



This spacious bungalow was designed to allow for family members to have time to themselves as well as time together. The downstairs family room is great for relaxing evenings.

ABOVE LEFT: The eat-in kitchen opens onto the generous deck. Surrounded in windows, the space allows for sunlight to warm the kids as they eat breakfast.

ABOVE RIGHT: Preparing meals for a family of nine is no easy feat. Sharon and Jeff designed an easy-working kitchen with space to move around and plenty of storage.



QUALITY *A Family Affair*

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

When you meet Jeff and Sharon Aubrey you instantly understand that the couple possesses the warmth and wisdom that being the parents of seven children – four boys and three girls – demands. The knowledge and comfortable confidence that experience provides is conveyed in their conversation about the stunning custom home in Walkerton that their company constructed in a new development overlooking the town centre.

The same care taken with the more than 40 homes that their firm, **Quality Construction Services**, has built over the years is seen in this spacious home, possessing 3,600 sq. ft. of living space.

Three out of the four boys work for the company, creating a team that is unmatched in heart and true family values. Sharon, who takes care of the company's books and provides inspiration for interior design and decoration, elaborates on her design preference laced throughout the Walkerton home, designed by Darrel Weishar of **Dar-Cad Design**. "The home has a modern look I'd call contemporary, not ultra-modern," she says. "The various living spaces suit people's day-to-day lifestyle."

This perfect balance between form and functionality is seen the

moment you step into the home's large entranceway. "The entrance to a home is the first space that visitors experience," Jeff says, explaining his approach to details that might be easily overlooked. "It should have impact and be functional, as well." The entrance to this home does just that with plenty of closet space, room for a bench and an elegant chandelier descending from an elevated ceiling, all bathed in natural, diffused light shining through a Romanesque transom above the door.

Ascending the oak stairway from the entrance, the landing opens onto a large casual dining room, a kitchen with a dinette area beyond, as well as a great room, enhanced by discreet lighting and a tray ceiling. The subdued lighting in these open spaces nicely complements the warm,

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earthy colours of the interior walls that set a tone of relaxed comfort. Tying these functional spaces together is four-inch, beech plank flooring in medium brown. The wide opening to the great room is bordered in white accent pillars that continue the mood of elegant modernity established in the foyer.

The dining room, perfect for hosting large gatherings, is flooded with exterior light from the large front window, framed in custom drapery from **Cuneo Interiors** of Walkerton and Hanover, who provided the exquisite window coverings and flooring for the entire home. The space's tray ceiling links it stylistically to the great room a few steps away.

Sharon is thrilled by the functionality of the kitchen. "It's the perfect kitchen to cook in," she says. "Everything is within easy reach and preparing meals is a joy." With its ample, custom maple cabinetry, featuring a wall-length pantry by Daryl Johnson of **Johnson Woodworks** in Walkerton, and its central island topped in Quartz stone for ultimate durability, it is easy to see why Sharon is pleased with this food preparation area. Another feature Sharon likes is the double sink made of an indestructible granite/sand mix. Likewise, the kitchen's easy access to the cosy dinette area and an exterior two-level deck accented by a corner trellis speaks to its functionality for both indoor and outdoor living.

Jeff agrees that the design of the home has the needs of real people in mind. "The main floor is not a full open-concept design, but great for entertaining," he says. "It allows for different groups in separate but adjoining spaces. Overall, the house lends itself to celebrations. It makes room for intimate and large group gatherings at the same time."

Balancing design considerations with functionality is reflected in the spacious master bedroom with its walk-in closet and full en suite bath. It is seen again in the lower floor exercise room that flows into a full bath and adjoining sauna.

"I enjoy working with customers," says Jeff. "With the Internet, clients

are very educated about what they're looking for in a home. Having a good rapport with customers as well as the local trades we work with is key. I think people like our casual, family approach. I'm working on site most days, following each project from start to finish."

When asked what he finds most exciting about homebuilding, Jeff answers immediately. "I love that moment when the land is cleared and we begin construction for the first time," he says. "Beginning a project is the most exciting. At that time, my imagination looks forward to the home's completion." Jeff's joy in creation is seen in the care taken with the details found in this home his family enterprise has built. *Continued on page 26*



OPPOSITE PAGE: The dining room was built to accommodate the busy family and gather the troops for casual dinners together.

LEFT: The great room is made up of a collection of seating. Architectural details in the home add depth and character.

BELOW: A downstairs sauna conveniently opens off of the kids' bathroom and home gym.



home & builder

“From our shared experience, we know what works and what doesn’t,” Sharon says. “There are a lot of details that people don’t consider until after they live in a home for a while,” notes Jeff, outlining some of the practical features the couple’s experience in construction has prompted them to incorporate in this home. “We use only quality products. Here, we’ve included hallways and stairways wider than code as well as insulation beyond code. The home has a reverse osmosis water purifying system with a manifold water distribution system for greater efficiency and

reduced cost. A modulating furnace, direct-vent water heater and low-heat registers along with central air/vac make the home extremely energy-efficient.”

“When we build, we carefully consider everything from design to décor,” says Sharon. The Aubrey team invests the same overall care and consideration into every home they lay their hands on. It’s a true family affair of genuine love and commitment to the business and each and every homeowner. **OH**

The back deck, featuring a corner trellis and views of surrounding farmland, is where the couple unwinds after a busy day making homeowners’ dreams come true.



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