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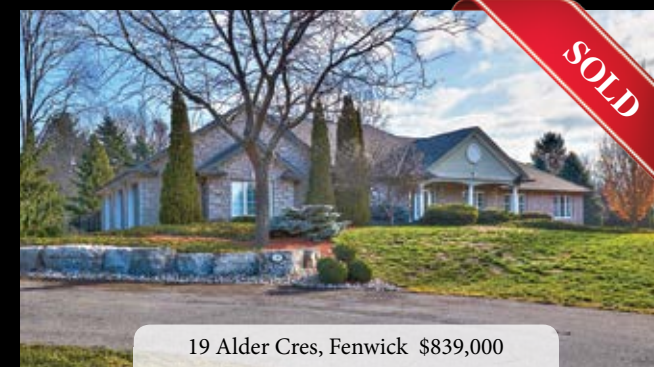
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REGIONAL PUBLISHER/FRANCHISE OWNER **Stardust & Doolittle Media Inc.**
 Laurie Lotimer, 905.516.8933
 laurie.lotimer@ourhomes.ca

REGIONAL MANAGING EDITOR Tiffany Mayer

REGIONAL PRODUCTION MANAGER Lynn Derrick

MARKETING & ADVERTISING Laurie Lotimer, 905.516.8933

ACCOUNT DIRECTORS Jill Genno, 905.520.2516
 jill.genno@ourhomes.ca
 Dee Svob, 905.359.2063
 dee.svob@ourhomes.ca

REACH US EASILY: firstname.lastname@ourhomes.ca

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OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC:

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Georgette McCulloch
 ASSOCIATE & WEB EDITOR Laurel Fortin

MANAGING EDITORS

Nancy Belgue, Adrienne Brown, Laurel Fortin, Walter Franczyk, Mary Hatt, Gina Makkar, Tiffany Mayer, Georgette McCulloch, Tamarisk McNalty Stephens, Melissa North, Merrilyn Patterson, Diane Sawchuk

ART

ART DIRECTOR Tara Chattell
 ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTORS Sheila Britton, Robynne Sangiuliano
 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Jason Hartog

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Lynn Derrick

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Julia Dempsey, Kelly Donaldson, Marilyn Reid, Abby Reynolds, Tracy Shuttleworth

OPERATIONS

MANAGING DIRECTOR, SALES & MARKETING Jamie Jefferson
jamie.jefferson@ourhomes.ca

MANAGING DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS Georgette McCulloch

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Christine Puma
christine.puma@ourhomes.ca

NATIONAL SALES DIRECTOR

Amanda Newell
amanda.newell@ourhomes.ca

ACCOUNTING Donna Duggan

ADMINISTRATOR Lisa Merrell

CONTRIBUTORS

Nicole Aubrey, Brandon Barre, Eddie Cimbron-Corner, Jason Hartog, Kelly Horkoff, Tiffany Mayer, Jenelle McCulloch, Dolores Pian, Yanic Simard, Dee Willson

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YOU'D THINK EDITING A HOMES MAGAZINE WOULD BE HAZARD FREE.

I mean, what's so rough about being invited into some of the most beautiful homes in Niagara? Or meeting hospitable homeowners with great stories to tell, and spending time in some of the region's most beautiful home décor stores?

Nothing, really. But here's the deal. When you've been living for years in a home with walls of builder's beige, it's impossible not to get the redecorating itch. I find no shortage of ideas or inspiration in my job, that's for sure. That's also the hazard.

Every time I think I know what I want, I start working on another issue of OUR HOMES and suddenly I'm not so sure about the wall colour I've chosen for the living room. Or the wallpaper for my office.

This issue was no different, although it did confirm some decisions I've made and left me questioning others. Now that it's spring, I'm finally going to do this redecorating thing. It will be monochrome in the kitchen with cupboards and walls close in colour, and a subway tile backsplash.

I'm set on a dark blue to cover the boring beige in my living room. Maybe Gentleman's Gray by Benjamin Moore. A turquoise shade will go in the master bedroom and perhaps a barn board accent wall, too.

I'm holding fast to my decision of alphabet wallpaper for my office. Letters are the building blocks of everything I do, after all. Oh, and hardwood flooring is going in, too.

I sound like my mind's made up now but we'll see what happens the next time I walk into a home décor store.

I hope you're better at making decisions than I am. If you need some help, though, you'll certainly find it in the pages of this issue of OUR HOMES. Our featured homes couldn't be more different and yet full of inspiring and thoughtful touches throughout. If the outdoors are your focus this season, our Style Picks will help you create the perfect space outside. And our pros will tell you what they can't live without in their homes. Maybe you can relate.

On that note, I'd better get to it. We'll be starting work on our summer issue of the magazine soon enough and that means more opportunity to waver; another chance to think maybe I should just go grey throughout my house. Or do arabesque tiles on that backsplash. Or keep the carpet in the office and go with the dandelion-themed paper on the walls...

Tiffany Mayer, Managing Editor
tiffany.mayer@ourhomes.ca

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Living room inspiration



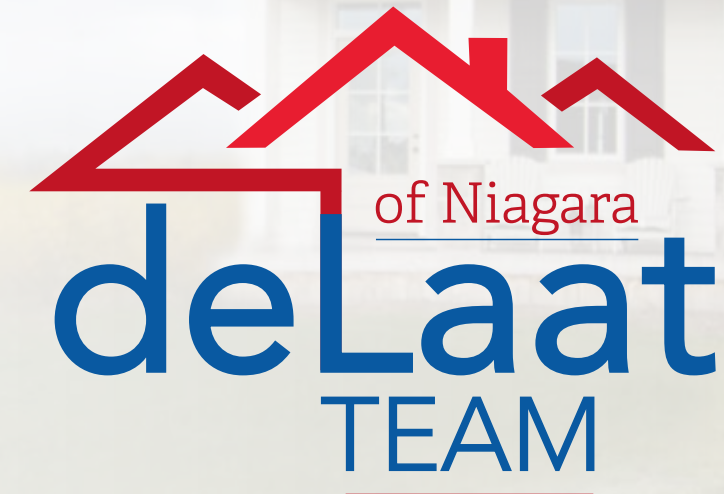
Wall accent

The de Laat Team Knows Niagara!

Helping people buy and sell real estate is Shawn's passion.

With more than 15 years of experience and again selling over 100 homes in 2016, Shawn continues to make himself one of Niagara's top choices. Shawn's professional, courteous approach and attention to service has earned him a solid reputation.

Whether selling or buying, the de Laat Team is always here to help. You will not be disappointed!



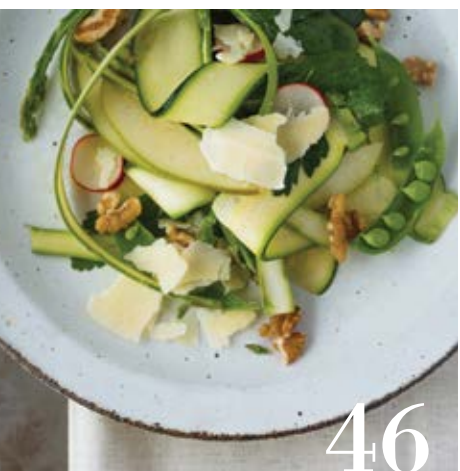
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SPRING IS HERE! It's time to celebrate new beginnings and growth. It's always a happy time and the sun makes us smile.

