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## editor's note



**OUR HOMES RETURNS THIS SEASON** to a property we've featured before. Perched high on a cliff overlooking Kempenfelt Bay, this home is truly one of my favourites.

We've returned for a couple of reasons: it has been totally transformed from a contemporary dwelling to a more traditional home for the new owners. We're also back because it's Christmas and designer Catherine Staples, who guided the fabulous transformation, decorated the home for the holidays ahead.

This home first appeared in our Spring 2010 issue. You'll remember the beach-house kitchen and the fabulous master en suite, both by designer Elke Bradford of Designers Plus Kitchen & Bath. You'll love the new, softer look, on page 72.

We also drove north to Orillia to photograph the beautifully executed renovation of a lakefront home by Terri Clark Interiors Inc. Our feature on page 52 includes the before shots so you can see just how much creative work went into designing and rebuilding the space.

Our third home is an incredible new-build by a dynamic young couple. Tim Perry and his wife Trisha Bowman have created a home that's pretty spectacular (page 28). I felt like Goldilocks during the photo shoot, telling our talented photographer Sandy MacKay "ahhh, this house is just right."

I love producing our holiday issue, if only because I get to see the best of what's new at local retailers and get a jump on my Christmas shopping. Photographer Bonnie Fox shoots most of the products for our magazine and she loves to shop too, so we work very well together. It's also fun to see how passionate local businesses are about their products and services.

This holiday season do your very best to buy what you can nearby and spread some much appreciated cheer.

Bring on the snow!

Sincerely,

*Georgette*

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief  
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Candice Manastersky.

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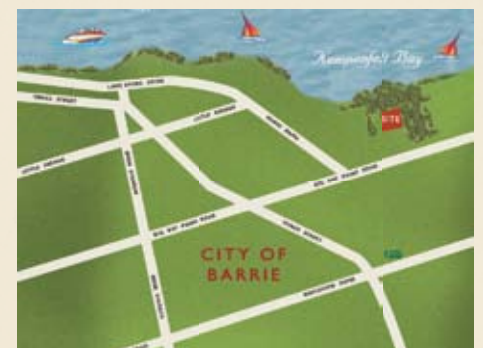
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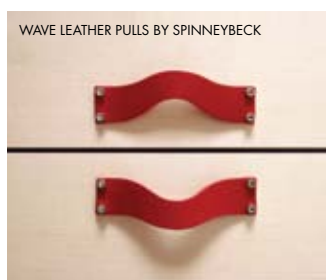
# TRENDING *forward* RAW & INDUSTRIAL IN 2013

With watermelons and popsicles a distant memory, it's time to forecast the upcoming trends for 2013. Ironically, when I look at the number "2013," I think of space travel and futuristic design. Maybe we're not quite there, but we are definitely heavy on industrial style – metals, glass and a whole lot of technology and innovation.

Have designers been drawing inspiration from manufacturing plants? Not sure. But we will certainly be able to decorate our homes to look like one.

## METALS

Hot rolled, cold rolled, powder coated, you name it; steel is an unbreakable trend. Tables, chairs, tiles; the industrial trend is becoming more refined than factory, but the presence of steel will be huge.



WAVE LEATHER PULLS BY SPINNEYBECK

Another metal that will continue to make its comeback is brushed brass. Not the shiny kind. That disappeared after the financial crisis in the 80s. Brass evokes quality and timelessness. Cabinet hardware, faucets, lighting; brushed nickel hasn't gone by the wayside, but we now have a serious contender.



CONCRETE WALLPAPER BY PIET BOON

## WOOD

Completely contradicting what we'll be seeing in paints, woods are appearing softer, muted and grey-washed. We'll see a lot of smooth looking oak in the market, wide planks, very Belgian in feel. From flooring to furniture, this natural aesthetic will make the jump from high-end to mainstream.

## CONCRETE

Concrete flooring, faux wallpaper and products (yes, there are concrete lights out there!) are just some of what we'll be seeing.



Designer Stephanie Redmond answers your questions.

The wallpaper is fascinating because the optical illusion that it's concrete or another material, is so realistic you literally have to go and touch the paper to see if it's the real deal.

## WALL COVERINGS

Poor old paint may just not be enough anymore. Glass, leather, metals and wallpaper are just some of the wall cladding we'll see in the upcoming year. Using back-painted glass panels in a shower creates a completely seamless wall leaving you with a translucent feel and no grout lines. Leather tiles will also become more popular as a wall material (and floor, actually) adding richness and texture to an otherwise drab piece of drywall. It's becoming available in several patterns and colours taking the place of wallpaper for a slightly more luxurious effect.

## COLOUR

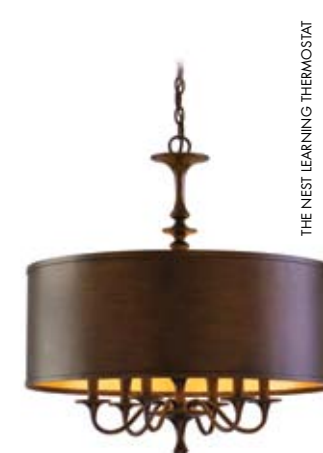
For the colour enthusiasts out there, it's definitely your year! With this natural base of wood, glass and metal, colour will be hot and anything goes. It may just be a pop of colour, but the pop is definitely more dramatic – more of a go big or go home approach. Admittedly, after so many beige years, it's uplifting.



PIXEL CUSHION BY BEV HISEY

## TECHNOLOGY

Trending forward we have to touch on technology. We've seen USB outlets added to regular power outlets and thermostats that teach themselves your schedule and that you can adjust from your phone. I can't wait to see what comes next but I know it will make our lives easier and of course, more stylish! **OH**



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feature

# A *very fine* HOUSE

BY M. CAROLYN BLACK  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SANDY MACKAY

After five moves in the last decade, owners Trisha and Tim believe they got every detail right in their new home. They've created a haven that's beachy, serene and a little bit rustic.





