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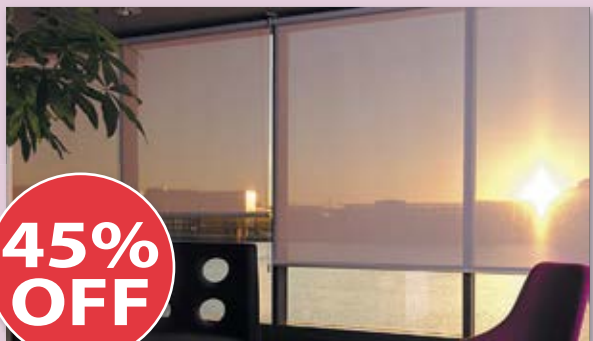


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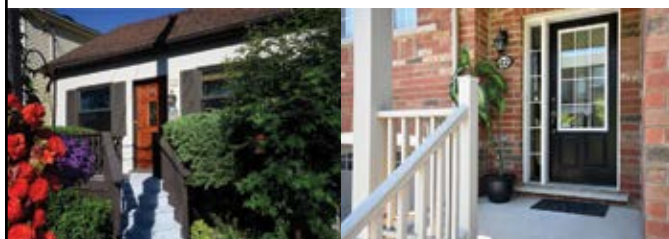
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I ALWAYS FEEL A MIXED BAG OF EMOTIONS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

As summer's No. 1 fan, even when it's stifling – some would say unbearable – out there, I feel just a tad melancholy when September rolls around. I know the end of sockless days is near, as is fall's successor – you know, the W-word.

Still, I get an incredible sense of anticipation as a new school year starts, despite my own last first day happening 16 years ago. Fall is a little like New Year's Take Two. As we ease back into a routine, we can throw something new into the mix. Maybe it's creating a new habit of walking every day, or doing better at packing our lunches. Maybe it's as simple as casting our eyes on more books (and magazines, of course), and less often on screens, or taking a cooking class.

Change seems to be the theme of this issue of OUR HOMES, and while I'd like to say it was intentional, it really was just the way those autumn stars aligned.

Both of the homes we feature are the result of great change: One because the homeowners wanted to downsize for retirement; the other is an incredible overhaul that transformed a pedestrian pad into a stylish and photogenic home for a couple keen to trade their Toronto address for one in Niagara.

We also talk to some of Niagara's most noteworthy pros about changes they've recently undergone to better serve their customers and remain at the top of their game.

Change is definitely in the air. So if you're feeling it too, keep reading. You're bound to find something in these pages that will inspire you to shake things up.

Tiffany Mayer, Managing Editor  
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*As the school doors reopen and we begin fall schedules again, it's a perfect time to plan a new interior project.*

FALL IS NICE AND CRISP AGAIN, and a new starting point. As the school doors reopen and we begin the fall schedules again, it's a perfect time to plan a new interior project.

There are tons of different DIY projects you could begin or, for a major task, call in those professionals. They are there to assist you. Whether it be a builder or renovator, or new paint or just a new light, there are folks close by to help you decide and plan your project. Maybe it's just a few new chairs. There are tons of shops to help you out.

Maybe it's time for an entirely new feel. Check out an award-winning build by Rinaldi Homes – one of our feature homes in this issue – and all the local shops the homeowners used to deck out their new abode including Crowland Sash & Frame, which provided that stunning front door, and whose fabulous work we missed mentioning in a feature last issue. It all came together beautifully.

We also have a lovely reno in Niagara-on-the-Lake. When you love your location, well, that's the way to go and together with a designer, the homeowners have accomplished amazing results.

So don your sweaters, curl up with the fall issue of OUR HOMES, gather your ideas and connect with the wonderful folks here in Niagara to help you create the home of your dreams.

And don't forget to check out the wonderful 15th Annual Homes for the Holidays tour in Pelham and the 20th Holiday House Tour, the latter hosted by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and support these great community events.

Happy reading.

*Laurie*

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STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

# THE DOS AND DON'TS OF HOME INSURANCE

## THE CARDINAL RULE OF HOME INSURANCE: BUY IT!

- ✔ **Do shop around when getting a new policy**, says Pete Karageorgos, Ontario director of consumer and industry relations, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). And remember to sit down with your insurance representative for a yearly review of your policy. The reason, Karageorgos says, are the upgrades homeowners do over a number of years.  
“That increases the value of the house,” he says. “If you don’t tell the insurance company about it, they may say, ‘since you weren’t paying the premium for that item, we won’t pay you the amount to replace it.’”
- ✔ **Do make a list of valuable items you have**, Karageorgos says. Documenting assets helps the claims process go smoothly.  
“Most folks have smartphones with cameras, and it’s easy to take photos of your rooms, cupboards, closets and your storage areas,” he says. “A lot of times when we’re faced with making insurance claims, we may forget what we’ve had in storage.”
- ✗ **Don’t assume everything you own is automatically covered in your policy.** “Most policies will cover a home for fire, wind and theft, but things such as power surges may not be covered,” Karageorgos says.
- ✔ **Do check to see if you will need an additional personal articles policy.** “Understand there may be specific sub-limits for items, such as jewelry, sports equipment or stamps you’ve collected,” he says. “You may want to look into having these covered separately.”
- ✔ **Do check for specific events for which you’re covered when reviewing a policy.** “More and more, we’re seeing severe weather events in our communities,” Karageorgos says, adding that customers calling the IBC’s help centre say they are caught offguard when their dwelling is affected by a natural disaster, such as flooding or a storm. “Reality is, we’re seeing a shift in weather patterns and we’re trying to meet those needs.”  
For example, he says, when areas in Calgary were flooded a few years ago, insurance companies weren’t paying to cover for the aftermath.  
“Now, they are,” he says. “This coverage also applies to septic systems. If those overflow, insurance companies are offering sewer back-up coverage.”



- ✔ **Do look into taking steps to protect the house.** For example, insurance companies may determine premiums based on the distance of the dwelling from the shoreline, Karageorgos says.  
“Sometimes the insurance company may ask you if you have a safety measure, such as a sump pump,” he says. “Look at what you can do to minimize the risk. Make sure the grading around the property isn’t such that water flows into your house, but is pushed away from the house. Make sure there aren’t any issues with the foundation. You could (also) look into getting a home alarm system,” he adds.
- ✔ **Do repairs regularly**, don’t think that just because you have insurance that it will act as a maintenance policy. If items that wear and tear and have a specific period of usefulness break down, you may not get the type of claims response you were expecting.
- ✔ **Do check that your policy covers additional living expenses**, which pays if families are forced to leave their home, due to a fire or another event.
- ✗ **Don’t assume your landlord’s insurance will cover your valuables, too.** Home insurance isn’t only for homeowners; renters should also look at buying a policy.  
“As a tenant, you’re responsible for covering your own items,” he says. “It also helps cover you for liability, in case of a fire or another event,” Karageorgos says.  
Liability coverage also protects against being sued by visitors if they are injured on the property.
- ✔ **Do review your deductible.** “Adjusting your deductible is important; maybe increase it to have a smaller premium,” says Karageorgos, adding another insurance do is to look at bundling home insurance with other insurance policies, such as auto and life.


