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**MY HEAD IS SWIMMING WITH THE INNUMERABLE INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS BEING TOUTED FOR 2019.** It's one of the hazards of working on an all-things-home magazine. Apparently minimalist art is out and maximalist art is in. (I confess, I didn't even know what maximalist art was.) Statement upholstery is out, especially in jewel tones, but jewel tones with an edge are in. I guess, though, not on your sofa. Gendered rooms are out but feminine tones are in.

Pantone says Living Coral is the colour of the year, because it is vibrant *and* mellow. Benjamin Moore says their stylish grey, Metropolitan, is the colour of the year. Sherwin-Williams picks terracotta-toned Cavern Clay, and Dulux cites amber Spiced Honey or dark green Night Watch, depending on which website you read.

It can be confusing to make sense of it all, don't you think? Why are subway tiles hailed as timeless, only to be labeled passé six months later? Similarly, stainless steel appliances? Why does one media outlet say quartz countertops are the best thing since sliced bread, while another says, phew, there goes that horror?

Of course manufacturers want us to have the latest and greatest. But it's important to stay true to our own needs and tastes. Why would I buy a table that seats 12 if our family of four rarely entertains that many people? Living Coral might look fantastic accenting the cream casegoods in your living room, but it could clash terribly with someone else's navy leather sofa.

New products and styles are exciting because they represent creative happenings in the design world, and can in turn spark our own creativity. To that end, we at OUR HOMES showcase a range of goods and homes we think you might find inspiring (check out the Style Picks on page 16, and two beautiful homes on pages 24 and 44). But please, keep in mind that it's up to you to pick and choose what speaks to you, what trends you want to incorporate into your décor. Rather than be a slave to trends, let's remember there is no right or wrong way to craft our spaces. Individuality, diversity, originality – now *that's* beautiful and timeless.

Happy Spring!

*Melissa*

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**IS IT HERE, REALLY HERE?** Spring is so worth waiting for and almost as exciting as waiting for our first grandchild to arrive in just a few weeks.

Spring projects take a different turn this year, as we help our daughter paint, decorate and prepare the nursery.

It's fun for everyone to have something exciting on the horizon: a long-awaited trip, a special family visit, a promotion you have worked so hard for, an old home to be sold and a new one to ready. We are all anticipating something inside our own homes.

This issue's feature home is waiting patiently for the gardens to grow again into their beautiful splendour. It's a Canadian 2018 award-winning garden created and maintained by Shades of Summer. April showers will bring May flowers.

For our Home & Builder, we visit Frank and Tina Carestia of Duca Homes as they raise two boys and watch them grow into wonderful young men.

When starting your own projects, remember to shop local. Our local businesses need us to grow and they rely on our support, especially those whose business streets are under construction. I understand Locke Street is under the shovel this year. Let's back our local folks as they wait for the construction to be completed.

And while you are out this spring shopping for that special new piece, stop by Stoney Creek Furniture and wish them an exciting 50th anniversary – and still growing!

Enjoy your springtime!

*Laurie*

Laurie Lotimer, Publisher  
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STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

# HOME HUNGRY

Young homebuyers who work in Toronto have to choose between a long commute or condo living to make the dream of owning a home a reality.

**FORCED BY CLIMBING RENTAL** and property prices in the Greater Toronto Area, Emily Proctor and her partner Dean Lane are taking the same route as plenty of other young people – they’re heading north to buy a house.

“We’ve been halfheartedly planning for over a year,” says Emily, who lives and works in downtown Toronto. Buying a house in the GTA is not easy these days, acknowledges the 27-year-old. “We took a look at our finances and started putting away some money and making cuts.”

Dean sold his car, a move, he says, that also cut down on insurance and took away condo parking fees, gas and car maintenance expenses.

Then it came time to consider where they would buy a house, says Emily.

“I’ve always wanted to have a house in a smaller city,” she says, adding, “It’s also within the budget.”

The Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) recently polled young people in the GTA and found that 92 per cent of them agree that the dream of home ownership is becoming more difficult to achieve for their cohort living in their city.

“Affordability is a huge barrier,” says Emily. “There are fewer, stable full-time jobs that pay well. Wages haven’t been rising as much as the cost of living has.”

She says she’s noted that friends who’ve moved out of the GTA are in a better position to own homes.

That’s why Emily and Dean are looking to buy property in Simcoe County.

And that’s where the trend seems to be moving, says Sarah J. Stevens, a realtor with Century 21 B. J. Roth Realty in Orillia.

Sarah says to afford a house, groups of friends and couples are pooling their money to

make it happen. This creativity, she says, also means young people are buying different types of properties.

“They may buy triplexes so they can get some rental income from it,” says Sarah.

With changes in rules around mortgages, everyone from real estate agents to mortgage brokers have to work harder.

Sarah says young people vying for properties have to drive their income. “Make as much money as you can,” she says. “Find a side job, or an extra job, maybe online, or wherever your (soft) skills lie. Be conservative and live within your means and don’t take on extra debt.”

And as time goes on, Sarah says, she’s finding most people are okay commuting farther for a cheaper house.