**LEFT:** Tim's office is located just off the foyer. The french doors offer privacy while allowing light to shine in. **BELOW:** Holly, the couple's long-haired Australian Shepherd, has her own shower, tucked under the mudroom stairs.



**TOP LEFT:** Soothing grey walls on the main floor and simple touches, like the black lantern in the entrance, add to the charm of this family home. **TOP RIGHT:** A separate entrance leads into this bright, beautifully designed mudroom. **ABOVE:** The Hamptons-style exterior is a classic look carried through to the inside of the home.

Between Trisha Bowman's nine years of real estate experience, husband Tim Perry's five years as a custom builder at [Perry Custom Homes](#) and five moves in the last decade, the couple figures they've finally got every detail right in this stunning south Barrie home. "My design style is definitely traditional but we also tried to go very beachy and serene with a little bit of rustic to try to make the house feel a little more lived in," says Bowman, a Realtor at [Century 21 B.J. Roth Realty Ltd.](#) The open concept on the main floor ensures unobstructed sightlines throughout, and the soothing soft grey walls and warm white trim train the eye on the beautiful view through large windows (by [Strassburger Windows & Doors](#)) along the back of the house. With a solid treeline for privacy, a large travertine natural stone patio with hot tub, built-in barbecue and pool, the backyard is a family

oasis. A trampoline and play area for five-year-old Mackenzie, plus a space for a winter skating rink that doubles as a summer volleyball court, are tucked into the corners of the one-and-a-half acre lot.

This is the first time the family has lived in a two-storey home. "We are accustomed to bungalows but with this home, we wanted a different feel," says Perry, a professional engineer and Century 21 realtor who was also, of course, the general contractor and builder. They liked the idea of entertaining on the main floor of their 3,990 sq. ft. home and having all four bedrooms together on the second floor, along with a loft area where Mackenzie and her friends can play and be as noisy as they like while the adults enjoy relative peace and quiet downstairs. The entire design is unified by custom-stained oak floors upstairs and down by [Majestic North Floors Inc.](#); installation by [Darek Stapinski](#). Built-in units in most rooms throughout the house keep things neat and organized.

The kitchen look is classic Hamptons style – white and fresh – with soaring nine-foot cabinets, lots of moulding details and panelled fridge doors. This is the second time the couple has hired [Diane Smith of KitchenArt North](#) to design their kitchen. "I was really happy with Diane the first time so we contacted her again," Bowman says. "Diane is very good at understanding the space required for a good kitchen and she knew what would work here."

The couple particularly likes the clean lines generated by concealing the fridge and dishwasher behind white cabinetry, which visually enlarges the space. A large wall of glass, display cabinets for the couple's good dishes, is given depth with an interior coat of dark pewter paint. Bowman and Perry chose light fixtures from [Glass Lighting Gallery](#) and Restoration Hardware and selected marble countertops from Moscone and [Artistic Stone Design](#). *Continued on page 32*





**TOP:** Pristine white built-ins frame the fireplace from Napoleon Home Comfort in the great room. The coffered ceiling adds a unique architectural element to the space.  
**ABOVE:** The beautiful marble-topped island separates the kitchen from the dining room.

Smith says Bowman was easy to work with since she had kept all details of her vision for the kitchen in a binder. “Trish really did her homework prior to our first meeting and had a very clear idea of the look she wanted to achieve,” Smith says. “She made an idea book of pictures torn from magazines that she showed me and right off the bat I knew exactly which direction she wanted to go in. It just happened to be a style that I personally love too, so it made the entire design process very enjoyable.”

The exterior of the house is cedar shakes stained in Beachwood Grey with pristine white trim. Bowman says the inspiration for the exterior design and colour came from the 2010 Princess Margaret Dream Home, designed by Lynda Reeves of *Canadian House & Home*. “We loved the front elevation of that house but that design didn’t have a loft above the garage nor did the layout work for us and I felt it looked more proportioned with (the loft),” Perry says. All the interior and exterior trim work in the house was designed by Perry with interior work by **LT Woodcraft Carpentry**.

Bowman says they went through a lot of design options and mock-ups for the trim and built-in units. Perry adds, “They may cost a little extra but they are worth it for the future aggravation they save. Instead of going ahead and finishing something right through to completion and then saying ‘I don’t like that,’ build a small sample and make sure you are happy with it. We even did mock-ups with the trim on the exterior, which resulted in a lot of changes on the fly but ultimately added a lot of extra character to the home.”

*Continued on page 35*



**FAR LEFT & BELOW:** Trisha Bowman, Tim Perry and Holly gather in their gorgeous all-white kitchen by KitchenArt North.  
**LEFT:** A rustic, dining room table from Restoration Hardware seats 14.