General guidance is available through IBC’s help centre, which can be reached at [ibc.ca](http://ibc.ca) or by calling 1.844.227.5422. OH

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PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

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*Continued on page 24*





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# Rub a Dub Dub CHOOSING THE RIGHT TUB

STORY **CYNTHIA SODA**



I am a huge fan of the showering experience. However, when I was expecting my first child and suffering shin splints, I found a soothing bath something I couldn't get through the night without. When you need to get clean quick, a shower is hands-down the way to go. If, however, you find

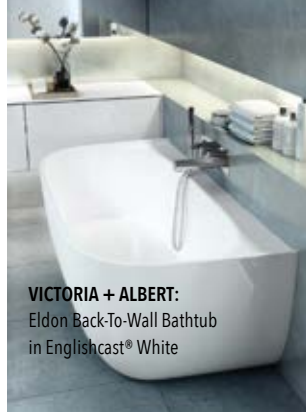
yourself with more than a few minutes, running yourself a bath can be a rewarding and comforting personal experience. Picking the right tub for you is important.

## STYLES

Bathtub manufacturers today offer a large assortment of styles, shapes and design features to coordinate with any taste and budget. While the most popular pin-worthy tubs are typically vessel free-standing or claw-foot, there are a multitude of options available to suit your needs. For those with limited square footage, a tub-shower combination or three-wall alcove design would be the most common tub style to maximize space. In standard-built homes, we've all seen the drop-in tub, made of enamel-coated cast iron, that sits fitted inside a framed enclosure. A more seamless alternative to the drop-in would be an undermount tub, which essentially is the same concept as an undermount vanity sink, only for your bathing pleasure.

## FAVOURITES

One great resource is Victoria + Albert with tubs crafted from the brand's signature Englishcast composition, a unique blend of a naturally white material that is rich in volcanic limestone and high-performance resins, hand-finished to create a glossy white coating with excellent stain resistance. They also offer a choice of trending colour options. Since the material is solid all the way through, internal scratches simply polish away. In our latest bathroom remodel, I can personally speak for the quality of a Victoria + Albert tub. For us, with four little ones who enjoy splashing around in mom and dad's bathroom, the Eldon tub was the perfect fit. Wanting to have luxe European-modern style and not having to worry about clean up behind the tub was the dilemma. The Eldon appears completely free-standing from the front, but its back-to-wall design makes it perfect for busy families with style.



## MATERIAL

The material that a tub is made from is also an important consideration for your investment in relaxation and comfort. The least expensive and lightweight options available are generally acrylic or fibreglass. The aforementioned cast iron is made by pouring molten iron into a mold, then smoothing and coating it with a thick layer of enamel. Possibly the most durable tub available, the finish is resistant to chipping, scratching and denting, as well as most types of chemicals. The cast iron option keeps bathing waters warm for a long period of time and although rewarding, they are one of the most challenging tubs to bring up a flight of stairs. If you're looking for something unique, you may consider a couture tub made of copper, enameled steel or even carved of stone or wood.



**NATIVE TRAILS:** Santorini Freestanding Copper Soaking Bathtub in Polished Copper



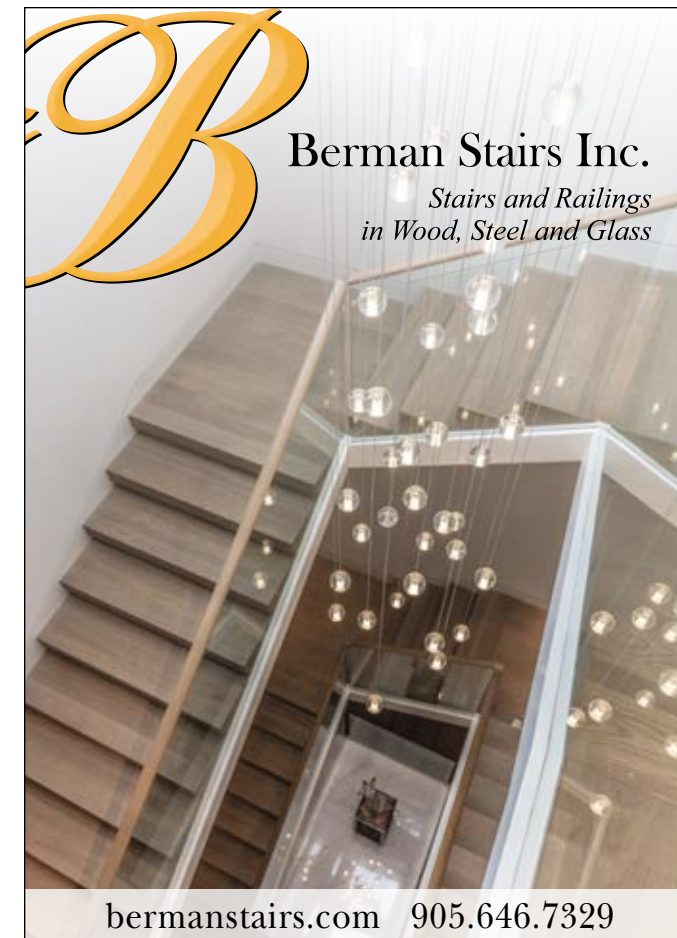
**NATIVE TRAILS:** Avalon 62 NativeStone Freestanding Soaking Tub in Ash

## BELLS & WHISTLES

A quiet soak is not the only appeal of the tub experience so some amenities may be important to research. Jets, in-line heaters, chromatherapy, music, air-only jets, or sit in your very own champagne and soak with micro-bubble effervescent jets.

## TEST DRIVE IT

Not all bathtubs are created equal. Depending on the features you choose, prices range from the hundreds to the tens of thousands. One of the most important things you can do as a consumer is take a test drive – that's right, go and physically sit in the tub you plan to invest in to make sure you like the fit and depth. After all, the bathtub can be more than just a beautiful piece of sculpture in your bathroom, you can, you know, use it. **OH**



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# A RECIPE FOR RETIREMENT

STORY  
**DENISE WILLSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
**KELLY HORKOFF**



The stately facade of this home with its stone front and peaked roofline gives it strong presence on the street. **OPPOSITE, LEFT:** A custom mahogany front door is a majestic gateway to the home. **TOP RIGHT:** Manicured lawns and garden beds give the property a country estate feel. **BOTTOM:** Homeowners Denis and Angela Carrier.



There is a special mix of ingredients needed to live the life we want beyond our career and raising children; to live our dreams of retirement. How we get there, of course, is a different recipe for every person. For Angela and Denis Carrier, retirement meant creating the perfect combination of location, comfort, and family.

*Continued on page 30*







**LEFT:** A butler's pantry off the kitchen allows for increased storage and provides an out-of-view spot to prep dinner and drinks for guests. **BELOW:** Contrasting light and dark finishes in the kitchen add richness to a highly functional kitchen. **FAR LEFT:** The open-concept floor plan gives this bungalow a spacious feel and incredible practicality.



A key element to the Carriers' retirement dreams included a new house nestled in the **Rosewood Estates** community of 55 architecturally controlled lots by **Rinaldi Homes**. While the house is based on Rinaldi's Kingswood floor plan, an endless array of custom changes has given this home a unique presence, and the Carriers couldn't be more pleased.

Living and retiring in picturesque Fonhill allowed for a mix of the Carriers' favourite pastimes. The couple love to meander through summer markets and downtown festivals with

friends and family. They gather fresh produce to make healthy meals and enjoy live music while tasting the many specialties local food vendors have to offer. They're also known to enjoy a good round of golf, a bike ride or stroll on one of the many beautiful trails throughout the area, taking in nature.

"We couldn't imagine retiring anywhere else," Denis says. "We built our home in an amazing community surrounded by conservation land, farms and golf courses, where nature literally comes to our door. For us, there is no better location."

The next ingredient was comfort. The Carriers had a vision. When they thought of the perfect home for this stage of life, they envisioned a Tudor bungalow small enough to downsize from their family home but large enough to accommodate friends and family who visit often. Rinaldi Homes was vital to the mix.

