

TOGETHER yet SEPARATE

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PHOTOGRAPHY **JUSTIN VAN LEEUWEN**

Used to be, multigenerational homes were the norm.

Pooling their resources, grandma might provide at-home daycare, allowing mom to run the household while dad brought home the bacon. While such an arrangement still offers benefits today, providing both an economic and a social net, even the closest of families might hesitate to compromise their privacy and jeopardize their independent lifestyle.

And besides, grandma is more likely to be hopping on grandpa's motorcycle than knitting by the fireplace, toddlers at her feet.

But perhaps the biggest detriment to multigenerational or multi-family homes is the design itself. That portion of living space designated for the older adults in the home often appears to be an afterthought, relegated to a basement suite or a separate wing of the home, with the only difference being the name on the floor plan. This is what Cindy and David McKiver found nearly a decade ago, when they first brought up the idea of one day sharing a property with their only child Ashley and her husband Dave Tessier. *Continued on page 26*



Ample counter space and an oversized island accommodate the frequent entertaining Ashley McKiver and Dave Tessier so enjoy. Shelves fill in for upper cupboards and add to the airy feeling. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Years in the planning, these two generations now share a roof – but not a house – in their multigenerational home. From left, Dave Tessier, David McKiver, Ashley McKiver and Cindy McKiver.



This brass faucet combines the elegant-yet-modern farmhouse aesthetic Ashley wanted.



These open shelves were custom-made by David out of reclaimed wood from the 1800s.

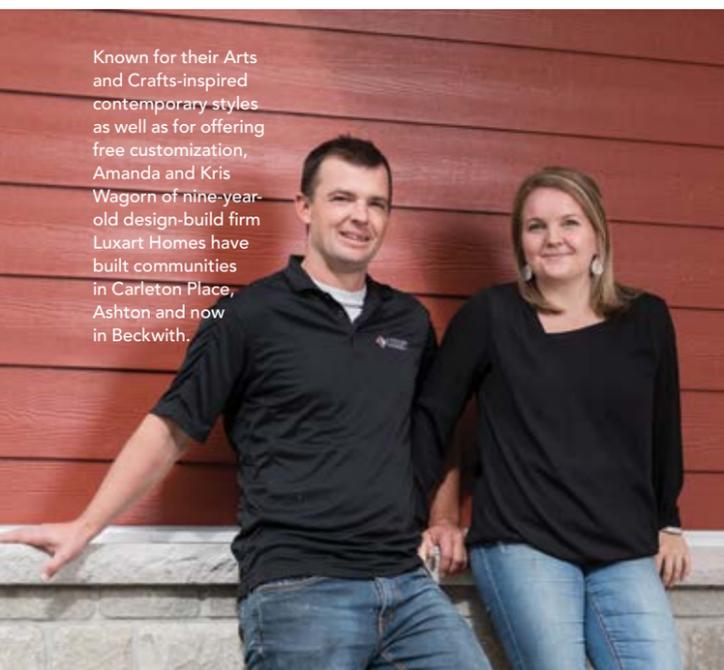
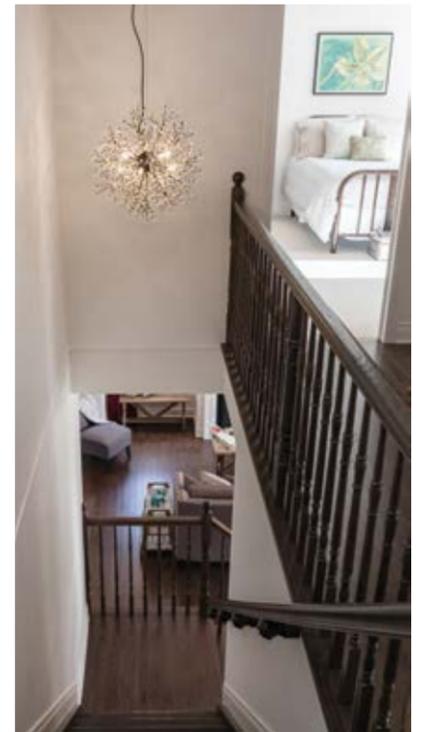
A light fixture fashioned out of a branch Dave Tessier discovered on their property during construction adds to the rustic charm of the room.



A sliding barn door continues the haute rustic look. Behind it, an alcove contains the powder room, laundry room and access to the garage landing that leads to the interior entrance to Cindy and David's home.



