

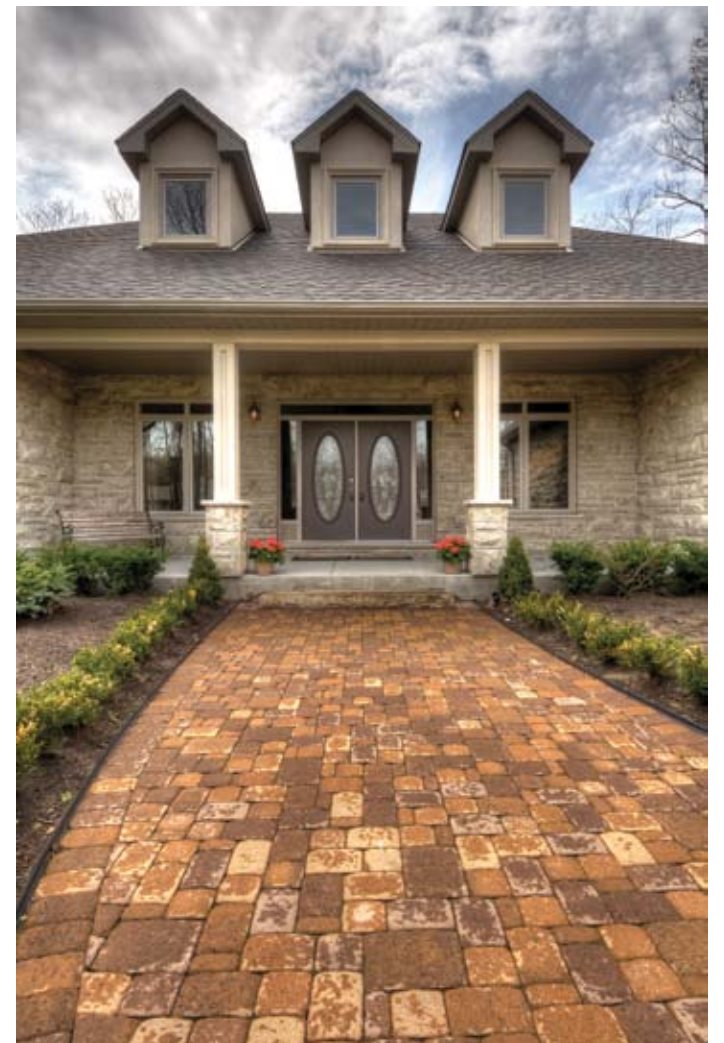
The focal point in the great room of Tim and Tina's custom home is a favourite painting of a pastoral Mediterranean scene by friend Don Woychyshyn. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Tile throughout the home was purchased and expertly installed by Desert Tile in Barrie. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Boxwoods line the stone pathway to the home's covered porch and front entrance.



MISSION *Accomplished*

BY M. CAROLYN BLACK // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Hiring a general contractor and watching the building process from afar is stressful enough. But what's the tension factor like when you decide to act as your own contractor on a custom build? Some people might find it an exciting challenge while others are overwhelmed by the experience. Tim and Tina felt a little bit of both during the long months of building, but now the memory is five years in the past. *Continued on page 77*



Olivia checks out a new recipe in the large open and well-appointed kitchen, designed and installed by KitchenArt North.



feature

RIGHT: Tina loves her sleek built-in, stainless steel Jenn-Air appliances. **BELOW:** A small TV sits on a built-in perch off to the side in the spacious kitchen. **BOTTOM:** Naomi's friends gather in the kitchen on Prom night. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Tim's loft office has a wonderful view of the neighbourhood. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The open stairway off the foyer leads upstairs to Tim's office.



Originally from Southern Ontario, Tim and Tina moved to the Barrie area 12 years ago, settling in the south end. One day over dinner they were chatting with a friend, Dave Duiella, about what they would want in a dream home when Dave grabbed a pencil and started drawing. "It all came together over coffee and dessert," Tina says. They took his drawing to **Rob Jeffries**, owner of **R. A. Jeffries Design and Drafting** to create the plan.