"There was no question Rinaldi Homes was the builder for us," Denis says. "We could visibly see the quality workmanship put into every Rinaldi Home we saw, the details that gave this builder their high-end reputation."

In fact, the collaboration between **Jerry Rinaldi**, along with the Rinaldi design team and architect, was what the Carriers enjoyed most about the building process.

"We wanted a relatively maintenance-free home that would fit our retirement needs. We also wanted to be involved in the process from start to finish. Rinaldi Homes allowed us to contribute to the design and details, while bringing our vision to life."

Denis focused on the exterior, the unique roof with its peaks and elevation and finished by **Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd.**,

*Continued on page 32*





and the majestic Dashwood front door from **Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd.**, which creates an elegant focal point.

Angela made a vision book to provide Rinaldi's in-house designer with all her favourite interior touches, including coffered ceilings, custom built-ins, additional windows, and transoms so the sun could touch every bit of the interior.

The spectacular maintenance-free back porch boasts Trex decking for easy cleaning, and overlooks lush landscaping by **DeKorte's Landscaping**. The pool, a luxurious way to cool off in the summer heat, has waterfalls that light up at night.

"Our friends and family spend a lot of time here, rain or shine," Angela says. "It was extremely important to us to keep family gatherings at the forefront of every design decision, and the Rinaldi team kept our vision a top priority."

The house has the award to prove it. Taking centre stage above the custom fireplace by **The One Stop Fireplace Shop** is a stunning glass trophy: the 2017 Award of Distinction presented by the Ontario Home Builders' Association for the Most Outstanding Production Built One-Storey Home.

The home was also a national finalist of the Canadian Home Builders' Association Award for Housing Excellence. *Continued on page 36*



*"IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO US TO KEEP FAMILY GATHERINGS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY DESIGN DECISION."*

The great room features unique touches like coffered ceilings and built-in shelving, giving the space grandeur. Furniture and carpet is from Stoney Creek Furniture. **TOP LEFT:** Easy access to the lower level fits seamlessly in the home's great room.





A room at the front of the house is used as office space where a large window and cathedral ceiling provide workday inspiration. Office furniture is from The Furniture Gallery.

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The master bedroom overlooks a large backyard and naturalization area. Furniture is from Dunn's Furniture Fashions. **BELOW:** The en suite provides privacy and space to get ready for the day or unwind at the end of it.

What makes this 2,336 sq. ft. bungalow an award winner? Jerry attributes it to a combination of exterior pizzazz and main-floor living convenience, both indoors and out. It starts with a solid frame, the lumber and trusses from **Stark Lumber**. The stone facade, with raw materials, creates an old-world feel complementing stucco arches and the magnificent mahogany front door.

A grand foyer leads to the kitchen with floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, appliances by **Nickerson Home Appliances** and an island lit up with a trio of pendants from **Don's Light House**. "I was worried about downsizing but the custom cabinetry, pantry and butler's quarters, really make good use of our space," Angela says.

The kitchen blends flawlessly with the living and dining areas, providing an endless amount of entertaining space. Contrasting chairs and a leather couch from **Stoney Creek Furniture** provide elegant yet comfortable seating for family and guests. Also on the main floor is an office, laundry room and the master retreat, the latter with furnishings from **Dunn's Furniture Fashions**.

Continued on page 38





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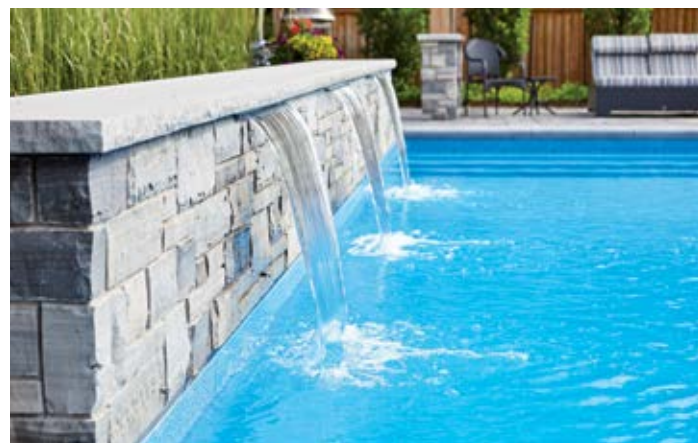
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A pie-shaped lot allowed room to create a dream backyard featuring plenty of spots to lounge and a large swimming pool with waterfall feature to cool off on a hot summer day.



To take advantage of the forest view, windows were maximized along the back of the home. The view also showcases the stunning covered deck that runs almost the entire length of the house. When needed, privacy comes by way of coverings from **Design Concepts by Window Décor** and, in the master bedroom, **Annette West Custom Drapery Manufacturing**.

“To us, these awards are validation we bought a well-built home,” Denis says. “We are proud to see our vision a reality, and to know the architect and builder have received the recognition they deserve. Most of all, our biggest pride comes from sharing such a wonderful home with loved ones.”

And that they do. This recipe for retirement yields goodies for all. Every holiday, friends and family gather around the quartz-topped kitchen island, basking in the heat of the fireplace or the summer sun filtering through the many windows. Laughter fills the air. Family relax on plush sofas in the living room, dance on hardwood floors by **Aristocrat Floors of the World** and sip cocktails on the back deck. The Carriers are looking forward to seeing their grandson, still just a baby, frolic in the pool or in the yard, kept lush with **All Green Irrigation**.

This is the retirement the Carriers envisioned, the award-winning recipe for a place to share special moments with their children and grandchildren. A recipe worth savouring. **OH**

## LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- All Green Irrigation • Annette West Custom Drapery Manufacturing
- Aristocrat Floors of the World • Artcraft Kitchens • Boldt Pools & Spas • Budget Blinds of Grimsby • Burnstein Brick • Cotton Inc.
- Critelli's Fine Furniture • Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd. • Cutting Edge Landscaping • DeKorte's Landscaping • Design Concepts by Window Décor • Don's Light House • Dumont Security • Dunn's Furniture Fashions • Eco Insulation Niagara Region • Fleming Windows & Mirrors • Gibbys Electronic Supermarket • Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd. • Low's Glass, Mirror & Windows • Miele Drywall Ltd.
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# A NIAGARA *hot spot*

STORY **TIFFANY MAYER** | PHOTOS **KELLY HORKOFF**



**THE PLACE:** Rob Booth didn't have a burning desire to get into the fireplace and barbecue business as a career. The Niagara Falls man was running a successful alarm business with his father, Terry, when their curiosity was sparked by the prospect of owning and operating **The One Stop Fireplace Shop**. The previous owners were looking to sell and both father and son knew a good business plan when they saw one. "They had success,

and I thought it was a neat business so we pursued it," Booth recalls. That was nine years ago. Today One Stop is one of the region's largest fireplace and barbecue retailers, and the business lives up to its name. "We truly offer one-stop shopping," Rob says. "You can come in, purchase your fireplace, and we'll do the installation, including building the mantel, doing the stonework – whatever you need. Bring us the design and we'll recreate it."

**THE APPROACH:** Rob prides himself on providing service that stays on budget. That's because he and his staff ask lots of questions to ensure customers get what



Rob Booth, Anna Dobbin, Chantelle Miller, Leslie Brown and Harry Walker.

they want and need. That includes visiting customers' homes for a "view site" to make sure there will be no surprises with fireplace installations and renovations. "When we complete the transaction, the price we agreed to beforehand is the price we charge because of the view site," Rob explains.