LEFT: The open plan of the main floor of Ashley and Dave's two-storey home is emphasized by the use of dark hardwood flooring that draws the eye down the length of the home. **BELOW:** L-shaped stairs, located to one side of the entry, lead to three bedrooms on the upper level. **BOTTOM:** The sun-filled living room features windows on two sides of the room. One of Ashley's requirements for her home was ample windows, especially on the side of the home – something that was lacking in the couple's previous homes.



Known for their Arts and Crafts-inspired contemporary styles as well as for offering free customization, Amanda and Kris Wagorn of nine-year-old design-build firm Luxart Homes have built communities in Carleton Place, Ashton and now in Beckwith.

Their search for a home or a property that could accommodate two separate households spanned the width of Ottawa, from Orléans to Carleton Place, taking them as far south as Winchester. The two couples considered renovating an existing home, but Cindy couldn't picture herself living in a basement, even if the place was essentially a home base between the extensive travelling they intended to do upon retirement. And renovating an existing home seemed a possibility, until they realized not only would a multigenerational home from **Luxart Homes** deliver all the features each couple wanted for their portion of the home, it was also more cost-effective. Several meetings with Luxart principal **Amanda Wagorn**, a home builder with communities in Carleton Place, Ashton and Beckwith offering a variety of products and customization, sealed the deal for the two couples. Not only was the time right, but it was clear the independent closeness they were looking for would be perfectly designed. With Luxart Homes known for offering free customization, both couples were able to individualize their portion of the home.

And so, after taking early retirement last spring, Cindy and David moved into their bungalow, joining Ashley and Dave, who had moved into the 2,570 sq. ft. two-storey home two months earlier. The senior McKivers said goodbye to their hometown in Cornwall while the

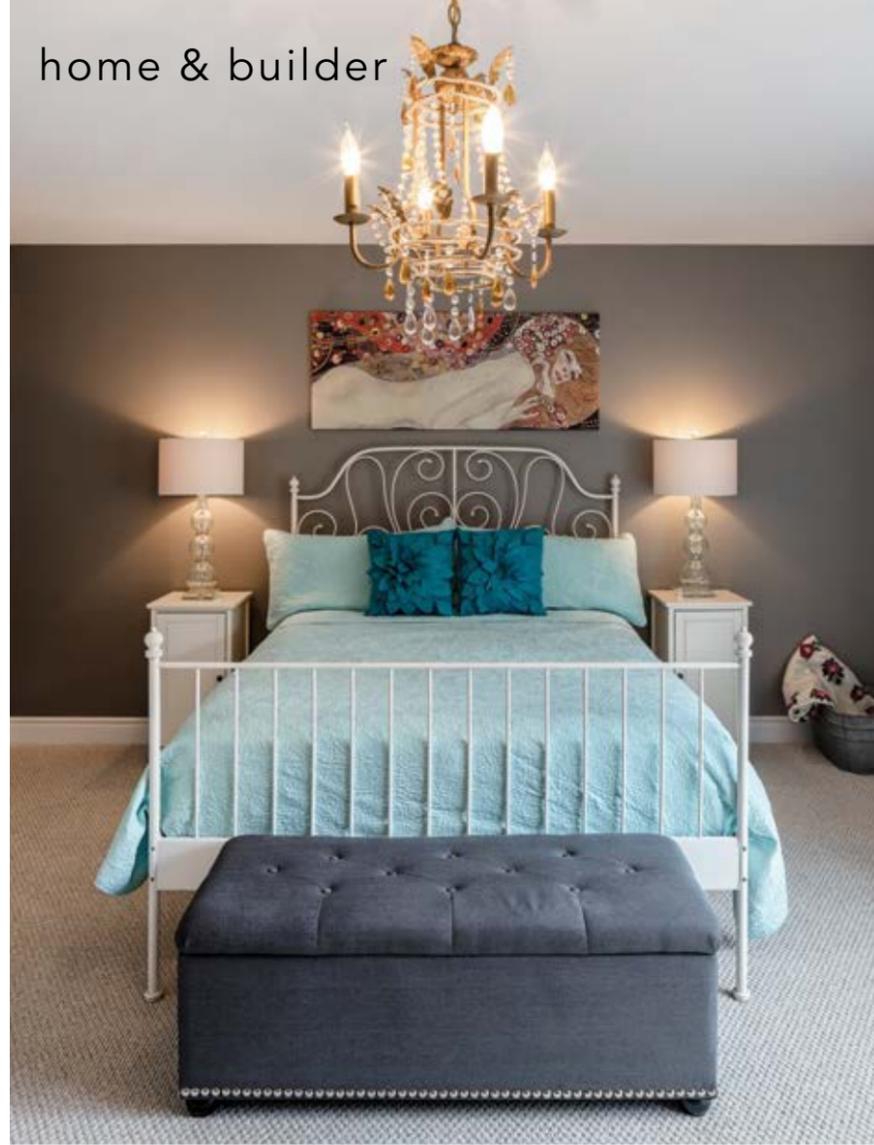
younger couple left downtown Ottawa for an Arts and Crafts-inspired home in Maggie's Place in Beckwith.