The project to build a 3,000 sq. ft. house was set into motion by the purchase of a lot in Phase III of the **Snow Valley Highlands** development five years ago. When their south-end home sold quickly, they rented a place, figuring they'd only be there two months while their custom house was built. Instead they parted ways with their general contractor very early in the building process and decided to take on the task themselves, which stretched the process from a couple of months to eight.

Tina says the most important thing you need when acting as your own contractor is excellent organizational skills. "That's Tina," Tim chuckles, as Tina pulls out several neatly organized folders containing paint and fabric swatches, appliance warranties and monthly calendars with pockets for keeping receipts, tallies on expenses and trade scheduling dates in order.

To keep trade scheduling conflicts to a minimum Tina recommends carefully checking references on the trades before you hire them. She adds that you need lots of time to devote to the process and laughs when she says to also "make sure you have more money than you expect to need."

The occasional building snags well behind them, they are completely happy with their family home and they love many of the features that were first discussed over coffee years ago, including the three walkouts from the kitchen, great room and master bedroom to the stone back porch. The family enjoys many evenings around the firepit in the large backyard, which looks out onto a forest with a ravine and walking trail. *Continued on page 78*



LEFT: This sunny main-floor guest room has a private bathroom. **BELOW:** Olivia's bedroom is chocolate brown with pink accents. **OPPOSITE TOP LEFT:** Chad's bedroom shows off his love of sports and music. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Naomi's bedroom is bright and filled with her favourite things. **TOP RIGHT:** In the master suite, Tim and Tina found their bedding during a trip to Turkey. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** This is Tim's loft space, opposite his office.



They love the location – close to Barrie and city life but far enough away to have access to trees and wildlife – Tina loves the birds and occasional deer sightings and she says that one evening Tim was growled at by a bobcat who was sitting outside on their air conditioning unit. “He was not expecting that,” she says.

All the external stonework and the fireplace in the great room was done by **Don Bassie Masonry**, and all the stone and granite for the fireplace came from **Simcoe Block**. “Don was fantastic, he just did a really good job.”

Upon entering the great room the eye is drawn upward to a painting of a pastoral Mediterranean scene by family friend, Don Woychyshyn, “He’s a wonderful friend of ours that we went on a trip to the Mediterranean with and we knew he was working on something but we had no idea it would be this grand,” Tina says. “I just love it.”

The couple loves to travel and, besides the painting, other mementos abound. The bedding in the master bedroom comes from Turkey. “It’s

funny because we were in the Grand Bazaar in Turkey and we had about five minutes to shop before it closed and we saw this and had to quickly figure out if it would work (with our colours) and it does,” she says.

Just beyond the great room, the grand foyer is flooded with natural light from the large windows and upper dormer skylights, but privacy is maintained at the back of the house with the use of a lovely focus wall painted in Brick Dust by Pratt & Lambert.

The colour scheme and decorating was created by **Carole Moody of Innovative Design & Decorating**. “Carole helped me pick my paint colours and my granite,” Tina explains. “She was so helpful that way, she could envision things.” The trim colour Carole chose for the house is not white or even off-white, but a warm, rich cream called Indian Ivory by Pratt & Lambert that ties together the slate floor from **Desert Tile**, the granite countertop and wall colours perfectly. Desert Tile supplied and expertly installed all the slate and tile in the house and Tina says she would recommend them to anyone because they were great to work with.

Heather Chapman and Debbie Maw of IndiVisuals did all interior painting. Tina says, “They were fantastic and I would hire them again in a second.”

The roomy yet cosy kitchen, by **Diane Smith of KitchenArt North**, is definitely the heart of the home. “I love to cook and do it all the time,” Tina says happily. “We have three teenagers and they always have friends over who actually put requests in for what they want when they’re visiting, like Asian steamed pork or chicken buns or homemade panzerotti.”

The pantry off the kitchen houses lots of cupboard space and a fridge. Tina says, “I used to do a bit of catering and I love having this room off the kitchen.” Diane Smith also did the pantry, along with three of the bathrooms and Tim’s office, which the Rep hockey coach and avid sports fan has decorated with sports memorabilia, including autographed hockey jerseys.

Despite the initial stress of contracting their own build, with the hectic pace of a busy family and two careers, Tim and Tina are very content with the sanctuary they built, which turned out to be absolutely perfect. **OH**