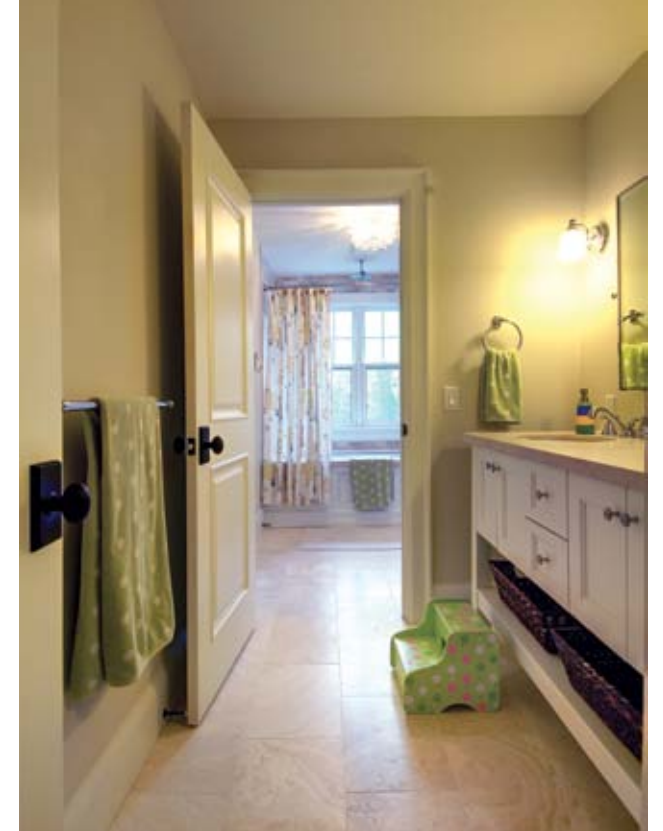






The couple figured Holly, their two-year old long-haired Australian Shepherd, would track in a lot of the mud that comes with a freshly graded un-sodded lot so they installed a tiny shower under the mudroom stairs. “That’s the one thing that every trade that walked through this house commented about,” laughs Perry. “I really didn’t think (the shower) was going to get used but I was completely wrong.” Aside from rinsing muddy paws, the shower is perfect for cleaning recycling bins or beverage coolers. All plumbing fixtures in the house from [Yorkwest Plumbing Inc.](#) were installed by [Roger’s Plumbing](#).

The family is looking forward to celebrating Christmas in their new home, with all of Bowman’s extended family coming for games and dinner around the massive 14-foot dining table made from salvaged wood. They’re also planning a traditional Christmas Eve viewing of *The Polar Express* in the lower level theatre room. *Continued on page 36*



**ABOVE:** The master bedroom upstairs has a walk-out to a balcony overlooking the pool and backyard below. **RIGHT:** The master en suite has a vessel tub, separate shower and a dark vanity with a double sink and clever storage.



Mackenzie’s bedroom is a little girl’s dream. She has a little cubby to play in and a big comfy chair to read in with her Mom and Dad. **ABOVE:** Mackenzie’s bathroom has a separate room with a tub and shower.




feature


**RIGHT:** The laundry room is upstairs at the end of the hall, near the stairs that take you down to the mudroom. **BELOW:** The gym is in the finished basement, where a ping pong table and a theatre room attract family and friends. **BOTTOM:** The bar downstairs is a natural gathering space when family arrives for the holidays.



A resounding seal of approval on the house was already given by the youngest family member before they moved in. Perry says their daughter Mackenzie noticed the play cubby area framing in her bedroom even before the roof was on the house. “My favourite thing about this house is how much my daughter loves it,” he says. “It truly makes everything worthwhile.” **OH**








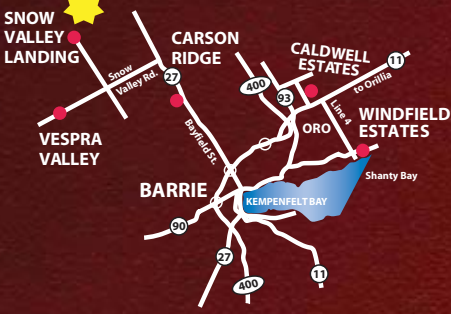
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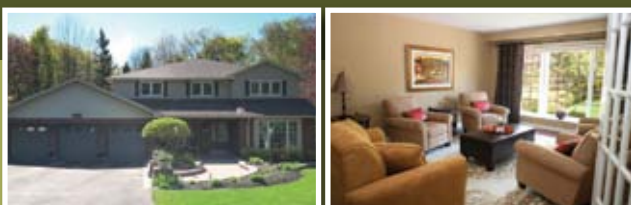
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## HOME INSPECTION RAISING THE BAR

BY JILL ELLIS

Bill Mullen has high hopes! The Ontario-based home inspector is also the director of external relations for a new organization, the National Home Inspector Certification Council (NHICC).

The NHICC is pushing for nation-wide licensing of home inspectors, but at this time Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces and Saskatchewan are just looking at this possibility.

Alberta and British Columbia already license home and property inspectors. B.C. led the way, endorsing inspectors since April 1, 2009, while Alberta came onside September 1, 2011. Neither of these came about without a lot of pushing from interest groups within those provinces, and Mullen doesn't expect it to be much different in Ontario, though he hopes that the timeframe to have licensing passed into law could be shortened because of the groundwork done by those first two provinces.

According to Peter Link, manager of house and property inspection registration for the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. (ASTTBC), his organization lobbied for two decades to make this happen.

Helene Barton, Executive Director of the B.C. branch of the Canadian Association of Home and Property & Inspectors, (CAHPI), agrees. "We lobbied the government for eight years to have our industry regulated because prior to that anyone who bought a ladder and had a business card could say they were a home inspector. Many were charlatans."

Though there are training courses and college programs in all provinces, in most provinces there is no onus on someone who calls him/herself a home inspector to take such education. In the two provinces that currently license, the several certifying organizations that exist require some or all of the following to become licensed: specialized education (number of hours varies from organization to organization), a practical (or field) test, written exam, a peer inspection process, and, finally, an application to the



provincial licensing body. In the case of B.C., that's Consumer Protection B.C. For Alberta, it's Service Alberta. The outcome of the application process is not ideal, according to Darcy McGregor, secretary and founding member of CAHPI Alberta. "We thought they (the government) would raise everyone to the highest level, like our members follow, but they said that wouldn't be fair."

While the expectations aren't as high as he'd like, McGregor says, "Licensing at least gives homeowners a bit more assurance that the person they are dealing with has some education and the ability to look after them as a home inspector."

Link echoes this sentiment: "We pushed for one certifying organization and one standard of practice, but there are four in B.C." So buyer beware is still in force, and homeowners must research any home inspector they are thinking of hiring. "The onus is still on the homeowner. (They should ask) where did they get their education; do they have experience in the field to have the ability to recognize problems."