But according to the BILD and TREB poll, 86 per cent of respondents say it’s important for young families to be able to afford to live and work within the GTA without having to commute over an hour to get to work.

That’s what veteran GTA real estate representative Sue Massa of the Sell with Sue Team at Right At Home Realty Inc., Brokerage, is finding with her clientele.

“The condo market has taken off,” she says, adding her clients want to stay close to the

city because of the high cost of commuting. “Most people when they sit down and do their budgeting, they want to cut down on their travel costs,” she says.

“The trend of moving north has slowed down considerably,” says Sue. “When the market corrects itself, the properties north will be hit first.”

In her experience, she says, younger people buying homes are willing to spend that extra bit, instead of having to fix up a property after buying it.

“At one time you were able to purchase a property and go and fix it,” she says. “Today, it’s hard to find that extra money to put towards that.”

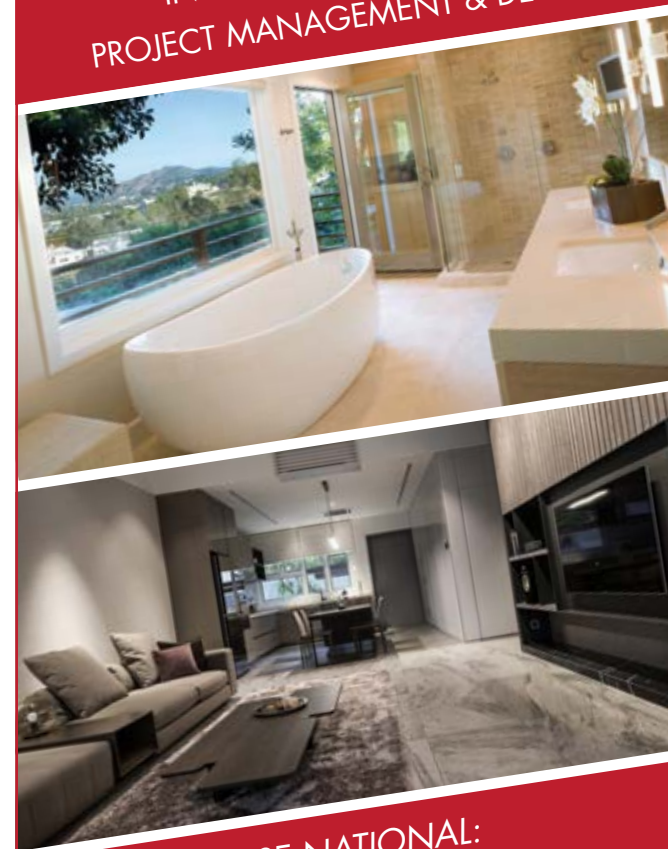
At the end of the day, both she and Sarah recommend that anybody looking to buy property should work with investment, real estate and mortgage experts to reach their goal of home ownership.

To save up, Sue says, take inventory of where you’re spending your money. Most people can save a lot simply by cutting back on their monthly coffee and eating out expenditures.

“Once you’ve kept an eye on your money, you can decide where you’re going to invest it,” she says. **OH**



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PHOTOGRAPHY  
KELLY HORKOFF

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8



9

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# plants for POLLINATORS

1.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **MELANIE REKOLA**

Pollinator-friendly gardens are on the rise. Pollinators, especially bees, are responsible for the propagation of approximately one-third of our food supply. Follow these guidelines to make your garden pollinator-friendly.

## Basic Needs

Pollinators have a few basic habitat needs: a diversity of flowering native or naturalized plants, egg-laying or nesting sites, a water source and perhaps a spot to overwinter. Interestingly, I find what works for pollinators is also what I naturally prefer in garden spaces.

## The Food

The sheer diversity of our native bees, butterflies, moths and other insects is astonishing and their specialization to feed on certain flower types is equally awe-inspiring. Some insects only pollinate one particular species. Others are far broader in their feeding habits, feasting on nectar from an array of flower types. Ideal pollinator habitats grow various species that bloom in diverse sizes/shapes and

*Continued on page 22*





gardening

flower in a succession from early spring to late fall. These should also include trees and shrubs in various heights.

TIP

Flowers with multiple petal layers are often called “doubles” and though doubles are pretty, they should be minimized as most insects can’t access the nectar within. Plus, many double flowers or hybrid plants don’t produce any nectar at all.

Egg Laying & Nesting

Certain insects require certain plants for propagation. Probably the most famous insect-plant relationship is that of the monarch butterfly and the milkweed. Monarch butterfly larva can only survive and thrive on the milkweed plant. Do I really need to mention that we should all allow milkweed into our gardens? Many native bee species nest in small holes in the ground and though I am a strong advocate of mulch, it is necessary to leave an area of bare soil exposed for this purpose.



