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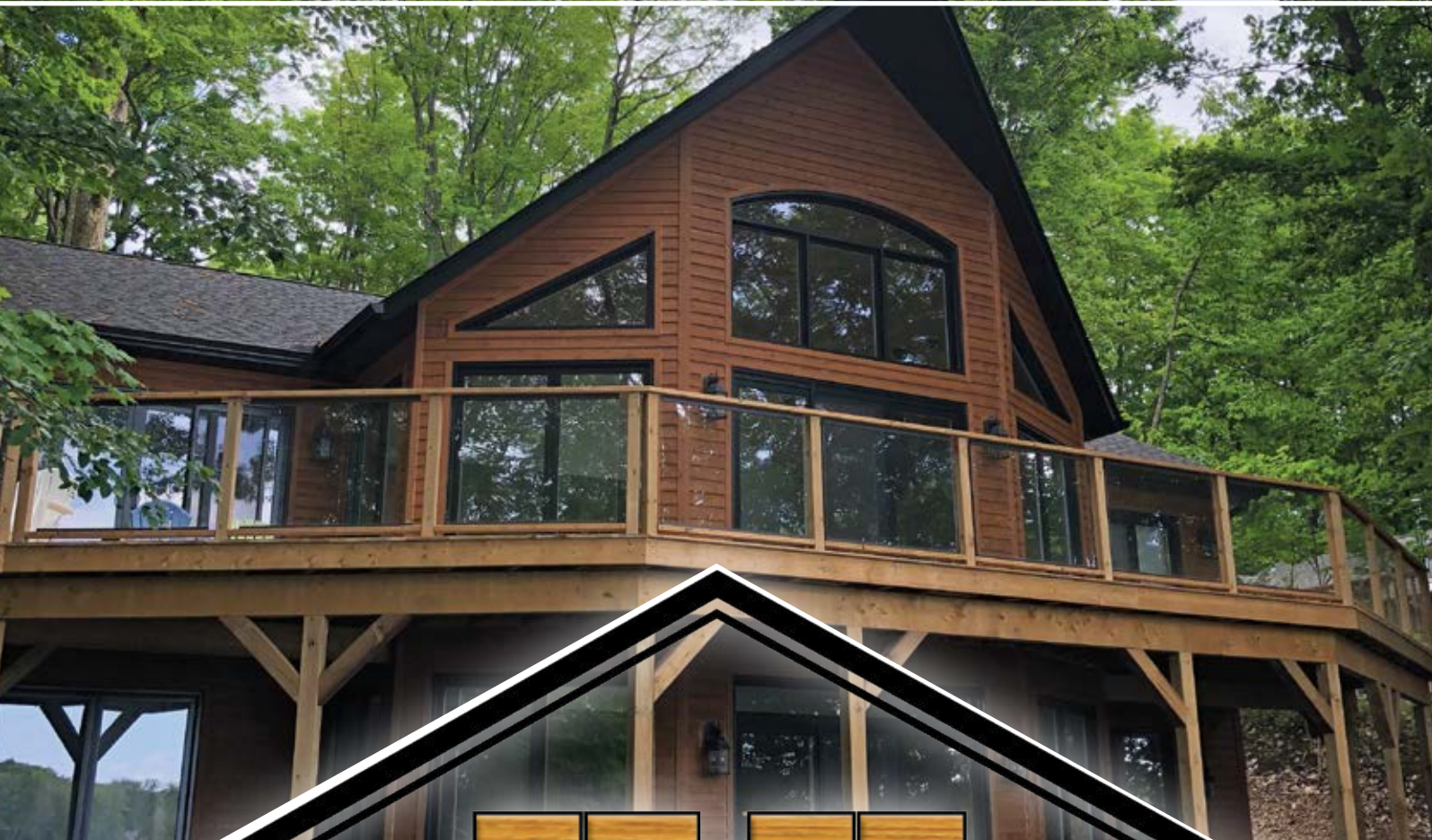
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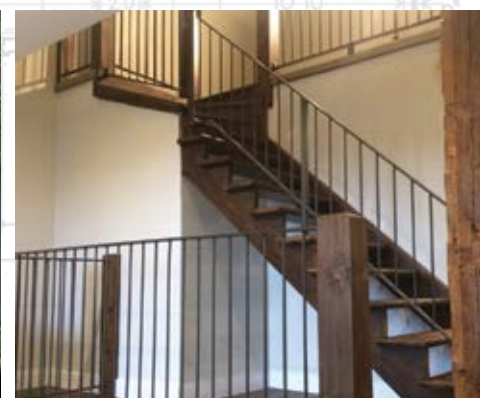
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OUR HOMES is a registered trademark of OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.
OUR HOMES Barrie Orillia Midland Innisfil is published four times a year.

OUR HOMES is distributed via free pick up to residents of Simcoe County at high traffic locations throughout the region. Copies of OUR HOMES are also sent via unaddressed mail to select residential neighbourhoods and Barrie and area business leaders, and via direct mail to select builders, architects, trades and professionals. OUR HOMES is also available in-room at select hotels and resorts within the region.

Please send all letters and/or feedback to OUR HOMES Magazine,
25 Elgin St., Collingwood, ON Canada L9Y 3L6. Or email us at editor@ourhomes.ca.
All letters received are subject to editing for grammar and length.

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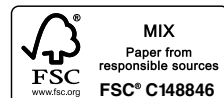
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editor's note



**I WAS
BLOWN
AWAY** during
my recent visit to
Friday Harbour.
Our friends
at Complete
Blinds suggested
we feature a

gorgeous townhome on the water at the marine resort off Innisfil's Big Bay Point.

I had been to Friday Harbour when it was in the early stages of construction, but when I returned recently for the photo shoot, I was gobsmacked by the enormity of the development. When I walked into Danielle and Gino Larice's townhome, my jaw hit the floor; it was beautiful. Check out how this family is loving Friday Harbour on page 78.

When I met builder Rene Ouellet Jr. at one of his latest builds in Tiny Beaches (page 58), I was impressed by his frankness, honesty and his sense of humour. I understood right away why he's so busy building homes and cottages in the region. He produces quality work at an affordable price. What more can you ask for?

We photographed Russell Austin and designer Vanessa Rogerson's home last year, when fall colours were at their breathtaking peak. This home is fabulous in its contemporary design, decorating and polish. Every detail is sublime. Don't miss it on page 32.

Every season I play a game. I ask myself, "Which of the three homes we feature would I choose to live in right now, if I could?" This issue, I want them all. I'd pick Vanessa's for my full-time nest, the cottage Rene built as a year-round retreat, and the townhouse on Friday Harbour to live it up with family and friends. Now I just need a boat!

May your fall be fresh and full of gatherings with the ones you love.

Sincerely,

Georgette

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ON THE COVER

A regal bedroom on the top floor at Friday Harbour. Story, page 78. Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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advice



WINE CELLARS

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.

WINE CELLARS AND WINE-TASTING ROOMS ARE COMING OF AGE.

Wine collecting requires a special space of its own and more homeowners are installing wine rooms in new and existing homes to ensure the right bottle is on hand. With today's technology, refrigeration and modern materials, wine can be stored in almost any location. However, this 6,100-year-old beverage still requires tender loving care.

WINE IS FUSSY

Wine breathes through the cork and ages in the process. Too much oxygen makes the wine bitter. The pace of this breathing is faster at higher temperatures and slower at lower temperatures. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity accelerate the aging process.

WINE STORAGE

Wine requires a cool, dark space with higher humidity than the average living space. Wine does not like noise or vibrations from any source.

It doesn't like any temperature extremes; 45°F to 65°F are the best temperatures for serving wine and 55°F is the ideal storing temperature for long-term storage, regardless of your wine style. Wine storage rooms come in two types: passive and active.

Passive Wine Cellars such as caves, basements and closets are naturally cooler and only receive indirect sunlight. They minimize swings in temperature and damage to the wine.

Active (Cooled) Wine Cellars are fully climate-controlled and can be set to the perfect storage temperature and humidity level to ensure ideal conditions. They are more flexible and can fit into any large, small or odd space in your home.



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MODERN DESIGN TRENDS

Glass enclosures allow you to show off your wine collection and can be built as tall or wide as you want. The choice of tempered glass used is extremely important. The insulation value should maximize the refrigeration, humidification benefits and UV protection required for wine rooms that are in direct contact with sunlight. Etched or frosted glass are decorative options.



Integrating wine cellar design into your space for that WOW factor. Placing wine storage in living areas, man caves or kitchens allows you and your guests to engage with the wine while you show off your collection.

A label-forward design draws attention to the label art. It creates an intimate, interactive experience between the user and the bottle of wine.

Metal and acrylic wine racking. These materials are gaining popularity in contemporary wine cellar design. They provide the same storage quality as wood and can be much more cost effective.