Two homeowners have opened their doors to us to share with you. Both homes are stunning. Our Feature Home is a renovation project with a fabulous new kitchen created by Anne Lennard-Otto, the homeowner and principal of Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry.

We also have a new build by Pym & Cooper. When you walk into this home, you feel as if you are standing in a ship, an amazing creation hovering on the edge of Lake Ontario. The home is gorgeous and the homeowner, Dee Willson, an author, wrote her own story.

With all the fabulous ideas we're sharing in this issue, you will be inspired to start your own spring project: new paint, new furniture, maybe a new garden design.

Me, I'm still painting my home inch by inch. It seems like a slow process. I must say it did take a bit of trial and error to discover the right colour I needed to create my own perfect space. Slowly I have made it around the rooms with the hope that when spring is here, I, too, will be going outdoors to enjoy the lovely weather.

OUR HOMES will be participating in the Canadian Federation of University Women's annual house tour in St. Catharines in May. Look for more information inside. There are always great homes to explore and nothing better than supporting a worthy cause.

And if you love art and want to enhance your space, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is having its annual local art sale April 27-30. I'd love to see you there.

Laurie

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advice

FABRICS 101

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.



Fabrics surround us. We look at them. We sit on them. We touch them. They are above us, below us and around us.

We interact with fabrics more in our day-to-day lives than any other material in our homes. They must wear well, look fantastic and be reasonably priced.

Although fabrics may appear on walls, seating, carpets and household textiles such as bedding and towels, it's upholstery and window coverings that we put the most demand on in the home. Knowing the basics about textiles will help you invest in your fabrics wisely.

LABELLING

Always read the label and ask questions. All textile products should have a label that commonly contains the following information:

Fibre Content – listed in order of the highest fibre content first

Country of Origin

Product Details – type, size and style

Retailer's Logo and Product Number

Barcodes

Care Labels – how to look after your product to keep it looking good

Abrasion Resistance – the ability of a fabric to resist surface wear caused by rubbing

Other Information – ratings for safety, flammability, classifications of finishes

Finishes – aesthetic and performance functions

FINISHES

A finish may not be apparent to the naked eye but it is there. And they vary with the end use. Fabric finishes are used to improve the fabric in some way. This could be to:

Improve the appearance

Change the texture

Improve the feel

Improve how it drapes (hangs)

Improve functional qualities and durability such as water-, stain- and soil-repellence, care-free finishing, wrinkle resistance and shrinkage control.

The average interior design fabric is treated with six finishes in order to be saleable.

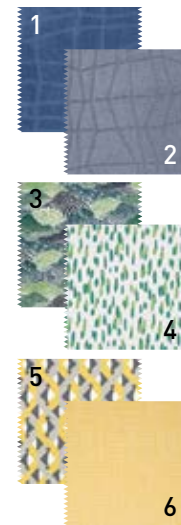
HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Another important consideration for fabric selection is your sensitivity to materials and finishes. Manufacturers understand this environmental concern and will tell you what their IAQ (indoor air quality) rating is.

Most materials off-gas. After installing furniture, drapes and carpeting, it's important to open your home to fresh air to dissipate possible fumes. This allows the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to dissipate.

UPHOLSTERY (AKA SEATING)

The fabrics that we sit on are subjected to a great deal of stress.



Kids, pets and couch potatoes seem to be the most demanding creatures on these fabrics.

Homeowners are now asking for commercial abrasion and durability ratings such as 30,000 double rubs to 50,000 double rubs, or more, for their sofas. The Wysenbeek method, a standard of rubbing fabric back and forth on itself, is used to evaluate a fabric's strength.

If your label doesn't contain durability information, then use other tried and true methods such as the "key test" or the "diamond ring test." On a sample fabric, rub a key or ring back and forth across the fabric to see if it starts to wear, makes a mark, shifts or if its threads pull easily. If so, then it is not suitable for upholstery applications.

Luckily, Robert Allen Design and other reputable textile suppliers have beautiful performance fabrics that are stylish. They are easy to clean, highly repellant to stains and spills, and reduce or eliminate the need for chemical cleaners. You'll find them as standard fabric offerings for various seating manufacturers.



Sunbrella, used for outdoor seating, wears like iron. Manufacturers of beds for pets use Sunbrella for its virtually indestructible, yet pleasing, properties.

WINDOW COVERINGS (AKA DRAPERY)



Draperies enhance the appearance of windows or architecture, provide privacy, control light and sound and can provide a pleasing view.

Although not subject to as much stress as a sofa, they still have performance standards to consider.

Remember that fabrics, as well as other materials, can fade in direct sunlight – even synthetics.

Natural fabrics will fade the fastest. If you have direct southern or western exposure on the top floor of a penthouse with air conditioning – yes, your drapes will still fade. This is the law of nature and physics.

FABRIC'S FUTURE

What's in store for fabric? Drapes that contain solar cells, or perhaps seating fabric that can monitor your health or allow you to communicate with your "intelligent" devices? The possibilities are endless with textiles. Embrace the fabrics that surround you. Choose wisely. Choose well. **oh**

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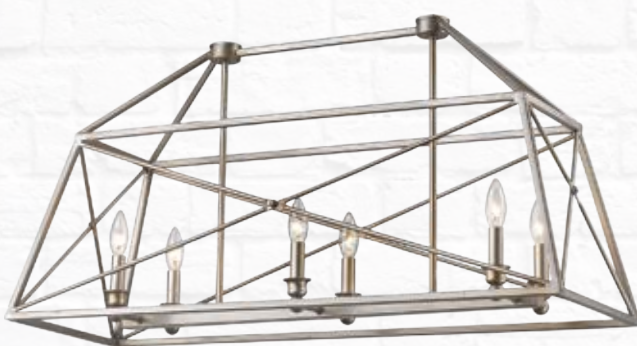
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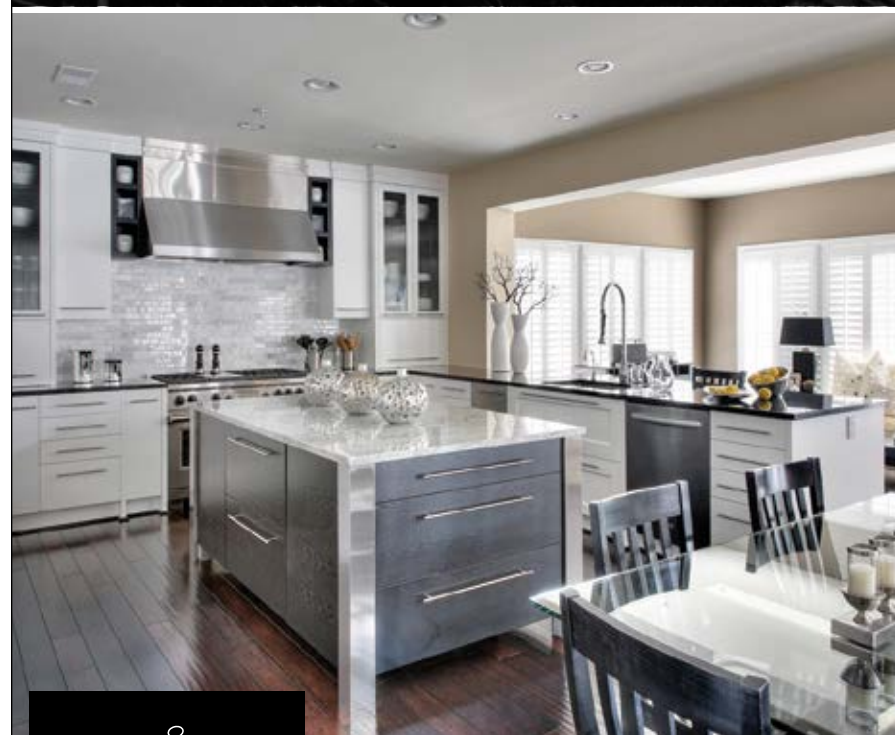
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STORY **DEE WILLSON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**