Water Source

Butterflies and other insects require places to “puddle” where they drink water from damp puddles to attain the minerals they require. Puddles are easy to make. Simply bury a shallow plate or bowl in the ground so the lip is even with the surface of the soil. Fill the container with sand or soil and arrange a few rocks on top for landing spots. Add water as needed to keep the sand consistently wet. Bees require a slightly different setup that’s actually very similar to

what most birds need. A shallow, wide bowl with some large and small rocks and just an inch or two of water is all that’s needed. Top up water daily.

Overwintering

Many native bee species and other beneficial insects overwinter in the hollow stems of plants. Therefore, don’t cut back herbaceous plants in fall. By leaving perennials to stand you’ll also provide shelter and food to a host of birds and other small wildlife. Another option is to create or purchase a bee habitat to offer them an extra helping hand.

Melanie’s Pollinator Plant Picks

Even adding just a few gorgeous species from this mix of native and non-native (but high nectar/pollen) plants to your garden space can make all the difference to these small but special creatures.

**Trees and shrubs:** Apple, pear, willow, redbud, maple, sumac, serviceberry, elderberry, honey locust, oak, horse chestnut, mahonia, basswood, dogwood, blueberry, raspberry and currant.

**Perennials:** Aster, allium, bee balm, blanket flower, pasque flower, baptisia, salvia, Russian sage, nepeta, snow drop, tulip, liatris, goldenrod, shasta daisy, coneflower, black-eyed Susan, coreopsis, oregano, mint, dill, parsley, columbine, milkweed, butterfly weed, hyssop, Joe-pye weed.

As natural pollinator habitats diminish and the effects of pesticide exposure take their toll on many species, residential gardens hold the key to positively impacting the lives of these important insects. Even the bumblebee has now been added to the ever-growing list of endangered species and the time to act is now. Pollinator gardens can help fill this void by providing food, water and nesting and overwintering habitats for a broad diversity of pollinating insects and other wildlife such as birds and small animals. These gardens can also serve as windbreaks, help stabilize the soil and improve local water quality. Plus, attracting pollinators to your yard will help your garden to produce more blooms and more food if you happen to have a veggie garden. As always, when you choose Mother Nature as your ally it’s a win-win-win situation. **OH**

**FLOWER SPECIES:** 1. Allium 2. Goldenrod 3. Purple Coneflower 4. Silverlace Vine 5. Russian Sage 6. Oregano 7. White Japanese Anemone 8. Milk Weed 9. Black-Eyed Susan.



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Built-in cabinetry, by Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc., showcases Ken's love of books in the inviting library off to the right of the entryway.



Homeowners Karen Finlay and Ken Boichuk



# A NEW CHAPTER

STORY **DENISE WILSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**



**ABOVE:** The neutral shade of Balanced Beige walls in the hallways and dining and living rooms allows for colour play throughout the home. **TOP RIGHT:** We have oh so many Canadian authors to enjoy and be proud of.

The first thing you often notice when walking into the home of voracious readers is their vast array of books. Ken Boichuk and Karen Finlay, married in 2017, took their love one step further, creating a stunning library with built-in cabinetry only steps inside their front door. With the walls painted their favourite shade, Bracing Blue by Sherwin Williams, this is a place to escape with a good story. Yet it's more than that. "The library is a symbol," says Karen. "It's how we envisioned the renovation itself. It's a new chapter for the house, and a new chapter in our lives."

*Continued on page 26*





When Karen and Ken moved in together in 2013, they knew they needed space that was no longer his and hers, but theirs, a place to share. Each previously married, the couple had known each other for many years and were friends before coming together. They hadn't considered renovating a bungalow until they stumbled across this 2,212 sq. ft. house, nestled in a cosy neighbourhood surrounded by trees and the bustle of city amenities. "We weren't looking for a bungalow," says Karen, "but we could see the potential behind the tired veneer and realized one-level-living would be great for the next phase in our lives."

Ken is a retired history teacher who devotes his time to the Grimsby Library, where his passion for the written word fuels the Grimsby Author Series, an event that draws hundreds every year. Karen is the Chief of Radiology for Hamilton Health Sciences. Between them, they have four children, the youngest just finishing graduate school. "We wanted the house to have everything we need on one level," says Ken, "while still offering a place the kids could come home to, to feel comfortable." *Continued on page 30*

Bottled spirits and decanters make a beautiful vignette.



Stone veneer around the fireplace, also gracing the hallway wall to the lower level and the wine closet, adds texture and visual interest in the thoughtfully laid out living room. Much of their furniture was sourced from The Furniture Gallery in St. Catharines. **OPPOSITE:** Karen and Ken have achieved a spacious and open vibe while maintaining individual rooms.





**LEFT:** Glossy backsplash tiles and silver hardware marry bright, modern styling with traditional cabinetry. **TOP:** A reading nook adjacent to the kitchen makes efficient use of space and takes advantage of large windows overlooking the glorious gardens outside. **ABOVE:** A window over the kitchen sink makes washing dishes much more appealing.



feature

With two bedrooms, a stunning bathroom, and a living room for relaxing all located on the lower level downstairs, family stays in comfort. Cork floors provide warmth and texture, and there is lots of storage to keep family heirlooms for future generations. But what really steals the stage is the wine cellar. Carved into a wall and clad with decorative stone that matches the stairway and living room fireplace surround, the cellar is lit from within and enclosed by **Grimsby Glass** doors, drawing the eye the minute you step foot into the lower level. “The wine cellar is one of our favourite features,” says Ken.