A new product offering by Luxart Homes, the multi-generational home is geared to those older adults and their adult children who, for a multitude of reasons, made the decision to live together but want to do it separately from each other, says Amanda.

Light years away from a granny suite, or a basement apartment, this multi-generational home is a specially designed structure accommodating the needs of aging parents and adult children alike, each according to their requirements and lifestyle. Reports indicate this market is growing due to changes in our society, such as Millennials marrying later, Gen X helping out their aging parents and Boomers pitching in with childcare to keep costs down. But whatever the reason, independence seems the main concern.

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“The most important thing was to have separate homes,” Ashley says. “We wanted to live close by, to support each other, but to still live separate lives. The only way to do that was to have separate living spaces.”

As Amanda points out, the structure is two homes under one roof; and indeed, there’s no indication of the other household regardless if you’re in Ashley and Dave’s home or in Cindy and David’s. Each has its own separate, private entrance – Ashley and David’s centred on the front facade of the house, Cindy and Dave’s on the side – and with the exception of the shared garage, there are no common rooms; even the basement in each house is separate and not linked.

Cindy and Dave’s 695 sq. ft. bungalow contains an open-concept kitchen, dining area and living room, with a large bedroom and bathroom. The home feels cosy, yet spacious, but the unfinished basement provides the opportunity to double the living space.

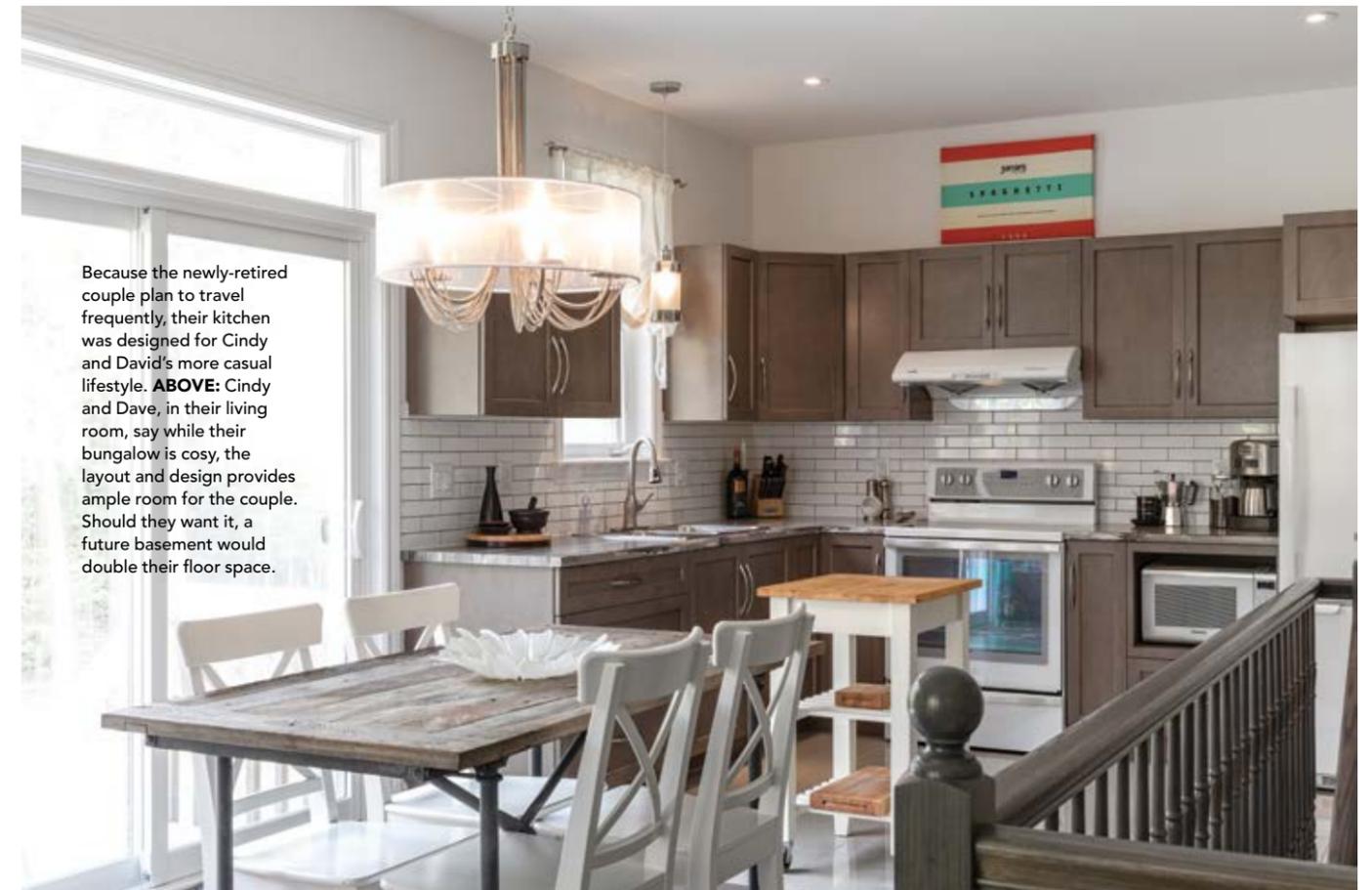
The door to the triple-car garage opens to the landing, allowing them access to Ashley and Dave’s home, which Cindy uses to let out the “grand-dog” Suzuki, while the younger couple is at work. *Continued on page 30*



