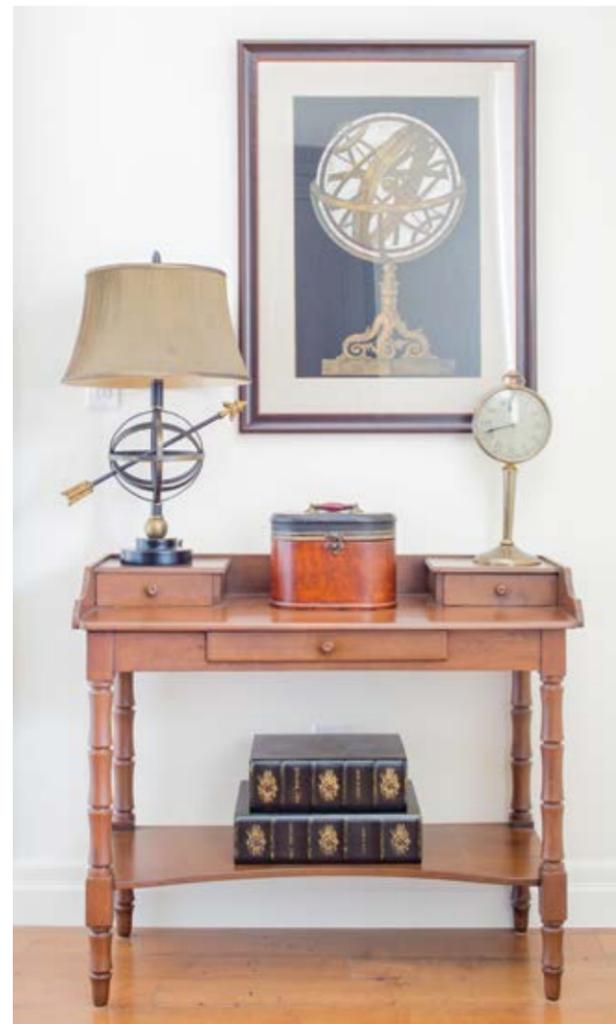


STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**
STAGING **J'ADORN**

DOWNSIZING WITH style



FAR LEFT: The first floor den, which doubles as a spare bedroom, is decorated with an academic motif that is palpable throughout the home. **LEFT:** The living room, with its gas fireplace, is the comfortable and cosy heart of the home. The gold and burnished bronze tones accent the plaid patterns, which are a reemerging style. **BELOW:** The living room, dining area and kitchen form the open-concept portion of the main floor. The loft balcony is visible above.

A new housing development in Walkerton overlooking a quaint lawn bowling green and a small park has transformed the old public school grounds into a growing residential community. **Centretown Condos**, built by **Dave Spitzig Construction** offer simple living in spacious well-designed spaces. They are perfect for anyone looking to downsize, or for people who just loathe the idea of cutting their own grass.

For Ken and Lynne Brown, purchasing a three-bedroom, two-bath with a loft at the Centretown Condos made sense as they begin to spend more of their time at their family cottage in Muskoka. It was also an easy choice, because working in conjunction with **Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home** allowed them to customize their new condo effortlessly and without hiccups.

“Cuneo’s was wonderful to work with,” says Lynne. “They originally had six sample boards for us to choose from, but I liked the tile on one (Atlantis by Centura) and didn’t

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RIGHT: The solid wood harvest-style dining table, set in white dinnerware, features wicker and leather captain's chairs. **BELOW:** A stark contrast to the white cabinetry, the deep grey subway tiles pair smoothly with the Metropolis paint colour. **BOTTOM:** Granite countertops in grey tones complete the kitchen's cool palette. The Happy Wife, Happy Life sign is courtesy of J'Adorn.



want the floor that went with it. I told them I wanted something more relaxed and Anne Morrow brought over a bunch of samples for us to pick from.”

Cuneo Interiors offers 12 design schemes on six sample boards, all developed by Centretown Condos' interior designer Susan Davey of **Susan E. Davey Interior Design**. Many were a little too polished for the Browns. They wanted something a bit more rustic, a bit more weathered, to complement their personalities.

“We love the floor we were able to pick (Cleveland Maple Amaretto by Mohawk Flooring),” says Ken. “It’s sort of like Lynne and I, we’re a little weathered now too. I think we might have started something because a group of people after us wanted to take bits from all of the boards too – what you want is what you get, it was great.”