The renovation, done by **Andy Jack of Jack Design & Construction**, took only four months. “We trusted Andy throughout the entire process,” says Ken. “He listened to all our ideas and suggestions and brought a wealth of creativity to the project.” The homeowners wanted to be involved in the entire process. Karen pulled ideas from decorating magazines and online forums. She collected pictures and created a wish list. “Karen was the visionary,” Ken says proudly.

*Continued on page 32*



**ABOVE:** Karen and Ken share a love of wine as well as books. So much so that they married in a winery in Jordan. **LEFT:** Artwork by Elena Henderson from Creations Gallery in Ancaster village adorns the guest bedroom and inspired the vibrant palette.

# Dal's HOME FURNISHINGS

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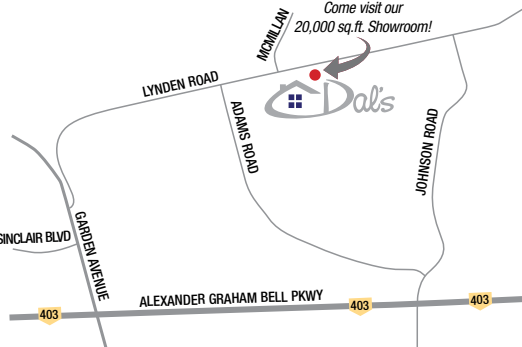
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**RIGHT:** Two sinks are better than one! The master bath has ample storage for his and her accoutrements and is elegantly appointed. **BELOW:** Considered calming and welcoming, blue is an easy colour choice. So Karen and Ken also used Bracing Blue, found in the library, in their master bedroom.

And what a vision it is. At the core is a large open-concept kitchen, living room, and seating area; the perfect space for lounging and chatting while dinner is being prepared. **Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc.** designed and built the kitchen cabinets and library, using every possible inch for storage, and Cambria quartz countertops are both

stylish and durable. “We love the kitchen,” says Ken. “Everyone gathers around the island on holidays.” Hardwood and porcelain floors, chosen to withstand years of wear, come from **Speers Flooring**, and the kitchen appliances are from **Nickerson Home Appliances**. A fireplace from **Broom’s Heating, Air Conditioning**

**& Fireplaces**, surrounded by Canyon Stone Canada’s natural stone veneer, creates a unique focal point flanking the living room and running the vast wall to the lower level. **Thomas TV** was responsible for the sound and entertainment system.

The couple wanted a master bathroom retreat, a place to decompress. “I work long hours,” says Karen, “and enjoy coming home to spa-like comforts.” The mostly white (**Benjamin Moore** Cloud White) and grey (Sherwin Williams Worldly Gray) master en suite with freestanding soaker tub and glass enclosed shower – courtesy of **Kitchen & Bath Classics** – offer the perfect backdrop to relax with a good book. “I like to mix traditional elements like custom cabinetry and wood flooring with modern touches such as hardware and lighting,” says Karen. Light fixtures were found at Union Lighting. The master bedroom’s walk-in closet boasts built-in shelving from **Perfect Closets** to keep things tidy, and the laundry room is off the garage, organized by **Garage Living**.

Not only did Karen and Ken’s story experience a recast in this home, the house itself got a new chapter. “We wanted as little waste as possible,” says Karen. “As our builder renovated, we advertised on Kijiji and sold almost everything he tore out.” Even no-longer-necessary parts of a house can get a new start. *Continued on page 34*





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Karen calls their backyard Brad's masterpiece. He lifted the canopy and gave them twice as much yard space, and what an oasis it is now. Furniture is from InsideOut Patio Burlington. **BELOW:** Brad Paton, of Shades of Summer Landscaping & Maintenance, takes pride in creating great beauty with his gardens.



The couple's vision extended outside the home. "Corner lots are known to have small and sometimes awkward shaped yards," says Ken. "But this house has an amazing backyard." Waterdown's **Shades Of Summer Landscaping & Maintenance**, winner of the Canadian 2018 National Award of Landscape Excellence for Residential Maintenance, created a backyard oasis with seating and entertaining areas and foliage-screened privacy. **Paradise Decks & Landscape Design** and **Water Your World Inc.** were also involved.

For a couple who love to read, the library was the starting point to the house of their dreams, their new dreams. A new beginning. Now they sink into a comfy chair, set the lighting just right, and melt into the next chapter. It's a love story at its finest. **OH**



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# THE YEAR IN COLOUR

We checked in with nine paint brands and this is what each has to say about their 2019 Colours of the Year. Some hues are inspired by nature, others are vibrant and fun. Will you go bold or neutral in this last year of the decade?

## FARROW & BALL

### Rangwali (296)

An exotic hot pink inspired by the powder thrown during the Holi festival of colours in India. It's one of nine new colours just introduced by Farrow & Ball.



