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editor's note



ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF THIS JOB

is that we're always working a season ahead. That means the making of this spring issue of OUR HOMES happens in the deep freeze of January.

It was easy getting into a warm frame of mind when shooting a few of the photos for this issue because we managed to get access to what

might be the greenest and most colourful place in Niagara in winter. Big thanks to Niagara Parks for letting us into its Floral Showhouse, a proverbial stone's throw from the Falls, to set the stage for some spring-like photos, including mine.

If you haven't been to the showhouse, go. It's an instant mood boost walking into this greenhouse filled with tropical plants, a rotating floral exhibit and all that oxygen given off by that greenery. When we were there, pink and purple cyclamen provided the perfect pop of colour to break up winter's monochrome. The Floral Showhouse's annual spring show runs in March and April, and is often the only place to find signs of the warmer weather in those years winter decides to overstay its welcome.

Speaking of being welcome, this issue we share some ideas for creating the ultimate backyard hangout. It's the time of year when our vitamin D intake increases tenfold, and whether it's adding a new barbecue or an entire outdoor kitchen, our Style Picks will ensure you get your recommended daily intake of the happiness vitamin and then some.

We also feature two beautiful homes designed and built with living our best lives in mind. One is a new build and the calling card for a subdivision in the works in Niagara Falls. The other, in an older, established Grimsby neighbourhood, is a testament to making the old new again. The proximity to the escarpment made it easy to build an amazing backyard that might inspire you, too.

After all, that's what we're here for – inspiration. And soon enough, we'll be thinking fall when everyone else is just getting going on summer. Wait, what was that I said about working a season ahead being one of the best parts of this job?

Tiffany Mayer, *Managing Editor*
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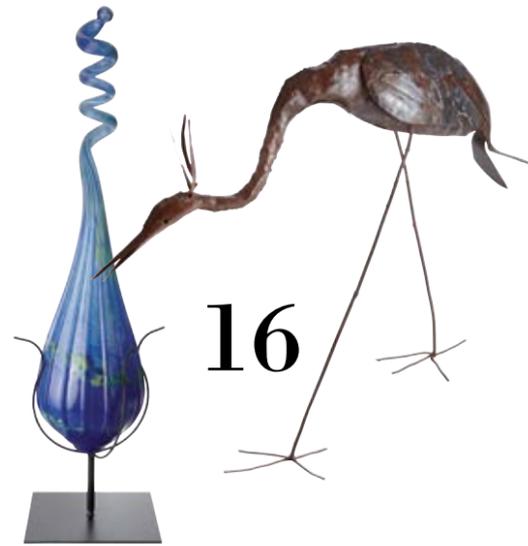
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ON THE COVER

No blues with these escarpment views. Story, page 42. Photography by Kelly Horkoff.



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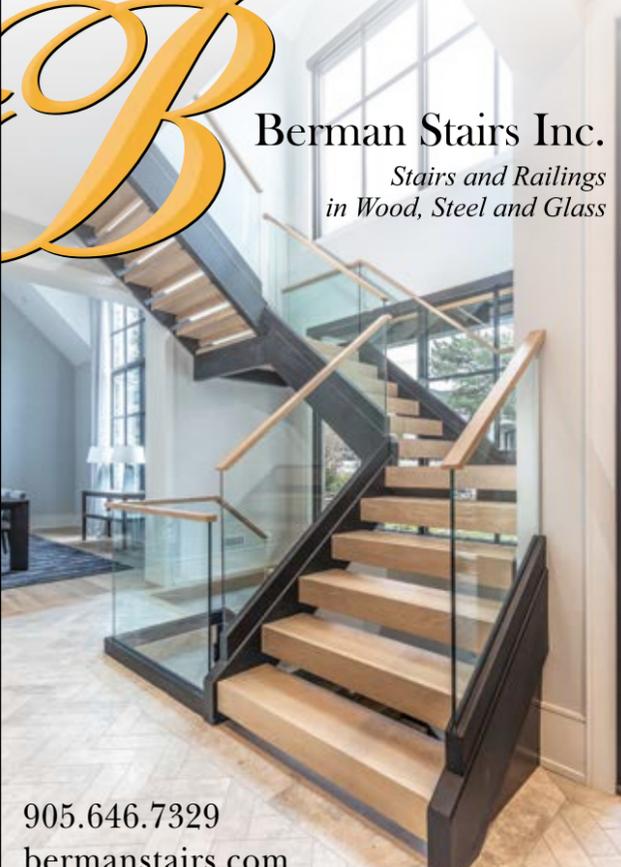
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publisher's note



PHOTO: PAT LIZMORE

NIAGARA IS JUST BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY. It seems like every community is growing and expanding with new builds and renovations. Everywhere you go, there's excitement in the air. Is that the sound of construction tools or the buzz of the bees anxious to get on with the season?

Each home has its own excitement. For us, it's awaiting the arrival of our first grandchild. We are busy scurrying about, helping our daughter with decorating the nursery, moving furniture around, sorting and organizing.

Other Niagara homes are busy with activity. Homeowners are preparing to buy, sell, move, downsize, upsize or start a new project.

Kenmore Homes has created their own buzz in Niagara Falls. Their homes are magnificent. Drop in to see the luxury model in the Terravita Community.