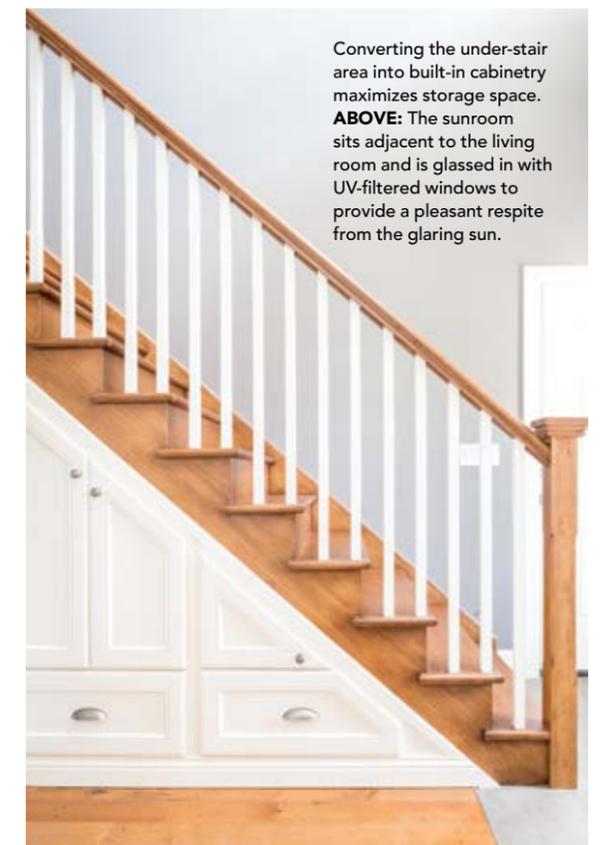
Working together with Cuneo's, Susan Davey expected that some condo owners might want to mix and match rather than go with a single design scheme, and so they were ready with backup options when the Browns came looking.

“I made the selection of all the interior and exterior products, and then Cuneo's took over and were the facilitators; they supplied and installed and guided the homeowners,” explains Susan. “Together with Jordan and Anne at Cuneo's we worked together to develop various combinations, so that if people weren't sold on a board they could make changes.”

The rustic engineered hardwood the duo settled on pairs elegantly with their taste in décor. Lynne ran the Gift Corner in Walkerton for many years before semi-retiring and merging her shop with the family's **Brown's Guardian Pharmacy**. With her flair for interior decorating and a store full of décor at her fingertips, Lynne and Ken had no problem filling their condo with intriguing statement accent pieces and Canadian-made furniture (**Bogdon & Gross Furniture** from **Smitty's Fine Furniture**) to match their taste in finishings and fixtures.

The off-white kitchen cabinetry – Lynne has used the exact same colour in her past three kitchens – and deep-toned leathered granite countertops give a pleasant contrast to the warm wood tones that predominate throughout the living spaces. In conjunction with the kitchen cabinetry, Lynne's choice

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Converting the under-stair area into built-in cabinetry maximizes storage space. **ABOVE:** The sunroom sits adjacent to the living room and is glassed in with UV-filtered windows to provide a pleasant respite from the glaring sun.



of a medium grey (Metropolis) and a light cream (Windswept) for the walls also works to brighten the condo, which receives so much strong afternoon sunlight that the Browns had their windows and patio doors coated in a UV filter from **Georgian Glass Coatings** to cut down on heat and light.

“We get a lot of sun in our unit so we went with the UV coating on the windows to be more energy efficient and protect the furniture and floors from discolouring,” explains Lynne.

The entire home is wired for surround sound, out on the patio and up in the loft as well (**Richardson Electric** with products from **HDTV and Electronics**), where the couple plan to install a home theatre once their grandchildren have passed the curious stage that drives children to chew on everything. The surround-sound system also speaks to Ken’s love of music, which spurred the installation of a soundproof music booth in the upstairs bedroom. Purchased in the U.S. and shipped to Canada in pieces, Ken had the pleasure of assembling the 800-pound booth by himself.

“I use the booth because I make all sorts of noise, especially in an apartment setting, and I teach myself instruments. You can learn anything on the Internet,” says Ken. The amateur musician has learned everything from the banjo

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TOP LEFT AND LEFT: The condo’s loft is a spacious area filled with natural light. Destined to become a home theatre, it currently functions as a TV area and lounge. Check out our Style Picks on page 18 to see where you can get your own spotlight floor lamp. **ABOVE:** The soundproof music booth was an essential addition in a condo setting to allow Ken to continue playing music.