## SHERWIN WILLIAMS

### Cavern Clay (SW 7701)

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## BEHR

### Blueprint (S470-5)

It's that perfect middle-of-the-road blue denim colour – not too dark, not too light, slightly worn to keep it comfortable, but with enough colour to be easily dressed up.



## BENJAMIN MOORE

### Metropolitan (AF-690)

A stylish grey with cool undertones, Metropolitan reflects the modern sophistication of 21st-century design.



Continued on page 38

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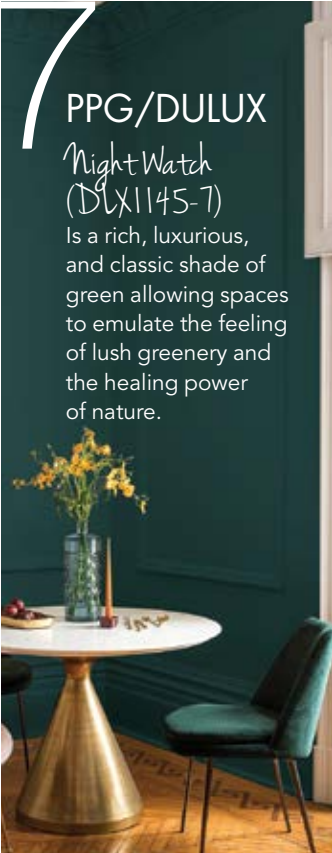
It's fun to play with, either as an accent wall, on furniture pieces and interior doors, or hidden spots like inside closets or drawers. This bold colour choice is an homage to our positively powerful state of mind.



SICO

Grand Manan Black (6161-83)

This colour is the perfect way to recreate the calming sensation of being in nature at home. Elegant and understated, it is versatile enough to complement any décor.



PARA PAINT

Ginger Scent (336D)

A colour that looks like soft terracotta that can be calming and elegant when combined with delicate neutrals but in turn has a second personality that is reminiscent of sherbet that is fun, vibrant and can be combined with bold hues, patterns and shapes.



VALSPAR

Valspar's 12 Colours of the Year are mood-inspiring hues that encourage DIYers to embrace change and create a personalized home environment. **OH**



- Honey Cream (3007-6B)
- Martinique Dawn (6003-3B)
- Blushing Bride (2001-10B)
- Spring Squash (5002-10C)
- Twilight Mist (4004-9B)
- Angelic Blue (5003-9B)
- Wishing Well (5002-10C)
- Seattle Haze (4003-4B)
- Green Water (5003-4A)
- Metropolis Lilac (4001-6C)

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# Furnishing for 50 YEARS!

STORY **MELISSA NORTH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**



Cheryl Dobie, Deborah Bereziuk, Michalina Wood, Steph Harvey and Parm Quam



**THE PLACE:** **Stoney Creek Furniture** may be familiar to many readers, but for those who haven't yet visited the giant showroom beside the QEW, you are in for a treat. At 85,000 square feet, the range of home furnishings and accessories on display caters to every style and taste. More importantly, the sales staff do not work on commission – their only priority is customer care. President Jim Fee explains, "What's truly unique and rare about Stoney Creek Furniture is that we're so customer-focused. Our front-line team is dedicated to helping the customer have a beautiful home, and they do it in many ways from space planning to colour coordinating and customization."



**THE STYLE:** From traditional to contemporary, and everything in between, Stoney Creek Furniture's buyers search for quality items, mindful that in addition to furnishing large family homes, many of today's shoppers may be just starting out or downsizing. Says Lori Negrinotti, merchandising manager, "We're excited about offering styles that are very appealing to both. We strive for an environment where consumers can come in and find something that surprises them and is quite unique."



**THE TREND:** Beautiful is back, says Lori. In shapes and hues. Look for glass and chrome accents and clean lines. Colour, by way of accessories, is coming through in pretty blushes and vibrant jewel tones. Also, bold textures, at the forefront in fashion, are now filtering down to the home furniture industry. When it comes to storage and convertible furniture, functionality is key. Whether it's the Canadian made Trica glass dining table that seamlessly and easily extends to seat 10, or the sleep chest that looks like a sideboard, Stoney Creek Furniture believes their furniture should enhance every lifestyle.

**THE NEWS:** SCF is 50! In 1969, when Dennis Novosel opened Stoney Creek Furniture, he couldn't have imagined that it would grow to be one of the largest and most well-respected independent furniture stores in the country. Since then he has built a team of dedicated employees who carry out his vision to service customers in a relaxed and friendly manner. With the addition of his daughter, Cassandra Novosel, to the team, Stoney Creek Furniture will continue his vision for decades to come. There will be 50th anniversary sales throughout the year to celebrate, so stay tuned.

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STORY **MELISSA CAMPEAU**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**  
FLOWERS **FASCINATION FLOWERS**

The entryway is enhanced by porcelain tile laid in a herringbone pattern, and a stately 14-foot ceiling. Staircase by Trinity Rail & Trim.