Hardwood floors in a herringbone pattern by Emporium Carpet & Flooring are a nod to the French chateau facade. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Floor to ceiling bookcases make up the library, a mandatory feature for an author. **TOP RIGHT:** The pattern on the front door was designed by hand. Pots by Hamiltons of Pelham. **BOTTOM:** Homeowners Jeff Wozniakowski and Dee Willson.



EVERY WELL-WRITTEN STORY NEEDS STRUCTURE, bones. Like a house. A writer starts with a character and a situation, the foundation on which the entire story stands. Next comes the inciting incident, the framing that creates something from nothing. **Stories are** fraught with obstacles, ups and downs, and building a house is no exception. Nothing goes as planned. Until it does, and what merely resembles a house starts to look like a home, and eventually, the character gets her happily-ever-after. And there you have it, the building of an author's story.

My youth was spent in Niagara, skating, reading, tying the odd grapevine. At 16, my mother and I moved to Hamilton before I went away to school, started a career in Toronto, married, and brought life to two amazing girls, Tess and Hanna. Laced between life's stages, I became the author of two books: *A Keeper's Truth*, published in 2016, and *GOT* (Gift of Travel), coming soon.

Two years ago, my husband, Jeff Wozniakowski and I were at a crossroads. The winds of change were blowing, but where would we set root? Nothing felt right until one spring day, while visiting family, we watched a stunning sunset over Lake Ontario from the Port Dalhousie shoreline. This was a setting beyond our wildest dreams, a view like no other, and on that very spot, at that very moment, we noticed something spectacular: a for sale sign. *Continued on page 24*



We hadn't considered building a house.

We knew nothing about environmental tests or shoreline restoration. But home feels like home, and by morning, with the help of our realtor **Shawn de Laat**, of **RE/MAX Niagara Realty Ltd.**, our roots found their footing.

Finding the land was easy. It took weeks to find the perfect custom builder, and months to learn if it was possible to build the home we wanted. "The lot itself posed many challenges, positioned on the shoreline of Lake Ontario with a relatively small building envelope, and a significant slope to the water's edge," says our builder **Brent Pym** of **Pym & Cooper Custom Homes Inc.**

A large investment and countless hours were spent investigating building restrictions, land stability, and shoreline protection. Approval from local and provincial bodies was

needed before the City of St. Catharines would look at our house plans.

Permission was one hurdle, construction was another. Finding a suitable shoreline engineer was a task. LGI Consulting Engineers Inc. created something from nothing, a work of art made of massive armour stone strategically placed, soaring 80 feet from beach to bluff, and providing a second patio area.

The shoreline contractor, RWC & Company Inc., had to manoeuvre huge cranes and trucks down a crazy slope ending in beach and lake, moving five- to seven-tonne stones until they completed the puzzle. This wasn't a project for the faint of heart.

There were times even we felt the project was impossible. Several times we stood on the edge of the land, looking out over the water, wondering what we got ourselves into.

To keep things in perspective, we'd take the kids on afternoon bike rides to look at houses, taking pictures and notes on features



we liked and how they'd fit into our lifestyle. We pored over decorating magazines and books, cutting and pasting, honing our wish list, and creating a scrapbook. Websites like Houzz were inspirational and a source of examples to show **Designs By Santy Inc.**, the architectural designer who put our ideas to paper. When things seemed impossible, we focused on the future.

Come late fall, upon completion of the shoreline, the team at Pym & Cooper Custom Homes Inc. sprang into action. Within days, **Cotton Inc.** poured the foundation. The weather played nice, and soon **Schilstra Builders**, the framers, were working their magic. We'd designed a three-storey, 3,500



sq. ft. house, including lower-level walkout, with a complicated witch-hat roofline and several dormers. It wasn't an easy roofing job for **Benevento Roofing & Siding Inc.** Full-length Dayside Windows and transoms were installed so every room had an amazing view of the water.

Believing a front door is the focal point of any house, we hand-designed oversize iron and glass doors topped with an intricate iron arch, a beautiful entrance brought to life by **Niagara Pre-Hung Doors**. And **Walter Ledwez Masonry Ltd.** not only clad the house in neutral brick, but hand-chiselled the elaborate limestone entryway to frame the doors, drawing the eye.

Continued on page 26

TOP LEFT: Author Dee Willson in her study. **TOP RIGHT:** Builder Brent Pym of Pym & Cooper Custom Homes. **RIGHT:** A split staircase provides access between the main and upper levels. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The kitchen, like every room in the house, has a stunning view of Lake Ontario. **BOTTOM:** A pantry provides ample storage and secondary workspace.





ABOVE: The master bedroom features a built-in dressing area, eliminating the need for additional dressers and wardrobes. **TOP RIGHT:** Building a backyard that runs down a steep embankment to the water's edge was an engineering feat. **RIGHT:** A view toward the Port Dalhousie Pier from the main level balcony.

With the external components under way, including stucco by **Schuit Plastering & Stucco**, we turned our attention to the internal details. They required a ton of time and planning on our part, along with Pym & Cooper co-ordinating master craftsmen, vendors and trades. Our wish list was vast, and for months this felt like a full-time job. Lucky for us, we didn't need to hire a decorator or designer. I already had a few design tricks up my sleeve.

Stepping inside, the first thing you notice is the striking view of Lake Ontario. Second is **Emporium Carpet & Flooring's** dark oak floors in a herringbone pattern; a nod to the French chateau facade. The main level is open-concept with 10-foot coffered ceilings and a floor-to-ceiling library.

The main level and finished walk-out lower level both feature large **Stamford Fireplaces** surrounded by granite from **Custom Granite & Marble**.