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Bogdon & Gross Furniture • Brian W. Folmer Garden Centre And Landscape Design & Construction • Brown’s Guardian Pharmacy • Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home • Darryl Johnson Woodworks • Dave Spitzig Construction • Erica Cook • Georgian Glass Coatings • Grant’s TV And Appliances • Green Leaf Design • HDTV And Electronics • L-Ray Plumbing & Heating Ltd. • Richardson Electric • Smitty’s Fine Furniture • Susan E. Davey Interior Design • Walkerton Home Hardware

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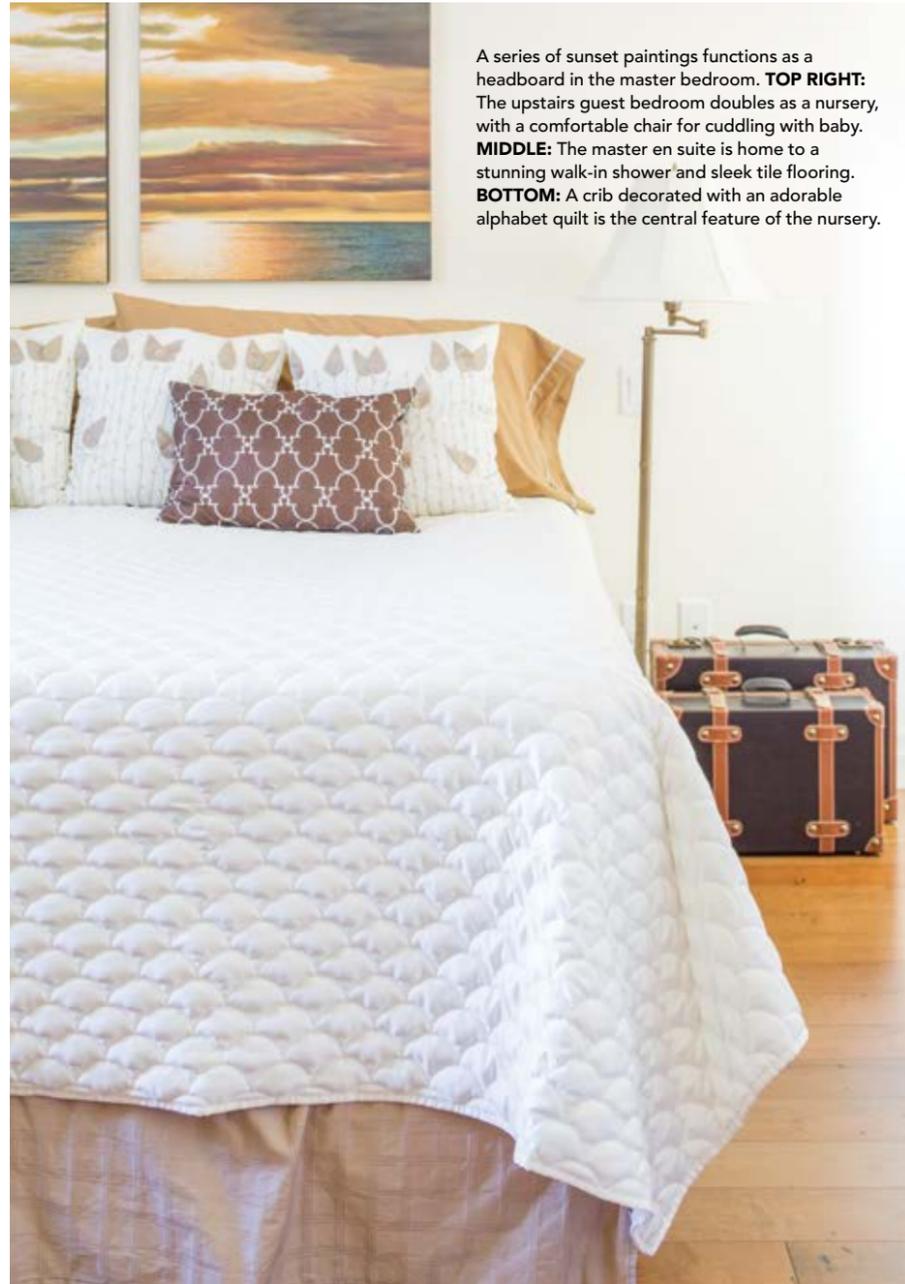
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A series of sunset paintings functions as a headboard in the master bedroom. **TOP RIGHT:** The upstairs guest bedroom doubles as a nursery, with a comfortable chair for cuddling with baby. **MIDDLE:** The master en suite is home to a stunning walk-in shower and sleek tile flooring. **BOTTOM:** A crib decorated with an adorable alphabet quilt is the central feature of the nursery.



and harmonica to the saxophone via Google. Lynne adds, "I'm so thankful it fit upstairs. It's great listening to music when someone is good, but when they are learning and everyone else has to be a part of that... it's painful."

Because the second bedroom became devoted to a music and nursery space, it meant they had to be clever about accommodating family visitors in their downsized home. In the end, they installed a murphy bed in the downstairs office that doubles as a shelving

unit, and a pullout bed disguised as a sleek leather sofa in the loft. Together with their guest space and social entertaining areas, it's clear the Browns have artfully balanced their condo to meet the needs in their lives.

"We are finding there is a growing sense of community here and we are meeting lots of new people," adds Ken about the condos. "You can have privacy if you want it, but you can step outside onto the lawn and meet your neighbours too. It's beautifully designed." **OH**

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