Barton, though, feels that the process has been overall positive. "It got rid of a lot of people who are unqualified. We are still trying to get the consumer to ask about the licence before hiring a home inspector. It gives them peace of mind knowing that they (inspectors) are qualified."

Though there is mixed reaction to the outcomes in B.C. and Alberta, there's one point that McGregor, Link and Barton all agree on – home inspectors in those provinces are now required to carry errors and omissions insurance. They must be insured up to \$1 million, so if they miss something during an inspection and this results in a costly repair, the homeowner may have financial recourse.

One piece of the puzzle that is still missing, according to Nigel Trevethan, of Harper Grey LLP and legal counsel for CAHPI B.C., is a "cooling off period, like many other large purchases." He thinks it's regrettable that the "government hasn't mandated that every real estate transaction must involve a home inspection. This is especially important in an overheated housing market, like Vancouver." He feels that this is key to consumer protection.

So, though Mullen's hopes for the future of licensing in Ontario – and throughout the country – are high, experience tells us that the outcome may be less than stellar but better than the status quo. **OH**

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# ALMOND GINGER CHOCOLATE BARK

+ *lots of topping variations*

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



## ALMOND GINGER CHOCOLATE BARK

(Makes: about 20 pieces)

1 lb (450 g) dark chocolate, chopped

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup toasted whole almonds, coarsely chopped

$\frac{2}{3}$  cup candied ginger, thinly sliced

- Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pot of gently simmering water, stirring often until smooth.
- Stir in about one third of each of the almonds and candied ginger. Pour mixture onto parchment paper-lined baking sheet and gently spread with the back of a spoon until about an even scant  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (1 cm) thickness.
- Sprinkle with remaining almonds and candied ginger.
- Refrigerate until solid, about 20 minutes. Break or cut into pieces.
- The bark will keep refrigerated in an airtight container for about 1 week.
- For gift giving, package as desired.

Every year about this time, as the mercury drops and the days get shorter, my mind naturally turns to the fast-approaching holiday season. And one of my favourite holiday traditions is poring over cookbooks looking for inspiration for this year's homemade gifts from my kitchen. Nothing is sweeter than stirring, swirling and baking up tasty treats to wrap and deliver to friends, family, co-workers, teachers and other special folks in my life. While the cookies, candies and breads I bake may vary from year to year, a staple gift from my kitchen is chocolate bark. It's appealing because of its simplicity and opportunity for variations. Plus, it's chocolate – and who doesn't love the gift of chocolate?

There are few ingredients involved, so I like to splurge a little and choose the best chocolate I can find. Dark chocolate is my favourite base for bark – its rich, deep flavour complements the roasted nuts and sweet fruits that dot the surface. But milk chocolate and white chocolate (or perhaps all three!) work wonderfully as well. As for the nuts and fruit, anything goes. Peanuts, cashews, pecans, pistachios, hazelnuts, apricots, cranberries, raisins, cookie bits, candy pieces, pretzels, marshmallows – you get the point! Stick to three toppings at most so that each flavour gets a chance to shine without getting muddled in the mix.

For this year's bark, I'm going with the combination of dark chocolate, almonds and candied ginger – a little bit toasty, a little bit spicy and perfectly decadent. Happy holidays!

### VARIATION:

Pistachio Cranberry  
Apricot Swirl Bark - Melt separately 10 oz. (280 g) dark chocolate and 6 oz. (170 g) white chocolate. Stir one third of each:  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup roasted shelled pistachios,  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup dried apricots, quartered and  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup dried cranberries into the melted dark chocolate. Spread onto baking sheet. Drizzle with melted white chocolate. Use toothpick, skewer, or back of knife to swirl the chocolates together. Sprinkle with remaining pistachios, apricots and cranberries. Continue as recipe above. OH



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Barrie and area and it allows us to provide pieces from traditional to contemporary and all venues in between," Uptigrove says. You'll find a huge selection of crystal lights and chandeliers. Crystal isn't just for the dining room anymore. Add some bling to your bathroom, bedroom or even the kitchen. If you can't find what you're looking for, Terry's knowledgeable staff will find it for you.

**WHAT'S HOT:** The right lighting can make a room, so choose wisely. Drum lighting is still in demand and available in all shapes and sizes. Chandeliers with faux candles add a cosy feel to your front entrance or over your dining table. Contemporary lamps with fun shades and long-reaching arcs are perfect for reading nooks.



**SEASONAL:** Rafter's always brings in a great selection of Christmas décor to help you make a statement this holiday season. Pick from a selection of beautiful nativity sets or shop their huge selection of home-inspired gifts for everyone on your list.

**FAVOURITES:** Rafter's' kitchen section is the talk of the town. It draws both men and women to find the most useful and unusual gadgets and cooking accents. The brie baker is a current favourite and at Rafter's you'll find the largest selection around. Stop in for a new lampshade and all those hard-to-find replacement bulbs.

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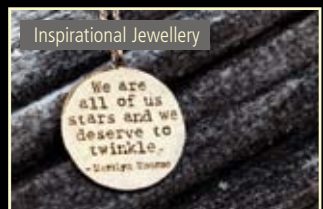
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# COMPLETELY CANADIAN

Whether you're from Canada or not, it's hard for anyone not to be inspired by the True North and its beautiful elements, which we are lucky enough to find in our own backyard, the great outdoors.

## Here are my three favourite ways to incorporate our heritage into our homes.

1. THE USE OF FABRIC: Add Canadian character and charm to your home with the simple use of textiles.

**Plaid Upholstery:** Whether it be gingham, tartan, or tattersall, this popular pattern consisting of several crossed horizontal and vertical lines (usually in two or more colours) speaks directly to the essence of Canadian settlers. My favourite way to incorporate it in décor is with upholstery. I personally prefer it in smaller doses, such as for sofa pillows or dining room seats, however a club chair completely covered looks amazing as well.

