

Après SKI CHALET

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FLOWERS **COLLINGWOOD FLOWERS & HOME DECOR**

Seagrass wallpaper adds another element of texture on either side of the dry-stacked fireplace. On cold nights, lots of cosy seating makes this room a favourite gathering spot. With large glass doors to the deck, the view to the slopes can also be enjoyed by the fire.



Patrick B. Coulter

Swiss-style ski chalets dot the landscape around Blue Mountain, many built during the 1960s when the economy was good and the skiing even better.

Known for their gabled roofs, wide eaves, balconies and exposed beams, these chalets can be found super close to the slopes. In other words, if you can find one for sale, and you have the budget and the resolve to renovate – buy it.

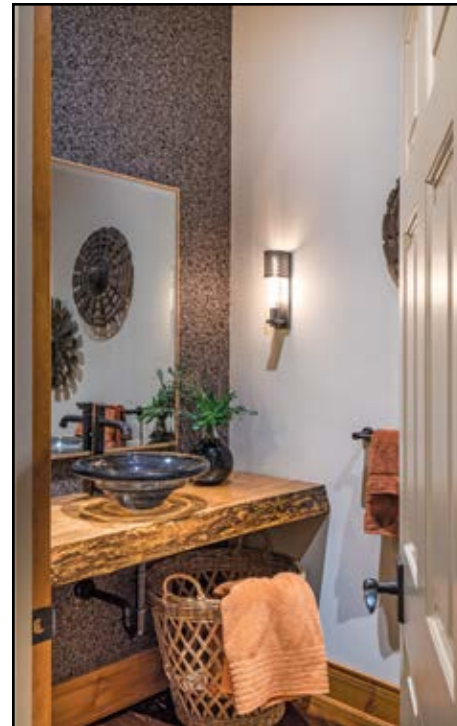
That's exactly what the owners of this totally transformed Swiss chalet did, purchasing the slope-side property on a wide court within walking distance of The Orchard in 2010.

They immediately brought in the firm of **Patrick B. Coulter & Associates** to handle the architecture and renovations. *Continued on page 70*



With a reconfigured roof line, stone facade and new windows, this rejuvenated chalet is being enjoyed and loved by a new generation. **ABOVE:** Patrick Coulter of Patrick B. Coulter & Associates enjoys the view of the ski hills from the heated front deck.

The upper level view to the mountain is always front and centre. Designer Barnard & Speziale was very conscious of maintaining a clear sightline. The exposed timbers on the ceiling add to the Swiss-style feel of the home.



“I always felt there was good value in these older chalets because they were under replacement value,” Patrick explains. “Clients could buy them and we could recondition them into what would read as a current-period chalet.”

Patrick and his team, along with designer **Jan Speziale** and the design team at **Barnard & Speziale**, worked on two distinct renovations – the first in 2010 and a second phase beginning in 2014.

“You cannot tell now that this is not a new construction house inside or outside,” he says.

In phase one, the shape of the roof was reconfigured, the kitchen was updated, the staircase was changed and the master suite was reshaped. “We did all of the washrooms, built new fireplaces and refinished the outside of the building and then added the feature windows,” adds Patrick.

“The day the purchase closed, Patrick started,” remembers the homeowner. “That was in August and we were in by Christmas.”

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LEFT: In the dining area, the two-by-two seating at the dining table keeps dinners intimate and engaging. Touches of blue highlight the rustic backdrop of the room. **TOP:** The new powder room on the second level is lined with cork wallpaper. The live-edge counter with the glass-vessel sink adds lots of visual interest in this small space.



All of the existing cabinetry was reused in the kitchen during the first phase of the renovation. New counters and the backsplash were updated and the hardware replaced. A wall of cabinets was repurposed into wine storage. The island cabinets were painted black and fitted with a wooden countertop with enough overhang to accommodate stools.



RIGHT: There is a comfortable spot by the fire, beside the kitchen, to have morning coffee or perhaps a fireside dinner. A cowhide rug covers the area. **BELOW:** Shannon Reeve and Jan Speziale of Barnard & Speziale by the concrete fireplace on the lower level.



A roaring fire, red wine and salty chips are the perfect après-ski combination.