**THE SPECIALTY:** One Stop buys directly from manufacturers, which means better

prices for customers and the ability to offer exclusive products. The store is the only one in Niagara and Hamilton that sells Primo brand, a versatile line of oval, kamado-style grills. The shop also features Saber barbecues with their unique infra-red cooking system that guarantees no flare-ups, and ensures food doesn't dry out on the grill. Ambience Fireplaces and Solatube daylighting systems are among the other unique products offered.



**THE NEWS:** The One Stop Fireplace Shop has been renovated to give the store a more contemporary look. More than half the store's displays have been updated in the process. Rob has also added a new line called Fireplace Xtraordinaire, a line offering something unique at every price point.

**WHERE:** 4332 Drummond Rd., Niagara Falls | 905.357.6333  
onestopfireplaceshop.com **OH**





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# 10 WAYS TO GO BIG



STORY **YANIC SIMARD**

In interior design, choosing the right scale is always important – and sometimes bigger really is better! Here are my top 10 ways in the home to consider going BIG with your décor choices to create a strong statement and a generous sense of luxury.

## Light Fixtures

Oversize lights add big drama and character to elevate the look of an entire space. This is especially true when you mix the scale of a grand chandelier with a modern shape to create an unexpected effect.

**1** For a sense of balance, try a large pendant fixture with an airy form that includes a lot of clear glass or negative space, like an angular fixture. The silhouette is can't-miss-it big, but the look isn't overwhelming.

**2** Floor lamps with a 24-inch shade or larger match the scale of a large piece of furniture like a bed or sofa, giving the whole grouping a sense of weight. Using simple drum or cone shades in a solid neutral colour makes sure the look is strong but not too heavy.

**1. ZANEEN:** 39-inch Willy 100 Suspension Light in Black **2. TROY LIGHTING:** Uni in Tide Pool Bronze **3. MOOOI:** Random Light in White

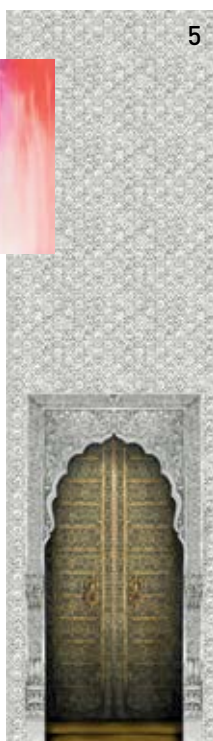
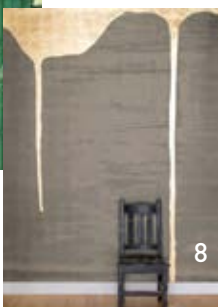
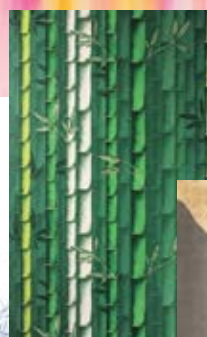
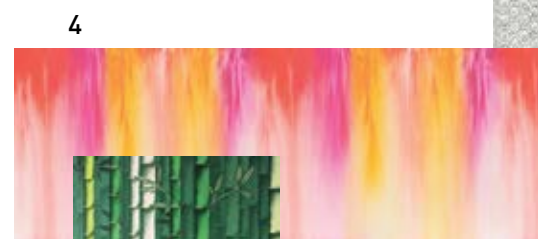
## Patterns & Papers

In the digital era the options for patterns and even custom prints are virtually endless. Rather than playing it safe, consider using a paper or wallcovering with a large-scale pattern, one that you can see without having to stare at a wall up close.

**3** Love a wallpaper with a large print but don't want to overwhelm the room? Such a wall covering is perfect for a single accent wall, paired with neutral paint for the remaining, creating a dramatic focal point in a balanced way.

**4** When choosing a large-scale print for wall coverings, look for ones with light backgrounds that can be matched to a nearby wall colour. This helps create a seamless effect and a sense of depth, which avoids visually shrinking the room.

**4. ROLLOUT:** Colourinky Wallpaper **5. COLE & SON:** Bahia Wallpaper **6. OSBORNE & LITTLE:** Bamboo W7025-01 Wallpaper **7. ROLLOUT:** Ballpoint Pen Wallpaper **8. CALICO WALLPAPER:** Satori Mountain Wallpaper *Continued on page 46*



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Seating

Seating is definitely an area where quality should not be ignored for the sake of quantity. It is often better to have fewer bar stools or dining chairs in a generous size that people will truly want to use.

5 Regardless of the size of the seat you choose, a person needs 24 to 30 inches of width to dine comfortably. Choosing wide seats (24 inches or more) ensures each guest has enough space reserved, while giving your island or table a rich, filled-in look.

6 In a living or family room, use a wide, plush sectional sofa to create a comfortable environment for day-to-day lounging. Even in a small space, a large sofa will make a room feel grand, and you'll be able to fit in a few extra guests when entertaining.



9. CB2: Reynolds Navy Velvet Chair 10. ARTERIORS: Calvin Bar Stool 11. KORSON FURNITURE DESIGN: Obax Tub Chair

Art & Mirrors

Scale is never more important than when talking about wall art – after all, it's hard to make a statement if you can't even see the piece.

7 Gallery walls have been a trend for nearly a decade, and they have their place, but there's also a beautiful simplicity to a singular large-scale canvas or photo print. Choose a piece that takes up at least 60 per cent of the available wall height to make a grand statement and a true focal point.

8 To capture the eye and also double the apparent size of the space, choose an oversize mirror hung prominently on the wall. A circular shape will add some softness to the room, perfect for a bedroom, living room or dressing suite.



Kitchen Islands

With eat-in kitchens being ever more popular, many are choosing islands much deeper than the typical 30 to 42 inches. A large scale makes your island a standout visual feature as well as a central hub.

9 To allow for both diners and a home chef to coexist in harmony, consider an island that's 48- to 60-inches deep, with seating on two or three sides to allow for natural conversation. With a truly comfortable island, you might not need a separate breakfast nook at all.

10 To suit the scale of a feature island, consider a marble or quartz counter with rich veining. Keep in mind that large-scale veins won't show well on a small sample, so you'll want to visit a quality showroom to see larger slabs and get the full picture. OH

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# A *fine* Balance

There's a trick to combining rustic, industrial and vintage styles to create a home that feels modern, spacious and flows effortlessly while keeping with Niagara-on-the-Lake's charm: collaborate with a designer who knows how to pull together the perfect balance. *Continued on page 50*

Walls were removed on the main level of the home to create an airy and open space between the front hall, great room and dining area. A glass wall enclosing the office creates separation while still maintaining an open-concept feel.





**W**alking into this once dated 1980s home on the periphery of Old Town, a wall of factory glass immediately catches the eye. It's a surprisingly industrial feature, but perfectly at home in an interior that ticks all the boxes for owners and Toronto transplants Gail Hawkins and Arlyn Levy.

"When we bought the house, virtually every wall was rotting and needed to be rebuilt," Gail says. "However, the home was also a little quirky, and I'm always drawn to character."

Gail enlisted the expertise of interior designer **Tracy Clipsham** from **Liv 4 Design**. Clipsham's design was brought to life by builder **Roger Provost** from **Property Rehab** who was critical to the construction

side of the project, which allowed Gail and Tracy to focus on coordinating the specialized tradespeople to install the design elements that are reflected throughout the home.

"Gail prepared an inventory of their art and furniture, so I could get a sense of their style," Tracy says. "I quickly learned that in order for them both to have their dream home, I'd have to balance urban and rustic elements without losing the Niagara-on-the-Lake feel."