Bridging old and new. Combining wood with metal or acrylic allows for more flexibility in a project design that is less stuffy and ornate, more contemporary and inviting.

MODERN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Use LED lights and UV film for glass enclosures.
- ▶ No vibrating wall speakers and no noisy air conditioners. Insulate your mechanical air ducts or use a ductless air conditioner.
- ▶ Vent equipment heat outside.
- ▶ Storing multiple bottles of wine requires plywood backing for wall installation.
- ▶ Proper wall insulation, a vapour barrier and moisture-resistant green board walls are essential.
- ▶ Easy access to electricity.
- ▶ Moisture-resistant flooring is a must. Consider the insulation value of the floor and materials.



RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT (ROI)

A wine cellar is a high-end investment and, in some homes, it is a must-have upgrade. With an average bottle price of \$95, it pays to design your investment so it can add value to your home.

Galileo tells us: "Wine is sunlight, held together by water." Then sunlight and water hold together the truth in wine. Take good care of your truth. **OH**



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3



4



6



5

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6 SIMPLY COUNTRY

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HYDRANGEA

love

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

*I'VE BEEN HAVING A NOT-SO-SECRET
LOVE AFFAIR WITH HYDRANGEAS FOR
MORE THAN 20 YEARS.*

These beautiful, classic shrubs look great in traditional gardens, mixed gardens and modern gardens. There are so many luscious varieties, but over time (and through trial and error) my tastes have changed. Here is my tried and true list, including straight talk on all the popular varieties and the toughest, best of the best!

The name hydrangea stems from the Greek word for water, hydros and jar, angos, and more than hints at the constant moisture required to keep these plants happy, healthy and blooming. Their long-lasting blooms are not actually flowers, they are actually flower bracts, which explain their very long flowering cycle.

PANICLE TYPE (HYDRANGEA PANICULATA)

These are the hearty types with strong woody stems and panicle-shaped flowers that bloom reliably from mid- to late-summer, well into fall. They don't require as much watering as the fancier types and don't require staking. They bloom on new growth each year, so no need to worry about a hard winter destroying tender buds. In colder climates like ours, these beauties take full sun but enjoy protection from the strong afternoon heat. They typically grow between three to eight feet but can be pruned to maintain height. Their leaves are dark green, oval-shaped and turn shades of red/brown in autumn.

VANILLA STRAWBERRY

The fragrant Vanilla Strawberry hydrangea takes a few years to really get growing but when it does – oh my – patience will be rewarded with huge, fluffy and creamy white blooms slowly fading to pink and white bi-coloured flower heads.

Continued on page 28



*Vanilla
Strawberry*

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Quick Fire hydrangea (as the name suggests) blooms earlier than all the others. The flowers open white and quickly turn to dark pink. Little Quick Fire is exactly the same except it grows only about four feet in height – great for small spaces.



BOBO

Bobo hydrangea is a dwarf panicle that is exceptionally floriferous. White blossoms turning to blush pink smother this small-statured three-foot shrub.

LIMELIGHT AND LITTLE LIME

Yet another wonderful panicle type, Limelight hydrangea sports cool lime-green blooms. Little Lime hydrangea does too, in a smaller size.



SMOOTH TYPE
(HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS)

Sometimes called wild hydrangeas, these have gorgeous, round snowball blooms that last for weeks in mid/late summer. They are much more shade tolerant than the panicle types but bloom best with some morning sun. They flower on new wood and can be pruned to the ground or near ground level in late winter/early spring to encourage abundant blossoms. The leaves of arborescens are large, dark green, heart-shaped, and thin.



CLIMBING
HYDRANGEA
(HYDRANGEA PETIOLARIS)

As the name advises, these hydrangeas are actually vines. Gorgeous white and fragrant lacecap flowers cover this sturdy vine in June/July. Mid-green leaves turn yellowish in fall with pretty peeling bark. This is a slow grower that enjoys a shady spot but can grow 50 feet, so plant wisely.

BIGLEAF TYPE
(H. MACROPHYLLA)

These include both lace-caps and mophead types and are sometimes called French hydrangeas. They have big, glossy leaves and have gorgeous pink, blue, purple or white blossoms and are the fancy kind coveted by many. I hate to be cynical and the bearer of bad news, but in our Ontario climate, this type of hydrangea will often produce lots of leaves, but blossoms can sometimes be a scarcity. Most varieties bloom on old wood, making the flower buds susceptible to killing winter temps, though there are some that flower on both old and new wood. Read below.

ANNABELLE

Annabelle hydrangea is a well-loved classic hydrangea with tremendous staying power. It has large, pure white snowball blooms but they do tend to flop after a heavy rain. Peony rings work to keep them upright and are quickly hidden by their large leaves or you can prop them up with strategically placed dead branches.



INCREDIBALL

Incrediball hydrangea is exactly like Annabelle but with even more gargantuan white blossoms the size of basketballs!



ENDLESS SUMMER

Endless Summer hydrangea and its offspring (The Endless Summer collection) bloom on old and new wood, making them the most reliable of the bigleaf type for our climate. The blooms of the whole series are beautiful! Just be prepared; they are high-maintenance and if you want to keep them blooming, you need to water them often and just the right amount. They need to be kept moist, but not have wet feet. Best of luck! OH



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Chocolate CINNAMON Knots

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH

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DOUGH

INGREDIENTS

¾ cup milk, warmed
2 ¼ tsp active yeast
¼ cup white granulated sugar
1 egg + 1 egg yolk, room temperature
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
3 cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp salt

DIRECTIONS

Place warmed milk (110-115°F) in the bowl of a stand mixer and sprinkle yeast on top. Yeast will begin to bubble/foam as it activates. If not, your milk was too cold or hot.

Once foamy and dissolved, add sugar, eggs and butter and mix with a spatula until combined.

Add flour and salt and stir until a dough begins to form.

Transfer bowl to the stand mixer fitted with the dough attachment and knead for 8-10 minutes on medium speed.

Transfer the dough to a large, well-oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap and a towel.

Let rise for 1.5 hours or until doubled in size.

FILLING

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup butter, softened
1 Tbsp brown sugar
1 Tbsp cocoa powder

DIRECTIONS

Combine butter, sugar and cocoa powder in a separate bowl.

ICING

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
¼ cup cream cheese, softened
½ cup powdered sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream together butter and cream cheese.

Mix while slowly adding powdered sugar and vanilla.

ASSEMBLY

Roll dough into a rectangle that is ¼-inch thick.

Spread filling over dough.

Fold dough in half.

Cut dough into 1-inch strips.

Twist each strip and tie them into knots. It's okay if they're not perfect!

Place knots on a baking sheet and loosely cover with a layer of plastic wrap and a towel.

Let rise again for 30 minutes before baking in a preheated 350°F oven for 12-15 minutes.

Ice and enjoy! **OH**

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MODERN LOVE

NESTLED IN THE WATERFRONT VILLAGE OF SHANTY BAY, THIS AWARD-WINNING NEW HOME IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THE HISTORY OF ITS COMMUNITY. SO IS THE YOUNG COUPLE WHO BUILT IT.

STORY KATHLEEN DUNCAN | PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

When construction began in October 2017, entrepreneurs Russell Austin (Ontario Modular Solutions founder) and designer **Vanessa Rogerson of Vanessa Rogerson Designs** planned to build their new 3,000 sq. ft. residence on the foundation of an existing 1960s cabin.

It wouldn't be the first time the site had experienced a renaissance. The cabin had been rebuilt from a shack dating back more than a century – perhaps one of the original shanties that inspired the village name. During excavation, horseshoes were discovered suggesting a one-time farm.

“Russell and I love the property,” says Vanessa, who designed the house to integrate within its surroundings rather than simply sit on top of it. “The privacy and the view year-round are just stunning and so peaceful. We live one block from the lake and enjoy boating and jet-skiing in the summer months, and ice fishing and snowmobiling all winter.”

In the summer of 2017, the enterprising couple decided to renovate, and began the work themselves. They quickly realized assistance was necessary to achieve the home of their dreams. Having collaborated with **Prycon Custom Building and Renovations** on other projects, Vanessa invited their team to help.

Continued on page 34



A wraparound covered deck at the back of the house is a serene outdoor space to entertain and enjoy the fall colours. **BOTTOM:** This award-winning contemporary home was raised on the foundation of an existing 1960s cabin. **OPPOSITE:** Red cedar planks on key areas of the exterior complement the black siding.





LEFT: Vanessa Rogerson of Vanessa Rogerson Designs welcomes guests to her beautifully designed and decorated home. **BELOW:** The upper cabinets in the kitchen are painted Chantilly Lace by Benjamin Moore. **BOTTOM:** A dramatic Blackberry Granite-topped waterfall island from Di Pietra Designs has lots of storage and a bar fridge.



