



sparkling turquoise waters and white caps reminiscent of Caribbean waters to creeping mist with swirling grey waves more like the ocean off a Scottish coastline.

The homeowners love this ever-changing panorama but they are happy to report the excellent service provided by builder, Gilkon Construction Ltd., never wavered.

The homeowners moved from New

In an hour the view can transform from

The homeowners moved from New Zealand to Toronto in the 1970s and bought a cottage on Tiny Beaches Road about 15 years ago. That small one-and-a-half-storey building has been transformed into an open-concept, thoroughly contemporary two-storey beach house by Gilkon. They planned the expansion to accommodate their children and grandchildren; two of their grandchildren stay with them the entire summer while on school break from their residence in England.

With roots in Germany, New Zealand and now England, this multinational family has deftly chosen interior touches from many international sources. "We told **Cheryl**

Krismer from Crayon Design Co. that we wanted a sophisticated, contemporary beach house and we wanted it to have a New Zealand kind of feel. In New Zealand they have washed wood floors but here, because of the humidity, we decided it was more practical to go with a laminate." The wide, whitewashed planks throughout the home are from Germany and not only do they repel water, they also disguise sand, which is tracked in by "everybody, including the cat."

Global touches are sprinkled throughout. Aside from the German flooring, the entire kitchen was imported from Germany and tiles from Spain dominate a feature wall in the guest shower. The shower is a true one-of-a-kind, with a wall of 12-by-12-foot retro tiles featuring images of pop culture, including Ghostbusters and Abbey Road, an old VW camper van and a classic black telephone. The tower shower, with features like rain and waterfall settings, body jets and handheld spray, is a huge hit with guests and family members alike. Continued on page 55

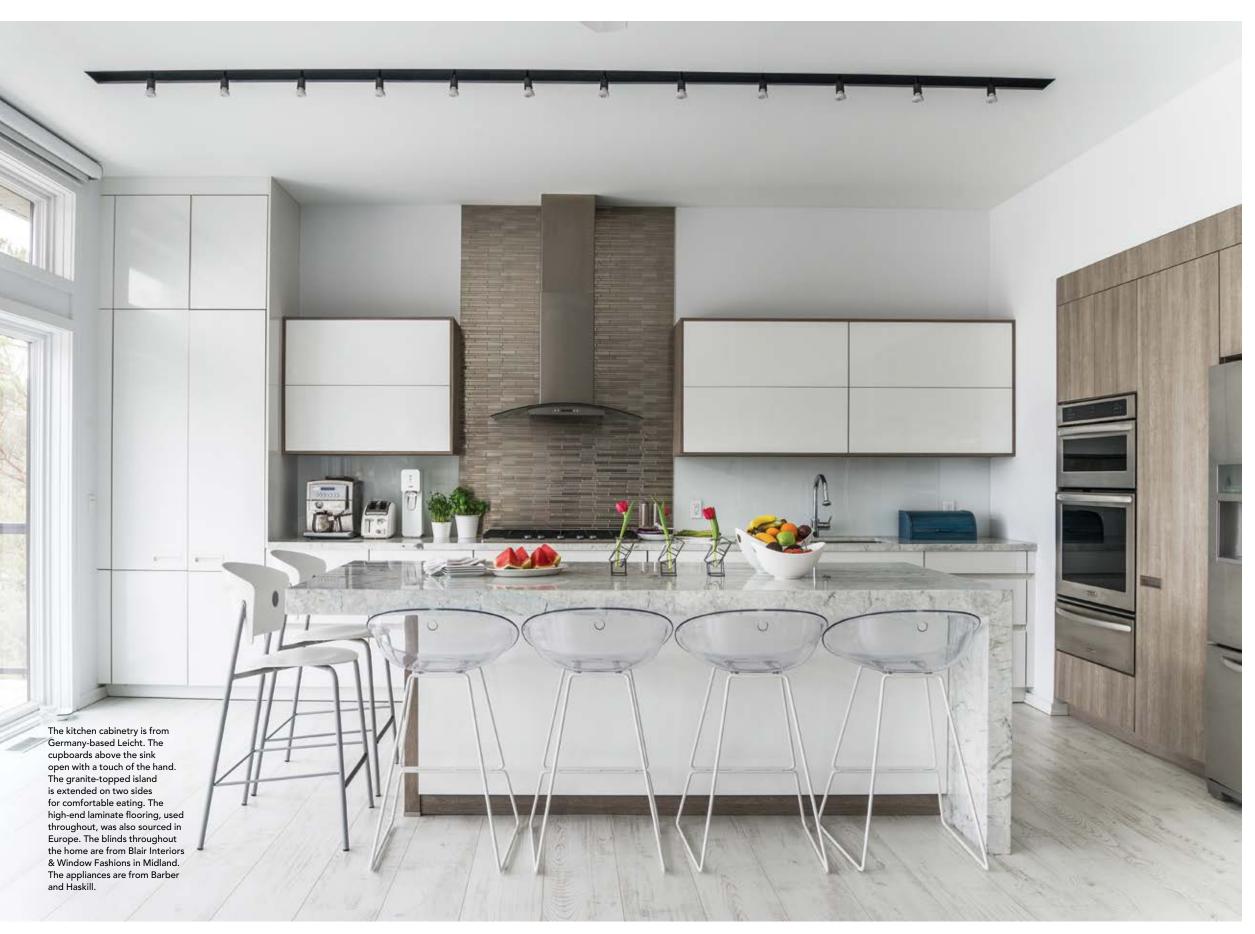
BELOW: The sunroom is a Gilkon Construction specialty. The homeowners use it all year-round. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The main living area has a linear fireplace with river rocks and a large TV mounted onto a slab of synthetic concrete from Dekko. BOTTOM LEFT: Enter the sunroom from the light-filled great room, beautifully furnished with pops of colour in fun fabrics. MIDDLE RIGHT: The large deck off the great room has a view of the bay and lots of room for relaxing in the sunshine with family and friends. BOTTOM RIGHT: Out back, raised gardens are filled with herbs and vegetables.