By updating windows and taking out dividing walls between the living and dining spaces, light now streams into the main floor. Vaulted ceilings and skylights provide a sense of spaciousness. Walls are painted with colour from **Creek Road Paints**, including Benjamin Moore's Natural Cream, while

Cloud White covers trim and ceilings, making the space feel entirely unconstrained.

Modern leather chairs by **Critelli's Fine Furniture** in the living and dining rooms add warmth and provide structure to the open floor plan. A window seat with a soft faux-leather cushion by **Dennis Fashion Upholstery** in the living room is designed to store firewood, adding a rustic element. And every consideration for comfort has been made with heated entryway floors and a wireless

security system by **ADT Hamilton**.

The fireplace, by **The One Stop Fireplace Shop**, with Dekko Concrete surround and propeller-style ceiling fans could be straight from a warehouse conversion. However, they are complemented by features like the vintage chrome chandelier, marble-and-chrome coffee table and enviable Carrara marble backsplash in the kitchen.

In fact, everywhere you look the interior is pulled together by continuous themes. Most

*Continued on page 53*



**FAR LEFT:** Interior designer Tracy Clipsham of Liv 4 Design spearheaded the overhaul of this home. **ABOVE:** Large windows surrounding the dining area allow natural light and a view to a backyard with mature trees. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The home's transformation included a significant facelift outside that saw a front porch added. **RIGHT:** Natural wood elements throughout the home tie everything together.





A media room on the upper floor fills an area where the master bedroom once existed. **OPPOSITE:** An oversize kitchen island suits the homeowners' love of cooking and makes an obvious gathering spot while entertaining.

satisfying is the use of walnut to create flow through the different living spaces. A walnut beam runs the length of the downstairs from the front door to the kitchen at the rear. It's bracketed by a custom walnut hood in the kitchen over a gas range by **Nickerson Home Appliances** and minimalist walnut fireplace mantel in the living room.

"Gail was after a rustic component, so I introduced the use of walnut very intentionally as a theme throughout the house," Tracy says. "It brought the outside in, offered warmth and provided a more refined finish that complemented the other features of the home."

The effortless flow of the home is highlighted by Gail's resistance to name a favourite room. "Each individual space is so special, it would be tough to pick the standout," Gail says. "In Toronto we used about half of the house. Here we use every square inch, including the basement. When we entertain, we start in the kitchen with cocktails and appetizers, then we have our main course in the dining room; then enjoy our post-dinner drinks in the living room."

Kitchen cabinets, along with the built-ins in the media room and bathrooms by **Wingers Cabinets** add a traditional touch. An oversize kitchen island with Cambria quartz, designed and sourced by Liv 4 Design and installed by **QuartzCo**, is perfect for Gail's love of cooking and entertaining guests.

Gail, aside from formerly owning two cafés and an institute that trained adults with Asperger syndrome for the workforce, is also a musician. The acoustics of her new home make it a pleasure to pull out her banjo, guitar or mandolin and fill the space with music.

*Continued on page 54*



A quartz countertop with an uncomplicated design fits the home's industrial and rustic vibe.







A large en suite feels like a spa retreat with a dark blue accent wall and an intricate chandelier casting a warm glow.

“Opening up the house and removing the carpeting resulted in beautiful acoustics and a wonderful ritual: I love to play first thing every morning,” she says.

Upstairs, a half-wall was created by moving the master bedroom and bath from the front of the house to the back. Clipsham then turned this space into a contemporary media room. An internal glass balcony with walnut railing by **Enzokhan Stairs & Railings** overlooks the main floor and lets light stream in from the second-floor windows.

Also upstairs is a guest bedroom, which was an addition over the

garage, laundry space and large en suite, which Gail and Arlyn wanted to provide a spa-like experience. To achieve this, Clipsham incorporated a piece the couple already owned, but never would have considered for the bathroom.

“We had this very cool and intricate chandelier – more of an art piece – custom-made from glass. With the sloped ceilings on the main floor, there was no way we could have used it,” Gail explains. “Then Tracy had the brilliant idea of using it as a focal point in the en suite. When you walk into the room, it’s a showpiece.”

*Continued on page 56*



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The large, free-standing tub adds to the luxurious feel while the black bathroom fixtures by **Bathworks** continue the modern industrial theme.

Sunscreen shades on the second floor by **Interiors by Better Shade** cut light and add privacy without taking away from the bright, airy feel.

To better reflect Niagara-on-the-Lake's charm, Clipsham designed an extensive transformation of the exterior also meticulously done by Provost and Property Rehab. This included the front porch, back deck, and adding the guest room over the garage to balance out the formerly lopsided-looking house. A new driveway by **Rempel Landscapes**, and plants from **Mori Gardens** finish the exterior updates.

"Gail and Arlyn's willingness to allow me to transform the space," Clipsham says, "and our mutual excitement about the possibilities, created an amazing partnership throughout the process, right through to completion." **OH**



**ABOVE:** The master bedroom. **BELOW:** Black fixtures in the en suite continue the modern industrial look but don't take away from the relaxing oasis the owners created.



### LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

ADT Hamilton • Bathworks • Creek Road Paints • Critelli's Fine Furniture • Dekko Concrete • Dennis Fashion Upholstery • Enzokhan Stairs & Railings • Interiors by Better Shade • Liv 4 Design • Mori Gardens • Nickerson Home Appliances • Property Rehab • QuartzCo • Rempel Landscapes • The One Stop Fireplace Shop • Wingers Cabinets

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# ring of FIRE

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

Fire is fascinating. Our human ancestors used fire to stay warm, cook food and keep predators at bay. It is also believed that human socialization began while huddled around the hearth.



PHOTO: REGENCY FIREPLACE PRODUCTS

Adding cosy warmth and ambience to modern-day al fresco areas, the outdoor fireplace often serves as a design anchor at the centre of an outdoor living space. The fire also offers a place where people can relax and unwind together even when there's a chill in the air.


Here's a primer on how to bring fire and style to your outdoor space.

## SELECT A STYLE

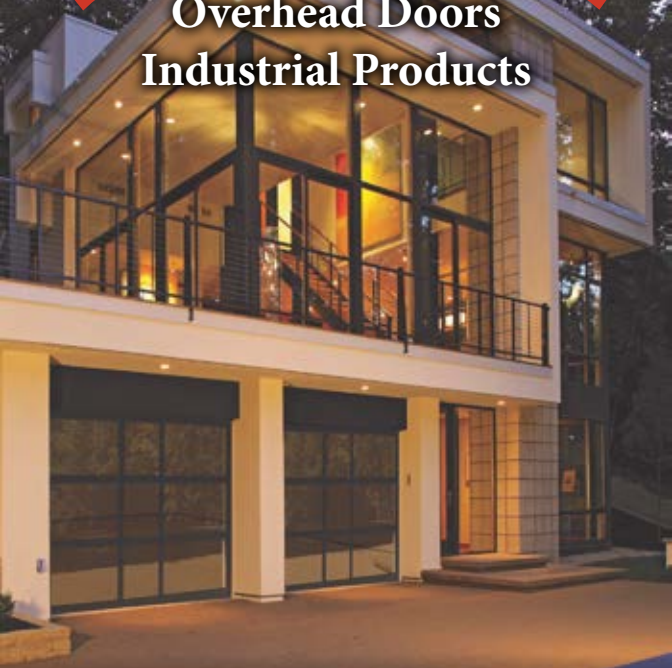
**Freestanding Fireplaces:** Adding a more formal or modern touch, these large, built-in fireplaces are simply gorgeous. They also offer opportunity for trendy, integral wood storage boxes, hearths, mantels and sometimes even a spot for an outdoor television. Some prefabricated models are offered but most often these

are custom built and faced using a wide range of natural and/or manmade materials, including brick veneer and natural stone. Typical chimney and venting requirements for wood-burning units are dictated by strict local building regulation, making natural gas the fuel of choice due to less stringent zoning requirements. As with most things custom-made, freestanding fireplaces often come with a hefty price tag.

