

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1) Jack and Patricia Aldersley enjoy the vast country view over fields and valley from their sheltered sun deck. (2) Ground Effects Landscapes won a Unilock Award of Excellence for their stunning work on the Aldersley home. (3) The open-concept kitchen/family room design makes it comfortable for the couple to host large family gatherings. (4) The front entranceway sits at the centre of the H-shaped home layout, which resembles the couple's previous farmhouse of many years. (5) The kitchen is bright and spacious with white cabinetry by Hanover Kitchen & Bath Gallery. (6) A beautiful sailboat painting by Jack suits the marine-themed family room perfectly.



THE ART OF *living*

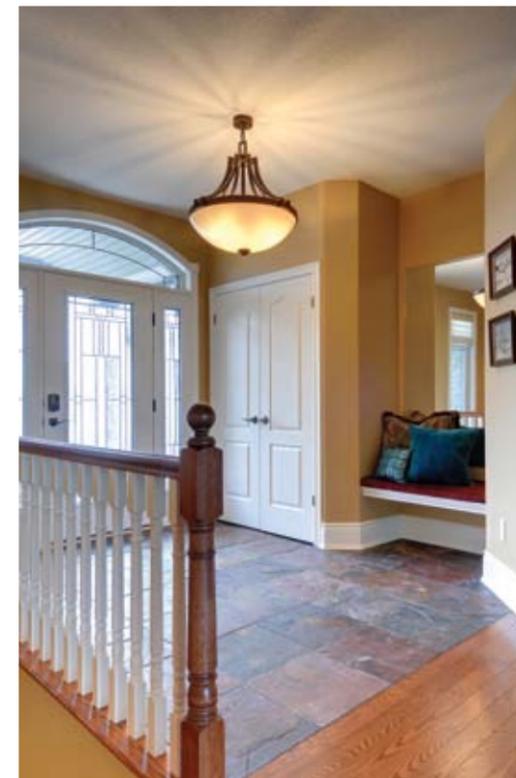
As a charm of gold finches flits past the Aldersley home, the delicate yellow birds alight to take seeds from Patricia Aldersley's generous bird feeders.

On the sunny side of her new house in the south end of Hanover, Patricia has hung some of her favourite feeders, relocating them from the 80-acre homestead outside town, which she and her husband Jack sold in December 2010. "We love to sit out on the deck and watch the birds," says Patricia. "One of the reasons we chose this location was because it looks out on the same area of bush as the old farm." Exterior landscaping of the home was done by **Ground Effects Landscapes** in Hanover, which won the Best Residential Front Entrance Using Unilock Products Award from Unilock Awards of Excellence for their work on the project.

The view from Jack and Patricia's sun deck meanders 13 kilometres over fields and valley, past the Sulphur Springs Conservation Area as far as the Neustadt water tower in the distance. Their custom-built home sits on one of the cherished lots in Hanover's Country Meadows Estates and backs onto a farmer's field. Everyone calls it the Whaling subdivision after Louis and Bryan Whaling, who developed the lots and built each of the custom homes on it. "**Whaling Home Construction Ltd.** did an incredible job on this house, we couldn't be more pleased," says Jack.

Jack and Patricia had decided the upkeep on their country property was more than they wanted to manage. After making a few enquiries, their real estate agent had a buyer for their acreage before it was even listed on the market. It was just prior to the Christmas holidays in 2010 and the vivacious couple was planning to leave for a four-month around-the-world cruise. They had mere weeks to decide where to move.