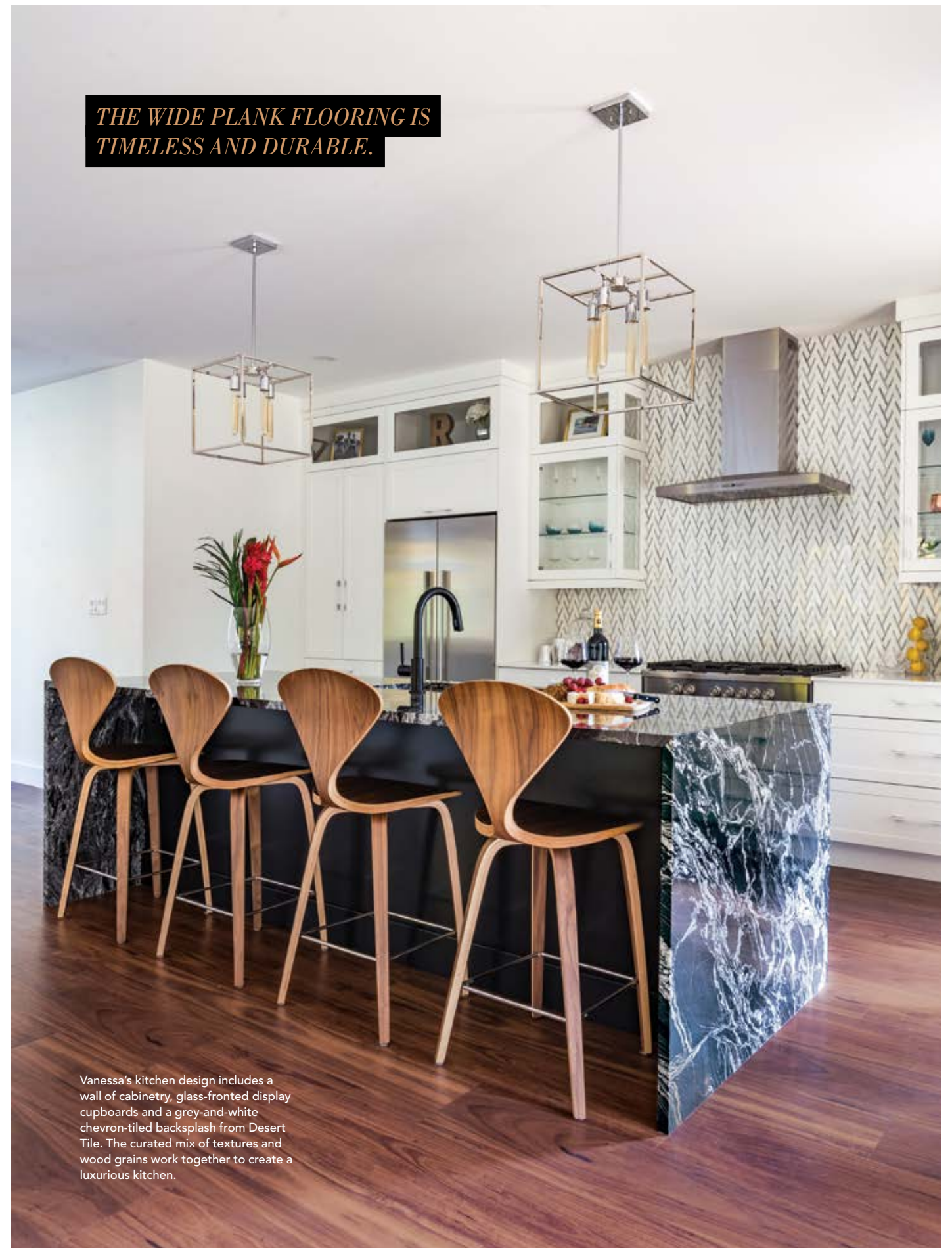
“They had this house completely re-built and ready for move-in within seven months,” she recalls.

Their combined expertise was recognized by industry experts across Canada. The home won the 2018 Award of Creative Excellence presented by **Simcoe County Home Builders’ Association**.

The couple continued to work on the house together to a lesser extent, sourcing and finishing the red cedar planking showcased on the front exterior to complement the black shingling, modern black Garaga garage doors and charcoal siding. The large front door adds to the curb appeal with its unusual, long steel handle, wide sidelites and triangular transom that accentuates the front porch peak while framing the massive mid-century chandelier that hangs in the foyer.

The red cedar planks pop up again as a feature wall in the master bath, contrasting with a patterned white ceramic backsplash from **Tilemaster**. Additional textural elements come into play in the master bedroom where full-length velvet drapes hang from a rod with crystal egg finials. *Continued on page 37*

THE WIDE PLANK FLOORING IS TIMELESS AND DURABLE.



Vanessa's kitchen design includes a wall of cabinetry, glass-fronted display cupboards and a grey-and-white chevron-tiled backsplash from Desert Tile. The curated mix of textures and wood grains work together to create a luxurious kitchen.

Ghost chairs surround a custom live-edge walnut table in the dining room. The view in all seasons is stunning. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The Simply White (Benjamin Moore) living room walls provide a canvas for art and a mix of rustic and contemporary furnishings. The look is clean and inviting. **BOTTOM:** The vignette in the foyer is thoughtfully curated. A stunning chandelier greets everyone at the front door.



A SPARKLING MID-CENTURY CHANDELIER LIGHTS UP THE FOYER.

Elsewhere, natural materials continue to balance hard surfaces. A Brazilian cowhide rug on the great room floor is a stylish reminder of Russell's tenure out west in Alberta. It's also the base of an airy expanse that showcases an open-riser walnut staircase climbing 23 feet to a catwalk perimeter edged by a **Stairhaus Inc.** handrail in glass and steel.

"When we have the windows open, we can hear the birds chirping – it feels like they're in the house," adds Vanessa, laughing at the perplexed reaction of her two Bengal cats, Bruce and Dior as the sound echoes around. "It certainly keeps the cats occupied!"

At the room's pinnacle, a dramatic

LED globe fixture from **Glass Lighting Gallery** doubles as art while infusing elegance and energy into Vanessa's second-floor design studio.

"Lighting really makes the home – it's my favourite aspect of each project," she admits. "Every piece needs to work together as part of a set, but also function independently for each room."

In the dining area, the light fixture is a modern interpretation of a tree branch. It's surrounded on two sides with oversize windows from **DeCola Windows and Doors Inc.** that slide open to a wraparound covered porch and the living trees beyond.

Continued on page 39



“LIGHTING REALLY MAKES THE HOME – IT’S MY FAVOURITE ASPECT OF EACH PROJECT,” SAYS VANESSA.



The chandelier shines on an enormous harvest table crafted from a live-edge walnut slab by **Bateman Fine Cabinetry**. It’s set with ghost chairs to expose the custom detailing. The walnut wood grain repeats in the walnut flooring from **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home**, and in bar chairs that line the 10-foot waterfall island, sculpted by **Di Pietra Design** in Blackberry Granite.

“I like the warmth of it,” she says of the wide-plank flooring. “It’s timeless and durable.”

Once the in-house kitchen and bath designer at **Cabneato**, Vanessa hired her former employers for the millwork in her own kitchen. A wall of cabinetry painted Chantilly Lace by **Benjamin Moore** (Simply White in eggshell was used elsewhere) includes glass-fronted display cupboards with lighting – including a top row with awning-style doors and push latches. *Continued on page 42*




TOP: The vanity in the master en suite has double undermount sinks, a Blackberry Granite top and endless storage. The patterned white ceramic backsplash is from Tilemaster. **ABOVE:** A glass shower framed in matte black with black fixtures creates a timeless look. **RIGHT:** A neutral platform bed with a tufted headboard is flanked by mirrored side tables in the master bedroom. **OPPOSITE:** A grey sectional in just the right size fills the living room. The stairway combines glass and wood.




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A cosy guest room is furnished with a pop of sunny yellow. **BELOW:** Vanessa works in her stylish design studio.



Pure white Thassos and Carrara marble from **Desert Tile**, installed in a chevron, cascades down the backsplash that showcases the 36-inch Fisher & Paykel five-burner gas range from **TA Appliances**. Black island cabinetry matches the modern plumbing fixtures throughout the home, by Brizo, to complete the look.

“I love clean, modern, neutral tones that are maintenance-free,” Vanessa says of her personal style. “But I’m not biased with my clients. If they have a vision or a desired taste, I can certainly create that for them.”

A graduate of Georgian College’s Interior Design degree program, Vanessa established her own firm in 2019, after a decade gaining experience. She also used that time to develop a strong network of local trades, suppliers and partners. Currently in progress is National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) certification. Already in demand, she is now busy on another kitchen renovation, a basement, and a full head-to-toe custom home.

