

HOCKEY HEADQUARTERS



STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
STYLING **SARA MARTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The mechanicals in a home of this size – with a 2,000 sq. ft. indoor swimming pool and a great room that transforms into a concert hall to host visiting bands – took up nearly half the top floor when the builder drew up the plans. The owner asked a challenging question: could the mechanicals be tucked up in the attic of the timber frame to keep the top floor for living space? Undaunted, builder **Andrew Noxon** of **Upstream Construction** sat back, went for a drive, took apart the house in his head and put it back together again with the mechanicals in the attic. Yes, he could visualize how it could be done.

This residence atop the escarpment is a mastery of technology and

technique, requiring the coordination of more than 100 highly skilled tradespeople under Noxon's leadership over nearly three years. But that's not what meets the eye. What you see is a farmhouse of rugged heavy timber, quarried limestone and steel. It's Bruce Wayne's Bat Cave turned inside out, or, better, a Canadian-version X-men headquarters.

The massive project began, however, with the home's more modest alter ego: a hockey rink. Upstream Construction was approached by the owner – an accomplished businessman and musician – who wanted to build an indoor arena for his friends to gather and play hockey in. Noxon was game. "I like a challenge," he says. "We build custom spaces, not just houses. Think it up and we'll do it." *Continued on page 50*

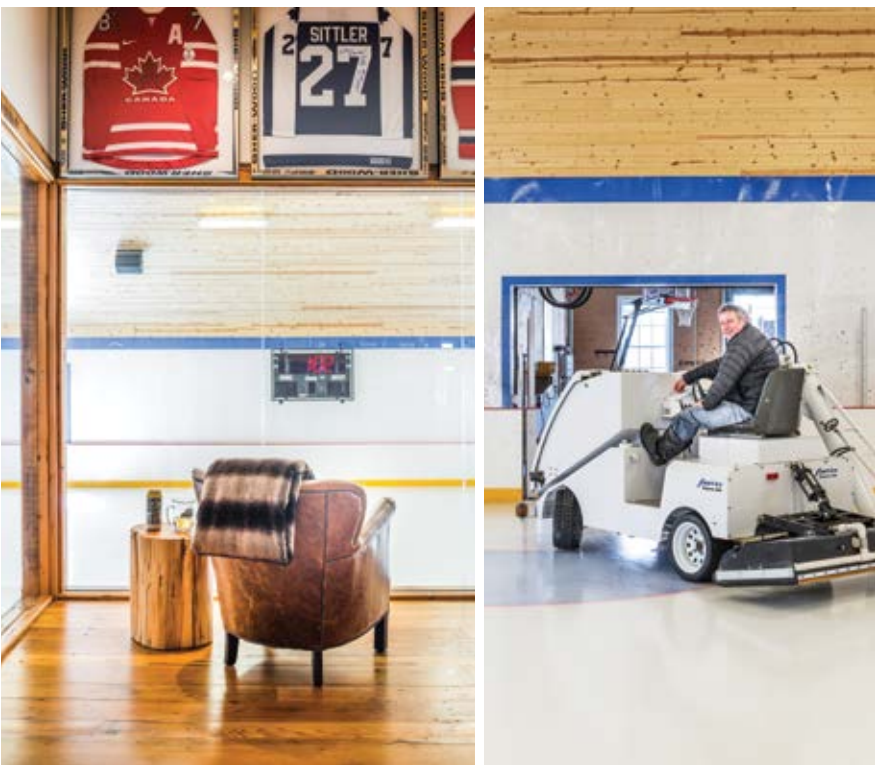


The dressing room in the home's custom hockey arena stores enough gear to outfit two teams. Drum-sanded barn board walls have a warm patina. Every detail was considered for an authentic arena experience. **BELOW LEFT:** Andrew Noxon of Upstream Construction stands outside the arena, overlooking the timber frame home across the field. His background in carpentry shows in the fine finishing of both the arena and home.



Noxon has spent the last 25 years building varied projects and homes, many north of Toronto, some in the GTA. He's taught his trade to 11 apprentices during that time, and is passionate about passing his carpentry knowledge along. While Upstream Construction has been on the building scene in Southern Georgian Bay for about eight years, Noxon has been skiing at Blue Mountain since he was 15 and at Osler Ski Club for 11 years. He and his family live in Caledon, and when his projects in this region are in high production, home is his chalet in Collingwood.

For the arena project, Noxon researched private and residential ice rinks around Ontario. The homeowner wanted to take the project several steps beyond any existing arena they visited. The surface by Custom Ice is 40-by-90 feet, fed by reverse-osmosis filtered water for optimal ice clarity and serviced by its own Zamboni. **Huronian Alarm & Fire Security Inc.** installed a full-size scoreboard and sound system. The arena (and home) was built with fail-safes including backup generators and a 66,000-gallon fire suppression water-holding pond ready to access in the event of a fire. "The remoteness of the arena and structures demanded it," says Noxon.



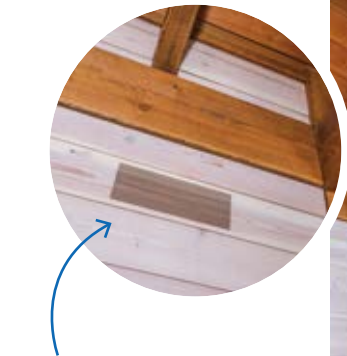
Change rooms and entertaining areas in the arena are impressive in impeccably drum-sanded reclaimed barn board, honed down to a hit-and-miss old grey and freshly uncovered pine patina. Mitred boards that appear to curve around corners reveal the quality of finish carpentry Upstream delivers. A full-service bar with cabinetry by **Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath** and a live-edge bar top organize the beverage wares while guests sit in leather chairs to watch the proceedings from behind tempered glass. *Continued on page 53*

FAR LEFT: A distressed leather club chair is placed in front of the scoreboard. **LEFT:** The premium Custom Ice surface is maintained by the arena's Zamboni. **BELOW:** Game-goers are served by a full bar, including Creemore Springs Lot 9 Pilsner and pretzels.