# Sweet SYNERGY

Homeowner and builder Frank Carestia's favourite room is the living room. "I find it very comfortable and subtle," he says. "The fireplace surround looks like marble but it's actually porcelain tile."

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*Continued on page 46*



T

“This isn’t a home we would or could have built 20 years ago,” says **Frank Carestia**, President and CEO of **Duca Homes**, of their stately one-storey property in a mature Ancaster neighbourhood. “It’s definitely the result of everything we’ve learned over the years.”

More than a decade of crafting custom homes for clients helped Frank realize exactly what he wanted to put into his next home. And since he and wife Tina had collaborated to design their family’s first Ancaster home together, the couple had plenty of in-the-trenches experiences to call on this time around.

In the blueprint stage, for example, Frank knew what steps to take to get Tina on board with the vision. “Because he builds houses all the time, he can visualize things,” says Tina. “But I really need to see things physically in front of me.” To bridge that gap, Frank would lay out measuring tape on the floor of their former house to help Tina get a sense of the size of a room, or use markers on the plywood of the new home’s frame to draw in the fireplace, sofas and any other details.

*Continued on page 48*



**ABOVE:** Frank and Tina Carestia happily collaborated on the many decisions a new build requires. **RIGHT:** Frank wanted the cabinets to be the focal point of the kitchen, so they opted for simple and elegant flooring. Light fixtures throughout the home, from Elm Ridge Lighting and Interiors, are low maintenance. “I tend to like lots of dangly, elaborate lighting,” Tina explains, “but for this house we wanted something more timeless.”







Frank and Tina enlisted the help of **Jill Fraser**, owner of **House of Fraser Decor**, and **Christina Wickenden**, owner of **The Green Door Decor**. As a team, Jill and Christina had worked with Frank for years, and have known Tina personally for almost as long, so they had plenty of insight into what the family would want and need in a house designed to grow and change with them.

“When they started to build this home – after designing the house for eight years – we thought, ‘Okay, this is huge,’” says Jill. “Not because there was any particular pressure but because we knew them so well by that time. Every decision was something of a group consensus.”

Having four experienced people on the same wavelength made it relatively easy to navigate the mountain of decisions required for any custom build. “Drawing out where the kitchen island would go and where the kitchen table would go, we realized we could add a few extra feet to the island, and that’s just made a world of difference,” says Tina. “It meant there was room for a stool for each of us, and it’s great for entertaining, too.”

At one point, after looking at a 3D rendering of the kitchen (cabinetry by **CR Technical Woodworking**, counters by **Stonex Granite & Quartz**), Tina was struggling to decide on where appliances (**Peter Martin Appliances**) should go. “Jill knows us well and could picture how we’d use this space, so she suggested moving the bar fridge close to the dining room, and then suddenly it all made much more sense,” says Tina.

When it came to choosing colours, Tina and Frank – whose previous



**ABOVE:** The butler’s pantry adjoins the kitchen and the dining room. **TOP:** “The body of the kitchen cabinets are pale oak, and the accents darker grey,” says Jill Fraser of House of Fraser Decor. “So many kitchens are white these days; this is going to give it longevity.” **RIGHT:** The spacious kitchen includes a coffee bar and room for a substantial table, from Penwood Furniture. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:** Dream team Jill and Christina Wickenden of The Green Door Decor. **TOP:** Tina loves being in her kitchen. She likes to cook and bake and entertain.



home was done in warm earth tones and browns – gravitated toward cooler, grey tones for a change of pace. “Since this is their forever home and they’re not going to change things like the floor or fireplace, we helped them choose finishes that will be flexible down the road, so they can adapt as the trends or their tastes change,” explains Jill.

The flooring, for example (**Mario’s Tile & Interiors**), is engineered wide-plank hickory with mid-tone shades of both greys and browns. In the family room, the sleek, modern gas fireplace (**Reliant Climate**) is a focal point, with an Italian tile that incorporates both cool and warm tones. “When we first walked into the showroom and I saw that tile, I knew right away,” says Tina. “It just looked like art to me.”

While choosing fireplace tile came easily, other decisions required

Continued on page 50





Tina originally saw this bold colour scheme in a magazine spread used in a living room, envisioning it for her dining room. Custom curtains by Ottawa Textiles complement the sizeable windows in the kitchen, family room and dining room. Table from Lofty Ambitions on Ottawa St. N.



Incorporating different textures makes these accents pop.

a team effort. “Jill and Christine would email us all the time with ideas about lights, art, mirrors and other things,” says Frank.

Tina adds, “There were lots of times when Frank and I would be out shopping and we’d be snapping pictures of chairs and sending them to Jill and Christine to get their opinions.”

In the dining room, the striking black-and-white colour scheme was a design departure for the couple. “I was so excited when Tina said she wanted this look in her dining room,” says Jill. “It’s such a bold choice for the first room people see when they walk into your home.”

Continued on page 52

What do you envision for your next home?



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When it came to finding chairs that worked with the scheme, Tina was less confident. “I couldn’t go dark, I didn’t want wood or leather. I really wasn’t sure what would work, and then Jill helped us find these soft grey, textured chairs,” says Tina. “They’re perfect.”