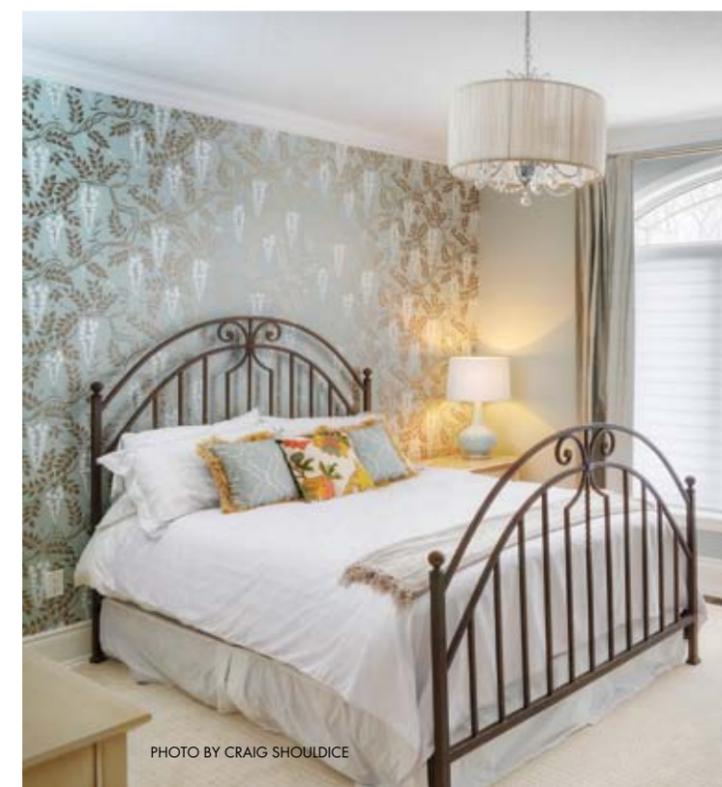
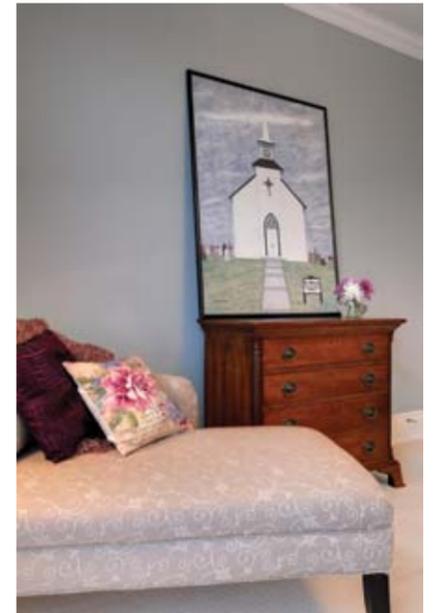
Making some quick resolutions, the couple fell in love with the convenience of town living and set Whaling Home Construction to the task of building them a 3,000 sq. ft. custom home where they could spend the rest of their lives. Jack and Patricia knew they wanted a home layout similar to their existing residence, so they worked with **Dar-Cad Designs** of Walkerton on the corresponding H-shaped floor plan for their new home. The result has a west wing with master bedroom, office and guest room, the middle of the H contains the entrance, great room and dining room, and the east wing houses the kitchen, family room, laundry and garage. "At our age, there is enough change in moving houses that it was really comforting to have a similar layout and all of the things that we were used to having around us," Patricia says. Both of them are in their 80s. *Continued on page 42*



RIGHT: A games table in the living room provides a cosy spot to play chess by the fire. **CENTRE:** The formal dining room was designed to showcase the Aldersleys' stunning travel artifacts on a built-in, three-tier shelf with lighting. **BELOW:** To make the transition to a new home easier, many design elements were based on furniture pieces being brought from the old house.



BELOW: Another of Jack's skillful paintings, this time of the Anglican Church in Maxwell, adorns the dresser in the guest room. **BOTTOM:** The Aldersleys' guests are offered a tranquil space to stay with a lovely wallpaper backdrop in pale blue and silver leaf motifs.



A chance meeting a few years prior led Patricia to **Heather Smillie Designs Inc.** Based in Mildmay, Smillie accepted the shotgun challenge given to her by the Aldersleys. "We had two weeks to get concepts together before they left on a tour of the world," marvels Smillie. All of the Aldersleys' furniture was to be brought to the new home, so Smillie selected finishings to complement the existing colour schemes. Patricia and Jack were very decisive about what they wanted, but when the two of them disagreed, they deferred to Smillie's opinion.