“I am very excited to see the finished product this fall,” says the Barrie native, who has an inspiring new home studio to work from. **OH**

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IN THE LIVING ROOM



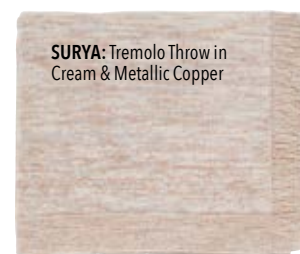
TEMPAPER: Intersections Wallpaper in Urban Bronze



RENWIL: Ernest Wall Art in Tempered Glass with Copper & Silver Accents



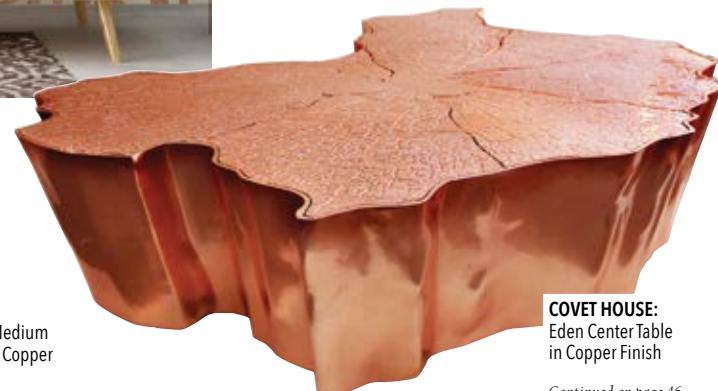
CB2: Halo Copper Velvet Armchair



SURYA: Tremolo Throw in Cream & Metallic Copper



SURYA: Crescent Pillow in Medium Gray and Black with Metallic Copper



COVET HOUSE: Eden Center Table in Copper Finish

Continued on page 46



ORIGINAL BTC: Chester Floor Light in Satin Copper

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IN THE KITCHEN

ORIGINAL BTC: Stanley Pendant Light in Hammered Copper



NATIVE TRAILS: Farmhouse 30 Apron-Front Kitchen Sink in Polished Hammered Copper

DEKTON CANADA: Surface Material in Trilium from the Industrial Collection



NATIVE TRAILS: Maestro Round Vessel Sink in Polished Hammered Copper



POTTERY BARN: Copper Handled Flatware



NATIVE TRAILS: Tempered Copper Lazy Susan



FOR THE BAR



CB2: Acrylic Tray Table

NATIVE TRAILS: Mojito Bar & Prep Sink in Polished Hammered Copper



POTTERY BARN: Copper Cocktail Shaker

NATIVE TRAILS: Santorini Freestanding Soaking Bathtub in Polished Hammered Copper



IN THE BATHROOM



CB2: Karla Copper Shower Curtain



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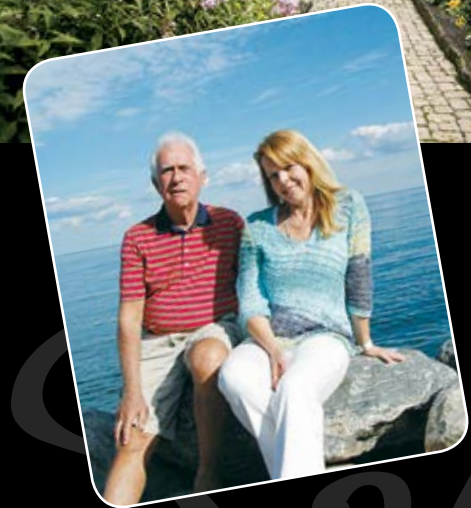
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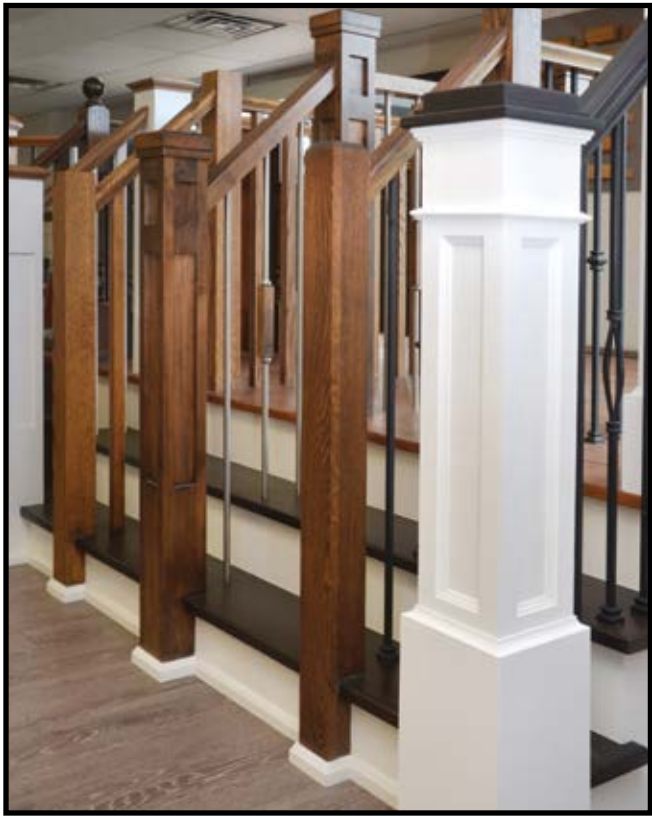


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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

THE PLACE: **Barrie Trim and Mouldings Inc.**, a Barrie institution, opened in 1985. Since then, the family-owned-and-operated business has expanded many times to meet the demands of this region’s booming new-home construction industry. President Lee Whitaker is steering the current expansion, which includes more production space for the custom stair and railing division. The company offers a vast and complete selection of quality trim, mouldings, doors and hardware options along with expert installation.

STAIR DIVISION: Stairs have taken a turn and are now a focal point in every home. Lee’s team will design, build and install stairs for new construction and renovations. Need a custom design? No problem. Straight or curved staircases with open risers and frameless glass railings are a specialty. Barrie Trim also offers railing renovations and repairs and can even cap those outdated carpet-covered staircases.



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DOORS: Interior doors can transform your space. At Barrie Trim, the selection is fantastic. From traditional to modern and everything in between, homeowners will find the right door for every room. Most standard doors are in stock or can be quickly ordered. If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind or an unusual size, Barrie Trim can custom-make a door based on your needs. Pick a pre-hung door for easy installation. Their best-selling door is the Lincoln Park.

HARDWARE: Don’t forget the hardware! Barrie Trim has a huge selection of knobs, pulls and locks for all your doors. Matte black and gold tones are trending but polished nickel is still popular. Sliding (barn) door hardware is in stock. Any door can be hung on sliders.

COLUMNS AND MANTELS: Columns can hide or enhance a space. Barrie Trim’s columns are made from finger joint pine and come in many sizes. Fireplace

surrounds, mantels and rustic beams are also available.

TRIM: The showroom makes it easy to select your trim. Many trim combinations are displayed beautifully on the showroom walls. Available in wood or medium density fibreboard (MDF), there are many styles to choose from. To ensure you are picking the right style, samples are available to take home to assist in the decision-making process. **OH**



STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

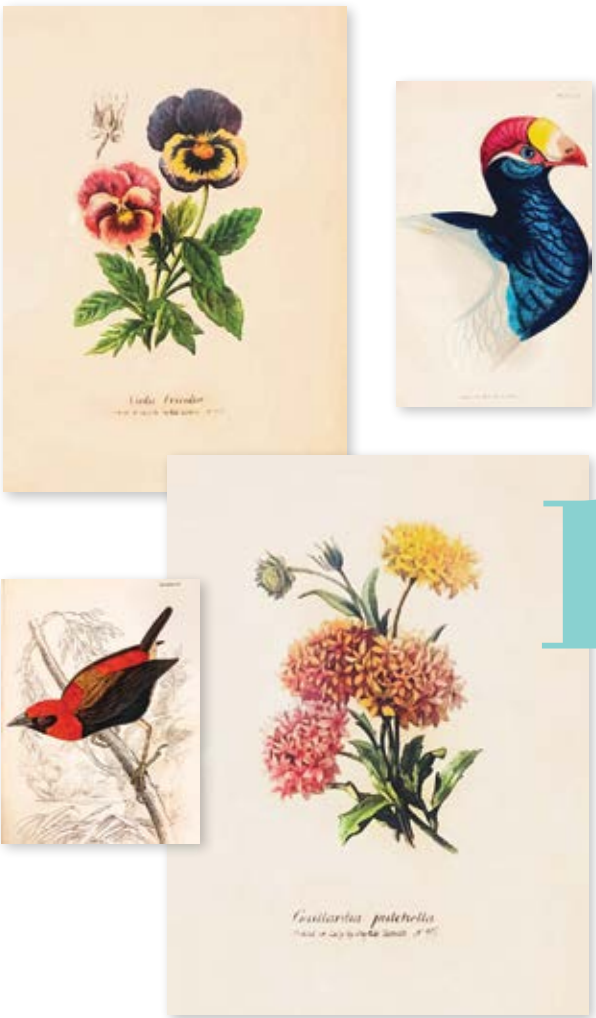
10 WAYS to add VINTAGE STYLE to your home

Gargantuan mahogany dining sets. Towering armoires. Royal Doulton figurines, anyone? If items like this aren't your thing, you're not alone. As *The New York Times* recently reported, thanks to today's small homes and pared-down aesthetic, the market for traditional antiques has shifted sharply in the last two decades.