Almost every door in the house is a pocket door, which required careful electrical planning by **Gore Electric Company Inc.**, but saves floor space. Pym & Cooper brought to life our drawings of built-in storage in lieu of closets, so the bedrooms needed little furniture. *Continued on page 28*

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Other favourite features include the walk-in pantry off the kitchen and the InvisiRail (Liv Building Products) glass railing that surrounds the substantial back porch and hot tub for an unobstructed view. Lighting – the jewels of the home – was also of major importance, and we chose fixtures that set the mood of each room. The fixtures are available at **City Lightz**.

Like a good story, the bones of this house are strong. We moved in late summer, only a year after construction began. “I am very proud of this home design and build in general, but what stands out as something I am most proud of, is the fact that we were able to work with the various authorities and get this beautiful home built on a lot so many thought was impossible,” Pym says.

Niagara is where my story began. I have a newspaper clipping of me as a baby, riding the Port Dalhousie Carousel on opening day. I was six months old, holding on for dear life, but happy. Looking at it now, I consider the irony and wonder if this is where my story might end. I am a wife, mother, businesswoman, and author. And I am finally home. **OH**

TOP LEFT: Every bedroom in the house has built-ins to eliminate the need for storage furniture. **TOP RIGHT:** The en suite provides a quiet yet stylish refuge with a black slipper tub as the focal point. **LEFT:** The master bedroom.



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STORY **TIFFANY MAYER**
PHOTOGRAPHY
KELLY HORKOFF



Katie Turpel and
Denise Palomba with
Pia and Jason Vottero,
and their son Adam



BRUSH WITH GREATNESS

THE PLACE: Seeing Benjamin Moore on the sign out front might lead some to believe the **St. Catharines Decorating Centre** is simply a paint store. It's true the shop, owned and operated by Pia and Jason Vottero carries all types of paint, but it's so much more. It's a Hunter Douglas gallery store – the only one of its kind in Niagara. In the market for wallpaper? You're covered here, too. Professional painters and homeowners can also find lacquer, exterior paints and stains, and any paint tool needed to freshen up every space in a home. Best of all, customers can tap into Pia's experience as a decorator and Jason's knowledge as a painter. Altogether, it's made the husband-wife team a trusted source in home decorating since launching their first store, the Beamsville Decorating Centre, in 2000. They've also brought their reliable brand to Welland and Niagara Falls, operating stores in nearly every corner of the region.

THE APPROACH: The Decorating Centres are very much a family business. Daughters Kerri-Ann and Brittany manage stores while the youngest Vottero, Adam, is in charge of the



chain's lacquer department. All staff are like family, however. The Votteros hire the best and credit their employees with upholding the business's tenets of honesty and integrity. Everyone strives to ensure each client is happy thanks to customer-friendly policies.

THE TREND: The Benjamin Moore colour of the year is Shadow, a deep purple that's "dark enough to give a bottomless depth" to accent walls. It also makes entire rooms the focal point of a home. Greys also remain popular, Pia notes. No matter the colour choice, low-sheen paint is a popular choice because it hides imperfections, scuffs and smudges. Wallpaper has never gone out of style,

Pia says. Accent walls, powder rooms or other common spaces are perfect for it. "Sometimes wallpaper can do what nothing else can," says Pia. With window coverings, insulating honeycomb and automation are in demand.

THE NEWS: Hamilton is a more colourful city thanks to the Votteros' recent expansion into Steeltown. The Hamilton Decorating Centre on Ottawa Street North is helping to revitalize the city's textile district with its modern look and feel.

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THE NEW MUST-HAVE: MUTED COLOURS

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**
PHOTOGRAPHY **COURTESY OF BENJAMIN MOORE**



Knoxville Gray
(HC-160)



These days, many people crave a little colour in their interiors, a desire that traditional neutrals like white, beige and grey just don't satisfy.

Muted colours stood idly by for years, but lately they've been taking their place on centre stage, as the new must-have for designers and homeowners alike. Their subtle depth deserves a little attention, so in this issue, I'm answering some questions about what makes a true muted colour, how to use them, and why they might be your new favourite too. All paint colours by Benjamin Moore.

WHAT IS A MUTED COLOUR?

A When you add white, black or grey to a pure hue, you get a softer version of the colour. Although people use the word "shade" in other ways, a shade is technically a hue with black added, creating a darker and moodier version. Adding white makes a "tint," and adding grey produces a "tone." Perfectly muted "tones" are usually the most subtle and liveable, as they aren't too dark, too light, or too saturated.

WHY CHOOSE MUTED COLOURS?

A They're smart semi-neutrals. Toned-down colours carry neutral grey in them, making them truly "semi-neutral," and for this reason they can still coordinate easily with many other accent colours. Muted options like dusky blues, oceanic greens, blush pinks, and rosé purples enrich your colour palette without overloading the senses. They make great paint selections for a quick update, because they can easily coordinate with existing accent hues in upholstery or art that you won't be replacing.

TRY: For a sophisticated green-grey, Knoxville Gray (HC-160). For an easy-to-work-with red, Dinner Party (AF-300). For a soft sky blue, Sea Star (2123-30).



Amulet
(AF-365)

Gentleman's Gray
(2062-20)

They look modern in a matte paint finish. Muted colours are often associated with traditional design, being especially prevalent in historical homes. However, this doesn't mean they can't be put to beautiful use in a contemporary space: choosing a matte paint finish (instead of the common eggshell or semi-gloss) gives muted wall colours a perfect modern twist. Use muted matte walls with traditional furnishings, modern ones, or – even better – both, to tie the whole room together.

TRY: For a charming yellow, Amulet (AF-365). For a commanding navy, Gentleman's Gray (2062-20).

They work well together. Bold colours are made to make a statement. Neutrals are total wallflowers, letting the bold accents be the star. Muted hues, however, are made to work together, sharing the spotlight without fighting, and even making each other better. Because the undertones in muted colours are subtle or even a little hidden, they shine the most when they are offset by a contrasting hue. This means you can pair very different muted colours, even complete opposites, and watch them come alive without risking a total overload.

TRY: Pair the murky and mysterious Salamander (2050-10) or the velvety Dark Burgundy (2075-10) with a go-anywhere blush pink, Porcelain (2113-60).

Salamander
(2050-10)

Dark Burgundy
(2075-10)

Porcelain
(2113-60)



Sea Star
(2123-30)

Dinner Party
(AF-300)



WHERE CAN I ADD MUTED COLOURS?

A Walls are a great home for a muted colour, but there are many other ways to use them to stunning effect.

Upholstery: Be bold and try a complex, muted hue for a sofa or dining chair, rather than a typical pure neutral. Grey may be safe, but a sumptuous cabernet red is inspirational, like the Viansa Velvet Sofa by Savavieh Couture.



Pillows: Mix-matched pillows, like these from Eastern Accents, add tons of personality. Pile up toss cushions in various subtle-but-contrasting hues and you can add lots of life to your colour palette.

