis, alluding to the fact that the area where the house stands was covered with glacial waters of the Champlain Sea.

Continued on page 57



In the foyer you get a sense of the height and the powerful design of this home. Connections to the outdoors include antler light fixtures and door handles and nature-influenced etching on the glass.



TOP LEFT: The front door of this lodge-inspired home is found at the end of a wooded path. **TOP RIGHT:** The Ironwood tree and living waterfall lend serenity to the space. **ABOVE:** Francis and Johanne, along with furry friends Cashew and Baker, relax on the fireplace. The Lépines love animals and have a number of pets. **RIGHT:** Flags of Normandy and New France are a nod to the Lépines' ancestors.

The main living area is designed for gathering in the centre of the home. The living room, dining room and kitchen flow seamlessly from one space to the next, flooded with natural light streaming in through the expansive windows from [Lessard Group Inc.](#)

The kitchen features a large, U-shaped island with plenty of space for cooking and serving. [Laurysen Kitchens Ltd.](#) was given free rein to come up with a design to reflect the distinct character of the home, and they did not disappoint. Warm-toned wood cabinetry is complemented by gleaming granite countertops from [Masterpiece Granite and Marble Inc.](#) and hardware with an antique, wrought-iron look. Backlit onyx panels add wow factor to the sides of the island, while a dramatic black granite backsplash and custom hood fan anchor the pro-style range and wall ovens. *Continued on page 58*





LEFT: A towering stone fireplace commands attention in the master suite. **ABOVE:** Just one of the many rooms in this manor where square beams draw the eye upward, providing incredible visuals from all angles. **BELOW:** Much of the home is designed with accessibility in mind, including this large shower. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The expansive walk-in closet was custom designed by Lauryzen Kitchens Ltd.



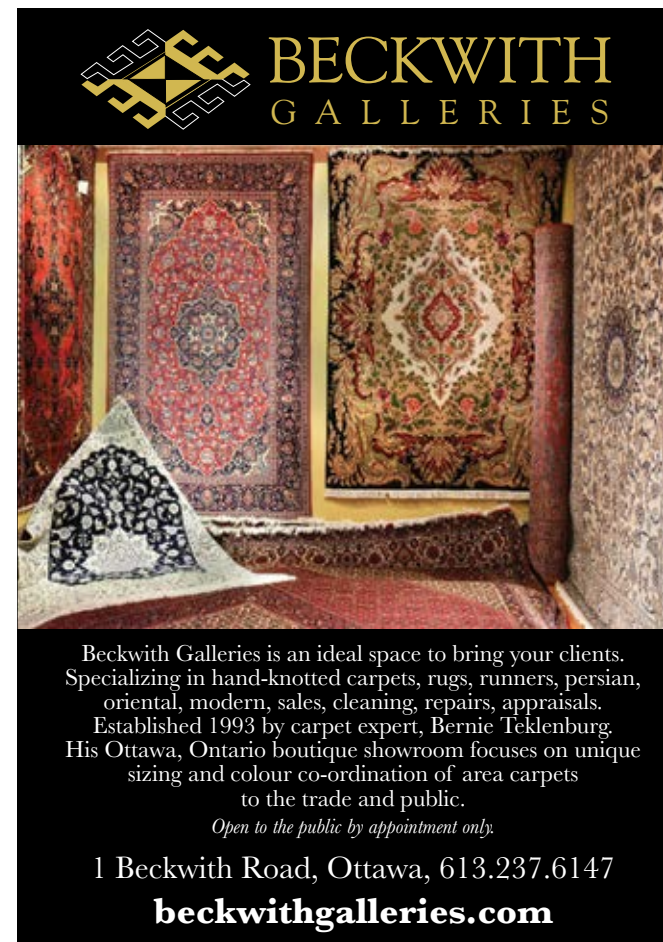
A home this spacious could feel cold and stark, but by marrying details from several complementary styles and weaving historical and natural elements throughout, the overall feeling is warm and welcoming. *Continued on page 62*



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“YOU CAN SEE ELEMENTS OF A SEIGNEURIAL MANOR, STONE FORT AND OUTPOST LODGE ALL COMBINED TO CREATE A TRUE CANADIAN STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE.”

And while design trends come and go, one thing is for certain: the Lépins will be able to call this home for generations to come. “Our ancestors would be proud,” says Francis. “What we have created here shows that we haven’t forgotten them; we are continually improving and are pushing the limits even farther.” **OH**



LEFT: This bright bedroom is sweet and has softer lines in contrast with the rest of the home. **BELOW LEFT:** The striking angles of this cosy window seat are balanced by a porthole window, framing woodland views. **BELOW:** The second floor loft provides a great vantage point for the unique Canadian-influenced décor.



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