**Cosy Throws:** Curling up on the sofa on a cold winter's day wouldn't be the same without one of these. Here are my three favourite classics:

- **Point Blanket:** It wouldn't be right if I didn't start with this iconic blanket by The Bay – this wool Point blanket dates back to the 18th century and used to be traded. It continues to be a number one seller and is sold exclusively by The Hudson's Bay Company.
- **Faux Fur:** Fox, mink or coyote – these Canadian creature-mimicked furs can be the perfect Canuck-inspired addition to your space for added comfort and even luxuriousness.
- **Matelassé:** Meaning quilted, padded or cushioned, and normally referring to hand-quilted textiles. It is meant to mimic the style of hand-stitched Marseilles, a type of quilt made in Provence, France. Incorporating these fabrics into your décor can be the subtle hint of pattern and texture you're looking for.

2. THE USE OF WOOD: Nothing warms up a space quite like the use of natural wood.

**Walls:** I particularly like walls sheltered in large, real-wood planks. Douglas fir or cedar – both known for their distinctive grain patterns and tight knots – are each suitable choices when it comes to selecting the type of wood to use.

**Accessories:** Dress up the inside or the surrounding area of your fireplace with logs of wood – even without the use of fire, this actually does create a feeling of warmth too.

3. THE ADDITION OF ANTIQUES: If the northern vibe is the look, an old piece of Canadian history is most definitely calling. Usually an item made of wood, such as an old sled, pair of skis or a rocking chair will feel the most rustic and true to the heritage.

### My tips for antique hunting:

- Do your research before heading out – know what you are looking for.
- Bring with you a magnifying glass to check for dates, signatures, imperfections.
- Touch, smell and handle the piece. Get familiar with what you're looking to buy before you buy it. If you have any doubts, don't be afraid to ask questions. **OH**



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# coming HOME

BY KATHLEEN DUNCAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

What used to be a guest bedroom is now a lovely library with raised-panelled walls and a custom-designed bookcase and bar. It's a quiet place to relax and read.





Designer Terri Clark opened up the family room and sunroom, allowing a clear view of Lake Couchiching. The redesigned space has texture, colour, a new quartz wall with a fireplace from Napoleon Home Comfort, plus custom chairs and sofas wrapped in luxurious fabrics.



After living more than a decade in their waterfront house, this Orillia couple is finally coming home.



Free from the demands of young children and an entrepreneurial lifestyle, these new retirees and empty-nesters began a multi-phase renovation that is just for them. The upstairs playroom was the first to go, followed by the guest room that morphed into a cosy library that gets much more use these days.

“We realized we were setting aside a whole part of the house for five or six days of the year,” they recall. “We really wanted to enjoy the house completely.”

When dreaming about a luxurious cottage escape, they discovered this 4,500 sq. ft. residence overlooking northern Lake Couchiching. The

Cape Cod-inspired property includes an expansive lawn leading to the docks, inviting them to indulge a passion for boating.

Beckoned by golf courses, ski hills and other four-season recreation opportunities – and all within commuting distance of their Toronto retail operation, the young sports-loving family made the move to enjoy the region year-round.

Recognizing the potential for greatness in their new home, they knew a facelift was in their future – even if they were otherwise occupied during those earlier busy years. *Continued on page 56*



# feature

“The house, while it was physically what we wanted, had tired finishes,” agree the homeowners. “We wanted something far more contemporary.” “It was crying out for an update,” concurs **Terri Clark**, the founder of **Terri Clark Interiors Inc.**, who was brought in to help two years ago. A consultation later, she knew a style abundant with straight edges and unobstructed sightlines would work best with the house and its owners. Little did they know that first meeting would begin an ongoing relationship to overhaul the entire house, and lead to a close collaboration as the team travelled together to handpick each fixture and accessory.

“The games room was the preface,” smiles Terri of the second-storey environment she helped raise from a pre-teen refuge to an adult haven. She swapped out the traditional green felt on the billiard table for a neutral tan to harmonize with the golden walls and leave the focus on the table itself and the themed chandelier above. *Continued on page 58*



before



**LEFT:** The kitchen received a complete high-style renovation. White cabinets by Absolute Cabinets extend along both walls while granite counters shine on all surfaces, including atop the long furniture-grade island. The kitchen is located in the centre of the main floor, opening to both the dining/living room and the family room. **ABOVE:** The dining room table was custom-made by Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry.



# feature

Natural light from a double row of skylights on the peaked ceiling augments the glow from an octagonal accent window on the end wall of this long room. Custom built-ins from **Absolute Cabinets** coordinate with refurbished components to create several distinct but connected conversational areas. Flowing seamlessly around the games table are a bar with wine cooler, an office space, and a lounge with comfortable seating for a good chat or a good view of the large flat-screen plasma TV.

“The main floor started as the powder room and potentially the kitchen,” says Terri, whose mantra became “texture,” as she took every opportunity to create layers of interest in the growing project.

The foyer’s enlarged powder room is now actually a three-piece bath featuring a roomy glass-enclosed shower with a built-in stone niche and rainforest showerhead (plumbing by **Derbecker Plumbing & Heating**). The spa-like retreat, washed in Benjamin Moore’s Ashley Gray by Orillia’s **Beitz Painting & Decorating**, was updated with moulded-panel doors and a tumbled marble backsplash with tiles sized to mimic the ledgestone dry-stacked quartz fireplace in the adjacent family room.

Set atop refinished walnut-stained oak flooring, the massive floor-to-ceiling square fireplace – unadorned by hearth or mantel – is warmed by a gas fireplace from **Napoleon Home Comfort** and flanked by custom built-ins (Absolute Cabinets). The grey walls and crown moulding point to a windowed sunroom showcasing Big Chief Island and surrounding waters.