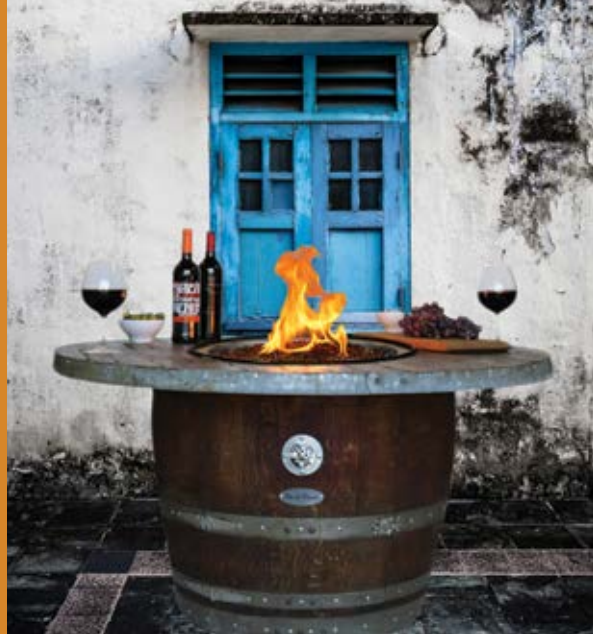
Rugs: Traditional rugs in worldly patterns (like the Kashan Rug by Weavers Art) usually contain a range of inky shades. Layer such a carpet into a modern space to add immediate depth, or use one to pull colours for other pieces.



Cabinets: Who says cabinetry has to be either white or wood? Have cabinets sprayed an interesting shade, giving new life to your kitchen. I used Gentleman's Gray (2062-20) for my own kitchen cabinets, and it makes my brass accents and steel appliances sing. **OH**

PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE





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A reclaimed brick fireplace connects every floor in the home and is the focal point in the great room. Artwork by Marina Randazzo. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The foyer, filled with natural light, was one of the features that sold the owners on the home. **BOTTOM:** A more casual sitting area off the formal living room.

CHARACTER BUILDING

STORY **TIFFANY MAYER**
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**
FLOWERS **VERMEER'S GARDEN CENTRE & FLOWER SHOP**

There's a rule in writing that before starting a story the author should know how it will end.

It's also the approach Anne Lennard-Otto takes when renovating her home in Fonthill.

The award-winning designer, who owns **Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc.** with her husband Manfred Otto, visualizes the end of every home project before she starts. And it's always a happy conclusion: a beautiful space. Functional, too. A segue to the next chapter in a larger story of turning a house into a home.

It's a story the couple have been writing for more than a year. "There's a feeling, it's happy," Lennard-Otto says as she looks at the newly painted walls around her. "The happy comes from achieving small goals, one by one."

What's been achieved so far, however, is far from small, particularly in a house with signs everywhere that previous owners may not have understood the character of the space in which they lived.

There are light fixtures in unexpected places, task lighting to replace pendant lights that were never removed. Switches that are ivory and white, others that are brass. Decorating touches by one owner clashed with those left behind by others, breaking Lennard-Otto's cardinal decorating rule that one should never know where a renovation project starts or stops.

"If somebody can figure out where it started and stopped, you compromised the whole design," she explains.

It was December 2015 when the Ottos bought their two-storey home on a winding street in a quiet neighbourhood on the cusp of the Fonthill Kame. This wasn't your usual two-level, cookie-cutter box that so often dots bedroom communities. *Continued on page 40*





It has distinct lines, ones that forge together at a peaked roof with angles that conjure a contemporary, big city style. Windows stretch from floor to ceiling, gateways for streams of natural light, but placed just so to ensure utmost privacy. Every room has large sliding glass doors that open onto a wrap-around balcony overlooking a bucolic backyard once tended by a horticulturalist who lived in the home.

"The backyard was like a symphony (last summer)," Lennard-Otto says. "Every day, I came home and there were new flowers. Simply astonishing."

But it was the large, bright foyer that really sold the couple on a place that didn't exactly fall in line with their plans to downsize. It also promised more work than they wanted to take on when they started house shopping.

"I walked in and saw the foyer, and when I saw that foyer and vaulted ceiling, I knew then our search was over," Lennard-Otto recalls. "Its presence, its character, it pulled me in."

Other rooms in the house have a similar effect, thanks to the attention the couple have given them. They also tapped into the skills and advice of contractor **Mark Postman** of **Mark Postman Renovations** to get the project off the ground.

The kitchen, of course, is a focal point with its urban contemporary flair conceptualized by Lennard-Otto herself. The sharp look is



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Homeowners Anne Lennard-Otto and Manfred Otto in their newly redesigned kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** A pantry was added to create versatile storage and hide small appliances. **BOTTOM:** Walls were removed to create a more open space between the kitchen and great room.

A custom-built table by Tice Table Co. channels rustic and industrial looks, and sets apart the formal dining area of the home.



achieved by amaretto cabinets with clean European lines contrasted with others in Grandma's China, a fresh Benjamin Moore spin on grey.

Embossed white porcelain on the backsplash bucks the trend of ceramic or glass tile to line kitchen walls and it adds timeless texture. A unique design of shelves floats across a window in the kitchen, creating continuity of space. Quartz countertops by Cambria add durability and functionality when making a meal, or gathering around the island to eat. Stainless steel appliances, like an AEG oven from **Nickerson Appliances**, are built in to fit seamlessly with their surroundings.

She had walls removed so the kitchen, which she stretched to overtake a characterless nook, would open onto a dramatic living and dining room with vaulted ceilings and a reclaimed brick, four-sided fireplace that connects every floor in the home.

The openness gives the main floor an airiness that was further enhanced when the couple removed a large overhang from the upstairs hallway that made the space feel closed-in. Walls were painted in shades of grey from the **Welland Decorating Centre**.

Hardwood by **Aristocrat Floors of the World** runs throughout the area and furthers the "very clean, very simple" look they were going for.

That connection with the St. Catharines flooring business also provided Lennard-Otto with something more than planks upon which to walk. Showroom manager **Rhoda Cipparone** became her sounding board for her renovations.

"Other people who renovate go to professionals. Rhoda was my professional," Lennard-Otto says. "I need someone to bounce my ideas off. She was very inspiring to work with and helped me to understand the space."

The dining room is set apart from the formal sitting area by a custom-built table with a breadboard design that's made out of reclaimed wood by **Tice Table Co.** The hefty, eight-foot rectangle has presence and room for the Ottos to entertain parties big and small.

"It was important that we could have any celebration we wanted, that I had a main area that would hold our large gatherings. That way no one felt they had to act a certain way. They just walked in and it felt like home. So whether it's two of us or 35, it can happen."

Continued on page 42



LEFT: A feature wall clad in barn board covers the spot where an impractical Juliet balcony used to be. **ABOVE:** The en suite was reconfigured to create more space and be more functional. **BELOW:** Built-in drawers create a dressing area in the master bedroom.

Upstairs in the master bedroom, a Juliet balcony overlooking the living room was removed and filled in with a barn board feature wall that includes built-in shelving and an entertainment centre.

Space was reconfigured by moving other walls to allow for a private walk-in closet and a more functional en suite with a glass shower by **Bathworks**. Built-in drawers were added in the sleeping area to create a practical yet eye-catching dressing space.

