



a dash of
AVANT-GARDE

STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

It's the bold pops of black on the neutral stone exterior. It's the soaring southern stucco arch of the front entrance. It's the ultra-contemporary glass garage door. It's this attention to architectural detailing that sets the Wilsons' home apart from its peers. *Continued on page 50*

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Set against the backdrop of the Saugeen River is a new subdivision where the old Durham high school used to live. Dotting its banks is a series of new houses built by **Candue Homes**. The homes have a traditional-style look common to the area that is beautiful in design and scope. Gary and Julie Wilson's home is located here. It's a home that doesn't seem out of place, while at the same time feels very avant-garde for a small town in Grey County.

"Julie and I love the exterior, and the view of the river is just as we pictured," says Gary. Julie adds, "Gary is very creative... he knew that he wanted to incorporate some stucco into the design, and it was a bit of a gamble on what colours to use. We spent a long time holding paint finishes against stone and siding to come up with the final product. We were looking for something different, but not too different so that it didn't fit into the area. He does have a knack for curb appeal!"

Flanked by a neutral stone exterior (masonry by **Ken Priebe**, materials from **Grey Bruce Brick & Landscape Supply**), the bold black and glass garage door is an instant eye-draw on the quiet Durham street, and a favourite feature of Gary and Julie's. Hidden inside the garage is something nearly as enticing as the door itself: a customized garage storage system and concrete floor

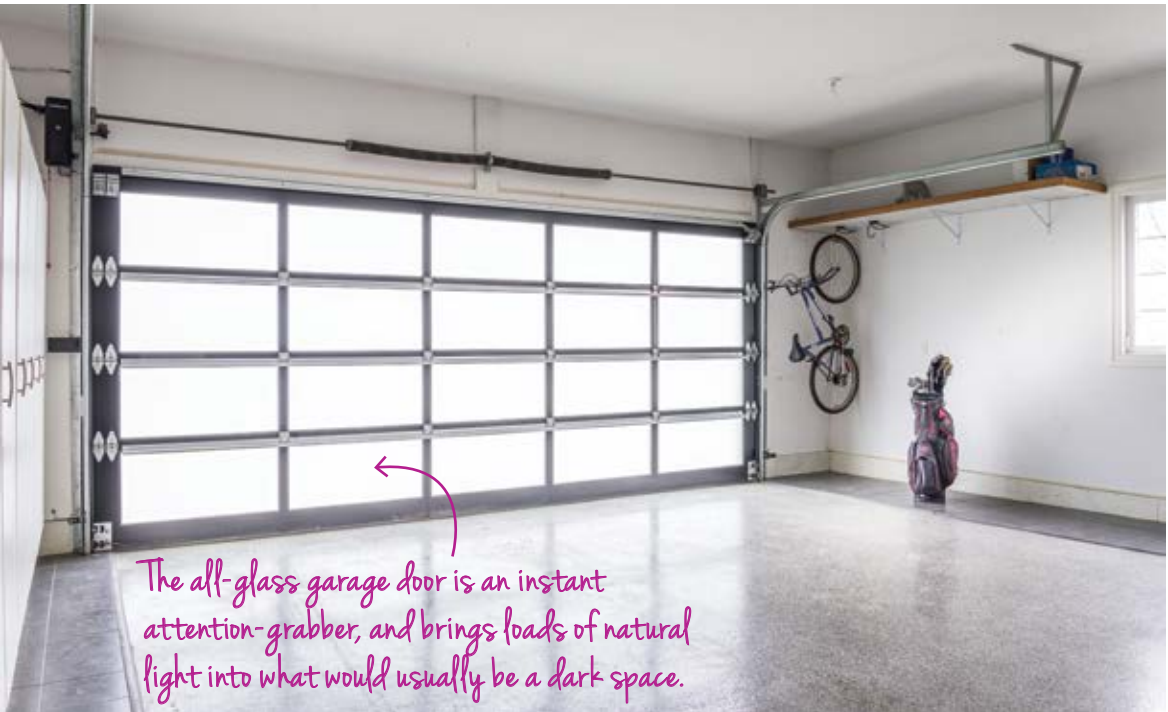
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LEFT: The custom white kitchen has sharp contemporary accents, such as a visually dominating stainless steel vent hood and glass backsplash mosaic, set against a more traditional granite countertop. **BELOW:** The dining area looks out on the property's view of the Saugeen River. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The Wilsons' office is full of fun memorabilia, including a model boat, a radio designed to look like a toolbox, and a vintage gas pump.



Glass-fronted cabinets add visual lightness, while the waterfall pattern keeps clutter under wraps.



The all-glass garage door is an instant attention-grabber, and brings loads of natural light into what would usually be a dark space.



coating from **Wilson Solutions**, the company of Julie and Gary's son Bob, who also designed the interior closets.

"We were the first customers for our son Bob when he started designing and installing custom closets," explains Gary. "We get a lot of compliments about the garage from people walking by. They always ask, 'Where is all your junk?' We tell them it's in the cabinets. We enjoy having all things neat and in their place, and the garage is a space that we both need to pass through every day." While Julie adds, "The floor is so durable and easy to keep clean; in the winter we simply squeegee it off and it looks great."