"As far as decorating, I think we're contemporary," confirms Marlene Cook, owner of the Sunday Antique Market in Toronto. So, why is thrifting all the rage? And why are markets like Marlene's still mobbed on any given weekend? Marlene says that while her urban hipster shoppers give certain items a pass – yup, those dark old furniture suites – they love to snap up quirky vintage and antique pieces from savvy sellers.

Yet the mindset has really changed. "Some people are thinking about upcycling and recycling," she says. "When you buy something from a market like mine or somewhere else, it doesn't go to landfill." Today's buyers also want quality craftsmanship, and investment potential. Above all, says Marlene, rather than rooms stuffed with antiques, buyers want single pieces to inject interest into modern interiors. "It could be a really great piece someone has seen in a magazine. Here they can buy the original. It doesn't have to be a reproduction."

Beyond the actual goods, Marlene says the market experience itself – communal, hands-on, revelatory – is another huge draw today. "People get to talk to our vendors, they can get to shop and touch it and feel it, and see the vibrancy of the colours," she explains. Vendors can also tell you about an object's history, she says, meaning buyers are likely to take home a story along with their fab finds.



Ready to dive into the happy chaos of your local antique market and find some deco treasures of your own? Looking for inspiration, we asked a couple of pros what's flying off the shelves these days.

HERE'S OUR LIST OF MUST-HAVES FOR 2019:

BOTANICAL AND FLORAL PRINTS

Bring the outdoors in with framed antique prints. Marlene says, "We had a book dealer with beautiful botanical prints and prints of birds from the mid-1800s and they just sold like hotcakes!"

Continued on page 52



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2

FULL-COLOUR VINTAGE MAPS, GLOBES AND TOYS

Often featured in high-end design magazines, buyers love using these items to add interest to kids' rooms.



4

STERLING SILVER CUTLERY

While you can buy electroplated pieces for a song, pricier sterling silver cutlery elevates any table and is in high demand.

VINTAGE VINYL LPs

Whether for display or listening pleasure, at the St. Jacobs Antique Market, manager Patrick Gilkes says, "Records are still the number-one seller right now."

3



6

DISPLAY PIECES

From typewriters to vases and sculptures, people are buying vintage objects for display.

5

TEA CUPS & DISH SETS

Want to add superb quality and vintage wow-factor to your table? Patrick says, "Entire dish sets are constantly selling, especially around holidays and Thanksgiving."



7

MID-CENTURY ANYTHING

Vases, coffee tables, credenzas – sellers say the demand for well-designed mid-century pieces remains strong.



GLASSWARE

Whether funky cocktail glasses, colourful goblets or delicate stemware, Marlene says glassware sets are hot. "That's something anyone can buy for a party."



9
10

EARLY ASIAN PIECES

Better-quality antiques, including pottery, are very popular.

VINTAGE HARDWARE

It's a fantastic way to transform generic furniture, and dealers see many people hunting for hardware, particularly handles and drawer pulls. **OH**

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5 STEPS TO CREATING A FABULOUS DINING SPACE



Cooler temperatures bring warmer gatherings as we all move indoors to entertain. That also means it's time to show off your home. No more backyard barbecues here. It's finally time to highlight your culinary skills or cocktail-making and impress your guests with a dining room design that feels both elegant and comfortable. Here are my five non-negotiable design elements for creating a fabulous dining space.

1 COLOUR & MOOD
Think about the mood you wish to evoke. A bright room with fresh white walls and lots of natural light will make you feel awake and alive. This is great for brunches and luncheons. For a more intimate vibe, choose richer colours and warm lighting. I love to use wallpaper and grasscloth in dining rooms. It adds a luxurious touch and can even act as a great conversation starter among guests while you slip away to prepare the meal.

2 FURNITURE LAYOUT
Function is foremost to dining room design. If your table is too big, the chairs may bump up against the wall, or if there are too many large furniture items, guests may knock over a lamp (or each other). A general rule of thumb is to keep a minimum of 36 inches between the edge of the table and the wall for chairs. This gives chairs just enough space to pull out so that your guest can slide in. More than 36 inches is even better. *Continued on page 56*



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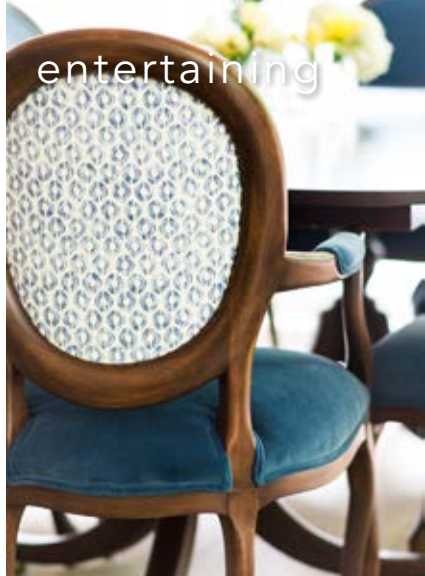
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3 SEATING SELECTION

You'll want to consider what type of seating suits your needs. Some families prefer a bench or banquette seating. This works great for children but not as well for adult dinner parties. No one wants to be the guest stuck in the centre of the bench. It's like having a middle seat on an airplane and the lady at the window continually has to squeeze by you to use the washroom. Banquettes do, however, work really well when you are tight for space. The 36-inch rule no longer applies when you have bench seating. Just make sure that your table has a pedestal base instead of four legs so people can get in and out easily.

4 SIZE MATTERS

The size of your table is important. It's not just about what fits in the room (although this is important too). Select a table that accommodates how you like to serve and dine with guests. You want it to have enough space for plates and décor or family-style platters in the middle, but one that still encourages great conversation across the table. Never go smaller than 36 inches wide. In general, tables 42 to 48 inches wide are most common. Anything bigger is difficult for conversation. The shape of the table can also affect your dining experience. You've seen this at restaurants. A round table is great for including everyone, but if it fits more than eight people (think of a wedding), it's too big and you get stuck talking solely to your neighbour all night. Round tables are great for smaller spaces. They lend themselves well to a space that also acts as a thoroughfare since there are no sharp corners to impede the flow of traffic.



No dinner table is properly set without candles, but use unscented so you don't compete with food aromas.



5 LIGHT IT UP

Lighting is the last main factor and perhaps the most important one if you're looking to create a space that keeps everyone wanting to get invited back. Use layers of light. Always add a dimmer to this room and use pot lights for great general lighting while you set the table, but turn them off when guests arrive and use a beautiful chandelier coupled with a pair of lamps on a sideboard or wall sconces for ambience. Chandeliers should hang approximately 29 inches above the table but this, of course, depends on your ceiling height. You can hang a light higher if your ceilings are extra tall.



BONUS DESIGN ELEMENT: If you have a little more space, consider a sideboard or a bar cart. Bar carts are fun to look at and you can set them up as an extra area for guests to serve themselves. The vintage bar cart in my own home sees a lot of action and sparks many conversations.

By considering mood, layout, table size, seating and lighting, you'll have covered all the bases to designing a beautiful and functional dining room. When you've found the perfect dining design, don't forget to add in some additional table decorations, candles and glassware. **OH**

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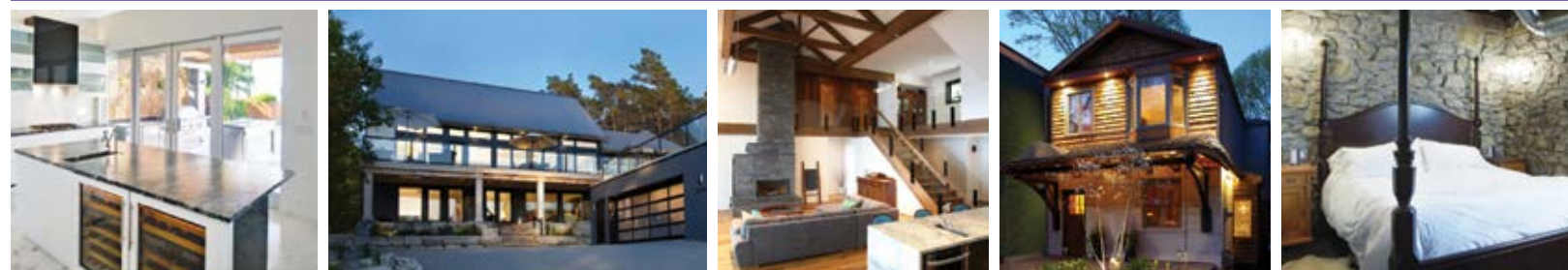
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STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Beach life



Rene Ouellet Jr.