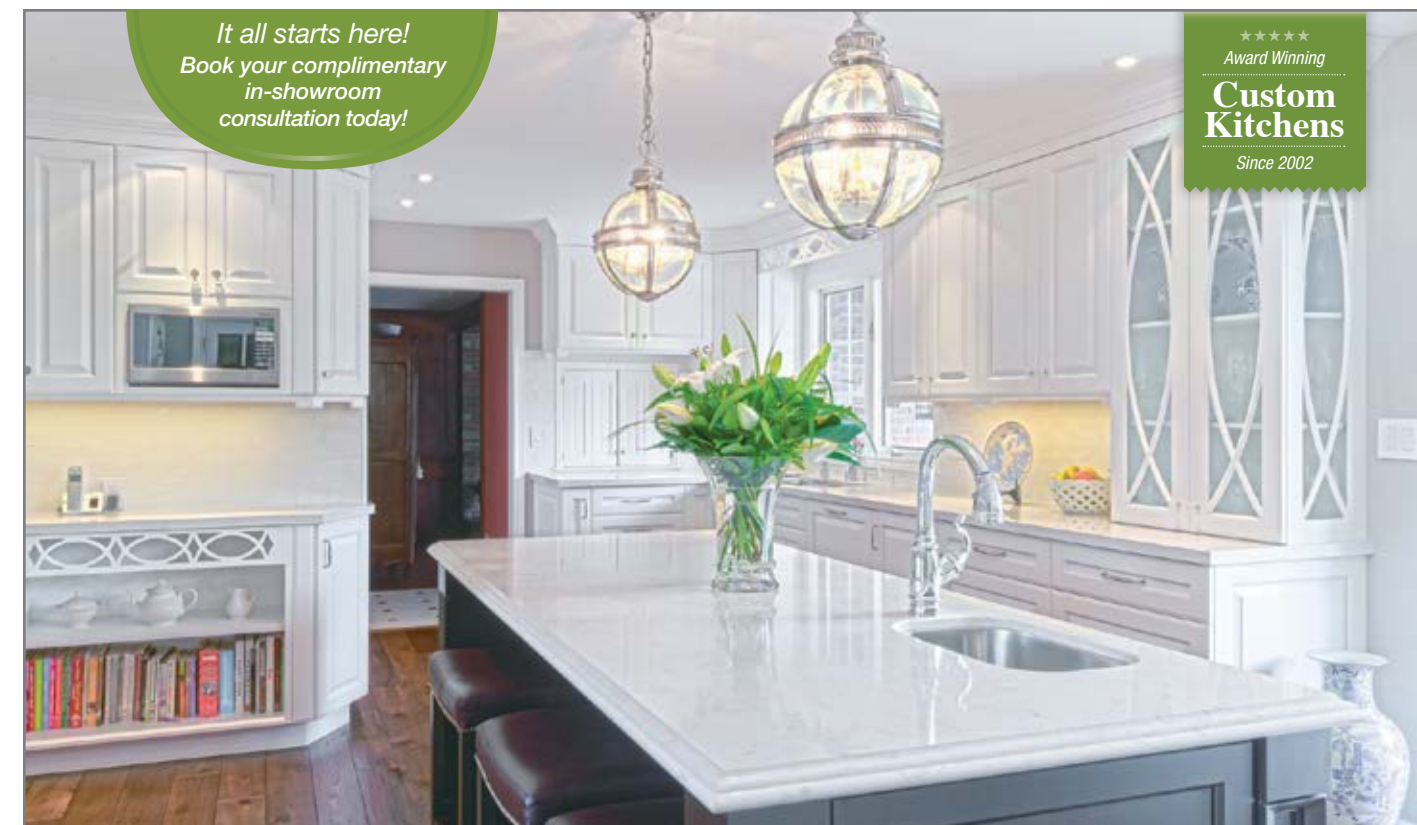
The couple's to-do list hasn't been whittled down entirely. Lennard-Otto has her sights set on the dated main bathroom next. **Garden Angels** has been lined up to tame the flowerbeds and yard in the spring. Lennard-Otto can't wait to see how tending to the landscaping will give the house presence on the street, rather than hide its unique features. Lennard-Otto selected the exterior side door from **Niagara Pre-Hung Doors**.

Still, there have been moments when motivation has run low, but the couple pushed through, Lennard-Otto's eye always on the prize: the ending.

"It was pretty daunting for a long time," she recalls. "Small goals and then we'll get there." **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Aristocrat Floors of the World
- Bathworks • Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc.
- Garden Angels • Mark Postman Renovations • Niagara Pre-Hung Doors • Nickerson Appliances • Regional Doors and Hardware • Tice Table Co.
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SPRING ribbon salad

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**



Celebrate the arrival of spring with this beautiful and light salad. You'll love how the long, elegant ribbons of asparagus and zucchini decorate the plate.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 2)

- 5-6 asparagus spears
- 1 zucchini
- 1 pear, cored and sliced
- Handful of parsley
- 1 radish, thinly sliced
- Handful of snow peas, steamed
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- A few handfuls of baby mixed greens
- ¼ cup walnuts
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese, shaved

DIRECTIONS

- Use a vegetable peeler to create long ribbons of zucchini and asparagus. Simply run it along the length of the vegetables until both are shaved.
- Combine sliced, shaved and steamed produce in a large mixing bowl.
- Drizzle with lemon juice and olive oil to keep it bright and fresh.
- Gently mix in the greens and parsley and season with salt and pepper.
- Transfer to a serving platter and top with walnuts and parmesan cheese. **OH**