The well-designed closets have helped Gary and Julie to maximize storage space in small areas. Working with Wilson Solutions the closet was designed in their presence on a laptop in 3D software, allowing them to view and make changes or additions.

The cleverly designed storage features don't begin and end with the garage and closets, but proliferate throughout the home. It's most notable in the living room, where the millwork encasing the fireplace and east exterior wall conceals hidden entertainment-related storage. In the bathrooms bespoke vanities built by **Hastie's Fine Cabinetry** are designed to seamlessly match the couple's bedroom set from **Durham Furniture**.

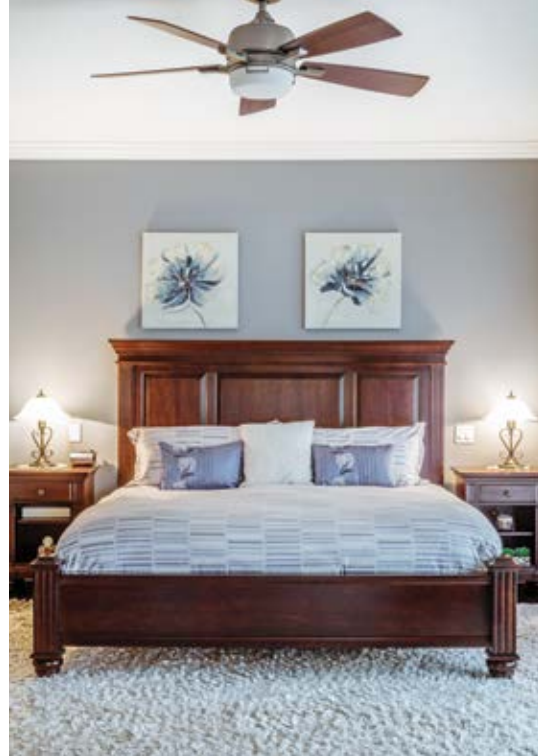
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THIS PAGE: The customized garage storage system by Wilson Solutions, which houses a TV, is one of the home's hidden jewels. Customized cabinetry by Wilson Solutions is also found in the interior closets. **OPPOSITE:** Hidden storage is cleverly concealed by custom millwork around the fireplace.



ABOVE, RIGHT: The principle en suite bathroom is decked out in bespoke cabinetry designed to match the bedroom furniture set. Frosted glass panel doors allow for privacy without losing natural light. **TOP RIGHT:** The principle bedroom showcases a stunning solid wood bed from local furniture maker Durham Furniture. Wall-to-wall windows treat the occupants to a river view.



When the Wilsons set to work in 2012 on designing their home with the help of **Susan** and **Don Tremble** of Candue Homes it lifted a weight off their shoulders. The couple had previously built a home in 2008, which they contracted themselves, and it was a process they didn't relish repeating.

"We had built a new home six years ago, and I contracted it myself," explains Gary. "The endless hours spent sourcing products, and getting quotes, and scheduling trades was not an easy task. If there were any little problems [this time] with design, colour or size Don was on it and he made it right. Don and his team of very professional and dedicated trades worked in some weather that was not very nice to allow Julie and I to spend Christmas in our new home."

Julie and Gary selected their lot because of the gorgeous Saugeen River flowing just beyond their back door. Standing at the river bank, a small dock awaits, while to the immediate west a towering forest of mature cedars frames the high steeples of a nearby church for an idyllic pastoral vibe. The river-view at the limit of the sloping lawn (grading and sod by **JT Excavating**) can be enjoyed from the comfort of a stamped concrete patio, textured to mimic natural stone (concrete by **Bi-Tech Contracting Inc.**). Surrounding the patio is a series of tiered gardens ringed with armour stone, which was designed and implemented by **ReeveScapes** (planted by Julie, with plants from **River's Edge Garden Centre**).

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Though the exterior is inspiring, the interior is also full of pleasant surprises. Julie and Gary carried the contemporary exterior elements inside with their choice of neutral greys for the walls (Colours: Antique Pewter, Wall Street, Smoke & Mirrors, and Mouse in the House, paint from **Home Hardware**). The greys are a nice counterpoint to the sparkling white kitchen cabinetry, with its bold granite countertops (**The Old Barn Polished Stone Creations**).

The kitchen may be a focal point in the open-concept living area, but it's the river view – visible from the kitchen, living room, and main bedroom – that is the real focal point of the home. The soothing rhythm of flowing water, the soaring cedars and the river wildlife make for a relaxing end to a summer's day. **OH**

Armour stone throughout the landscape complements the home's stone exterior, and is a natural choice for the riverside property. A fun barbecue designed to look like a tool box adds a pop of colour to the young landscaping.



SOURCE GUIDE Bi-Tech Contracting Inc. • Candue Homes • Chalmers Aluminum • Dennis Lorenz Roofing • Durham Furniture • Eric Hopkins Ltd. • Grey Bruce Brick & Landscape Supply • Hastie's Fine Cabinetry • Home Hardware • Hopkins Tree Spade Service • JT Excavating • Ken Priebe • Pratt Plumbing and Heating • ReeveScapes • River's Edge Garden Centre • Smitty's Fine Furniture • The Old Barn Polished Stone Creations • Wilson Plumbing Service • Wilson Solutions

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