**Fire Pits:** The original open fire feature, these range wildly in design and price tag. They can be pre-fab or custom, simple or extravagant. At their most basic, a humble campfire dug into the ground and lined with stone boulders might work for some, while others may choose a high-end, custom fire feature that doubles as a dining table. *Continued on page 60*



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PHOTO: DEKKO

PHOTO: DEKKO

Fire tables are brilliant – they can be used where space is limited, and you can take them with you if you move.

**Fire Tables:** Perfect for tight spaces and easy on the bank account, fire tables are all the rage. Often fueled by propane and available in an assortment of styles, they are brilliant in the sense that they are also moveable, meaning you can also take them with you when you move.

PICK A FUEL

**Wood:** Wood burning fireplaces look and smell like a real campfire. To some, the odour part can be looked at as either a pro or a con! They give off lots of toe-warming heat and their fire light is nice and bright. On the negative side it takes time to build and prepare a roaring fire. They can be messy and sometimes require extra cleaning and maintenance. Wood burning fire features are also dictated by stringent local guidelines and some residential areas don't allow them at all. Yearly permits may also apply.

**Natural Gas:** Natural gas is a quick way to enjoy a fireside evening. They are user-friendly, easy to maintain and offer a good heat source so long as they are rated at the proper output. Unfortunately they can be expensive to run and often the fire light is barely detectable until the sun is completely out of sight.

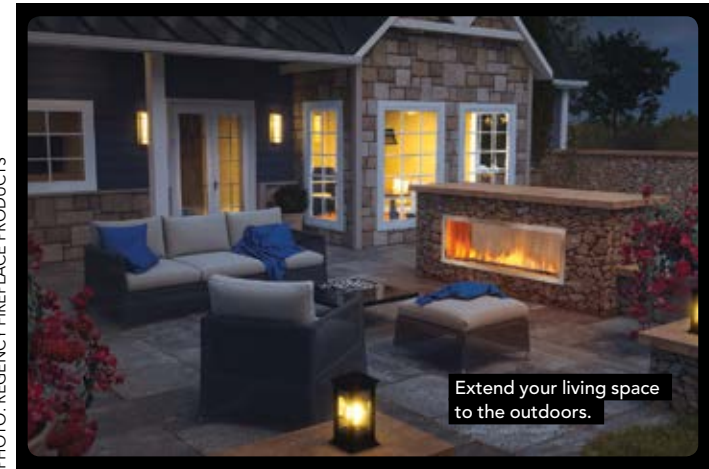


PHOTO: REGENCY FIREPLACE PRODUCTS

Extend your living space to the outdoors.

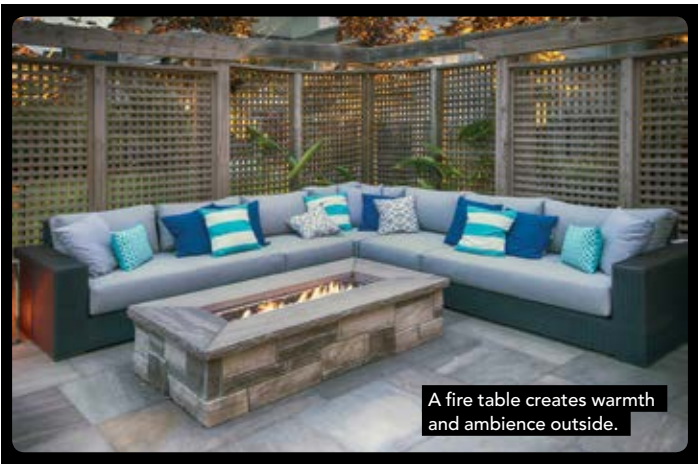


PHOTO: ELITE POOL DESIGN

A fire table creates warmth and ambience outside.

**Propane:** Also quick and efficient, propane fire features are great for those impromptu mid-week date nights or quick drinks with friends. Yes, this fuel source is costly but on the flip side the firelight is quite obvious even during daytime hours. Though they do give off some heat, they are more for ambience rather than actual heating. They also can be a bit smelly.

**Gel Fuel:** Clean burning with no smoke and very little odour, these also require no ventilation and can be placed anywhere. Though they offer real flames, there is not much associated heat.

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Fire – though very beautiful – can be very dangerous and precautionary measures must be addressed. Never place a fire feature too close to a wall or other combustible surfaces or on a raw wooden deck. Fireproof surfaces are best for placement and include stone, concrete or tile. Be vigilant to situate them away from overhead tree branches as over time this will damage the tree and could also start a fire.

Interestingly, science suggests that the mesmerizing flicker of the television is very similar to the flicker of firelight and is likely one of the reasons why TV is so addictive. Knowing this, perhaps you'll choose to sit outside and enjoy some thought-provoking conversations alongside the fire more often. **OH**



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# faux DEPRESSION GLASS

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



### TOOLS & MATERIALS

Clear glass candlesticks  
or glassware  
Waxed paper  
Container for mixing  
Elmer's Glue-All  
Food colouring  
Stir sticks  
Water  
Paintbrush

### DIRECTIONS

Cover work area with waxed paper. In a mixing container, add 1 tablespoon of Elmer's glue and 4-6 drops of food colouring to achieve your desired colour. Mix well. Add ½ teaspoon of water, mix well.

Paint the outside of your glassware. Let dry. For a deeper colour, apply a second coat after the first coat has dried.

If you are painting plates or trays, apply mixture to the backs of items only (where food will not come in contact with the colouring). This finish is not washable. Spot clean with a damp cloth. **OH**



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# A place for THANKS

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**



this works well for buffet-style dinners where there is no dinnerware on the table beforehand.



Set your Thanksgiving table with paper placemats to help your family and friends express gratitude. Here are three ways to use simple paper doilies and printable templates.

Place doilies under each place setting and placemats to the right of each plate.

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Large paper doilies (we used 14-inch doilies)
- Paper (we used white or kraft paper)
- Placemat template
- Printer
- X-Acto knife or scissors
- Paint (optional; we used gold craft paint)
- Foam paintbrush (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Pens or pencils



Paint doilies with metallic gold paint for a lavish touch.



Include a pencil or pen for each setting so that guests can record what they're thankful for.



Visit [ourhomes.ca/mag/placemats](http://ourhomes.ca/mag/placemats) to download printable templates in PDF format for the placemats shown here. OH



# AUTUMN'S PRECIOUS RESOURCE

STORY WALTER FRANCZYK

PHOTO: WALTER FRANCZYK

**RAKING LEAVES AND BAGGING THEM FOR PICKUP AT THE CURB IS A SIMPLE WAY OF RIDDING THE YARD OF AUTUMN'S ANNUAL BOUNTY, BUT IT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY.**

Especially for those who drive somewhere to collect or buy compost for the garden. Hauling away leaves and carting home compost needlessly burns fossil fuels.

Better solutions can be found right at home. A mature deciduous tree sheds hundreds of thousands, perhaps as many as a half million, leaves every fall. Year after year, this colourful descent adds tonnes of organic matter to the environment. It's a plentiful and renewable natural resource. Here are five ideas for dealing with leaves.