Our Home and Designer feature snuggled under the mountain has a gentle feel and is just waiting for spring to arrive. The homeowners have accomplished their goal; now is the time to enjoy the fruits of all their labour.

OUR HOMES celebrates life at home. That includes supporting your local shops and businesses as they are our neighbours, too. They need your support as Niagara springs into action!

Happy spring!

Laurie

Laurie Lotimer, Associate Publisher
laurie.lotimer@ourhomes.ca



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advice



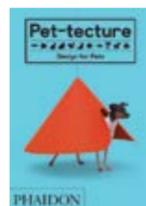
PAMPER YOUR PETS

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

Pets provide us with unconditional love, soothe us when we're upset and deliver many entertaining moments. While there are a variety of pets such as fish, birds and hamsters – a majority of Canadian households own a cat or a dog. Pet parents call them “fur babies.”

Because an animal's home is as important as a bed, lamp or a chair – many serious designers have channeled their skills and sense of fun into these small-scale structures. This world of haute architecture for pets is detailed in a fun book titled *Pet-Tecture: Design For Pets* by Tom Wainwright. It's full of inspiration and fanciful features you can integrate into your home.

Because your home is their home, here are some elements to keep in mind when customizing your space for pet space.



Give Them Shelter

Pets need a space to call their own so that they can lounge and decompress, especially in active households with children. Kitchens, laundry rooms, closets or under stairs are ideal spaces for this function. Consider using miniature versions of your cabinetry and house doors to match your decor.



PHAIDON: Suite, Chiavari for FORMA Italia.
Photo: Joe Kesrouani

Sounds, Scents & Territory

Animals rely on sounds and smells more than humans do. Open windows allow them to hear and smell what's lurking in their surroundings. Window seats and high shelves are ideal spots to keep tabs on their territory. Remember to use a screen or a pet gate to prevent escapes.

Furniture & Fabrics

These soft cushy elements face the greatest challenges around the house.

- Leather, vinyl and Sunbrella are perfect choices. Look for an abrasion rating of 100,000 double rubs or more to minimize wear and tear on upholstery.
- Patterns or chunky woven fabrics help make pet hair less noticeable.
- Slipcovers are well worth the extra cost, just so that you can throw them in the washing machine when required.
- Indoor-outdoor rugs at doorways help with muddy paws.



PHAIDON: Pet House Series, Natural Slow



PHAIDON: Curvynest Cat Tree, Catswall Design

- Minivacuums are ideal for quick clean ups.
- Fabric seal your precious rugs for those pet accidents.
- Sofas and furniture raised off the ground on metal legs or frames are less tempting for scratching and easier for clean-up.
- Scratching posts keep cats from scratching furniture. Yes, there are good looking designer scratching posts available that look like sculptures.

Bath Time

Bathrooms, mudrooms and laundry rooms are the obvious choices for this wet and wild function.



BATHTUBS FOR PETS:
Midi-Tub 3000

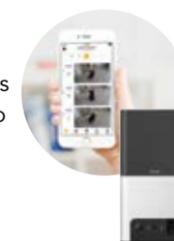
- Build a shower with seats and steps to elevate the bathing area so that you can be kind to your back.
- Use a flexible shower head for a quick hose down or a full-on bath.
- Make sure that the drain has a hair catching system.
- Bathtubs For Pets has a readily designed solution. Their stainless-steel units provide the enclosed space and the water features required. The elevating platform can be adjusted to accommodate the size of your dog or cat, minimizing backaches, slipping and sliding. It even has a pet dryer and brushing table.

Pet Central

- Dedicate an area with all the clothing, toys and treats that your fur baby requires.
- Customize a bulk food station into cabinetry to contain the mess along with a special platform to prevent their food bowls from tipping over.
- Locate leashes on decorative hooks at the back door.

Keep an Eye on Your Pet

Keeping an eye on your pet has never been easier with the help of WiFi and remote wireless pet monitoring systems such as Petcube. It also dispenses pet treats and lets you know what really happened while you were away.



PETCUBE: Petcube Bites

Enjoy your pet and your home – because pets keep us human. **OH**

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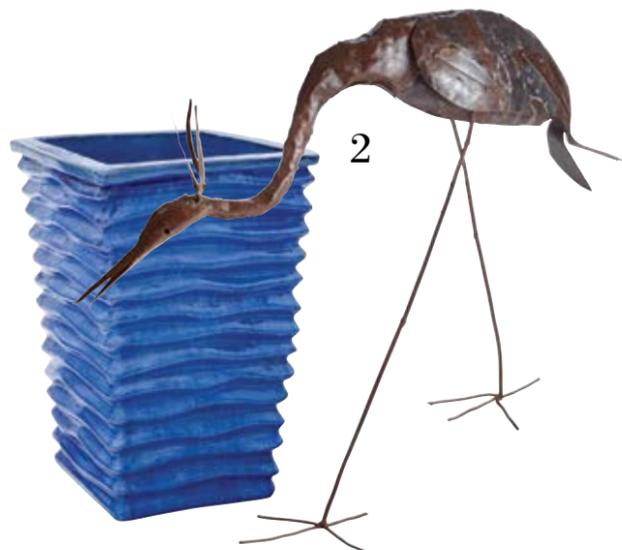
BACKYARD *dreamin'*

PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

It's that time of year when we start to be outside more than in. Patio, deck, full-fledged backyard – these pieces will help you create the ultimate outdoor hangout that you'll never want to leave.