Gone are the french doors and transom that once separated the two rooms, allowing both to benefit from the light and view. Simple sheers, plush furniture, including a smart sectional and textured throw cushions, soften the boxy construction of the sunroom while providing a finish that maintains the desired design concept. Skylights and glass doors to the deck complete the illusion of having already stepped outside.

With the removal of two more sets of french doors, the family room also opens to the large kitchen (also by Absolute Cabinets) and dining room/living room beyond, all tied together with Benjamin Moore’s Quincy Tan. With a nod to the Cape Cod ambience, a tongue-and-groove ceiling was installed in the kitchen and painted the blue-grey Pilgrim Haze.

Large travertine flooring tiles and granite countertops sparkle under the plethora of pot lights installed by **Belcourt Electric**. The kitchen’s dry-stacked quartz backsplash mirrors its counterpart in the powder room to add yet another natural finish, contrasting with tone-on-tone cabinetry that provides ample storage, display shelves and work stations. A large island, a bar counter and kitchen table have become destinations. *Continued on page 60*

**BELOW LEFT:** Terri Clark of Terri Clark Interiors. **BELOW:** The elegant dining room and living room is painted Quincy Tan by Benjamin Moore. Terri designed the entire room around the fabric on the dining room windows. All flower arrangements came from Street’s Flowers in Orillia.







**ABOVE:** The games room/loft was the first renovation project. New, low built-ins by Absolute Cabinets were added along with a seating area and an office space. The felt on the pool table was professionally changed, from green to a more neutral beige. **FAR LEFT:** The powder room on the main floor was extended to include a large glassed-in shower. **LEFT:** The main entrance opens into the family room. The stairs lead to the bedrooms and the games room.

Pulling the palette together for the entire first floor is the fabric from the window treatments in the dining room/living room: a Brunswick & Fils pattern that melds cream and green with red and blue. The design team now laughingly agrees it was worth the over-long wait for the French import.

"We really fell in love with it," said Terri. "It was the jumping-off point."

A second square fireplace, this one smaller and wood-burning, provides a focal point for this dual-purpose room, although the sumptuousness of a table by **Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry** anchors the dining room décor. Dried and fresh florals from **Street's Flowers** complete the look.

"I just feel good when I walk in here," smiles the lady of the new manor as she looks around. "I'm very proud of it. I think it's relaxing..."

...which is, after all, what retirement is all about. **OH**

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decorating five trees and every  
room of the house. I enjoy the  
shopping and love gift wrapping  
and look forward to all the visiting  
and get-togethers with friends  
and family. *Continued on page 64*

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## Leanne George

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**YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER:** Ummm? Flowers, and a beautiful deep red purse my son personally picked out for me.



## Al Townsend

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**WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL ON YOUR LIST?** I would suggest something useful they can enjoy all year long.

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND UNDER THE TREE THIS CHRISTMAS?** Peace and happiness.

*Continued on page 66*





## Kim Melchiorre

Sienna Home Decor & Gift Gallery

**WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR STORE?** I look for unique items you won't find anywhere else. My preference is to buy quality Canadian-made and fair trade products. I am mindful of affordability and buy things I love and it brings me great joy when my customers love them too.

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**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE GIFT TO GIVE?** I love to give warm alpaca scarves in an array of fantastic colours.



## Brothers Leigh and Adam Clarke

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**WHAT PRODUCTS ARE ON EVERYONE'S LIST THIS CHRISTMAS?** I think that Santa's Elves will be busy with Apple products and large screen televisions.

**WHAT'S NEW AND IN DEMAND?** With the capabilities of smart phones, wireless audio technology is much improved, especially products such as Sonos, and Bose.

**DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?** We look forward to unwinding and spending time with family and friends.

*Continued on page 68*





## Michelle Ertl

### Anchique

**WHAT DOES ANCHIQUE HAVE IN STORE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?** Our artists are constantly discovering unique ways to reinvent vintage furniture and home décor items. Frames become magnet boards, vintage globes become spherical chalkboards, and outdated furniture becomes fresh and updated.

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**HOW WILL YOU SPEND CHRISTMAS DAY?** The best part of Christmas Day for me is spending time with family. Children are back from school, friends drop by, relatives come in from out of town and for one day we can celebrate the things that are most important.



## Paula Lynn-Meredis

### Saturday Afternoons

**WHY IS CHRISTMAS SUCH A SPECIAL TIME AT SATURDAY AFTERNOONS?** I started my business selling handmade Christmas décor at small craft shows and church bazaars, so Christmas at my store is special because it's a time of great reflection. Almost 25 years later, I still have those same first customers. That's special.

**WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING IN STORE THIS SEASON?** Flicker candles are exciting this year. The flames look real but are not. Brilliant!

**HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS?** I spend Christmas with my family in Midland. I am fortunate to have most of my family close.

*Continued on page 70*



people

## SUSAN BENOIT, LPPO

Photographer, Diffusion Photographics

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**WHY ARE YOUR PHOTOS UNIQUE?** The photos that I create with each family, usually environmentally, illustrate the connection of family members in a relaxed, honest way. I take the time to craft the light and I provide exquisite wall art that will be valued for generations. And of course, it's great fun!

**WHAT IS YOUR WISH THIS CHRISTMAS?** As always - the health and safety of my family, and I really hope that Christmas Cheer has enough support to provide for every applicant family in the area so that they too can experience the magic of Christmas. And maybe some new boots. I'm a boot girl. **OH**

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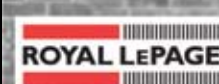
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# welcome back FOR THE holidays

BY M. CAROLYN BLACK  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CANDICE MANASTERSKY

This holiday season, OUR HOMES returns to a favourite home originally featured in our Spring 2010 issue. The home has new owners and a totally new, natural, more traditional style, thanks to designer **Catherine Staples** and her team at **Staples Design Group**, a full service Barrie design centre that offers everything from concept development and floor plans to custom furniture, unique accessories and artwork.

