

BEACH HOUSE

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

The famous quote from Greek philosopher Heraclitus – “change is the only constant” – certainly applies to the magnificent waterscape from this Wymbolwood Beach home. *Continued on page 53*

A crisp white interior, walls of windows, and thoughtful, personal furnishings complete this spectacular beach home. **TOP RIGHT:** Gilkon Construction Ltd. President Chris Bondar is proud of his team. Gilkon completed the addition and renovation of this home. **RIGHT:** The home includes a double-car garage that has a stunning single Garaga door, sourced at Vriezema Overhead Doors. There’s a deck over the garage, one of many around the property.





In an hour the view can transform from 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 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, white-washed 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 kitchen cabinetry is from Germany-based Leicht. The cupboards above the sink open with a touch of the hand. The granite-topped island is extended on two sides for comfortable eating. The high-end laminate flooring, used throughout, was also sourced in Europe. The blinds throughout the home are from Blair Interiors & Window Fashions in Midland. The appliances are from Barber and Haskill.



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*



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*

Mister WATERFRONT
REAL ESTATE SALES
on the shores of Lake Simcoe

IAN WOODS
Broker

Helping you make your dreams come true!

YOUR CHOICE
REALTY CORP,
Brokerage
149 Welham Road,
Suite 16, Barrie, ON
L4N 8Y3
Office: 705.797.4875
ian@MisterWaterfront.com

- FREE Property Evaluations
- Digital Marketing Strategy with Results
- Property Search Made Easy Email Service
- REALTOR® Buyer & Seller Representation
- Professional Feature Brochures, Websites & Services

Cell: 705.720.6500
www.misterwaterfront.com

Your Choice
Realty Corp.
BROKERAGE

QUINN'S MASONRY

Specialties Include:

- Brickwork • Stonework • Block Work
- Chimneys • Foundations • Custom Fireplaces

705.427.6227
Call for FREE Estimates!
quinnsmasonry@gmail.com • www.quinnsmasonry.ca

ESSENTIAL DESIGN SERVICES
FROM START TO FINISH

Complete coordination throughout the entire construction process.

CRAYONDESIGN

(416)778-7606 crayondesign.com info@crayondesign.com

Lakeside | **TREE EXPERTS**

trusted in trees since 1963

INSURED & CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Pruning & Cabling	Assessment & Health Care	Emergency Service
Hazardous Removal	Emerald Ash Borer Treatment	Stump Removal

705-722-4800
www.LAKESIDETREE.CA

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*



Building or Remodeling?

Let us help you!

We Take the Guesswork Out of Development Projects
Saving on Both Time & Budget!



What we do:

- Due Diligence & Feasibility Studies
- Grading & Servicing Design
- Floodplain Review & Shoreline Projects
- On-Site Wastewater Systems (septics)
- Topographical Surveys
- Project Management
- Assist with all Planning & Development Related Permits (town/city, county/region, conservation authority, etc.)

We provide support with interactive development siting for your renovation project, whether on an in-town, estate or cottage country property.

Let us help you through the process of building your dream home or retreat!

Estimates provided FREE of charge!
705.427.0711
info@mntconsulting.ca



Proudly Serving Simcoe County, York Region, the GTA & Cottage Country Since 2010
info@mntconsulting.ca | www.mntconsulting.ca



Peter Archer & Associates, Architect

We are a team that listens to our clients and balances function & affordability with a refined aesthetic, tailored to our client's needs and dreams.

Proud to have Partnered with Gilkon Construction Ltd. & Crayon Design Co. Inc.

705.735.9544
78A Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3M4
parcher.parcher@rogers.com





CATHERINE STAPLES
INTERIORS



NOVUHL
FASHION



705.7218585 | 470 HURONIA RD. BARRIE
CATHERINESTAPLESINTERIORS.COM | NOVUHL.COM





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.





HOME+SANCTUARY
—decor+renovation services—

Interior + Exterior Decor Services
Renovation Planning + Management
Home Styling + Preparation for the Marketplace



"Home & Sanctuary offers a wide spectrum of decor services catered to your home and/or place of business."

705.795.1284 • rachel@homeandsanctuary.ca
homeandsanctuary.ca

Proud Winner of:
Best of HOUZZ Client Satisfaction
(2 years in a row)



SALNEK'S
CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS
COLLINGWOOD . DUNDAS . TORONTO . MUSKOKA . MARKHAM

"Let's Decorate!"
Your Home



HunterDouglas

Salnek's Custom Window Treatments
offers a unique selection of Blinds, Drapery and more for your home.

Manual and Motorized Shading Solutions • Unique Drapery Hardware
Roman Shades, Valances, Cornices • Area Rugs • Reupholstery

705.737.4200
#507-34 CEDAR POINTE DRIVE, BARRIE | WWW.SALNEK.CA



Live Edge Tables • Handcrafted Here In Simcoe County • For The Love Of Nature
905.716.7600 | planktotabledesign@gmail.com | planktotable.com ♦ Reclaiming Nature