1



2



3



4



5



6

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THE YEAR IN COLOUR

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

FARROW & BALL

Rangwali (296)

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



SHERWIN WILLIAMS

Cavern Clay (SW7701)

Forged by sun. Fired by desert. Ancient, yet fully alive. Bohemian, yet totally refined. Cavern Clay brings new life to any living space.



BEHR

Blueprint (S470-5)

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



BENJAMIN MOORE

Metropolitan (AF-690)

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



Continued on page 22

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SICO

Grand Manan Black (6161-83)

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



BEAUTI-TONE

Tropic of Conversation (SC194-3)

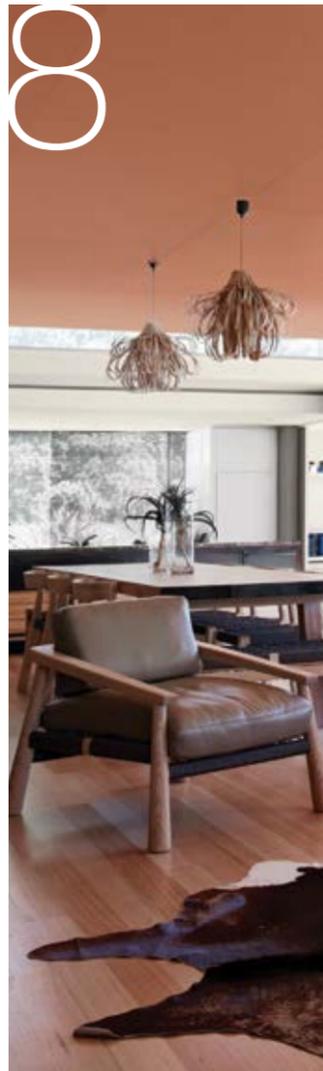
It's fun to play with, either as an accent wall, on furniture pieces and interior doors, or hidden spots like inside closets or drawers. This bold colour choice is an homage to our positively powerful state of mind.



PARA PAINT

Ginger Scent (336D)

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



VALSPAR

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

9

Lime Mousse (6008-9B)

Homey Cream (3007-6B)

Martinique Dawn (6003-3B)

Blushing Bride (2001-10B)

Spring Squash (5002-10C)

Twilight Mist (4004-9B)

Angelic Blue (5003-9B)

Wishing Well (5002-10C)

Seattle Haze (4003-4B)

Green Water (5003-4A)

Metropolis Lilac (4001-6C)

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MATERIALS

- Long, tall umbrella with hook handle
- Fresh-cut flowers with long stems (we used mums and greens)
- Floral water tubes
- Coordinated ribbon
- Fishing line or wreath hook

Spring UMBRELLA WREATH

This fun, simple arrangement will greet spring at your front door.



PROJECT **DAWN MCCONNELL**
 PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**
 ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**



HOW-TO:

- 1 Put the flower stems in water-filled tubes.
- 2 Hold closed umbrella around the middle, handle up.
- 3 Insert flower stems down into the umbrella. Arrange flowers to your liking.
- 4 Wrap ribbon around the middle of the umbrella to secure the arrangement. Tie a bow.
- 5 Hang on your door inside or out with a wreath hook or fishing line. **OH**



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STORY TIFFANY MAYER | PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



THERE'S A FEELING **JENNIFER KAUFMAN** GETS WHEN SHE CONSIDERS THE IMPACT HER FAMILY'S HOMEBUILDING BUSINESS HAS HAD IN NIAGARA OVER THE PAST 64 YEARS.



Jennifer Kaufman, co-owner and president of Kenmore Homes, stands in the kitchen of a bungalow model in the new Terravita subdivision in Niagara Falls. Kitchen cabinets by Oakridge Woodworking **RIGHT:** A spacious foyer welcomes visitors to the home. **OPPOSITE:** An open-concept layout that highlights cathedral ceilings and a rounded loft creates visual elegance.

Jennifer Kaufman



The co-owner and president of **Kenmore Homes** knows that she and her family have shaped cities, neighbourhoods, even the lives of people living in their Kenmore-built abodes. "It's very exciting," Jennifer says. "You can leave a lasting footprint in communities and look back to five, 10, 25, 30 years ago and see how many people you gave a house to live in. It feels great because it's one of the most important purchases in most people's lives." Jennifer and the Kenmore team, which includes her brother Kris and father Jim, are set to have the same impact in north Niagara Falls as they shape the city's last swath earmarked for residential development into **Terravita**, a community of 80 single-family bungalows, bungalofs, and two-storey homes. The new neighbourhood, tucked off Mountain Road near St. Paul Avenue, will feature 10 home plans by **Michael Allen** of **ACK Architects** ranging in size from 1,699 to 2,890 square feet on 39- and 45-foot lots. Each layout is adjustable to future homebuyers' needs. The facades will be unique – this is not your cookie-cutter subdivision – with different elevations and exterior colour combinations but with a similar feel "so this won't be a mishmash of houses. All homes will have a similar look but will be different," Jennifer says. *Continued on page 28*



The living room features a cosy fireplace and view to the master bedroom. **BELOW:** High ceilings create drama, openness and enough room for large, eye-catching artwork to hang over the fireplace.