## GIVE THEM AWAY

If you don't want the leaves that fall in your yard, you can offer them to a neighbour. This overture might be unwelcome or redundant if most of your leaves have already blown onto your neighbour's property. But it's worth a try. An avid gardener next door just might accept the offer. Some gardeners admit to supplementing their own leaf harvest by cruising residential subdivisions and taking the large paper bags full of leaves left at the curb for yard waste collection.

## LEAVING THEM

Leaves are beneficial in yards and gardens. They serve as habitat for salamanders and insects. Completely removing them deprives soil of nutrients that percolate into the ground if leaves are left to rot naturally. But if you want to leave the leaves, it's best to leave them in wooded areas and beneath shrubs. If you want leaves to remain on the lawn, it's best to shred them with a lawnmower or place them in a big garbage bin and chop them up with a weed-whacker, before spreading them on the grass. If left un-shredded on the lawn, leaves will trap moisture, block sunshine and create bare patches in spring that will require more yard work to repair.

**TIP:** Completely removing leaves deprives soil of nutrients – why not leave some on the lawn? Shred them with the lawnmower first to avoid bare patches in the spring.

**TIP:** It's easier to till organic matter that is broken down. Leaves can be shredded into small pieces with a lawnmower, or place them in a big garbage bin and chop them up with a weed-whacker.

## MULCHING

Adding leaf mulch around the base of trees and shrubs and atop perennial beds provides many benefits. Leaf mulch improves soil fertility. It inhibits the growth of weeds and prevents evaporation of moisture. It helps to protect plant roots, keeps soil warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and reduces soil erosion. It's welcoming to earthworms that aerate the soil and help release nutrients. Dried leaves can be chopped into mulch with a lawnmower. If trees and plants have been previously mulched, remove the old material. A new layer of three to four inches of shredded leaves can be added around trees and shrubs. Two to three inches will suffice for perennial beds. Mulch will reduce the need for watering, weeding and herbicides.

## TILLING

With a lawnmower, leaves can be shredded into pieces and tilled into the garden, where they improve soil quality. Leaves will increase organic matter, allow soil to hold more moisture and make it easier to till. Leaves add carbon, calcium, nitrogen, magnesium, potassium, phosphorous, iron and manganese to the soil. Decomposition is required to release these nutrients over time, but in the long run, they will enhance soil fertility. Scientists at Rutgers University in New Jersey found that due to the high carbon content of leaves, little of their organic nitrogen will be immediately available to flowers and vegetables, so some additional nitrogen fertilizer will be needed.

## COMPOSTING

Composting leaves will turn them into an organic, nutrient-rich soil conditioner. Composting bins can be bought at garden supply centres or hardware stores, but it's easy to make one. Wooden shipping skids, turned on their sides and attached at the corners, will serve nicely. It's best to leave one side open or hinged to allow easy access. Chicken wire, rolled and fastened into a three-foot diameter bin, will also work. Composting works best when three parts brown material, such as leaves, are layered and mixed with one part green material – grass clippings, vegetable peels, tea bags, coffee grounds, cut flowers or manure. Keep the pile moist. Turning it weekly will speed decomposition and prevent odours. After a few months, the pile will break down into a dark, valuable soil supplement that helps aerate and feed garden soil. Spread about a half-inch layer of compost over the entire garden. When transplanting, add compost to the soil surrounding plants. **OH**

**TIP:** Alternate the compost layers between green (veggie scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds) and brown (twigs, leaves, shredded newspaper). The smaller the material the faster it will break down.





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*(Please see ad on pg 37)*



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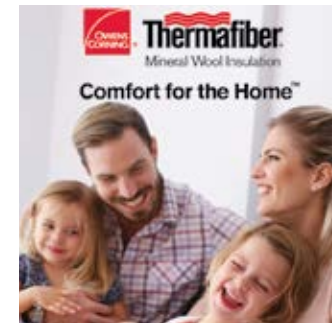
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## AMBER STAIRS AND RAILINGS INC.

The Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association (SMA) recently held their annual Staircraft Awards and **Amber Stairs and Railings Inc.** was the winner in the category of Best Stairway Renovation. Members from Canada and the USA were entered in this category and Amber Stairs and Railings' entry was chosen from a field of six finalists. The entry criteria included four categories: aesthetic value, stair safety, quality of workmanship and technical challenge.

The double waterfall stair in hard maple with a contemporary glass and rail combination succeeded in addressing all the concerns and transforming the space into an open elegant focal point of the renovation. Key details included using Starphyre glass which created the illusion of an open system and the double waterfall set away from the wall allowed natural light from above to filter down from the second floor to the ground floor and basement, highlighting the entire space. As well, the use of a contemporary integrated handrail and post system defined the clean, crisp line and elegant look with a touch of warmth. A truly beautiful stair and railing system.

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# SEASON OF CHANGE

STORY **TIFFANY MAYER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

As much as fall is a season of easing back into routine, it's also a time for fresh starts and setting big plans in motion. Local pros share some of the big changes they've made recently.



**DAVID & TRACY SMITH, OWNERS**  
*Lincoln Design House, Beamsville*

**What do you do at Lincoln Design House?** Our cosy showroom is currently 1,000 square feet. We've carefully selected flooring suppliers that display the same quality, value and integrity that our clients expect from us. Our knowledgeable design staff ensure every experience is a positive one. The partnership that we build with each client comes from listening and helping them create their design wish list.

**The business has grown significantly in the last few years: What's been your secret to success?** David and I love what we do. Love, support and a lot of faith have brought us to where we are today. Albert Schweitzer says it best, "Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

**Tell us about some of the changes you have in store:** We are excited about our new location and 17,000 sq. ft. showroom. Our new products and services include flooring, furniture, window fashions, custom drapery, custom bedding, custom kitchens and Cambria countertops. With these changes, we changed our name from Lincoln Flooring and Design to Lincoln Design House.



**(BACK) CHARLES ARTINIAN, ROB ARTINIAN & ANDY ARTINIAN,**  
**(FRONT) WENDY JANZEN, & SUE LAZARUK**  
*Dunn's Furniture Fashions, St. Catharines*

**What's the specialty at Dunn's Furniture Fashions?** We are able to create beautiful room settings that can be recreated in your own home. We give the consumer the complete package with respect to home furnishings and the art of décor.

**What's been the secret to the business's longevity?** Being able to provide very high quality and stylish home furnishings at very

reasonable prices plus excellent service has been our secret to success for 65 years.

**Fall is often a time of change for many. What's in store for Dunn's?** We are always trying to bring the latest looks in style and colours, so we will be providing our customers with the most fashionable looks from our great Canadian sources.

*Continued on page 72*





JOEL GARIBAY, LES MCKEAN, STEPHANIE LIPINSKI, KRISTY CAYEN, JASON NEWHOUSE, JASON HOWES & (FRONT) LISA LITTLETON  
*Don's Light House, St. Catharines*

**What is Don's Light House?** Don's Light House Ltd. is a family-owned lighting showroom in St. Catharines since 1973, showcasing quality lighting fixtures and lamps for the inside and outside of your home. Our showroom boasts the ability to see the latest lighting styles and access to professional staff with years of experience.

**What's big in home lighting right now?** Gold and two-tone finishes are hot this year. Urban country continues to be an ongoing style trend

along with clean-lined, transitional fixtures. A big trend in home lighting is extending your living space with outdoor chandeliers.

**The store recently underwent some major changes. Tell us about those:** A fresh new look on the exterior has made us easier to find on Lake Street and automatic doors were installed to make the showroom more accessible. Inside the showroom, more space has been created to allow for an open, relaxed shopping experience with lots of choices.