POOL PHOTOS: ROBERT NELSON



Venting slats were cut directly into the wall boarding to reduce visual clutter.



But the hero of this duo is the heavy-timber-frame home. With the arena underway, the homeowner readied for a residence on the property. Noxon had overseen one timber frame build previously, and he was primed to take on a job of this magnitude. “Wood is angles and measures and cuts and I knew how the pieces would come together,” says Noxon.

A 10,500 sq. ft., eight-bedroom home soon went up. “The quality of material we received from Canadian Timberframes Limited (CTF) was beyond comparison,” says Noxon. “The perfect joinery, CNC work and the skill of the CTF crew that came in was impressive.” Along with the heavy Douglas fir timbers honed in British Columbia, tech reps from CTF worked alongside Upstream for a week to kick off the frame-raising. “The combination of my crew working with CTF was a great match,” says Noxon, and as a result Upstream is now asked to do tech jobs for CTF in Ontario.

Continued on page 56



TOP LEFT: Glass railings throughout the home keep the sight lines clear. Whitewashed fir planks brighten the interior walls. **LEFT:** A gangway above the kitchen leads to the master suite. The home was architected by Alison Noble of Blue Sky Architecture in Colorado, who called for upsized timbers to be given an aged look to support the farmhouse style. **ABOVE:** McKeough Supply sourced this elegant stand-alone tub in Englishcast volcanic limestone by Victoria + Albert.



TOP LEFT: A wide-mouth pipe cycles water from the built-in hot tub, as does a wide waterfall. McKeough Supply had the hinges and fittings on the glass-walled shower coated to match the faucets and all metal finishings in the pool area. **ABOVE:** Timber trusses above the indoor swimming pool were arched upward to span the space. Skylights draw in the sun and warm-air registers blend into the custom woodwork around the pool deck to keep the temperature even in the space. **LEFT:** On the lower level, Metal Mind Forge created wine racks and a grapevine sculpture in the wine room. The Finnish sauna is warmed by over 150 pounds of volcanic stone, and the steam bath contains radiant heating in the seats.

An immense fireplace anchors one end of the great room, furnished with a leather sectional and bar-height table.



TOP & RIGHT: The stage end of the great room has lighting to rival any concert venue, complete with a full-service bar. Thirty-five windows operate electronically, with all systems accessible by the owners via their mobile devices. **ABOVE:** The upper level is serviced with a timber-frame elevator, detailed in metal, including an old-fashioned call button.



LEFT: The den overlooks a courtyard and through to the swimming pool.
BELOW: A table for 14 in the dining room was custom-made for the home.

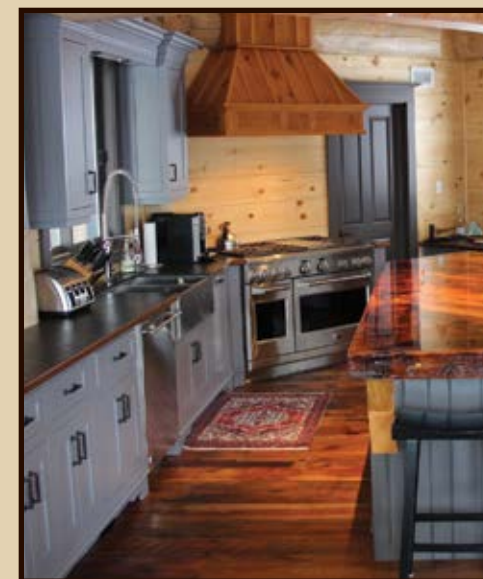
The homeowner designed and wired this light fixture himself.



“This house was an incredibly complex build and each tradesperson and supplier who worked on it stepped up and delivered,” says Noxon. He gives accolades to **B&R Heating & Cooling**, which mounted the extensive HVAC systems in both buildings (much of it in the attic of the timber frame). “B&R executed down to details like radiant heating in the seats of the steam room,” says Noxon. The monumental indoor swimming pool, sauna and steam bath are of resort quality. **McKeough Supply** worked closely with the owner and builder to source premium products and fixtures including a Finnish sauna system heated by over 150 pounds of volcanic stone.

The homeowners now host groups and events throughout the year, entertaining in the great room. Live music booms on stage from the 3,000-watt sound system with strobes, lasers and a smoke machine (installed by **CHS Productions**). The massive fireplace was faced in steel by **Kyle Thornley** of **Metal Mind Forge**, who also supplied coordinating metalwork throughout the home, including wood carts, light fixtures and cabinet hardware. Guests access the space by an unbelievable elevator crafted in timber with call buttons and floor indicators all in metal. *Continued on page 58*

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The owners' lair for personal use is more scaled. A chef's kitchen with live-edge bar lets the family share casual meals (cabinetry by Perkinsfield) while the dining table is lit by a metal fixture of LED candles that the homeowner designed and wired himself. A canoe is suspended above the front entry and kitchen. The family unwinds in the comfortable den with a serene view of the indoor pool across the courtyard.

The home and arena on this hilltop homestead are a force of wood, metal, rock and glass; headquarters suitable for a hero. **OH**

RIGHT: A canoe is supported by cantilevered rafter beams that also support four hanging pendant lights. **BELOW:** A comfortable chef's kitchen with cabinetry by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Over 800 tonnes of stone was brought in to skirt the home as well as clad the foyer exterior and interior feature walls.



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