They will also feel like home to families looking to put down roots or those wanting to downsize but not forgo luxury for less space.

“It’s making sure we’re not creating a product that suits my needs but suits the target market that will eventually live there,” Jennifer explains.

In a deceptively roomy Terravita bungaloft that offers just over 2,000 square feet of living space, an “open and grand” entryway with cathedral ceilings fills with welcoming natural light. It stretches past a two-piece powder room, and wide, quarter-turn staircase in enduring white oak with Euro spindle by **Amber Stairs & Railings Inc.**

The front hall ultimately leads into a galley-style kitchen with peaked cathedral ceiling and a view to a rounded loft that gives the entire space “visual elegance.”

“Every model we’re doing has something in it that has that wow factor,” Jennifer explains.

In the kitchen, function and style are given priority with a built-in china cabinet to match functional kitchen cupboards and open shelving by **Oakridge Woodworking**. It’s a touch added so homeowners don’t have to worry about buying such pieces or lugging them in a move.

Continued on page 31



The loft offers a view to the kitchen and living room.



RIGHT: Stainless steel appliances are standard in every Terravita home. **BELOW:** The powder room has a space-enhancing metallic wallpaper. **OPPOSITE:** Space for a dining table provides an option for more formal entertaining.



The oversize kitchen island provides plenty of room to spread out during big baking or cooking projects, but also serves as casual seating and a focal point to gather around while entertaining. MSI premium natural quartz in fossil grey caps the counters and makes for both a stunning and practical workspace for the gourmet of the home. Stainless steel Jenn-Air appliances, including a 36-inch-wide gas range, built-in dishwasher, microwave, wine fridge and double-door refrigerator are all standard.

The space spills into an open-concept living and dining area with Dashwood Gemini casement windows from **Crowland Sash & Frame**. A Marquis Solace Cleanview fireplace surrounded by porcelain tile with a soapstone look from **Alfieri Floor Experts** is the centrepiece. But the pièce de résistance is the soaring ceiling that makes the area feel boundless and grand. Heating and cooling

systems by **A-Plus Air Systems** ensure the space is always the right temperature.

Underfoot are Glenbury hardwood floors from Alfieri with random-width plank and an aged appearance that doesn't stifle the natural character of the wood. They stretch into a main-floor master bedroom, with oversize, double solid-core doors offering safety and soundproofing. The master en suite features a standalone tub, oversized shower with rolling glass door, and a double, custom vanity by Oakridge.

The bedroom's distinct and seductive separation from the rest of the home is accentuated by walls in bold Black Jack from **Benjamin Moore's** Regal line, and chosen by designer **John Kazmir**. The space is kept bright by a mix of natural light and sparkling fixtures from **City Lightz**. *Continued on page 34*



ABOVE: The master bedroom in dramatic Black Jack from Benjamin Moore.
RIGHT: The master en suite has all the trimmings, including a freestanding bath and double-sink vanity.



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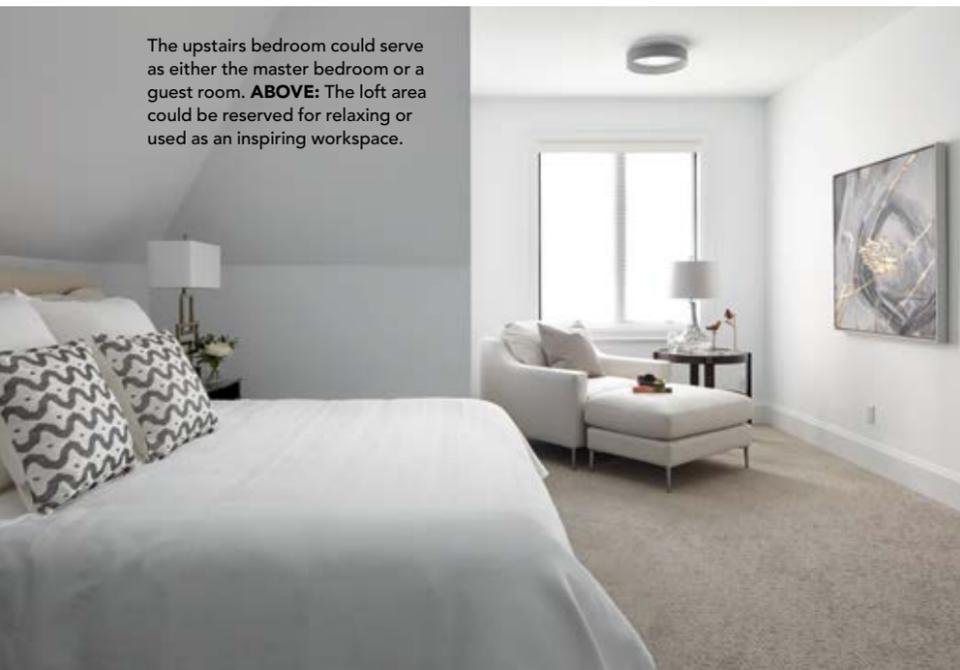
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The upstairs bedroom could serve as either the master bedroom or a guest room. **ABOVE:** The loft area could be reserved for relaxing or used as an inspiring workspace.



Common spaces throughout the home, and a second-floor bedroom are in clean and contrasting Snow White.