When Phil and Elsa, who live in Toronto, wanted to build a cottage in the Tiny Beaches area, they remembered having a great experience working with builder **Rene Ouellet Jr.** back in 2004 when they and a few friends built a timeshare-style residence in the Wasaga Beach area. “We ended up selling our share to one of the other owners and started looking further north to build another place,” Phil remembers.

Continued on page 60

ABOVE: Rene Ouellet Jr. of A&R Design Build Inc. on the beach. **TOP RIGHT:** A no-maintenance composite deck off the main floor has glass railings that don’t obstruct the gorgeous view of Georgian Bay. **RIGHT:** The view of the cottage from the beach. **OPPOSITE:** The partially covered back deck provides a shady spot for outdoor meals and entertaining.





*“THE MINUTE
WE SHOWED
UP AT THE
PROPERTY
WE KNEW
THIS WAS IT.”*



For a couple of years they kept their eyes peeled for building sites in the Tiny Beaches area and were shown at least 10 properties by their real estate agent. One day, in 2017, they had just finished seeing yet another place when their agent mentioned a nearby property that was a teardown and perhaps not ideal. “Since we were already there we thought we might as well go see it, and the minute we showed up at the property we knew this was it,” he recalls. “When we got out of the car we were like, ‘this is it’.” The next step was to contact Rene.

Two years ago Rene Jr. took over the custom building business that his father, Rene Ouellet Sr., started in 1973. Rene Sr., now semi-retired, did framing and carpentry for Viceroy Homes back in the 70s and ended up becoming a Viceroy dealer for many years, until the company closed. Rene Jr. changed the business name to **A&R Design Build** and continued specializing in custom-built cottages.

Phil says Rene is very easy to work with. “When we had to choose things like flooring or tiles, Rene was very accommodating and worked around our schedules,” Phil says. “It was really a seamless process, from the day we sat down to look at designs and all through the rest, it was great. Rene is very straightforward and doesn’t mince words. He sticks with his timeline and budget. We dealt with any changes that had to be made easily through email; he is very organized.”

The building site was perfect for their waterfront needs. They loved that it was on a bit of hill with a nice view and that the area seemed quite private. “It wasn’t teeming with people and there were no back cottages, which is nice as well just from a density perspective,” Phil says. “It was just beautiful.” They enjoy visits from wildlife like foxes and rabbits, and the seagulls are always calling from small, rocky islands offshore. “For a place just two hours out of the city it feels very secluded.” *Continued on page 64*

*The pantry door
blends seamlessly
with the rest of
the kitchen.*

ABOVE: Slate-like tile floors in the front hallway end at the great room. **RIGHT:** A large, corner walk-in pantry was a must in the kitchen. **OPPOSITE:** The all-white kitchen with quartz counters is timeless, fresh and clean. The easy-to-maintain laminate floors look like hardwood and are a great cottage choice.





Natural stone surrounds the cosy wood fireplace.

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Phil and Elsa have two children, aged eight and 11, and the whole family loves the great room the best. The high ceiling and walk-out to the deck captures balmy breezes in the summer and the comfy seating around the wood-burning fireplace is a favourite spot in the winter. The fireplace features a 20-foot-high veneered, real stone surround. The upper floor loft with three bedrooms overlooks the space.

The durable laminate flooring (Mohawk Flooring, Reclaimed Chic in Golden Honey) throughout the main living areas is ideal for beachfront life. The couple chose tile flooring for bathrooms but love the look of the laminate everywhere else.

Rene says the flooring was installed right on top of the cement floor in the lower level. This flooring was supplied by **Therrien's Floors** in Midland.

"One of the smartest things we did with the deck was make it half-covered and half-open," says Phil. The grey composite deck features a roofed area over the dining table, complete with a cedar ceiling with lighting. "You can sit out there when it's raining or use



The daughter's bedroom is one of five in the home. There are three bedrooms upstairs and two more on the lower level. **BELOW:** The mudroom and laundry room are located off the hallway just inside the front door. There's lots of room to store the family's gear.



it to get out of the sun." Many of the stately cottages in the surrounding area have cedar shake siding so the couple put their own spin on the look and selected HardieShingle composite shakes in a rich grey hue. Though the couple loved the layout and flow of the original floorplan, they did make one change that has worked very well for them. The master bedroom was originally larger with an en suite bath and they felt four bathrooms in a cottage was a bit much, especially since there was already a bathroom right across the hall. They eliminated the en suite. Downstairs, they created a mudroom for more storage and a laundry space. "The mudroom was my wife's idea, she's brilliant with these things," says Phil. *Continued on page 66*



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The master bedroom is decorated brightly in blue and orange. **RIGHT:** Phil and Elsa selected all the lighting in the home to reflect the natural beach setting. **BOTTOM:** The couple decided against an en suite in favour of a large family bathroom upstairs.



The kitchen has a unique feature to accommodate a request Rene hadn't encountered before. "They wanted a pantry in the kitchen but wanted the door to blend in with the rest of the cabinetry," says Rene. The kitchen company had never done that before so they attached cabinet fronts onto a regular door. The new door blends seamlessly with the rest of the warm white kitchen.

Though the family spends as many weekends and holidays as they can at the cottage, it isn't so far from Toronto that they can't also come up mid-Saturday for a one-night respite from city life. "You still feel like you have a nice break from the regular routine," he says. The family spends a lot of time in the water, stand-up paddle boarding or kayaking, and Phil windsurfs.

While the firepit sits in a sandy area between the deck and the shoreline, they are not sure if that's the permanent spot for it yet, since the family also plays badminton and volleyball in that area. The fun of deciding on sites for lots of family activities and future memories at the cottage is the delightful side of cottage ownership. **OH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**



AT WORK

Store Style: Rustic, farmhouse and a touch of the refined. **What's New:** Fall textiles, wall art and home décor for the fall season. **Dwellings Favourites:** Muskoka Candles – campfire scent – unique linens, artisan pieces and wall art.

KATHRYN BOWMAN
OWNER

Dwellings

Dwellings is a little gem located in the historic Knox Church in Craighurst. It has been operating for five years. From home décor to art, textiles, furniture, artisan creations and more, Dwellings has what you need to make your house into that cosy retreat you have always wanted. Our loyal locals as well as visitors to the area know they will get a warm greeting and a fabulous selection of items to buy.

AT HOME

Neighbourhood:

Craighurst. **Favorite Room:** Open-concept great room with coffered ceilings and full granite fireplace created by my husband Randy. **Latest Purchase:** Home décor of course! **Current Project:** Getting the craft room/yoga studio ready to go.

FALL MUST-HAVE:
Cosy throws and scented-candles.

AT WORK

Current Projects: We are currently building in Midland, Innisfil, Caledon, Muskoka, Tiny and Tay Townships and at Orr Lake. **Next Project:** Our next project could be building YOUR dream home. **Specialty:** Designing and building quality custom homes and cottages at an affordable price.

RENE OUELLET JR.
OWNER

A&R Design Build Inc.

A&R Design Build Inc. is a second-generation full-service, one-stop shop for building your dream home. Our goal is to provide exceptional service and quality while transferring your residential vision into reality at an affordable price. We custom design your Viceroy-style dream home/cottage with you in mind or work with you to build plans you already have. We have been building lifestyles since 1973 at our model home on Highway 400 at Innisfil Beach Road.



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

MUST-HAVE:
A client's input. You define the project and budget, all with A&R's help.

AT HOME

Neighbourhood: A quiet Penetanguishene neighbourhood.

Favourite Room: Our open-concept kitchen and living room area. **To-Do List:** In the process of designing and building a new home with "the boss," my wife. **Grateful For:** The fact I am continuing on the tradition of building homes that my dad began 46 years ago, and the opportunity to serve our clients.



WHAT'S
NEW:
*Hexagonal
and patterned
tiles.*

MICHELLE
PAULIN

Desert Tile

Desert Tile is passionate about tiles. We help customers with small or large projects by transforming rooms with tiles and simple designs to create a sophisticated look.

AT HOME
Favourite Place
To Relax: The family
cottage. Favourite
Family Dinner: Sushi.

AT WORK
Tile Trend: White and grey
tiles in a 24-by-24 inch or larger size.
Coming Soon: Bright and rich colours, like
turquoise and navy. Advice: Select simple
tile designs at eye-level and save the pattern
and special unique designs for the floor to create
a great balance. Grateful For: Being in business
for 17 years, and helping so many customers
along the way. Meeting new customers in
the showroom makes the day fun and
exciting. It makes me happy to help
our customers accomplish their
projects.