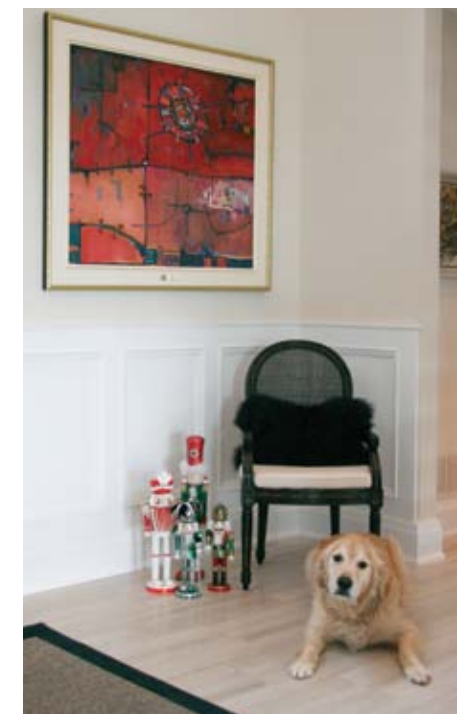
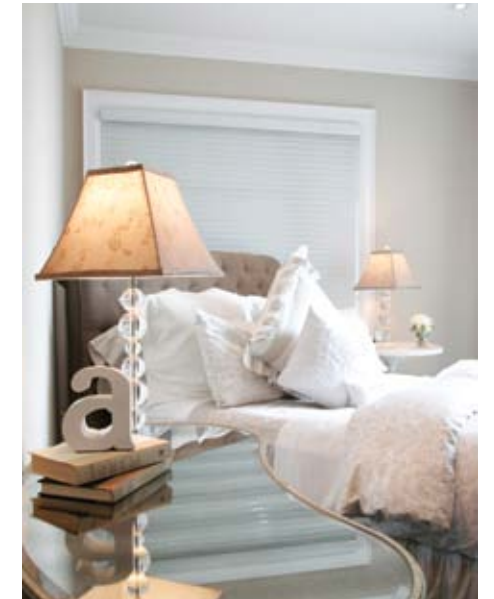
The house was originally built in 2008 and the exterior was perfect, with taupe siding, white trim with grey-taupe stone that the new owners liked and kept. The interior, however, was far too modern. The new owners asked for and got, a cosy, relaxed home that fits the way they live.

“(The original design) was very contemporary, so we softened it, giving it more of a coastal beach feel,” Catherine Staples says. “The clients wanted it to be comfortable and casual, not formal.”

The location offers a spectacular view of Kempenfelt Bay and Staples says, “The lake view really inspired the interior so we used natural colours and brought in blue tones and taupes from outside.” The sweeping staircase was painted in a more traditional style than its previous monochrome pale grey by using black on the treads and handrails with contrasting white spools. All painting was done by **Don Campbell Painting & Home Improvemnts**.

*Continued on page 75*

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1)** Candles flicker in steel lanterns on a long sophisticated hall table with festive greens. **(2)** A favourite piece of art hangs above. **(3)** A guest room bed is beautifully dressed. **(4)** The new-look living area has a coastal, casual appeal. **(5)** Sugar cookies are a favourite holiday treat. **(6)** A simple place setting. **(7)** Winston poses with a collection of Nutcracker soldiers at the bottom of the revamped staircase.







**RIGHT:** Staples Design updated the kitchen, adding a trio of nautical black metal pendant lights and simple, linen, slip-covered bar stools. Designers Plus Kitchen and Bath returned to their kitchen design, adding a custom wine rack, beadboard on open cases and deco doors on exposed ends. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Catherine Staples added sparkle to the festive dining room table with silver ornaments in hurricane vases and a mix of fresh greens with elegant, simple place settings.



“The colour palette throughout includes creamy shades of white, allowing the eye to travel freely through the space and provide for the ideal backdrop for the client’s personal art collection,” she says. “The original black-stained hardwood floors and inset broadloom were removed and replaced with warm-brown hardwood and area rugs, all sourced and supplied by Staples Design Group. *Continued on page 76*”





“Just changing the furniture to a more traditional palette gave the space a whole new look,” adds Catherine. “It really suits the architecture of the home. We carefully edited the furnishings with subtle patterns to give the formal space a casual appeal. The architectural details throughout the house called for understated furniture.” Several pieces are from Stanley Furniture, which is also available through Staples Design Group. The resulting look is very streamlined and uncluttered, and the white panelling keeps the design clean and cohesive throughout. *Continued on page 78*

**ABOVE:** In the living room, paneled walls and a coffered ceiling (both by Absolute Cabinets) are painted white. Staples Design selected down-filled sofas and chairs covered in a durable grey, linen fabric. Silver bells near the fireplace and mini-evergreens add a festive feel to the room. **RIGHT:** One of several beautifully designed bathrooms in the home.





## feature

The new owners asked Staples Design to finish the basement. With a blank space, Staples Design added panelled walls and painted them white to match the built-ins and coffered ceiling, adding an upscale finish to the space. Furnishings are neutral and oh so comfortable. The sectional is a perfect fit.



The design team's philosophy is modern simplicity and Staples also endorses a practical approach to a redesign. "For example, the original bar stools were black leather and very contemporary, so we created slip covers, which changes the whole look without having to get new bar stools," she says. "That's practical and it also makes them more beautiful." Catherine advises giving what you already have a whole new life, whether with paint colour or by changing certain elements. With this in mind Catherine used some of the clients' original French Country furniture in the home by simply tweaking it. "We did incorporate the antique carved table but we changed the chairs," she says.

The coastal nautical theme continues with large marine-style pendant

lighting from Restoration Hardware over the kitchen island. "We also changed out all the lighting fixtures to give it a more traditional feel," she says. All electrical work was done by **DH Enterprises**.