Upstairs, the loft offers relaxed living space, with room enough for a full-sized sofa and 75-inch television, or an inspired workspace. A three-piece bathroom makes for nearly self-contained, living quarters on the upper level.

All homes in Terravita will be finished to the lower level with timbers from **Stark Lumber**, but even that will be left “finish-ready,” Jennifer notes.

“We stud all the walls, the electrical is done in the walls. Basically, it’s drywall ready,” she says. “The big thing is everything in here is standard. I’m so tired of hearing people say ‘I walk in (to a model home) and there’s \$200,000 to \$300,000 of upgrades.’ It happens all the time. If people like a particular kitchen, they can say, ‘I want that kitchen.’ They don’t have to worry about getting another price to

Continued on page 36

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The loft bathroom is spacious and functional.

get it upgraded. Every home in Terravita is the model home.”

Outside, landscaping is by **Tree Amigos Landscaping Inc.** and includes irrigation to keep gardens and greenery lush.

The exterior of the home boasts timeless curb appeal with grey Permacon Lafitt Stone

from **Burnstein Brick**, a peaked roofline finished by **Bosco Roofing**, and a stately oversize front door with full glass insert by Crowland Sash & Frame. Privacy is ensured with blinds from **Interiors by Better Shade** that block the view from the street and diffuse bright light, but keep things airy.

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- A-Plus Air Systems • ACK Architects • Alfieri Floor Experts • Alliance Security Systems
- Amber Stairs & Railings • Bosco Roofing • Burnstein Brick • City Lightz • Confederation Plumbing and Heating • Crowland Sash & Frame • H Electric • Interiors by Better Shade
- John Kazmir • Kenmore Homes • Oakridge Woodworking • Rainbow Painting • Stark Lumber • Tree Amigos Landscaping Inc. • Turkstra Lumber

They are touches indicative of thoughtful consideration of the way people live today, but they also channel the quality and community-mindedness that’s been paramount to Kenmore Homes’ success and longevity since its founding by Jennifer’s grandfather, James, in St. Catharines in 1955. The company will donate \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity for every home sold in the Terravita development.

“I always go back to my grandfather’s core belief of building quality homes and maintaining a reputation in the community through charity work and getting involved in the community. And ensuring our customers are happy,” Jennifer says. “It’s walking through every home and making sure ‘Would I want to live in that house?’ when I walk through.” **OH**

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

A CUP OF SEEDS

These charming, easy-to-make and easy-to-clean bird feeders will attract a discerning flock to your garden.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1 Apply a thick line of all-purpose adhesive from the centre of the saucer to one edge.
- 2 Holding the teacup with handle upward, press the opposite side of the cup down into the adhesive in the saucer.
- 3 Hold or support the teacup until the adhesive sets.
- 4 To use a spoon as a hook, bend the spoon with pliers into an S shape.
- 5 Use the spoon hook to hang the teacup from an easy-to-access branch of your favourite tree. You can also hang the feeder with a ribbon. Fill with birdseed.

MATERIALS

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



Second-hand stores are a great source to find vintage spoons to make these charming hooks. OH

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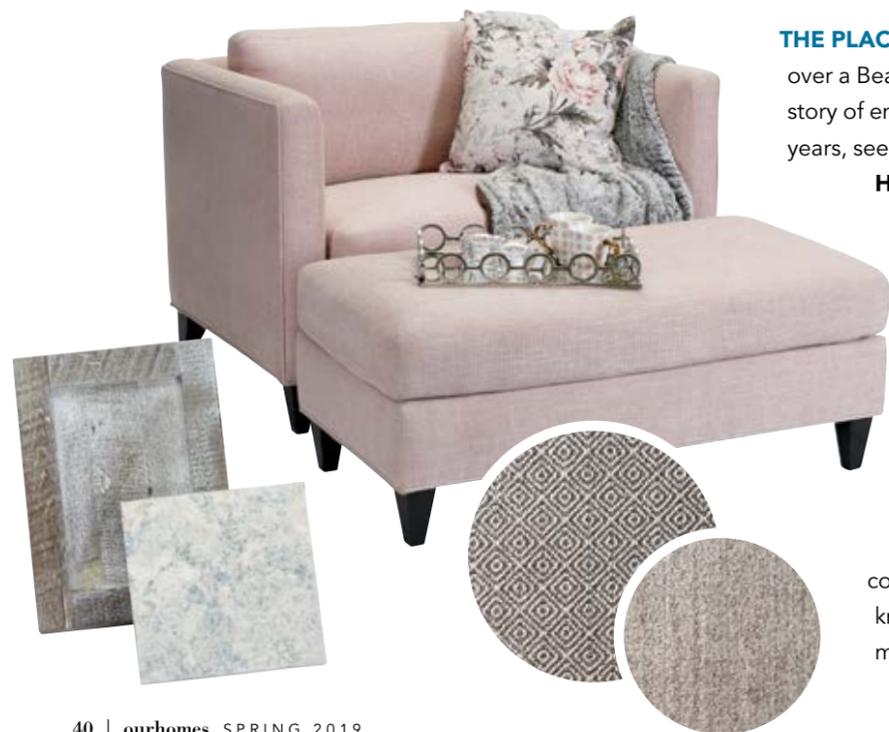


David Smith, Lisa DiPalma, Tracy Smith and Hannah Foote.