EVENTS
Fall Exhibitions: Quest
Art At Home at the Atrium
Gallery. Marianne Braid: A Sense
of Place at the Project Gallery. TD
Thor Wealth Management Juried
Exhibition at the Upper Gallery.
Next Big Event: Quest Art
At Home Gala Evening,
October 24, 2019.



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& VIRGINIA EICHHORN,
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Quest Art School + Gallery Q

Quest Art School + Gallery has been delivering high-quality exhibitions and art programs for children, youth, adults and seniors in Midland for almost 25 years. We are a volunteer-driven organization with more than 80 volunteers and more than 400 members and we collaborate with numerous community groups. We have three beautiful galleries and a gift shop that presents fine work by local artisans.

GALLERY FACTS
Location: Downtown Midland – we
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Cultural Centre. Mission: To inspire and
build community connections through visual
arts. Programs: In-house classes for children,
youth, adults and seniors. Outreach to both
school boards and community groups.
Lectures, movies and more. Grateful For:
Being part of such a vibrant, creative,
artistic community.



THE TOUR

Event Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Number of Homes: Seven. **Neighbourhoods:** Penetanguishene, Tiny Township, Tay Township – Victoria Harbour and Thunder Beach. **Ticket Price:** \$40 for Early Bird, \$45 after September 14.
Hope To Raise: \$25,000 **New This Year:** Live DIY/home improvement videos leading up to the tour from our title, top tier and floral sponsors and a chance to win a VIP Experience, compliments of Tom Smith Chevrolet Buick GMC and Sainte-Marie Restaurant.

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AT HOME

Neighbourhood: Sheree: Country. **Matt:** Old Sunnidale. **To-Do List:** **Sheree:** Declutter. **Matt:** Design dream home. **Favourite Thanksgiving Side:** **Sheree:** Broccoli with cheese. **Matt:** Cranberry sauce. **Fall Activity:** **Sheree:** Sneaking the last few swims in the pool before it's closed. **Matt:** Hiking or biking.



AT WORK

Current Project: Large en suite bathroom, bedroom with custom furniture and headboard plus a walk-in closet. **Kitchen Trends:** Floating shelves and fun print tiles. **Hot Flooring:** Luxury vinyl plank.

MUST-HAVE: Drawers with organizational inserts.

Continued on page 74

people

AT WORK

Top Seller: Hot tubs.
Everybody wants to stay warm and relaxed heading into winter. **Service:** We can build anything for your home (including your house), just ask!



AT HOME

Neighbourhood: Carson Road. Country, but close to town. **Activity:** Golf. Here, Phoenix and Florida. **Thanksgiving or Halloween:** Thanksgiving for sure. Love the food. **Grateful For:** Wife, kids and family. Love them to death!

MUST-HAVE:
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Continued on page 76



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AT WORK

Hot for Fall: Fiddle-leaf fig plants, succulents and eucalyptus.
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Always Stunning: My absolute fave design is a combination of white hydrangea, green kale, leucadendron, cream roses and eucalyptus. It is a classic, timeless fall look.

WHAT'S
NEW: *Faux eucalyptus wreaths. We are in love.*

LEANNE GEORGE
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AT HOME

Fall Activity: Fall baseball for E and horseback riding with C. **Favourite Side Dish:** If I have to pick one, it would be the delicious sweet potato, brown sugar and pecan casserole that my husband makes for Thanksgiving. **Thanksgiving Plans:** Both sides of our family come for Thanksgiving dinner, which will hopefully include a last dip in our pool. **Costume:** A witch. I'll be taking part in the Annual Coldwater Witches Walk. **OH**

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MARINE living

STORY KATHLEEN DUNCAN
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

Sheer curtains dance gently in the breeze to a distant melody, while luxury cruisers sway on blue waves beyond. Two years ago, when that image was still a promise, Danielle and Gino Larice arrived on the manicured shores of Friday Harbour, an exclusive resort on Innisfil's Big Bay Point. *Continued on page 80*

Friday Harbour Resort on Lake Simcoe is an up-and-coming vacation destination in Innisfil with activities galore and a place to park your boat.

“IT’S A
MODERN
VENICE.”
– Gino Larice



ABOVE: Meagan Oldershaw of Complete Blinds worked with Danielle Larice to find the perfect motorized window coverings for her townhome. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Green chairs surround the live-edge dining table on the second level. The photo display above captures the resort vibe at Friday Harbour. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The kitchen is located on the second level, which also has a living room and deck with a grill. **TOP RIGHT:** Danielle decorated the townhome with a luxe coastal look from top to bottom. Blue dominates the décor and is the perfect pick for the waterfront venue. **BOTTOM:** Besides the kitchen and living area, there are two bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second level.



The visionary duo had recently moved north to Midhurst. With three teenage children at school in Newmarket and Collingwood, they sought a lifestyle where their busy lives could flow together.

Gino launched The Creative Co-Opt Inc. advertising and design agency in downtown Barrie and began leveraging his extensive experience on behalf of businesses across the region. A creative powerhouse in her own right, Danielle brings an attention to detail and a keen eye for interior design to her own clients.

When looking for a vacation home to complete the shift, the couple found paradise a short boat ride away.

“It’s like a modern Venice,” says Gino, noting the marine village’s network of boardwalks and canals. “Sunsets are

spectacular – and we see them twice: once over the marina and then, when we turn toward Barrie, we see it again over the water.”

He appreciates Friday Harbour’s proximity to Toronto and easy access to the Lake Simcoe community – including the dock-to-dock commute to work.

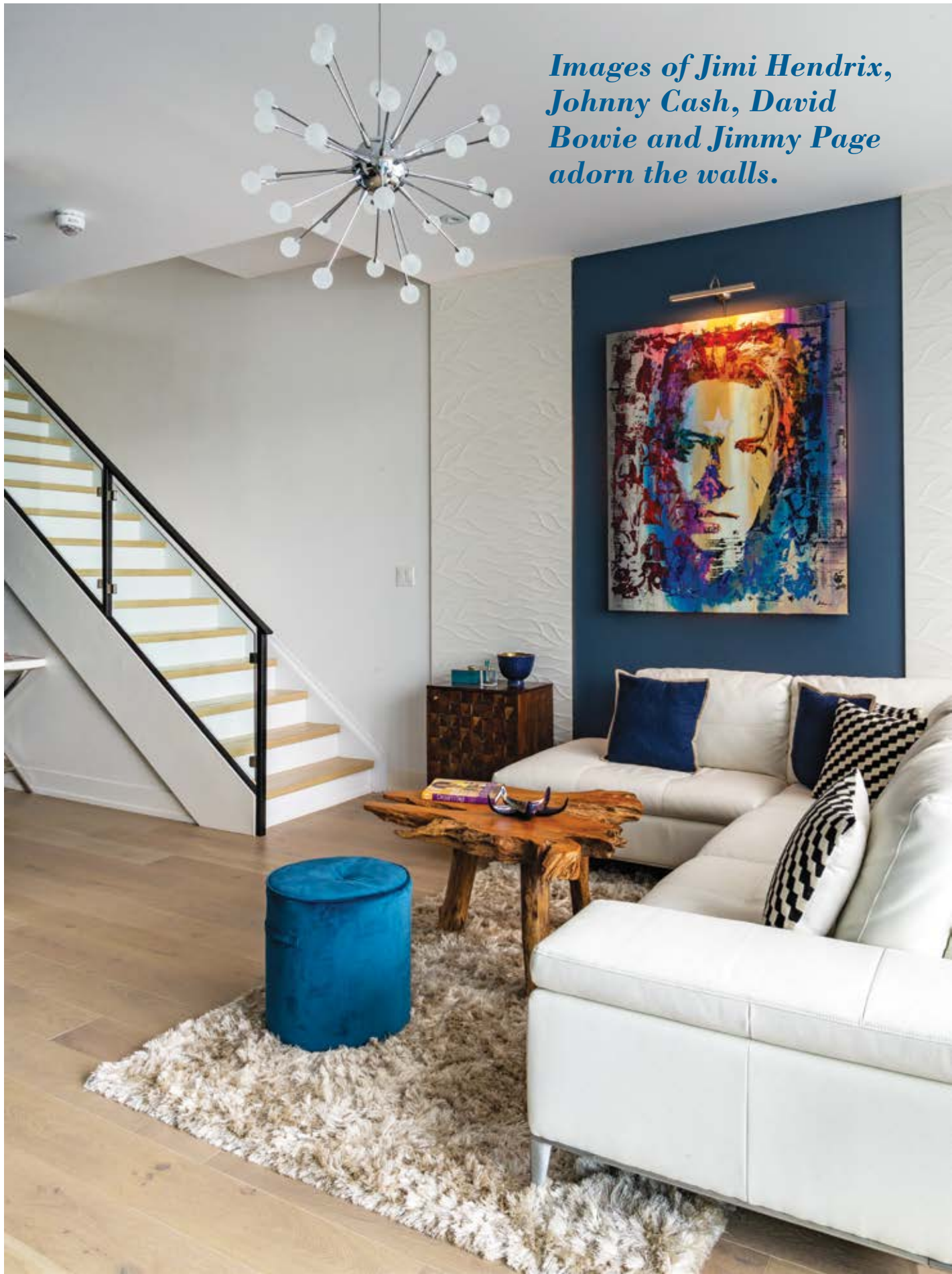
“We have friends all over the lake,” he says. “It’s a different vibe than Muskoka. When you’re walking the dog on the boardwalk, you feel like you’re away on holiday – not in Ontario.”

