

# HEALTHY HOME

STORY **KATE HUSSEY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JAY ROBINSON**



It was hard to say goodbye to Bowen Island, B.C., a place Barbara Reid had grown so fond of. But Barbara wanted to live closer to her daughter. The house she purchased in Bancroft was in the ideal location, sitting peacefully on Spurr Lake, and in proximity to her daughter's retreat centre. However, the interior of the house just didn't feel like home.

The exterior had great potential structurally, but the inside was outdated and felt cramped. Barbara describes the old tight hallway as a dark tunnel. Being an avid art collector, she required a lot of light and

plenty of wall space to hang her paintings. With a design from **KAVAN Building Design and Drafting** and renovation from **Garnet Northey** of **Spotlight Home & Lifestyle Inc.**, the whole top floor of this raised bungalow has been opened up and transformed so Barbara can now showcase the exquisite art she has collected over the years.

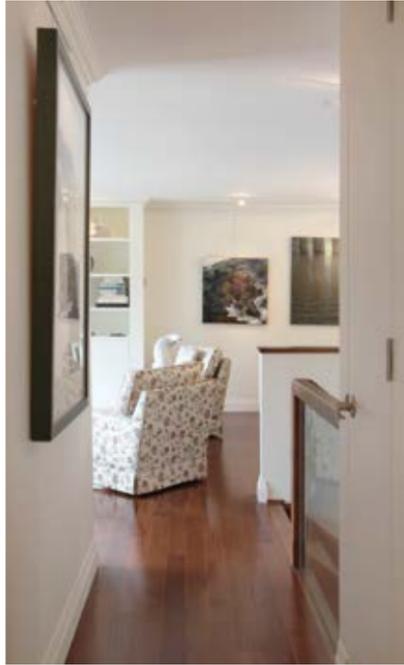
Guests can't believe the makeover. "They love it," says Barbara. "It's bright, it's airy, it's modern. Everybody who comes in loves it, especially if they saw it before." *Continued on page 36*

**ABOVE:** White furniture and a punch of colour add to the modern look of this home. **TOP RIGHT:** Barbara's canoe sits on the shore of Spurr Lake behind the well-kept garden. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** The columns on the exterior were added as part of the renovation. **RIGHT:** All-new appliances and an improved layout make the kitchen feel fresh and spacious.

# home & builder

During the crisp autumn months and chilly winter evenings, heated travertine natural-marble flooring in the foyer makes it comfortable and toasty when guests take off their shoes. “We always ask customers if they want in-floor heating,” Garnet says. “Not only is it warm, but any moisture from your feet dries rather than just sitting there. It keeps the whole foyer warm as well.” In addition, custom oak railings with tempered glass from **Kawartha Stair & Rail Ltd.** expand the foyer and eliminate the former feeling of confinement.

A gallery awaits at the top of the stairs, with paintings hung in the dining area using a classic art-gallery mounting system. Large Douglas fir casement windows from Loewen Windows face the lake, illuminating the open-concept kitchen, living room and dining area. All of the south-facing windows block 99 per cent of ultraviolet light, preserving the artwork in the home. Light filtering shades are from **Carpetland.**



**LEFT:** The upgraded and expanded entry is a special place for Barbara's art, viewed from the dining area. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Barbara's mounting system makes it easy to switch up her paintings without any hassle or fear of damage. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A wood table shipped from British Columbia is the centerpiece of this open-concept dining area. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Art is displayed along the wooden stairway. **TOP RIGHT:** Pieces by Canadian artist Bill Reid hang in the foyer. **BOTTOM:** Shelving surrounding the television was installed with the gallery theme in mind and is now a well-utilized display space.

An elevated deck, with a tempered glass railing, captures the view of the water without any obstruction. There is access to the deck from the glass sliding doors in the kitchen and master bedroom.

To keep the focus on the artwork, all the walls are painted Benjamin Moore's Cloud White from **Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper Inc.**

The kitchen is the ultimate cooking space where Barbara can host meals with her daughter. “We spend most of our time having dinners together and cooking. It's a lovely kitchen, everything is so well appointed,” she says. A neutral subway-tiled backsplash complements the black quartz countertop, ordered from **Buchanan Kitchen & Bath.** Behind the range, the backsplash sparkles with hints of shiny silver over warm grey and ivory tones. Upgrades include a wine cooler, dishwasher and a sink with an instant hot water system. “She doesn't have to boil the kettle every time she wants a cup of tea, Barbara just turns the tap on and she has hot water,” says Garnet. There is even a small floor-level cupboard where Barbara can keep her cat Sammy's dish hidden away.

Opposite the kitchen, a pleasant living room awaits, a space that Barbara considers her favourite. A sleek linear fireplace from **Friendly Fires** is neatly positioned beneath the television and enclosed with built-in cabinetry, creating a strong focal point.

All of the doors along the widened hallway extend right to the ceiling and are uninterrupted by trim work or casings. “It's a really unique feature, very European,” says Garnet. “The full-height doors give you a better sense of grandeur.” When all the doors are closed, everything is smooth and on the same plane. *Continued on page 38*





A commissioned portrait of Barbara hangs beside the bed, right next to the walk-out door that reveals a stunning view of the lake. **LEFT:** The closet door in the master bedroom features a large mirror, which makes the room appear larger.

In the master bedroom, Barbara's view each morning is a painting of the ocean; the same view she would see each morning in British Columbia. A large walk-in closet boasts an abundance of space for clothing and shoes.

Slide open the easy-glide pocket door to enter the en suite bathroom, which conveniently includes both a freestanding tub, faucet and a curbless roll-in shower from **Norm's Cash & Carry**. Smooth pebble flooring extends under the tub and shower and comes out another foot until it meets the wood floor. "Barbara wanted hardwood in there, so we had to have the hardwood far enough away from the shower so it didn't get wet," says Garnet. The flooring throughout the home is Vintage Hickory engineered hardwood, installed by **Meistercraft Wood Flooring**.

Part of the challenge throughout this project was to make sure all products, materials and finishes entering the home contained no added urea formaldehyde. "We are recognized by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as a Healthy Housing renovator, and that was really important to Barbara because she is very sensitive to urea formaldehyde," says Garnet. "That meant we had to source some products and items that you wouldn't normally use."

"You're only as good as your last project," says Garnet. "It was the greatest reward to have a customer say to me, 'You've taken this house that I was unhappy in, and you've made it my home.'" **OH**



**ABOVE LEFT:** A door-less shower in the en suite provides easy access. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The white sink and counter are simple and modern. **LEFT:** A deep, freestanding tub is the perfect spot to unwind after a long day.

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