

welcome back FOR THE holidays

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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.

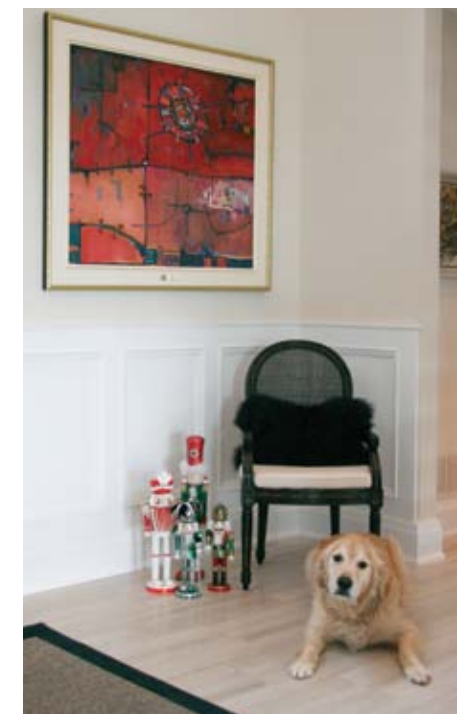
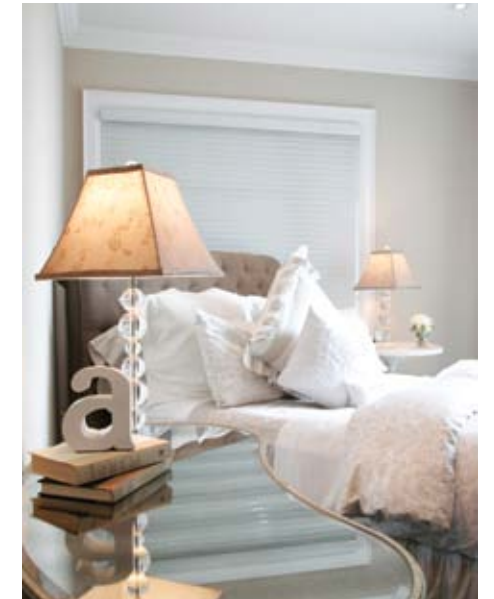
The house was originally built in 2008 and the exterior was perfect, with taupe siding, white trim with grey-taupe stone that the new owners liked and kept. The interior, however, was far too modern. The new owners asked for and got, a cosy, relaxed home that fits the way they live.

“(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**.

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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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