“We wanted to live close by, to support each other, but to still live separate lives.”



TOP: Ashley wanted a master bedroom that was a sanctuary in every sense of the word, with a sitting room to relax in, separate his-and-her closets to make organization a breeze, as well as a spacious en suite. **ABOVE:** An oversized step-in shower offers spa-like luxury. **RIGHT:** Thanks to the size of the en suite, double sinks are located on separate vanities and allow for a little more elbow room.



Because the newly-retired couple plan to travel frequently, their kitchen was designed for Cindy and David’s more casual lifestyle. **ABOVE:** Cindy and Dave, in their living room, say while their bungalow is cosy, the layout and design provides ample room for the couple. Should they want it, a future basement would double their floor space.



LEFT: Far and away from a granny suite, or the apartment in the basement they dreaded, Cindy and David's bungalow is filled with windows that draw in natural light, as seen in their sunny bedroom that faces the street.
BELOW: While 695 square feet may not sound like much, the home looks and feels much bigger. High ceilings throughout the bungalow add to the feeling of spaciousness.

"There's a nice element of separation that still blends seamlessly," Amanda says, pointing out that from the curb, there's not a hint that two units are combined under one roof.

Ashley says having owned three homes prior to this one, she and husband David had a very clear picture of what they wanted in a home: a large kitchen and large dining room because they entertain frequently, a master retreat that created a real sanctuary, with a sitting area, large closets and a spacious en suite, all without wasted space.

Their front door opens to a large entry where the L-shaped stairs, by **Ottawa Custom Stairs**, lead to the second floor. Ashley says her vision for the home was to create a farmhouse aesthetic that was a little more elegant and a touch more modern; all her selections reflect that. Dark hardwood by **Gaylord Hardwood Flooring** draws the eye down the length of the

home, from the living room at the front of the home through to the kitchen at the rear. Spacious enough for the largest gathering, the kitchen is made even more open by the lack of upper cupboards, with lower cupboards by **Deslauriers Custom Cabinets**.

The couple elected to hang open shelves custom-made by Ashley's father David of reclaimed wood dating back to the 1800s, sourced from their hometown of Cornwall.

The dining room, which flows from the kitchen, features a sliding barn door that slides open to an area containing an oversize powder room, laundry room and access to the garage, where they can also gain entrance to Cindy and David's home.

"We're all really independent and we knew we couldn't all live together in the same house," Ashley says. "Here, we go about our thing and they go about their thing. We can be as independent as we want." **OH**



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