The dining room is flanked by the long, high-ceilinged entranceway. At Jill’s suggestion, Frank built the live-edge walnut console table that now grounds the space, and he and Tina added the framed photographs above that reflect their roots.

“My family is from Italy, so there’s a photo of an iconic scene in Venice,” says Frank. “My wife is half Italian and half English, so another photo is a shot of Big Ben and London. Then, because our family is Canadian, there’s a photo of Toronto’s skyline.”

“It’s a house full of personality,” says Jill. “That suits this family; there’s not a shrinking violet in the bunch, so they needed a house to match.”

Tucked in the master bathroom is a water closet with a surprise expanse of zebra wallpaper. “That was really a happy accident,” explains Jill. “We bought the wallpaper for the powder room and it didn’t work in there with the stone we chose, so this seemed like a good spot to use it.” Jill laughs and adds, “I’m sure whenever people come over, they get shown Frank’s toilet on the house tour!”

Continued on page 54

The master bedroom is done in Sherwin-Williams’ Sea Serpent. “I love this colour,” says Frank. “It’s not a blue blue, and it’s not a black.” Handsome bedroom suite from Penwood Furniture. **ABOVE:** The master en suite opens off the hallway, allowing the couple to keep different hours without disturbing each other. Dark hardware is an attractive accent against various shades of grey.

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**ABOVE:** Even the family terrier, Rex, has his own room! **TOP:** The open plan lower level was designed so that there are no posts. But there is a kitchen, bathroom, rec room, and, most fun, a golf simulator.

Christina explains, “When you’ve got that kind of anticipation – thinking about building a house for eight years – every decision feels so weighted and it’s all so near and dear to their hearts.” She adds, “It meant a lot to be a part of the process and it’s wonderful that they’re so satisfied with the results.”

In the end, says Jill, “They took a lot of chances and it’s just worked out so well!” **OH**

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## MATERIALS

Teacup and Saucer | Spoon or Ribbon | Pliers  
All-Purpose Adhesive (we used Goop Glue) | Birdseed



PROJECT **DAWN MCCONNELL**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

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## INGREDIENTS Makes 2

2 tsp butter  
1 small shallot, diced finely  
1 clove garlic, diced finely  
2 cups mushrooms, diced  
6 cups fresh spinach  
6 Tbsp cream cheese  
¼ cup breadcrumbs  
2 salmon fillets  
1 egg, beaten  
1 Tbsp water  
Puff pastry

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425°F.  
Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Melt butter over medium heat in a larger saucepan. Add shallots and garlic and cook for two to three minutes. Add mushrooms and stir. Add spinach. Mix together until wilted. Remove from heat and stir in cream cheese and breadcrumbs. Set aside.

Prepare an egg wash by whisking one egg with a tablespoon of water. Divide pastry dough in two and roll out



until ¼-centimetre thick. Place a salmon fillet in the middle of each pastry and top with mushroom/spinach mixture. Working lengthwise, fold one edge of puff pastry over top of the salmon. Brush the outside edge with egg wash and fold the other long edge over to seal. Trim the two remaining sides and press to seal.

Flip the salmon over onto the baking sheet with the fold side down. Score the top creating a diamond pattern and brush generously with egg wash. Bake for 25 minutes, until the tops are golden brown. **OH**



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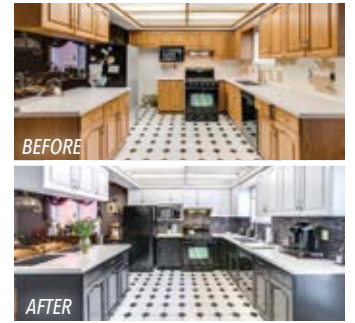
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PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF

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### AT WORK

**Current Project:** Waterfall desk for a customer in Texas.

**Next Project:** Black walnut island top. **Inspiration:** James Krenov (founder of College of Redwoods).

**Favourite Wood:** Do I have to choose just one? Teak, walnut, or bird's-eye maple.

### AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Gibson.

**Style:** Mid-century modern with reclaimed accents. **Beer or Wine:** Beer (grew my own hops this year!). **Dream Holiday:** A California coastal road trip.



### AT WORK

**Company Motto:** We will beat anyone's price as well as style, selection and service. **Years In Business:** Two, but Jim has been in the industry 25-plus. **Latest Trend:** Black is back, for its timelessness.

**Favourite Finish:** Anything chrome and sparkly!

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### AT HOME

**Favourite Style:** Clean simple lines, transitional lighting, colour and furniture – nothing too trendy. **Best Trip:** Just back from a western Caribbean cruise. **Dream Trip:** Hawaii or a family trip to the Greek islands.





AT WORK

**Company Philosophy:** To offer a unique shopping experience at great value.  
**Store Style:** A touch of country.  
**Trending for Spring:** Garden décor, handmade Amish furniture, ladies’ fashions. **Popular Product:** Honey crisp apple dumpling.

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STEPHEN AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Lynden. **Way to Relax:** Hanging out with my wife, kids and our dog. **Sweet or Salty:** Salty.