Today, Danielle views the billowing white curtains with satisfaction. As they conjure romantic images of leisurely days in extravagant settings, they also represent the successful culmination of a very personal project.

“I love creative ways of bringing ideas to life,” she says. *Continued on page 83*



Images of Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Cash, David Bowie and Jimmy Page adorn the walls.



While the scene-stealing waterfront is showcased by a full wall of windows on each of the three floors in this 2,200 sq. ft. freehold townhouse, Danielle is careful to balance decorative elements with practicality. To ensure privacy and shade options, she called on the experts at **Complete Blinds**, who brought a solid reputation, quality products and competitive pricing to the task.

“The windows are floor-to-ceiling (10-feet high on the first floor and nine feet on those above), and every single floor views the water,” explains Danielle. The second floor opens to a balcony, while the rooftop terrace offers an enviable panorama – and an abundance of natural light. “That’s why you need the blinds.”

With programmable remotes on each floor, the Hunter Douglas motorized panels can be pre-set or adjusted manually.

“I went with Complete Blinds because I wanted the great one-on-one relationship and the ability to customize the order,” she added.

She chose an elegant but simple blind style to match the mid-century modern charm she created throughout, using a rich blue accent colour to tie into the home’s natural setting. She optimized the menu of high-end finishes offered by the builder, Geranium Homes, choosing bold wall colours and texture to add sophistication with a playful nod to the beach. *Continued on page 84*

ABOVE: Remote-controlled motorized window panels offer security and block out the sun. This level has a walkout to a deck and steps down to the dock where the boat awaits. **LEFT:** The bar on this level has a full fridge and microwave and is just steps away from the deck and the dock. **OPPOSITE:** The music room on the lower level features artwork of David Bowie by Pietro Adamo.

RIGHT: A seaside design fits this sweet powder room. **FAR RIGHT:** Royal blue bedding in the master suite on the third floor matches the tufted headboard on the platform bed. Gold wallpaper adds to the regal sleeping quarters. **BELOW:** Glass railings on all staircases are framed in black and keep the space open and airy.



“As much as I really like design, I also really like to be economical without compromising the aesthetics,” says Danielle. Her design eye led her into country shops, popular online and big box retailers, and specialty stores. In Craighurst’s **Dwellings Home and Gift**, she sourced a unique tree stump coffee table for the music room that grounds the otherwise sleek space. It contrasts an Italian-made, high-gloss bar cabinet that stands comfortably against the far wall. In this lounge, functional guitars double as wall art. “If you know how to play, take it off the wall and go ahead!” encourages Danielle, backed up by the images of Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Cash, David Bowie and Jimmy Page that adorn the walls – all Pietro Adamo pieces purchased through charity in support of veterans, women’s and men’s shelters, and mental health initiatives to name a few. Those billowing curtains lead to a spacious covered porch with comfortable furniture arranged for conversation. Tall plants screen the retreat from the boardwalk at the water’s edge without compromising the view. “I like people, but I like my privacy, too, and here I can get both,” notes Danielle. In the main living area on the second floor, an oversize white quartz waterfall island and stainless steel Fisher & Paykel appliances frame the kitchen, while a church pew discovered at **The 400 Market** adds

Continued on page 86

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feature



A second master suite on the second floor is located down the hall from the kitchen.
BELOW: There's plenty of room for the kids' friends to crash after a day on the water.
BOTTOM: Danielle put together this funky office space that's ready when work calls.



warmth and bench seating to the dining room. New pieces from Structube and Restoration Hardware are woven into existing treasures, like a pair of Bose speakers from Gino's teenage years.

A self-avowed DIYer, Danielle doesn't hesitate to paint or paper a feature wall to achieve her desired effect. She'll also create the art to go on it. Photo galleries in several rooms were crafted by printing images from Shutterstock and popping them into frames from HomeSense.

With their holiday home complete and ready for entertaining, the family ventures beyond their street-gated court to enjoy the growing list of on-site amenities that includes chic restaurants and shops and a

lineup of special events.

For the active, a state-of-the-art gym and outdoor basketball court are popular options, but Gino prefers The Nest.

"I love the golf course," he says, referring to the championship course designed by award-winning architect Doug Carrick. "I was surprised at the sculpting and challenge."

Danielle is a willing participant, and admits her game's dramatically improved since enrolling in the courses offered by the resort. Boating is another one of their passions; sometimes they will play the front nine before heading out on the water.

The wide range of year-round options close to home is exactly why they chose the resort. **OH**

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(Please see ad on pg 63)



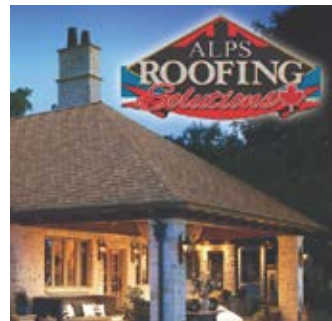
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(Please see ad on pg 85)



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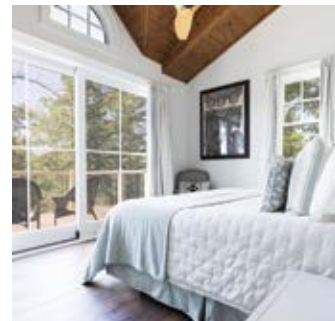
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(Please see ad on pg 55)

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All Glass Showers is happy to announce that we are moving to a new, larger location in mid October 2019, complete with on-site glass manufacturing capabilities to further service our customers with faster product delivery. All Glass Showers provides and installs a variety of subsidiary glass products such as custom mirrors and stainless steel heavy glass railings.

Our new showroom will allow customers to browse hardware, optional glass types, displays for custom closet organizers, sliding closet doors, barn doors and glass based furniture.

At All Glass Showers we're focused on customer satisfaction. Call for a free no-obligation in-home quote at 705.718.2683 or visit our website at: AllGlassShowers.ca for more information.

(Please see ad on pg 5)



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We believe our strength lies in the ability to translate your ideas and make them reality. Along the way, we will also show you some new ideas and push a couple of boundaries.

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(Please see ad on pg 57)



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(Please see ad on pg 85)



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(Please see ad on pg 53)



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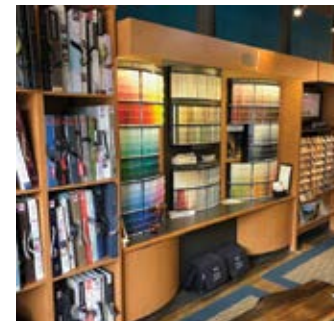
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(Please see ad on pg 7)



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(Please see ad on pg 10)

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Homemade APPLE CIDER

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

A classic fall favourite. This homemade apple cider is the ideal way to use some of those freshly picked apples.

INGREDIENTS

10-12 apples, cored and quartered
2 oranges, peeled and quartered
Cinnamon stick
4 whole cloves
8-10 cups water

DIRECTIONS

Place apples, oranges and spices into a stock pot. Add water until the fruit is covered.

Simmer over low heat for 2 hours.

Mash fruit and simmer for another hour.

Strain through a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth.

Reheat to serve. **OH**

online

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CUTTING BOARD MESSAGE STATION

PROJECT
DAWN MCCONNELL
PHOTOGRAPHY
TARA CHATTELL

MATERIALS

- Cutting board
- Paper roll
- Clip clamps with holes
- Upholstery tack
- Cork board
- Pencil
- Pen
- Twine
- Craft sticks
- Glue
- 4 washers

1 Determine where to place the paper roll, supporting craft sticks, cork board and clip clamps. Mark with a pencil.

2 Thread twine through paper roll and tie around board handle to desired length.

3 Attach craft sticks to the board with upholstery tacks, making sure to include small washers between stick and board to allow paper to slide smoothly.

4 Slide end of paper roll through both craft sticks.

5 Attach clips to left side with a tack, nail or screw.

6 Tap one tack into the top right side of board. Tie twine to pen and hang from tack.

7 Cut cork board to fit on right side between paper and edge of board. Glue cork board in place.

Now you're all set to start making lists and reminders for yourself. Think about how organized you'll be! **OH**



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