ANNE LENNARD-OTTO, OWNER, & SANDY TUCKER  
KITCHEN DESIGN AND SALES PROFESSIONAL  
*Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc., St. Catharines*

**What is Distinctive Designs?** Distinctive Designs is a full-service cabinetry design centre serving Niagara and into the Greater Golden Horseshoe. We provide positive renovation experiences for kitchen, bathroom, custom closets and weather-proof exterior kitchens. We proudly carry Canadian products and offer several choices of cabinetry manufacturers, help you select builders and renovators and meet your budget.

**What drew you to the kitchen design business?** I was working for a company that decided not to continue in the residential cabinetry business and withdrew from kitchen renovations that were underway. Although I was out of a job, I was determined to honour the commitment I made to each homeowner. I was filling orders from the table in my kitchen. In the end, I provided great product, great service and an experience they would gladly repeat – many of whom have! I realized that this business had found me.

**Fall is often a time of new beginnings and change. What's in store for you?** We've revamped the showroom with two new additions. We're excited to bring our expertise outdoors with weather-proof exterior kitchens by NatureKast. We've paired this gorgeous cabinetry with countertops made for the Canadian climate. We also now offer modular cabinet products to go with our budget-friendly custom closet design services. **OH**

SEE OUR DIRECTORY FOR ALL CONTACT INFORMATION.



cooking at home

# PUMPKIN TURMERIC SOUP

Spiced with fresh turmeric and ginger, this pumpkin soup brings abundant flavour and warmth to your fall table.

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



## INGREDIENTS

1 Tbsp coconut oil  
1 medium pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cubed  
1 medium onion, diced  
5 carrots, diced  
2-inch piece fresh turmeric, peeled and diced  
3-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and diced  
3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped  
Chili flakes, to taste  
4 cups vegetable stock  
Pumpkin seeds to garnish

## DIRECTIONS

In a soup pot, melt coconut oil over medium-high heat. Add pumpkin, onion, carrots, turmeric, ginger, garlic and chili flakes. Sauté until pumpkin and carrots begin to caramelize. Cover with vegetable stock and simmer for about 30 minutes. Using a hand blender (or transfer to a food processor or blender), blend until smooth. Garnish with pumpkin seeds to serve. **OH**

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# PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH COOKIES

*with White Chocolate Ganache*

A FLUFFY GANACHE OF WHITE CHOCOLATE AND PEANUT BUTTER IS SANDWICHED BETWEEN SOFT PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE DESSERT SANDWICH.

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



MAKES 12

## PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ½ cup creamy peanut butter
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ¼ cup peanuts, chopped

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a bowl, mix together flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. Using a stand mixer, cream together butter and peanut butter. Add brown and granulated sugars and beat until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla. Mix to combine. Turn the mixer to low and add flour mixture in batches. Stir in peanuts. Scoop dough using a tablespoon and place on a lined baking sheet, leaving about an inch in between. Bake 10-12 minutes and set on a rack to cool.

## WHITE CHOCOLATE GANACHE

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 oz. white chocolate, roughly chopped
- 2 oz. heavy cream
- ¼ cup creamy peanut butter

### DIRECTIONS

Place white chocolate and cream in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave for 1-2 minutes, stirring every 20 seconds until melted and smooth. Let cool until ganache is firm. Place ganache in the bowl of a stand mixer and add peanut butter. Whip on high until light and double in size.

### ASSEMBLE COOKIE SANDWICHES

Spread a tablespoon of ganache onto the bottom of a cookie and sandwich with a second cookie. Repeat. If desired, dip in melted chocolate and top with crushed peanuts. **OH**



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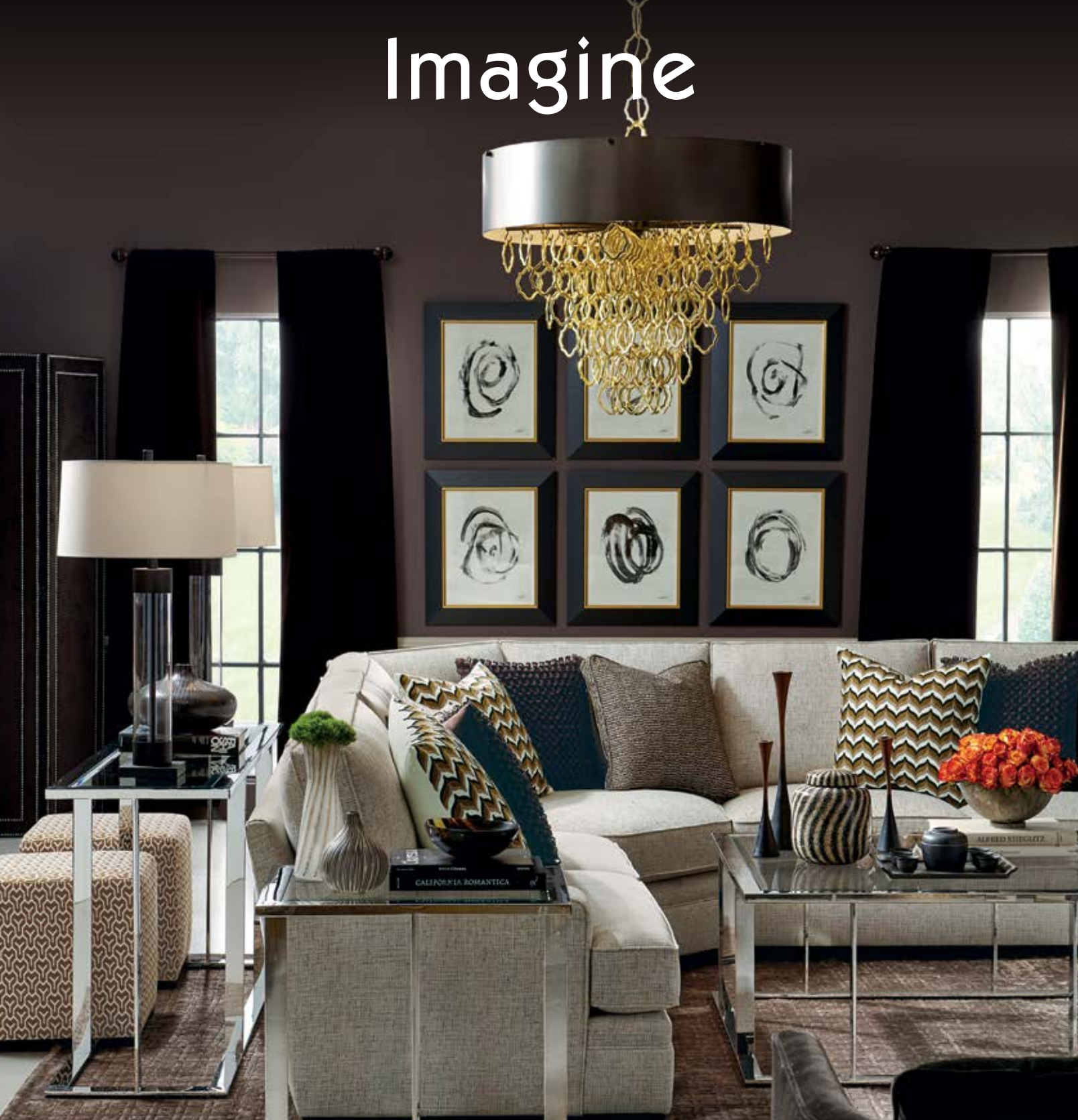
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