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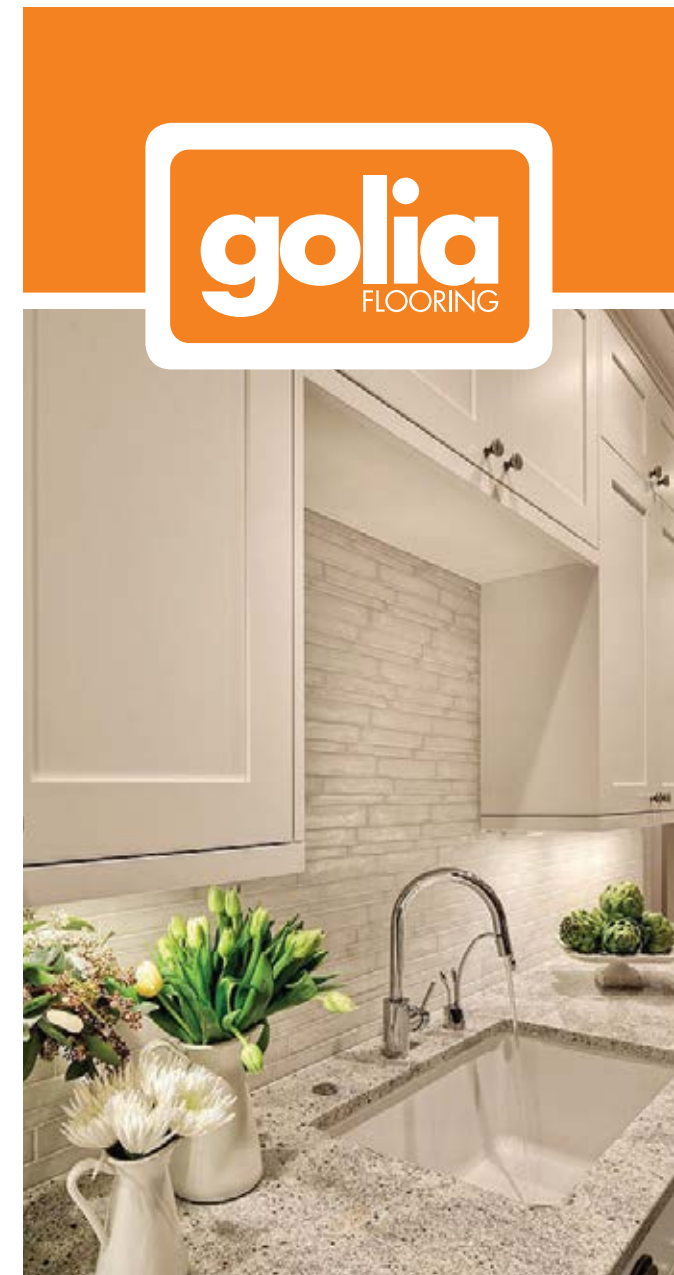
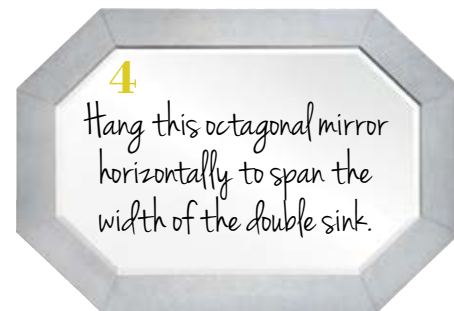
double take

Sunny DAYS

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PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

1. **BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC:** The Original Warehouse Flush Mount Pendant with Cage in White 2. **BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC:** Wheeler Sky Chief Wall Sconce in Jadite 3. **BENJAMIN MOORE:** Paint in Pacific Grove Pink (889) 4. **WAYFAIR:** Mercer41 Wall Mirror 5. **KOHLER:** Cannock Faucet 6. **IKEA:** KNODD Bin with Lid in White 7. **KOHLER:** Brockway Wall-Mounted Wash Sink with 2 Faucet Holes 8. **CERATEC:** Harmony's Twist Series by Bien Ceramic Tile in White 9. **IMAX WORLDWIDE HOME:** Reiley Teal Handle Table 10. **BENJAMIN MOORE:** Paint in Lemon Grove (363) 11. **ACRI-TEC:** Antique I Clawfoot Bathtub **OH**



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always look forward to working with you "from inspiration to installation!"

What is the best part of the work you do? The satisfaction of seeing a client's smile when we complete our work for them.

What is the one thing you can't live without in your home? For Brenda, it's our family photos. They capture my most cherished memories and are throughout our home. For Kirk, it's terrific audio. My love for great music would be very difficult to live without.



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Tell us about your approach to helping someone find the perfect flooring: The moment you walk into the showroom, you'll be greeted by one of our design experts. We're all about asking questions. We want to get a feel for your home so

that we can guide you in the right direction for your flooring needs. Our complimentary in-home estimate extends the service that we give in our showroom.

What's the one thing in your own home that you can't live without? Our flooring of course! From our perspective, our floor is not only a necessity, it's also part of our whole home design. Durability, performance and style are important and how people feel when they walk into our home is a reflection of the floors we choose.

Continued on page 54

people

TRACY CLIPSHAM,
Principal Designer
Liv 4 Design Inc., Beamsville

Tell us what you do: Whether you're looking for a quick room lift or a complete back-to-the-studs renovation, we can assist you. Liv 4 Design Inc. offers interior design services that encompass custom kitchen and bath design, custom renovations, space planning as well as window treatments, paint colour, furniture and finish selections.

Describe your approach to working with clients: We believe in making the design process as positively memorable as the end result. We achieve this by putting the clients' interests first, making the experience fun while maintaining the integrity of the design. We embrace our clients' individuality, pairing their style with the character of the space to create a fabulous interior.

What's the one thing in your own home that you just couldn't live without? I absolutely love my sunroom! The hand-crafted, built-in library and gleaming hardwood plank flooring provide a serene frame for the panoramic views beyond. Every morning, I have my breakfast there and enjoy watching the beautiful scenery and wildlife. It's a great way to start the day.



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What's the one thing you can't live without at your own home? We cannot live without our children. The joy they bring to our lives, the sports they participate in and the memories they generate mean more to us than any one thing in our home. **OH**