ABOVE: In the spa area of the newest addition, a concrete and wood vanity was designed and manufactured by Michael Curtis of Verge Select. **RIGHT:** A guest bedroom en suite has flat-panel cabinets with hidden closures that surround a window and take advantage of all available wall space. **BELOW:** The barn door offers a peek into the original master bedroom, which is now a luxurious guest suite.



The owners were spending more and more time at the chalet. Their family grew. They needed more space, so they called the team back in. “We just really trusted Patrick,” says the homeowner, “and Jan did our house in the city, I like her a lot.” The second phase added a new master bedroom suite with a private balcony, a new guest en suite and powder room upstairs and a party room/theatre, bar and spa bathroom on the ground floor. A large, red barn door opens to the lower addition. Barnard & Speziale selected the furniture, finishes and designed the millwork, most of it sourced through their company. Orange accents mimic the flames in the fireplace.

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Three pierced metal globe pendant lights of different sizes hang at different heights above the master bed.

RIGHT: Contrasting stone work on the surround in the master bedroom frames the linear gas fire and gives balance to the television above. **BELOW:** The floating double vanity in the master en suite has wall-mounted taps that keep the counter space clean and clear. **BOTTOM:** The free-standing bathtub sits in an alcove and is surrounded by windows that capture the older trees surrounding the house. **OPPOSITE:** The king size bed is balanced by the feature wall of leather and white oak. Burnt orange is used as an accent colour in the pillows, occasional chair, table lamps and the bench in front of the fireplace and entwined through the area rug.



Michael Curtis of **Verge Select** completed the millwork, concrete bar, fireplace surround and sink in the spa area. The L-shaped bar's live-edge concrete counter sits on top of custom cabinets with open shelving that houses the owner's Scotch collection.

During the ski season, the family uses the side entrance, where they can leave their skis in the attached garage. "But the rest of the year we go through the front door," says the homeowner.

Upstairs, the new addition was added just off the kitchen. Across the hall, the old master bedroom is now a guest room with custom drapery gifted to the homeowner by a friend in Switzerland. The en suite got a contemporary redo with a floating vanity and frosted glass doors.

Down the hall, a new powder room with a custom, live-edge vanity and vessel sink accommodates visitors. The original chalet lacked an upstairs powder room. *Continued on page 76*



The stunning new master suite sits at the end of the hall. White oak planks with a custom stain line the floor, continue up one wall and onto the ceiling. White timbers pay homage to the home's original Swiss style and enhance the roofline. Floor-to-ceiling stone surrounds a linear gas fireplace. The custom, king-size bed has an upholstered headboard made of panels that stretch nearly the width of the wall. The orange and grey palette echoes the colour scheme in the party room downstairs. Patrick and the owners agree that buying the dusty old chalet was the right decision. *Continued on page 78*



Made of concrete, the contemporary gas fireplace sits between doors to the sunroom, which houses a ping pong table. **LEFT:** The vintage Eames lounge chair is a comfortable spot to enjoy a drink of Scotch from the owner's collection. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A new stairway leads from the front entrance to the upper level. At the top, the double width entrance to the living room is revealed.



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LEFT: Looking through the red sliding door into the spa area of the house, a sauna is at the far end along with built-in shelving to hang bathrobes and towels. **BELOW:** Another red sliding door leads to the garage entrance and a wall of closets for storage. **BOTTOM:** The wet bar in the family room is neatly tucked into a corner and has lots of counter space for mixing cocktails and nibbles.

All of the concrete and millwork in the lower level was done by Verge Select, including a half waterfall of concrete with a raw edge on the bar.

He says compared to the cost of an empty lot at the base of the mountain, at the time, buying this property with a reusable building on it was great value. “If you just took the dollar replacement of it for the building, even though it was old and you were going to put new windows on it, you still had more value in the purchase than in the sale price,” Patrick says. “That made it a fairly simple decision to say to them as clients ‘if you purchase this and we spend x-amount of dollars on it to create this new image for it, it will still be undervalued relative to building a new one in a

location like this.’ ” Patrick says buyers looking for a home close to Blue Mountain or the ski clubs face the same conundrum. “If you want location, often there are existing structures, otherwise you are being pushed further and further out. If you want to end up in a quality location, you’re going to look at some of the resales and then you just need the right level of experienced eye to look with you for the conversions. These homeowners got full value out of what they paid for in structure on this lot.” **OH**

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