

BRINGING *beauty* HOME

CREATING A FAMILY SANCTUARY IN SMALL SPACES WITH THRIFTY INGENUITY

STORY KIM MASIN | PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

Leah Smith-Size and husband Chris Size added lots of personality to their Barrie home. Leah is the creative force, a master of DIYs. Here in the dining room, she crafted the pillows, curtains and added an eclectic mix of furnishings.





Leah displays dish and glassware on open shelves in this carefully curated kitchen.

This kitchen started out as a basic builder's kitchen. Some upper cabinets were torn out and replaced with open shelving. The doors of other cabinets were removed. Wooden planks were used to make the counters.

A kids' breakfast area, complete with cereal dispensers, is ideal for busy mornings.



Metal plumbing pipes hold up the bar. The wall is covered in rustic planks.



Leah Smith-Size spends her days as a successful business owner of two Beauty Supply Outlets and two Super Cuts (one in Wasaga Beach) in her hometown of Barrie. It makes sense her house reflects her creative style.

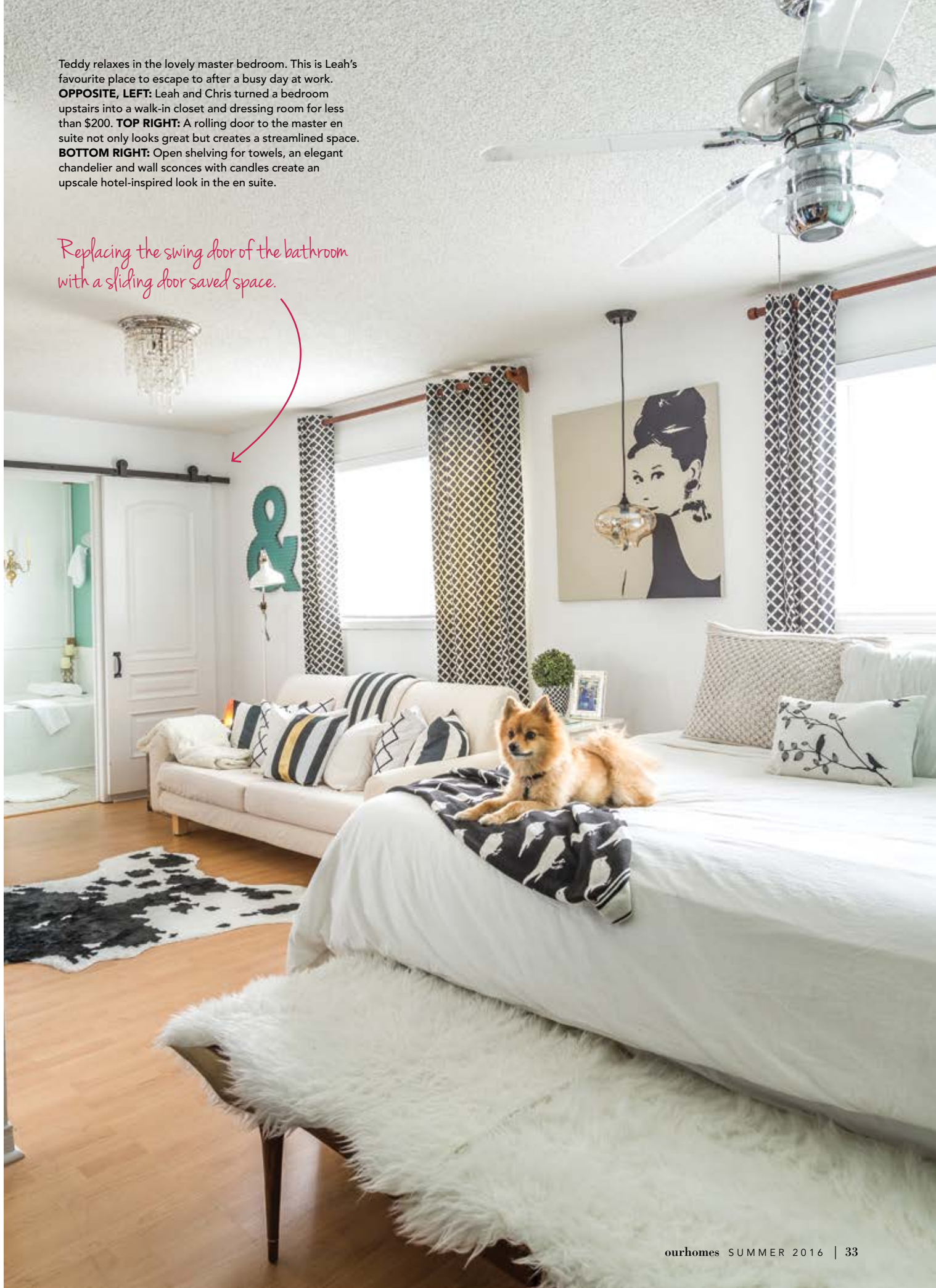
Chris Size, Leah's husband, starts his day at 4 a.m. to commute. Their two daughters, Emily, 13, and Isabelle, 10, are busy with sports, music and cheer, so family time is precious to Leah and Chris.