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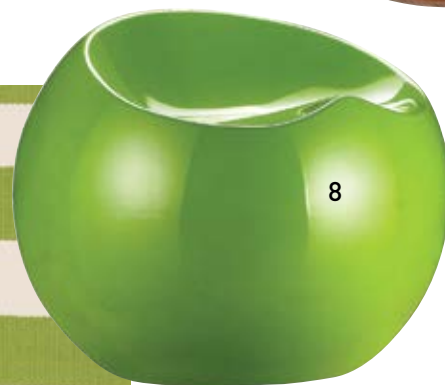
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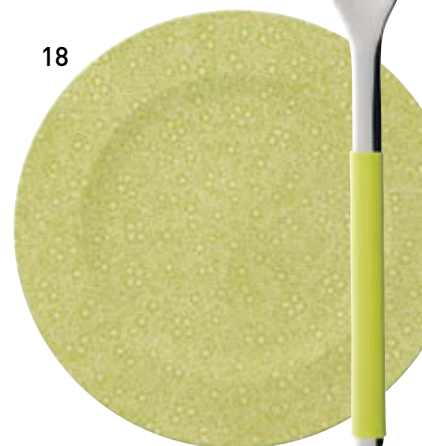
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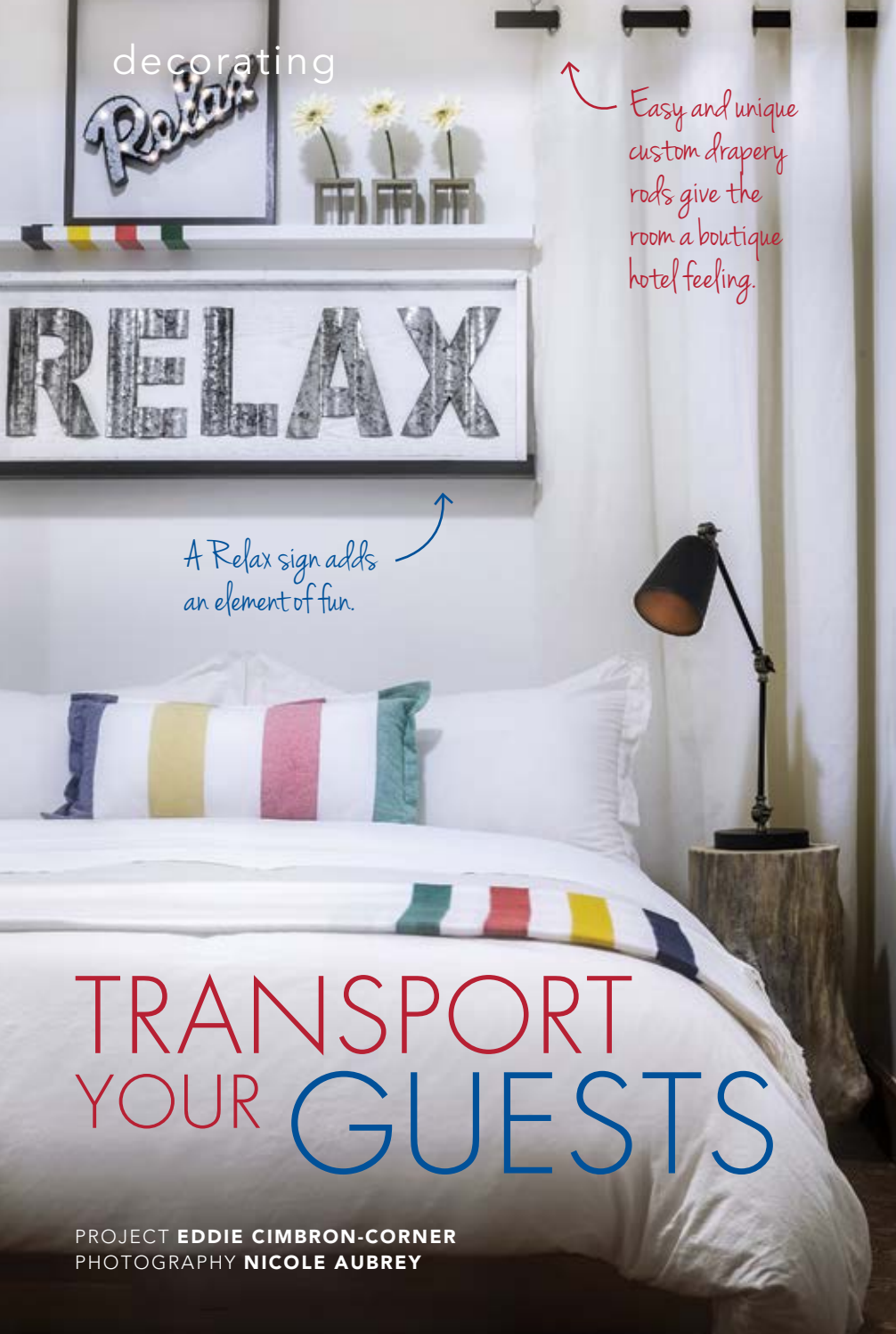


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PHOTOGRAPHY **NICOLE AUBREY**

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An eclectic mix of wall hangings includes mirrors and botanical prints.

» This room has a Parisian design influence, using antique and modern finds. The writing table is an antique paired with an Eiffel chair.

« Inject Canadiana with an iconic Hudson Bay blanket and accent pillow. The Hudson Bay motif is repeated on a picture ledge.

Candles and a much-loved teddy bear are some of the little touches that will make guests feel extra special.



Elements of travel, including suitcases, were used for props and side tables. OH



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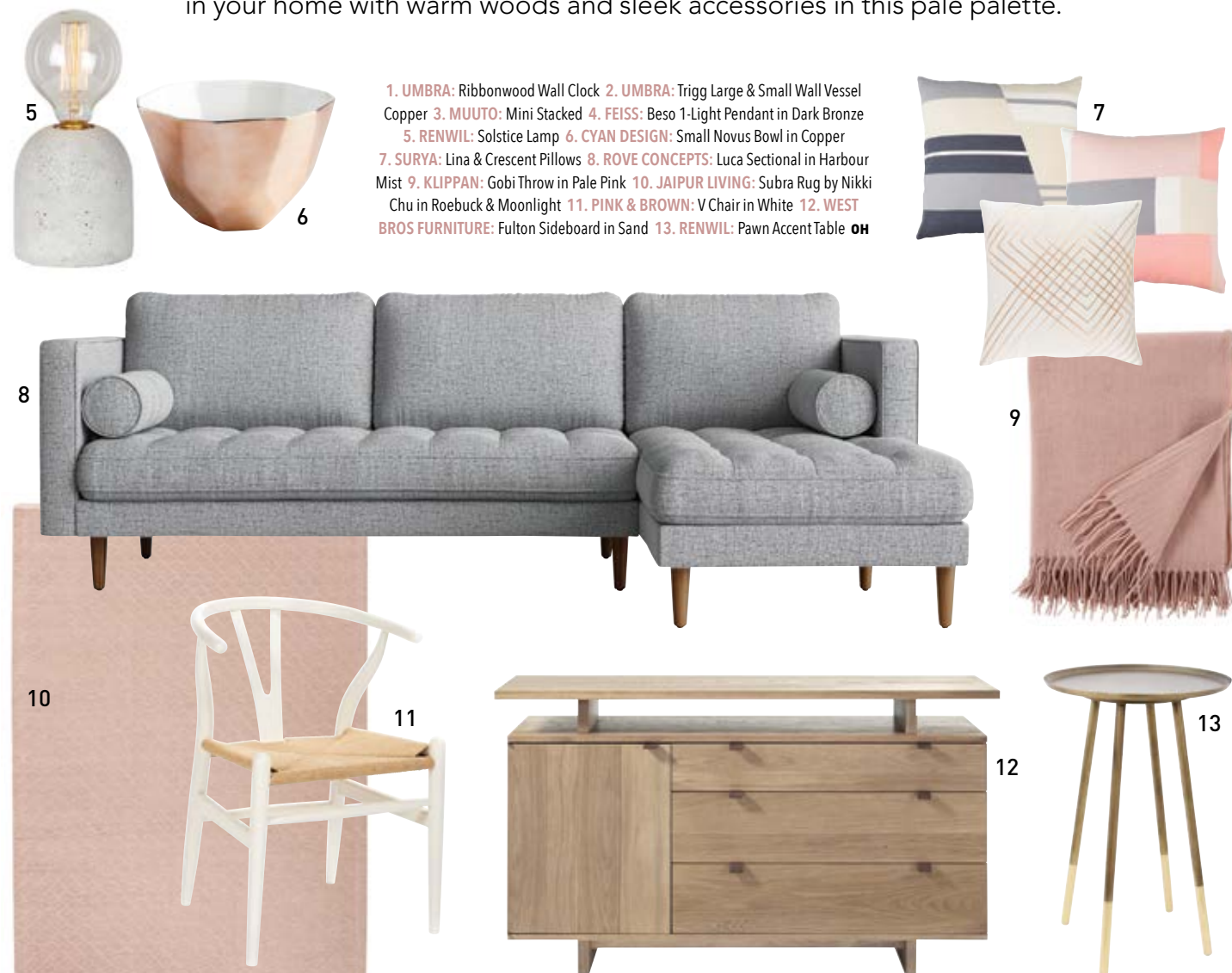
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