"I like all the natural elements and the monochromatic colour scheme," she says. "The limestone, the wood floors, the iron lighting and different textures really work to keep it simple." The limestone floors in the entryway and powder room are heated for winter comfort.

The basement was a blank slate, completely unfinished and ready for the design team to work its magic. "We designed the custom cabinetry (on the built-ins) and we carried the panelling that was a special part of the main floor area down through the basement," Catherine

explains. The basement bar cabinetry was done by **Strongman Custom Woodworking** and all other carpentry was completed by **Cut to Fit Carpentry**. The lower level has lots of large windows to provide natural light with nine-foot high, white, coffered ceilings. She adds, "It doesn't feel like a basement."

The downstairs area includes a guest bedroom and bathroom, a theatre area, a custom bar and entertainment area plus a storage room for off-season items. The downstairs bathroom includes shower glass by **RCM Glass & Mirror Ltd.** All plumbing was completed by **Plumbtech Plumbing Inc.** Since an engineered floor can be installed directly onto concrete, the hardwood floors extend into the basement. *Continued on page 80*



## feature

When meeting with clients for the first time Catherine says, “We like to bring the personality of the client into the space so we’ll take them through a bunch of different exercises and they tell us what they like or what they don’t like and we start to get a feel for it. The client doesn’t always know what they’re looking for but we can pick up on it through these exercises. That, ultimately, is what they get (in a home design); we don’t design a particular look, it depends on the client. How they function in the space is really important, too. We always ask about, for example, how they see themselves living and enjoying the basement, and how do they want to use the space – then we design it for that use so it’s practical.” **OH**

**BELOW:** Beautiful bedding and a tufted headboard make this guest room a welcome oasis. **BOTTOM:** A sunken jet tub in the master bath takes full advantage of the view outdoors.



## HOLIDAY DECORATING DOS

The Staples Design team decorated the home for Christmas and Catherine offers advice for homeowners wanting a festive but unfussy look. Catherine says, “Adding small holiday details gives the rooms a festive feel without taking away from the coastal décor. When your view is this breathtaking, your decorations don’t need to be over the top. Sparkling white lights and metallic glass balls offer subtle sparkle.” The team also added seasonal pillows and throws – available at the Staples Design showroom – along with natural elements like pinecones, fresh greenery, tangerines and nuts. The colour scheme was kept neutral with silver and soft green but some pizzazz was added with metallic branches and silver ornaments. **OH**



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### KAREN MIRON DESIGN

We are a young design practice focusing on modern and transitional, clean and classic, interior and furniture design and décor. The company is headed by Karen Miron, who combines unique design sense with deep understanding of functional space and how environments affect individuals, stemming from her prior experience as a health care professional. Having advised on care for 12,000+ clients in her prior career, her new work as an interior design



professional now focuses on applying the same level of attention and care to harmonizing interior and exterior living spaces - just for you. The company uses design expertise from a broad range. From carpenters to landscape architects, to graphic designers, and specialized computer modellers, to artisan metal workers - we bring skill, creativity and vision to tailor products and spaces in your life. We provide custom floral design for that extra degree of embellishment in a room or "look" you are after. Whether refreshing an area, or starting from scratch, each project undertaken receives minute attention to details that "put the bow" on, based on your unique needs and available budget. Karen is proud to have been nominated as a finalist in the Favourite Decorator category of Barrie Advance 2012 Reader's Choice Awards. Visit [www.karenmirondesign.ca](http://www.karenmirondesign.ca), or call us 705.321.9373 (Please see ad on page 10)

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A Gallery of Interiors' motto is, "Inspiration is Now waiting for you...", which means you bring your ideas and we will do our best to fulfill your every dream. When you come in for a consultation, our friendly staff will put together a design which will meet all of your wishes for the right budget. No project gets started until you are completely satisfied with your dream design.

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Continued on page 88

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# directory

OUR HOMES attracts the area's finest businesses to advertise in our pages. Since our first issue, more than 400 companies have utilized our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. Now we're making it easier than ever for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

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finishing touch

# WRAPPED UP *in style*

BY DEBORAH MASTERS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY TARA CHATTELL

A beautifully wrapped gift won't go unnoticed. A little thought and creativity can go a long way in making a loved one feel special and cared for.

*Continued on page 94*



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## finishing touch

Designer Deborah Masters wows us with gift-wrapping inspiration and three stunning designs.



### 1. GLAMOUR GIRL

Try an elegant colour palette of black, white and silver. Deborah used a black, corrugated gift bag to wrap a gift, covered it in lace paper and glammed it up with a jewelled ribbon, a light aqua ribbon and a silver bird.



### 2. CHIC CHICK

Using scrapbooking paper means you don't have to buy a whole roll and can personalize each gift. Playing off the gold in the design, Deborah chose beautiful gold and copper ribbons, added a few sticky jewels to the paper and topped off the gifts with embellished clip birds.



### 3. NATURE LOVER

Venture out to your backyard to find some fresh greenery, like boxwood, to add to your wrapping. Deborah found some mini pinecones, a moss basket and some sticky-back cork paper at a local craft shop. She wrote the lucky recipient's name in chalk against a recycled piece of corrugated black paper.

### DEBORAH'S TRICKS & TIPS

- Dress up your ribbon by cutting the ends into backward arrows and adding jewels or scrapbooking paper to match your gift.
- Clip-on birds are a fabulous gift accessory, but don't be afraid to jazz them up with some extra feathers, sequins and sparkle. Try putting a ribbon in the bird's mouth with the recipient's name on it.
- Make the wrapping part of the gift. One idea is to place a wrapped gift in a nice basket and tie a ribbon around both.
- Use the stuff around you. Try newspaper with chalkboard paint.
- Pay attention to detail. It's the little things that make a difference. **OH**

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