Their home embodies family with amazing personal style. Leah's creative genius for transforming "the bare bones" of their home resulted in decadent, functional spaces characteristic of the best interior designers. "I'm very thrifty," she laughs, "because I'm an entrepreneur."

The front entrance is cleverly crafted with benches, coat racks and labelled baskets for everyone. "The sliding doors on closets are just silly," Leah says, "so I took them off."

Continued on page 32

TOP LEFT: A collection of silver plates Leah found at flea markets hangs on the wall next to a tin 'Eat' sign. **TOP RIGHT:** The family room off the kitchen has a wood-burning fireplace surrounded with brick painted a bright white. **ABOVE:** An incredible display of family photos covers the back wall in the family room.



Teddy relaxes in the lovely master bedroom. This is Leah's favourite place to escape to after a busy day at work. **OPPOSITE, LEFT:** Leah and Chris turned a bedroom upstairs into a walk-in closet and dressing room for less than \$200. **TOP RIGHT:** A rolling door to the master en suite not only looks great but creates a streamlined space. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Open shelving for towels, an elegant chandelier and wall sconces with candles create an upscale hotel-inspired look in the en suite.

Replacing the swing door of the bathroom with a sliding door saved space.

The dining area is nestled by the front window providing natural lighting. A wooden table from her Dad, built by Old Ontario House, and custom-made benches by Andrea Kalbfleisch of Once Upon a Barn, provide ample space for entertaining.

Leah likes to support local businesses close to home. Distinctive touches add unique design to the room, including the clear chairs from **Structube** and rustic lighting from **Rona**, a focal point installed by **McBride Electric Company**. "Matt is great," Leah says. "I'm a bit fussy about holes in the wall and he's amazing at keeping it clean."

An electric fireplace has been moved from home to home and repainted. Furs draped over

the piano and benches texturize the room, adding plush comfort.

"Isabelle (Izzy) loves to play piano and put on a show," Leah says. "We keep changing as a family. The kids are getting older and our space requires different things."

"The only renovation other than painting we have done in the house is taking the kitchen wall out." The rustic wood bartop was installed by **Rick Gignac**. At Leah's request she asked him to create brackets out of plumbing pipe. Clear bar stools from HomeSense display modern features to complement the vintage design-style found throughout the home.

A stunning wall covered in Rustik

decorative wall planks, finished with pine trim warms the room. Silver trays Leah finds at garage sales hang on the wall.

This stunning designer-style kitchen is well planned with every element a family needs during busy meal times and for entertaining. "First thing we did was paint," Leah explains. "I also took the cupboards out in the kitchen." She opted for open shelving instead. The limited counter space was also cause for the redesign. "The fridge was originally placed against the wall and it took up valuable counter and area space." Moving the fridge provides ample room to prepare on the spruce counter built by Chris and his friend, and finished by Leah.

Continued on page 34



Leah installed the tile backsplash herself. Eclectic pendants over the sink were found on a trip to add a splash of colour. A genius breakfast area for the kids, which includes a cereal dispenser, provides space on busy mornings. The open shelving showcases dishes and kitchen essentials. Leah made curtains to cover her recycling and garbage area. Teddy, their adorable dog, even has his own area with a handcrafted shelving unit by Once Upon A Barn.