DESIGNS for SUCCESS

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

THE PLACE: A carpenter by trade and a retail manager take over a Beamsville flooring store. What happens next is a story of entrepreneurial determination that, in a few short years, sees a tiny, dated shop grow into **Lincoln Design House**, an 18,000 sq. ft. home décor destination run by husband and wife team David and Tracy Smith. "This was the dream to have more of a home décor centre and now here we are," says David, taking stock of the business that offers flooring, furniture, window and wall coverings and custom kitchens. It's a place where customers can tap into the expertise of David, who's been in the flooring business for 25 years, and Tracy, who has an eye for colour and the next big trend. They're complemented by two in-house designers with a knack for bringing to life homeowners' ideas for minor updates and major renovations.



THE APPROACH: The emphasis is on customers enjoying the process of making their house a home, whether they're starting with a photo they found on Pinterest or they have detailed plans in hand. "The approach has always been to make customers feel part of our team and family. It's not just presenting options but finding and meeting needs," David says.

"We're here guiding the process but at the end, they can say, 'We designed our home,'" Tracy adds. Calling the store a one-stop shop isn't hyperbole, either. Lincoln Design House works with other trades, bringing kitchen, cabinetry, stair and other professionals together in one place.

"Clients were always asking for recommendations. Now we've brought everything under one roof," says David.

THE STYLE: Canadian-made gets top billing here, whether the customer wants modern, transitional or traditional. Many furnishings in stock are also custom-made. No matter the item or look, a touchscreen system enables customers to find items and visualize how a potential purchase will look in their home.

THE TREND: Blush, rose golds and grey dominate the current colour palette. In flooring, continuity is key, with customers wanting the same floor – often engineered hardwood – throughout their homes.

THE NEWS: The store's former digs farther south on Ontario Street will be razed to make way for a new high-rise condo development called The Bench. It will include a mix of 32 residential units and some retail space. David will be involved with the project and the sales office is set to open this spring.

WHERE: 4548 Ontario St., Beamsville
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An open concept main-floor living and dining area offers space for both formal and more relaxed entertaining, including room for a full-size pool table from Family Recreation Store.

A NATURAL SETTING

STORY **JESSIE REID**
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR LIVING IN A HOUSE BEFORE UNDERTAKING A MAJOR RENOVATION. AFTER A DECADE OF CALLING THEIR 1970s BUNGALOW HOME, THIS FAMILY OF THREE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANTED. THE RESULT IS BREATHTAKING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES THAT REFLECT THE FAMILY'S LOVE OF NATURE AND ENTERTAINING. Continued on page 45



Karen Shearim

LEFT: The updated facade with natural stone and wood beams help this home blend with its escarpment setting. **ABOVE:** Barnard & Speziale designer Karen Shearim. **BELOW:** A view from the living room into the expanded kitchen and sunroom addition. Dining table custom-built by W.L. Daboll.



ABOVE: The main floor bathroom features a mix of traditional and timeless touches. **TOP:** The sunken, rounded living room is set up for more formal entertaining.

Perched along the Grimsby escarpment, this home projects a ranch vibe with its brick and timber exterior, natural stone steps and exposed porch truss. It looks grounded and handsome, but it belies what waits beyond the front door.

“You can’t beat this location. We both grew up in the country but we love the convenience of being near town,” the homeowner explains. “Once we decided we were never moving, we wanted to really make our mark here.”

The renovation started as a kitchen makeover and small sunroom addition, but evolved into something more significant. It took more than a year of construction and included extending the living area, opening up walls and roof lines, redoing floors throughout the main and lower levels and a full kitchen and bathroom renovation. **Karen Shearim** from **Barnard & Speziale** steered the interior design.

Upon entering the home, a sunken round living room reveals itself. Vaulted ceilings and the original stone fireplace draw you into where you can view both the wooded escarpment behind and Lake Ontario in front. The side of the house was extended here and now flows effortlessly into the open-plan kitchen, dining, family room and outdoor entertaining area.

Connection with the outdoors was high on the family’s priority list. This has been achieved to stunning effect through the sunroom extension. It features a custom industrial black anodized aluminum curtain wall with tempered glass and open flat doors by both **IBG Canada Ltd.** and **Clegg Glass**.

Cement tiles from **Aristocrat Floors of the World** run the length of the sunroom and continue in a herringbone layout to the outdoor patio.

A sound system by **Gibbys Electronic Supermarket** and motorized insect screens

Continued on page 46

that double as exterior shades by **Girgenti Custom Window Treatments** surrounding the patio complete the outdoor room feel.

“We entertain a lot and really love the outdoors,” the homeowner says. “We wanted to celebrate this beautiful property and enjoy the outdoors in any season. Now we get the advantage of living close to nature all year round.”

The large timber beams by **W.L. Daboll** are an ideal architectural element for the casual contemporary nature of the space. Along with the interior sunroom walls, they echo the trunks of the trees beyond. Black metal-bounded glass frames the view of the escarpment and landscaping by **Verdalife Landscaping**.

“We love the constant change of the seasons. It brings a renewal,” the homeowner says. “Now that the majority of our living space is open, we feel that change. Sitting here, we see deer go by twice a day.”

