

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

a personal **TOUCH**

Homeowners Mark Patterson and Margo Donnelly often host large family gatherings, so an open dining room is the perfect spot for everyone to gather. An understated open chandelier helps to position and define the space. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The screened porch is a great way to take in this home's lovely country vistas, but with indoor comforts. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The open concept of the main floor means that family members are connected, no matter where they are – at the dining room table or trimming the tree. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Home for the holidays.



After years of crafting homes for others, **Mark Patterson** of **Patterson Homes** used his experience to design and build his own space. Particularly, he relied on his know-how to guide the many decisions that must be made along the way. The result: a beautifully executed vision that perfectly embodies Mark's philosophy as a builder.

As a **Linwood Homes** dealer, Mark is able to offer his customers a unique approach to building a custom home. Linwood offers more than 400 plans, all of which can be completely customized. The materials required to build the home are then manufactured, pre-cut, clearly labelled, and shipped directly to the building site, allowing the home to be built faster with less waste than when materials are sourced locally.

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The open-concept kitchen is fashionable and functional, with a striking island and country-fresh cabinetry. The dining room allows for the flexibility of hosting a large group at a moment's notice. **TOP LEFT:** Barn doors on the pantry add style to storage. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A custom mudroom provides practical panache for household organization. **BELOW:** It's Mark and Margo's focus on décor details that make this home so special, down to accessories for the season.



Small, thoughtful touches truly set the home apart. It is Mark's hope that these personal touches will inspire his clients with possibilities for their own homes.

“With Linwood, you get a well-engineered home package that includes superior materials and custom design at no extra charge,” explains Mark. “It fits well with my commitment to provide each client with a personal experience.”

With deep roots in the area, settling on a building lot in Metcalfe was a no-brainer for Mark, and the rural setting provides an ideal backdrop for the post-and-beam style home.

Working from Linwood's award-winning Anchorage floor plan, Mark and his wife Margo made several adjustments to achieve a layout that would be functional for their needs. Modifications included adding stairs

from **Frank Building Supplies & Sales Ltd.** to the basement, since the original plan did not include a lower level.

Stepping through the front door, the open floor plan provides an unobstructed sight line through the two-story great room, with a soaring wall of windows that floods the home with natural light and provides the ideal spot for a towering 14-foot-tall tree during the holidays.

In search of a piece of reclaimed wood to adorn the great room's striking stone-clad fireplace from **Hubert's Fireplace Consultation + Design**, Mark asked his father, local real estate developer **Gib Patterson**, to keep an eye out for one in his travels. After looking

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This comfortable loft benefits from soaring ceilings, an element of post-and-beam construction.



all over, Gib eventually found the perfect specimen – in his own barn. Mark left the mantel raw and unfinished to maintain its character.

Just beyond the great room is the dining area, which easily accommodates the couple’s extended family. With five adult children and many relatives close by, gatherings of 30 or more are not unusual. The open concept of the dining space allows the table to be extended as needed without being obstructed by walls or doorways.

To the right of the dining area, a cosy screened porch provides a lovely spot to relax, with a view to the large deck and the great outdoors beyond. “When we decided to add the screened porch, we didn’t realize how much we were going to use and enjoy it,” says Mark.

In the kitchen, the wide-plank, live-sawn white-oak hardwood from **Gaylord Hardwood Flooring** continues from the rest of the main floor, its dark stain offering

TOP LEFT: The powder room reflects Mark and Margo’s farmhouse theme with a shiplap accent wall and a braided rope mirror. **LEFT:** The stone clad fireplace features a reclaimed rustic wood mantle, sourced right from Mark’s father’s barn.



ABOVE: The sunny great room prominently displays wooden beams, giving this lovely home country character. **LEFT:** Owners Mark and Margo prepare their home for the holidays.



a rich contrast to the soft white cabinetry from **Louis L’Artisan** and subtle grey veining of the Caesarstone Frosty Carrina quartz countertops.

Concerned that the original kitchen design was short on storage, Mark came up with a plan to steal a bit of space from the garage to build a pantry, which is hidden by functional and attractive barn-style doors. The generous kitchen island provides seating for four, with extra storage for items that are infrequently used.

“This is where all the love is,” says Margo about the kitchen. “It’s usable, beautiful, and turned out exactly how I wanted.”

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To highlight the home's post-and-beam construction, Mark exposed as much of the interior wood structure as possible, adding a rustic feel that is key to the modern farmhouse style the couple envisioned. Some extra Douglas fir posts were creatively repurposed by **Tom Peterson** of **Rung & Rail Quality Stair Railings** into a handrail for the staircase to the second floor.

One of the defining features of post-and-beam construction is that there is no attic. This allows for stunning vaulted ceilings throughout the upper level, including a comfortable loft-like sitting area overlooking the great room.

The second floor's guest room and bathroom offer a serene retreat for overnight visitors. The bathroom's modern freestanding tub and spacious glass shower complement the warm wood finish of the exposed beam high overhead.

The master suite is filled with light, thanks in part to a transom window above the bed that Mark installed as a surprise for Margo.

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The guest bedroom has a sense of space and light, with the vaulted ceiling accentuated by an exposed beam.

Country combines with contemporary chic in the guest bathroom, with clean lines and warm wood.



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“I had no idea it was going to be there,” she laughs. “But it suits the room perfectly.”

His-and-hers closets flank the short hallway leading to the bright and spacious ensuite bath, enlarged from the original plans to include both a shower and bathtub from **Mondeau**, as well as a double vanity.

The shower features a curbless design, which required some forethought on Mark’s part to ensure the floor joists were situated properly. Eye-catching hexagon tile from **Euro Tile & Stone** defines the shower area, complemented by a larger rectangular tile in the same light wood grain pattern covering the rest of the floor.

Mark’s attention to detail extends far beyond the aesthetic. For example, he installed pressure-sensitive lights in all the closets so that the contents are automatically illuminated when the door is opened.

Ultimately, it’s small, thoughtful touches like this that truly set the home apart. It is Mark’s hope that these personal touches will do double duty by inspiring his clients with possibilities for their own homes. **OH**

ABOVE: The transom window ushers in natural light and an eye-catching light fixture acts as a focal point in the tranquil master bedroom. **TOP RIGHT:** A sleek curbless shower completes a seamless design. **RIGHT:** A double vanity is accessorized with wooden-framed mirrors, supporting the country feel of this home.



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