The landscaping, large rocks and slate patio, were completed by **Paul Kelly** of **Kelly's Northern Landscapes** and the homeowners say, "We gave him photographs from New Zealand of the beach stones and grasses and he interpreted it and came up with these great ideas. His team was terrific; hard-working, polite, they turned up on time, did what they said they were going to do and got the job finished when they said it would be finished. Gilkon was amazing too. It was a very positive experience."

Chris says architect **Peter Archer** of **Peter Archer** & **Associates** designed the exterior shell and Krismer worked with the homeowners to design the inside, so the build was based on two separate sets of drawings. For the exterior, the homeowners wanted a dark colour with a steel roof and lots of windows. They say Peter "interpreted our dream home beautifully," and added, "we could not have done this project without Cheryl, she was invaluable."

The kitchen is a masterful design of space-saving technology, based around the need to use every square inch of the typically smaller European kitchens. The homeowners planned every detail; the pantry's swing-out shelving that stays tucked away in layers when the doors are closed, white cabinetry with no handles to preserve the sleek, modern look and extra space between the main counter and the kitchen island so two people can comfortably navigate cooking and cleaning duties.

Because the European countertop depth is smaller than North American specifications, it was a challenge to find a dishwasher in the right size; one particular Bosch model was perfect. The countertops are granite and the island is a beautiful waterfall shape, based on a New Zealand design, with comfy barstools and under-counter lighting on the great room side. The kitchen side of the island is open for quick access to frequently used staples, like onions and olive oil, and the whole area is cooled in summer with remote-controlled Haiku ceiling fans by U.S. company Big Ass Solutions. *Continued on page 56*

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The master suite is restful with soothing hues, windows on two sides and a spacious en suite with a large vanity and egg-shaped vessel sinks. The vessel tub has a private view of the dunes out back.

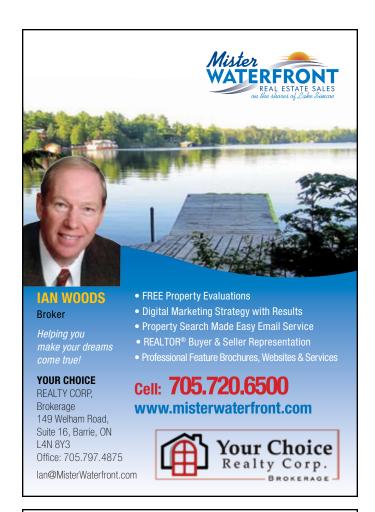


Remote-controlled blinds from **Blair Interiors & Window Fashions** top the expanse of west-facing windows along the front of the home. The upholstered furniture in the great room is from another Midland company, **Cabin Boy**.