The family room is the true essence of family. Memories hang from the walls in an artistic collage of family pictures. A fireplace, painted by Leah to enhance the brickwork, warms the room and a well-placed mirror reflects a mirage enlarging the intimate space.

The dream closet was created for a reason. "Chris gets up every day at four in the morning to go to work," Leah explains. "I said to him, 'if I put your clothes in another room would you go get dressed in there?'" This was Emily's room so the trade had to be fair – she got to move to a new room. It was a win-win situation.

Leah framed her favourite designer shopping bags on the wall, displaying her amazing creativity and attention to detail. The dressers came from the master bedroom. "The entire cost of the closet was two hundred dollars – the cost of the ClosetMaid inserts," says Leah.

Leah's favourite room is the "New York apartment-inspired" master bedroom. The wall paint, reminiscent of Tiffany's signature hue, is the accent colour carried throughout the room. She found it as a mis-tint for five dollars. An antique desk from her father doubles as her beauty centre and makeup table. Pendant lights from Urban Barn frame the bed, while furs line the floors.

Continued on page 36

The creativity continues outside, where Leah and Chris made the furniture with packing skids.

This outdoor furniture is simple and inexpensive to make.



nest
photography

705.716.5952
www.nestphotography.ca

CHICàBOOM
CONSIGNMENT
FURNITURE, FASHION & DÉCOR

**NOW ACCEPTING
SPRING FASHIONS**
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

705.728.9300
www.chicaboominc.com



Great Women's Fashion, Accessories,
Furniture & Décor at Great Prices

110 Saunders Rd., Unit 13/14 Barrie

BJ SHEBA INTERIORS
Beautiful Homes Room by Room



Design Services
in the
Comfort
of your
Home.



Space Planning
Furniture & Accessories
Custom Draperies
Shutters & Blinds
Int/Ext Painting
Wall Coverings
Bedding & Linens
Kitchen & Bath
Floor Coverings



192 Gilwood Park Dr., Penetang ON
office.705.527.3014 bjshebaiinteriors@gmail.com
WWW.BJSHEBAINTERIORS.COM



Closet organizers create extra storage underneath the bed.

TOP LEFT: Isabelle's room is pretty in pink and full of clever storage. **RIGHT:** Emily's downstairs bedroom has a cool barn door and a British theme.



The sitting area is Leah's favourite spot to wind down for some well-deserved quiet time. This also helps at night when the kids have bad dreams. "They want Mom close, so they can sleep on the sofa and I'm right there." Innovative tricks such as taking off the swing door of the bathroom and replacing it with a sliding door are Leah's signature design elements. "We lost so much space walking

around the old door," she says. The beautifully decorated en suite is eloquently decorated with antique candle sconces over the large soaker tub. Isabelle's is the perfect dream room for a 10-year-old girl. Leah built the bed out of closet organizers so that Izzy can store her shoes and clothing underneath. Emily's room is the ultimate teen dream. In the lower level, she has a sitting area with

a futon so it can be pulled out for sleepovers and hanging out. Her British and musical inspirations are exemplified in this ultra cool space. Rick built the sliding door with the hinges to maximize the space. "I've always had a creative side. Every house I've ever owned I've redone." Given the creative business Leah owns, she enjoys being surrounded by beauty, and it shows. **OH**

KNOWLEDGE: facts, information and skills acquired through experience and education.



"Committed to offering renovations which enhance the enjoyment of your living space and add value to your home".

- Allan McLellan



www.RenovationsByRodgers.com

705.739.7720

DAYMARK
— DESIGN INCORPORATED —
ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS



custom home & cottage design

FREE design consultation

705.528.9803

daymarkdesigninc.com



Eagle Painting



Residential • Commercial • Institutional

Prompt Quoting Services | Excellence in Service Delivery

Assistance with color work | Check out our Website



Right Process, Right People, Right Products.

705.727.4965

info@eaglepainting.ca | www.eaglepainting.ca