TONY AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Millgrove. **Downtime Favourite:** Spending time with my grandchildren. **Sweet or Salty:** Sweet.



AT WORK

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AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Beamsville. **Sport:** Watch football, play basketball. **Sun or Snow:** Definitely sun. **Dog or Cat:** Dog. **Dream Holiday:** Anywhere!

Continued on page 68





AT WORK

**Business Credo:** You must jump to soar. **What's New:** The old way is the new way, get back to the basics. **Greatest Joy:** My two boys make me SO proud! **Reader Tip:** Hiring an experienced professional is always wise.

JENNIFER DANIEL

Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage

I focus on residential sales all around the southern tip of the Horseshoe. I love working in the country when the opportunity arises. I'm proud to say I know houses and people, after my many moves around the world.

AT HOME

**Neighbourhood:** Westdale Village. **Current Project:** Getting rid of the clutter, everywhere, to make room for change. **Family Fun:** Travelling the world. **Sun or Snow:** Both are beautiful. **OH**

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VICTORIA + ALBERT: Barcelona 2 Freestanding Tub in Matte Black

Luxury and art are dominant décor motifs for 2019. As bathrooms continue to be a big interior interest, people are seeking to inject high-end touches here and artful accents there. Here are six trending elements to keep an eye out for in the coming year and beyond.

### 1. Hexagon Tile

The trendy hexagon shape has worked its way into the modern bath where it's splashing everything from walls to backsplashes to floors. This shower enclosure features micro hexagon tiles in three colours and, underfoot, a larger hexagon tile in a slate colour and finish, offering a great visual variety while maximizing this popular trend. Companies like ErthCoverings offer both small and large hex tiles in a marble stone finish called White Wolf Hex.



### 2. Open Vanity Shelving

Move over, big bulky vanities! Open vanity shelving has a fresh, lightweight look and feel that instantly opens up a bathroom – both visually and literally. This trend will be a particularly welcome addition to small spaces like condos. Victoria + Albert's Candella washstand, topped with a Lario 100 Solo basin is elegance personified, featuring sleek, polished chrome legs, a barely-there towel rail and a storage shelf beneath. Stocked or empty, open shelving is definitely one trend to watch for this year. *Continued on page 72*



**TRENDSPOTTING** While white is still the colour palette of choice in 2019, texture will play an important role.

PHOTO: STEPHANI BUCHMAN

**TIP** While your instinct may be to enclose your vanity's base for the sake of storage (as they say, "out of sight, out of mind," right?), consider open shelving and cull the clutter. This chic look is definitely worth that effort.



VICTORIA + ALBERT: Metallo 100 Washstand



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# design ideas

## 3. Bold fixtures

Expect to see a departure from white bathroom fixtures. Bold colour will make an appearance in bathrooms, ranging from modern and edgy to classic with a mildly contemporary twist. British brand Victoria + Albert is dominating this trend with its Barcelona 2 bath collection. A sure-fire showpiece, this freestanding tub is sleek and streamlined – perfect for a compact space, but certainly not short on drama. Black, grey, blue and custom colour choices are splashing onto tubs and sinks in 2019.

## 4. Mixed Metals

The eclectic look of mixed metals will continue to be a strong style trend in 2019, as we've already seen in other areas of the home. Bathroom faucets, fixtures and hardware will venture beyond pretty-but-predictable polished chrome to matte, brushed and aged metals, offering more depth of character. Bronze, copper, rose gold and gold will continue to be in demand this year, for their warm and overall "extra" aesthetic.

## 5. Textural Elements

Where white does make an appearance, you can bet that it won't be the plain-Jane variety. With minimalism gone by the wayside, texture will play an essential role in spicing up the ever-popular white palette. Sculptural, three-dimensional wall cladding is primed to become the next modern bathroom fixture, featuring an artful interplay of shadow and light for an ever-changing alternative to basic white. The Atlas Concorde 3D Diamond White Matt 80 textured tile is anything but basic.

## 6. Marble Lookalikes

Porcelain marble lookalikes deliver that coveted look of luxury for less, and will continue to be a strong trend in 2019. MaxFine is touted as the only product available in oversize slabs at a reduced thickness of just six millimetres, with a gleaming surface that looks like natural polished stone. Your bathroom will love you for it.

The bathroom is where you start every day. It's where you primp and pamper, ponder life, prepare to take on the world. This year, isn't it only fitting that this space lives up to your high standards, too? **OH**



**COLOUR** will make an appearance in bathroom fixtures, lending drama to the room.

**VICTORIA + ALBERT:** Vetralia 2 Tub in Gloss Black and Lavello 114 Volo Vanity



**VICTORIA + ALBERT:** Staffordshire Bath Faucet in Unlacquered Brass



**ATLAS CONCORDE:** 3D Diamond White Matt 80 Wall Tile



**MARBLE LOOKALIKES** are a trend in 2019. Look for oversize porcelain slabs that mimic the look of natural stone, but cost less.

**MAXFINE:** Marmi Tile in Calacatta

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