The home has been transformed into the ultimate entertainment space with designs by **ACK Architects** that were brought to life by builder **Fred Hendriks** from **Pride Homes**.

The creation of three interior dining spaces and meal seating for 24 people reflects the family’s love of entertaining perfectly. The spacious kitchen has an L-shaped peninsula with plenty of bar seating. There’s also a large island with a show-stopping waterfall top of Calacatta Gold Extra honed marble, and a large timber dining table. *Continued on page 48*



The kitchen is set up with seating for 12, making entertaining large groups a breeze combined with room for 12 in the adjacent dining room. **LEFT:** Contrasting cupboards by Enns Cabinetry add visual interest while maintaining the neutral palette.



Guests can easily gather in the open-concept dining spaces, two living areas with new fireplaces, the outdoor patio area, or kick back with a game of pool, the table by **Family Recreation Store**, in the sunroom.

“We were halfway through the planning and design process when we realized we should probably have someone help with the finishes,” the homeowner says. “Because there are no walls and it’s a totally open plan, we needed it to be cohesive.”

It was at this point they engaged designer Karen Shearim from Barnard & Speziale, who brought the space together.

“I came into the process quite a bit after the major design decisions had been made,” says Shearim. “The original house furnishings were quite traditional, even somewhat rustic, and the new addition was quite the opposite.”

While not trying to achieve a transitional style, Shearim created a cohesive interior with the homeowners’ choice of traditional elements and a selection of more modern yet timeless features.

“Karen really listened. She understood our style, how we like to live, and how we would live in the space,” the homeowners say. “And it came together perfectly.”

The walls throughout the spaces have been painted in Pashmina by **Benjamin Moore** to pair with the Sea Pearl kitchen cabinets, fitted by **Enns Cabinetry**. The marble island and kitchen backsplash are paired with Caesarstone bench tops.

Soft fabrics on the bar stools and dining chairs, along with the warm wood beams and oiled hardwood floors by Aristocrat Floors of the World, and glamorous light fixtures sourced by Barnard & Speziale, make the home inviting and comfortable, and define spaces.

Continued on page 50



ABOVE: The master bedroom is a relaxing space. **TOP:** A splash of colour creates a fun and comfortable childhood refuge.



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A view of the lower level rec room.
BELOW: Escarpment views dominate the outdoor living space.



The lower level was also freshened up with new wool carpets and tile from **Dimensions Carpet One Floor & Home**. A Lake Leopard stair runner adds both style and a bit of whimsy in the transition between floors.

“I think we were very successful in creating a cohesive and relaxed look that fused the original aesthetic with the contemporary structure,” Shearim said. “The entire home has a simple sophistication that will surely stand the test of time.”

In the bathroom, Enns lovingly restored the original cabinetry and a Caesarstone top was added. The eye-catching Candice Olson wallpaper complements the transitional style of the renovation.

“Good designers push you out of your comfort zone. They take the essence of who you are but make it so much better,” the homeowner says. “We didn’t want anything that popped or looked funky. We are quite traditional. However, we ultimately wanted it to be comfortable. We wanted people to come in and put their feet up, and that’s typically what they do.”

And there’s nothing better for a designer to hear than that, says Shearim.

“There is no better achievement than creating a space that is better than a client could’ve ever imagined and having them contact you weeks or even months after completion to tell you this,” she says. **OH**