For example, says Smillie, "Patricia wanted window coverings and Jack did not. He was used to the views and privacy of their country home. He wanted to be able to see out for miles. But there were privacy concerns with living in town, plus they have hardwood flooring (**Saugeen Valley Carpet and Tile**) that the sun could bleach over time, so Pat won that debate." Smillie mitigated a softer approach to the window coverings, supplied by **Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home**. "We went with top-down-bottom-up blinds, which allow you to see out while keeping your privacy," she says. In the home's family room and dining room, the blinds can be lowered all the way, and then the tops can drop

down for up to two-thirds of the window area so that light shines through while the lower portion remains obscured. With the home's nine-foot ceilings throughout, that's a lot of view. Even more so in the great room where a tray ceiling extends the height. Custom upholstered valances by Smillie finish the look.

Decorating with the couple was a pleasure, says Smillie. "Both Jack and Pat have so much life and have had so many great experiences. The house really reflects the fullness of their lives." The great room and dining room host stunning artifacts from their travels. The Aldersleys requested a custom three-tier shelf to showcase their most stunning pieces – a 200-pound opal sculpture of two cranes, a wooden carving of African elephants, an Inuit falcon carving and two Delft plates from the Netherlands. Patricia's safari photos of the big five South African animals – lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhinoceros – provide conversation fodder in the dining room. Dining furniture was produced locally by fine craftspeople at **Durham Furniture**.

The family room and kitchen have a marine theme with large, captivating paintings Jack produced of his sailing days. Scenes of his

sailboat and distant port destinations such as the Aleutian Islands between Russia and Alaska; Bali, Indonesia; and Hokkaido, Japan, are set off by the blue tones of the denim couch and warm Sisal wall colour (paint from Cuneo Interiors) and cabinets. Kitchen and bath cabinets were custom produced by **Hanover Kitchen & Bath Gallery**.

All areas of the home were built with wheelchair access in mind, should the couple ever need it, with all amenities on the main floor. Jack requested a wine fridge be installed at above-counter height so that he could more easily select a vintage. The wide berth around the kitchen island allows for a great many hands to help with cooking – Patricia and Jack's extended family of 34 has gathered to celebrate on occasion.

The highlight of the kitchen, however, is the dramatic granite countertop and backsplash. "I wanted granite with a large vein throughout," says Patricia. "It's unusual to have such a pronounced layer." The tawny, near bronze-coloured vein cleaves the slab flecked with black, grey and warm neutral stone. "It's like a Jackson Pollock painting," says Jack. The backsplash was cut from the same type of granite, finishing the look in the kitchen with elegance. *Continued on page 44*

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TOP: The spacious master bedroom is cool and calm with a coffered ceiling and direct access to the back sun deck. **ABOVE:** Double glass vessel sinks with hints of gold, set against a black marble countertop, give the luxurious master bath a unique personality.

The master bathroom showcases Patricia's exquisite design aesthetic. A pair of glass vessel sinks flecked with gold sit atop a black marble counter. Waterfall faucets complete the look (all fixtures sourced at **Van Dolder's Kitchen & Bath** in Owen Sound). The warm grey walls draw out the marbling of the tile in the glassed-in shower.

The couple's master bedroom features a coffered ceiling, solid wood furniture from Durham Furniture, broadloom and an aboriginal painting above the bed of orange, yellow and red interconnected spirals the Aldersleys bought while travelling in Australia.

The guest room is serene with walls in a shade called Tranquility by Benjamin Moore. "Pat wanted something dressy for their guests, so we sourced a wallpaper in silver and pale-blue leaf motifs," says Smillie. "We added a chandelier (**Living Lighting**) and lighter draperies." Another large artwork by Jack – of the modest, white Anglican church in nearby Maxwell – suits the room perfectly.

The home is rounded out with Jack's simple home office space; however, as he now lives in town, Jack often walks the few kilometres to his Hanover office. A bit of work and a lot of socializing keep Patricia and Jack as busy as ever. Their comfortable, elegant, low-maintenance home will allow them to focus on the things they love to do into their golden years, with even a bit of bird watching on the side. **OH**

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"It's so satisfying when friends and family come into my home and say "WOW"! My home is such a reflection of my taste and lifestyle and I can't wait to come home to it. I have Heather to thank for that."
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