

FIELD OF *Dreams*

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Take a short drive beyond suburbia and you'll find the rural fabric bordering the city of Ottawa is still quilted with swatches of the tilled fields of family farms. Many of the families who live and work here have long-established roots, their ties to the land is as much a tradition as the many farmhouses found here.

Gord and Christine Quaile's ties to their land date back to the 80s. But the couple, who have lived and farmed in the Greely area their entire lives, have moved on – from the home they had built back then and with the times – into a cool contemporary home. It may not be what you'd expect to see out in the country, surrounded by cornfields. But the home they had **Greenmark Builders Inc.** construct for them would certainly exceed anyone's expectations of a custom-built contemporary.

You could say their home is outstanding in its field. With a field of corn as its backdrop, their 2,300 sq. ft. bungalow, designed by **Caswell Custom Home Design**, features an exterior of wide-plank siding imported

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LEFT: A foil painted wall depicting an abstract of trees is found in the open stairwell leading to the lower level. **BELOW:** Homeowners Christine and Gord Quaile in their kitchen. **BOTTOM:** The fireplace column features two large slabs of travertine imported from Italy. **OPPOSITE:** A field of corn is the backdrop for the Quailes' contemporary bungalow in the Greely area.





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from the U.S. complemented with manufactured stone. The look, especially with its *au courant* glass garage doors and flat roof, is a 180 from the neighbouring brick house.

“We purchased this farm in 1985 and our intention is to live here forever,” Christine says, explaining that she and Gord had previously built the very traditional looking two-storey home next door, where they raised their children and where their daughter and son-in-law now live with their grandchild. “We were supposedly downsizing and we wanted everything on one level, to be wheelchair accessible if that was required one day. We also wanted everything open plan, with the backdrop the field of corn or beans or whatever was planted that year. We wanted to let the outdoors in.”

Greenmark Builders, winner of five major awards in the past three years alone, including a People’s Choice Awards, is known for building energy-efficient homes. But Mark Kranenburg of Greenmark says through the design process and getting to know their clients,



Kitted with Miele appliances, the kitchen adjoins the dining area and provides another wall of windows. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The kitchen’s bright accent colour is carried over to the laundry room. **BOTTOM:** The Quailes are usually found in the centre of the house, where the open-plan kitchen, living room and dining area adjoin a sizeable sunroom.

his company mainly builds custom spaces that reflect their clients’ particular vision for their home.

“Originally, we weren’t given much guidance on what Christine wanted in her new home,” Kranenburg says. “She basically walked us through her old house and said, ‘I love this house. I want everything this house has, but instead of a two storey, I want a bungalow.’ She had a small laundry list of what she wanted in the house, but that was it. Once we started to come up with the design, she became more specific in what she wanted and we started working together on putting it all together.”

The end result was borne of a trust that Kranenburg and Christine had in each other. “Christine said she wanted us to be creative,” he says. “She really trusted our team and loved what we came up with when we got creative.”

Christine’s confidence in Greenmark keeping to her vision allowed them the leeway to think outside the box, with her home containing many unique features, including the backlit ceiling in the living room, which creates an impact when first entering the home. Mark’s team created the look by nesting three boxes into each other, lit by LED striplights.

“We didn’t accept ordinary for anything in this house,” Kranenburg says, pointing out that the fireplace is faced with two huge slabs of travertine, from **Euro Tile & Stone**. The Quailes’ home was one of the first installations of this material, imported from Italy.

Christine says everything in the house, from the dishes on their dining room table from **Luxe Home Interiors** to the light fixtures from **Arevco Lighting**, is new to the home and chosen specifically for this house. *Continued on page 38*

With its high-pitched ceiling, the sunroom features a wall of windows on three sides and provides access to the back deck, along with a view of the cornfields on the hundred-acre farm.

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With Shade-O-Matic light-filtering roller shades creating a serene atmosphere, the master bedroom contains the only furniture the Quailes brought from their previous home. **BELOW:** The en suite contains a standalone tub from Mondeau.

“Isn’t it interesting we spend the first 50 years accumulating things and after that you spend your time decluttering and downsizing,” Christine says. “In this house, everything has a purpose. The only furniture we brought with us was our bedroom suite, which will be a family heirloom one day.”

Kranenburg says one element that makes this house so special is the fact that Christine invested the time in working with designer Brenda MacPherson of **Brenda MacPherson Design**, and through their joint effort, the attention to every last detail paid off.

“She really put the time in with Brenda,” Kranenburg says. “Brenda worked with Christine in choosing all the materials and colours and that really pulls it all together.”

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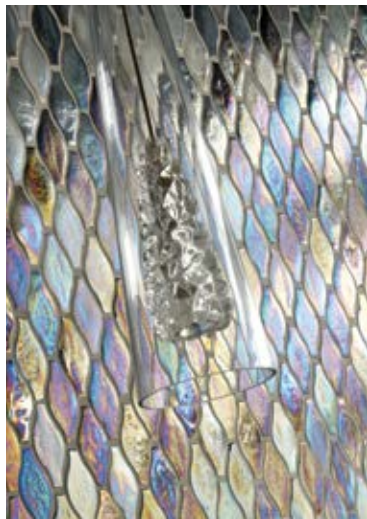
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TOP: Acrylic paintings by local artist Sarah Moffat hang on either side of the fireplace in the lower level.
LEFT: Foil tile creates a feature wall in the main level powder room.
ABOVE: An up-close look of the foil tile, which changes colour depending on the angle in which it's viewed.

With the master wing to one side and their home office to the other, the main living area is located at the centre of the house. The open-plan living room, dining room and kitchen with a Cambria waterfall island from **Urban Quarry** and countertops from **Hiltz Marble Granite**, and dining area all adjoin to provide an expansive view of the Quailes' farm – one that took painstaking detail to create.

"Gord was concerned he was losing his view of the farmyard," Kranenburg says. "So we mounted a camera to the old house to study the view he used to get sitting at his kitchen table. We tried to make sure he got the same view from the new house as he did from the old, or as close to as possible."

Bringing even more of the outdoors in is the spacious sunroom: with a high peaked roof, windows on all sides and screens to allow summer breezes in, the room is a cosy spot to enjoy the view of the season, without having to deal with insects or intemperate weather.

"This is our first summer in the new home, and I expect this will be my favourite room in the house," Christine says. "I think we'll be spending a lot of time there." **OH**

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