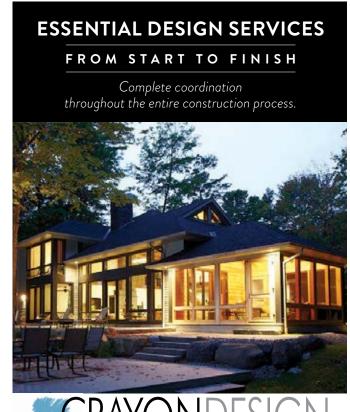
The powder room on the upper floor has no window so Gilkon installed a solar tube to bring light from the roofline into the bathroom. The master bedroom faces the morning sun and the en suite has no door to impede the open-concept flow; a barn-style door on a sliding track conceals the toilet. All bathroom cabinets and shelving in the great room are by **Georgian Kitchen Centre Inc.**; bathroom countertops are leathered granite.

The walls throughout the home are painted Decorator's White (CC-20) by Benjamin Moore except for the sunroom's cedar walls. The soothing sound of the beach waves can easily be heard through the sunroom's all-weather, plastic windows from **Templeton Windows & Doors Inc.** yet the gas fireplace means the cedar-scented room can be used in all seasons. The sunroom is a Gilkon signature. Continued on page 58









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BELOW: The laundry room is located on the first level, tucked beside the lounge. RIGHT: The lounge has built-in cabinets and chairs covered in a sentimental fabric with zebras, which reminds the homeowners of a trip to Tanzania to see the migration. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** This view is from the home's main entrance. The all-white interior provides a stunning background for the homeowners' art.



The lower family room has brightly upholstered chairs that contrast beautifully with the pale flooring. Gilkon found an 18-foot length of barnboard that Cheryl incorporated into the wall design. The ebony barnboard acts as a hearth, but anchors the TV and built-in shelves along the wall instead of a fireplace; grey melamine-faced drawers are tucked underneath for storage. Just off the family room is a laundry room and sauna – a sauna came with the original cottage and the homeowners didn't want to give up that luxury when they renovated. The home is built on an incline so even the guest bedroom on the lower level has a view of the bay. Continued on page 60





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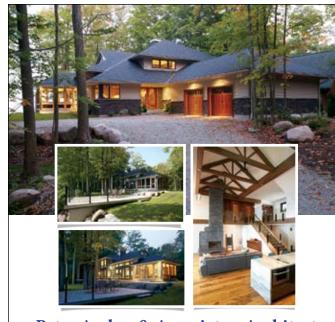
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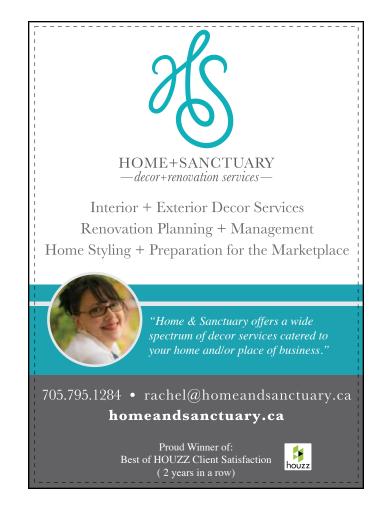


Although not much of the original structure is recognizable, one piece that was salvaged is the height-marker wall started in 2006 to record seven growing grandchildren. The piece of wall containing the measurements was cut out, framed and mounted on the wall of a lower guest bedroom, furnished with bunks and a trundle bed for the grandkids.

Chris says the renovation and build was a true collaboration between Peter, Cheryl and the homeowners; everyone contributed and worked very well together. The homeowners say Gilkon's strength is having their own employees and sub-trades on staff to provide continuity and accountability on all their projects. Positive word-of-mouth and repeat business from happy clients has solidified Gilkon's reputation as outstanding in the building industry. **OH**

TOP LEFT: There is a special place for all the grandchildren in this home. TOP RIGHT: This growth chart was taken from the old cottage and framed for the couple by Gilkon. BOTTOM: The bathroom in the lower level is simply spectacular. This unique tile in the glass-enclosed shower capture scenes from pop culture. The shower bar has an array of sprays. LED lights are built right in to the mirrors on the wall.









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