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

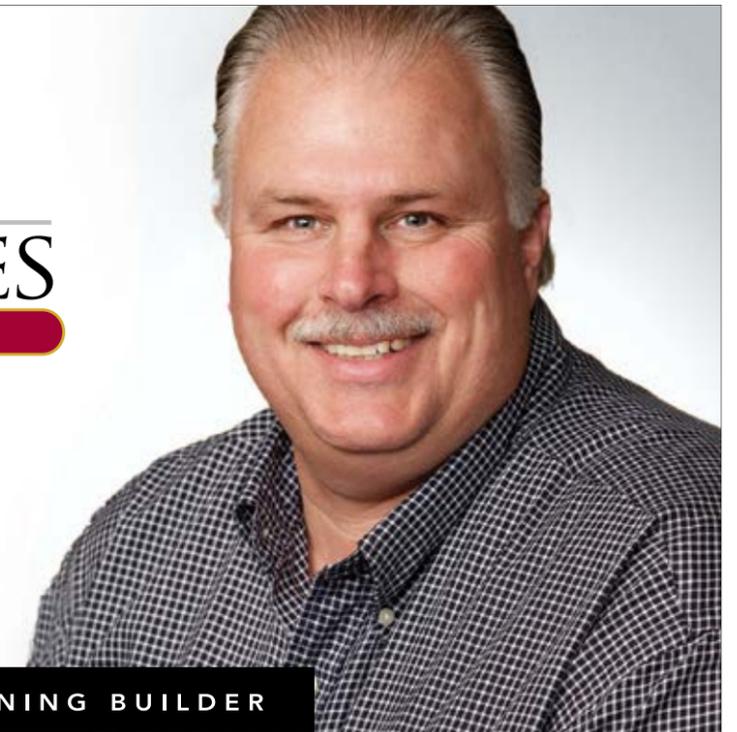
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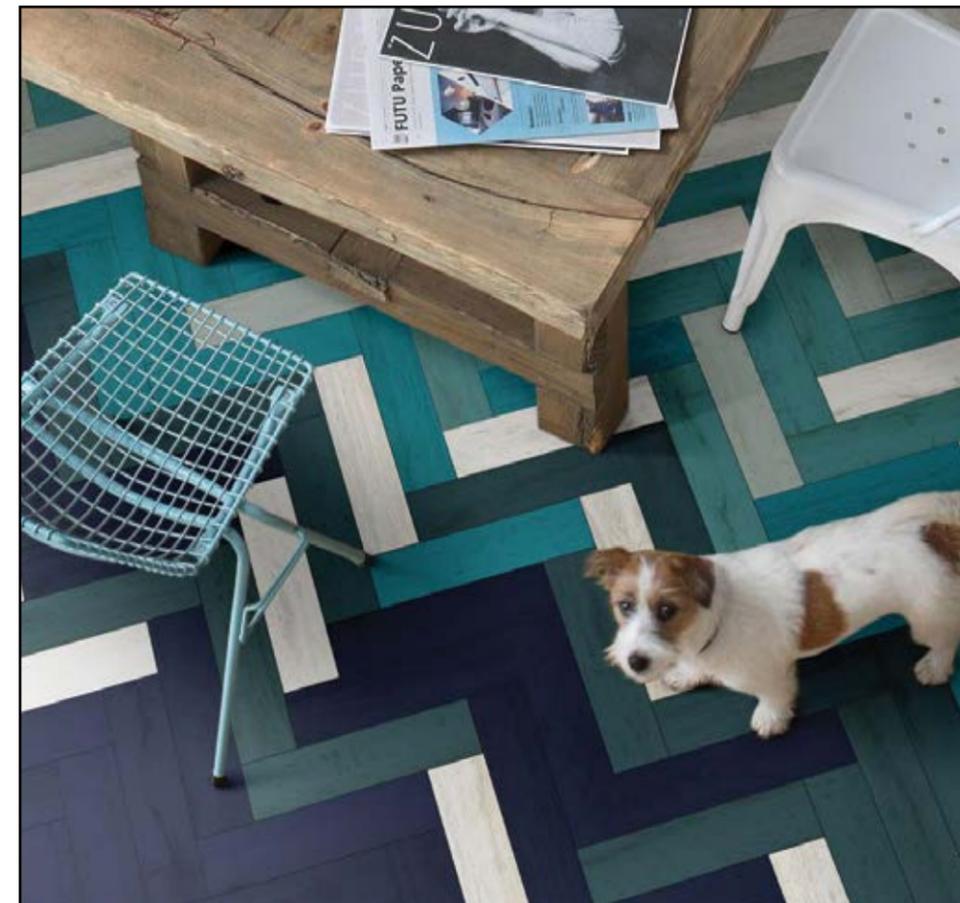


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STORY **TAMARISK MCNALTY STEPHENS**



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Increasing globalization has led to an unprecedented level of consumer choice, but globalization is also leading to an increasing degree of consumer awareness. Customers are more and more interested in not just what they buy, but also how, why and where the goods and services have been produced. Companies (both big and small) who want to remain relevant and competitive in today's

marketplace not only consider the general welfare of people and the planet, but also have these principles built into their core brand identity (think environmentally-minded production, living wages and working conditions where employees can thrive).

Enter social responsibility, an ethical framework that focuses on maximizing profits while having a beneficial impact on society and the environment. It's all about creating a better world to live in, not only for today, but

for our children and future generations.

And one of the primary tenets of social responsibility is sustainability.

What does sustainability mean? It's about meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainable life cycle of a product is often referred to as "cradle to cradle" (C2C), wherein production techniques mimic nature and are efficient and essentially waste-free. This framework forms a closed loop, wherein all materials and byproducts can be reused. Opposite to C2C is "cradle to grave," which is an unsustainable life cycle and a linear model, wherein waste is the outcome and the item ends up in landfill. *Continued on page 54*



LEFT: Hand pouring candles at Serendipity Soy Candle Factory.

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design ideas

HUMAN TOUCH

In our hyper-connected, technology-driven world with so much time spent in front of a screen, people are searching for ways to slow down. One of these ways can be found in a return to craft, which has brought an affinity for handmade, artisanal, one-of-a-kind pieces made with natural materials, traditional techniques and time-honoured processes.

The human touch is something that cannot be replicated. Softening the machine-made into a more organic, handcrafted form has a direct effect on how things are felt and experienced, and this interaction is a fundamental part of what gives items any meaning at all.

In a 21st century world often focused on the optimization of consumption, the commodity that remains the most valuable in contemporary life is time – and time is what is required in the design, preparation and crafting of materials into handmade goods. This investment of the most valuable commodity is a reason why handmade items are so revered and sought-after.



English architect and designer Edwin Heathcote writes: “We innately respond to things which have taken care and skill to make (skill takes time to learn), whether a good meal or a beautiful chair. It is not the expense of the materials that makes us feel a connection, but rather the way in which they have been treated from the time they are conceived through the making and their subsequent history.”

Natural and sustainable elements also have a way of grounding us and connecting us with the earth and our roots. Appreciating the beauty of imperfections of natural materials such as reclaimed, recycled and

sustainably-harvested woods, handmade ceramics, artisan hand-baked clay tiles, and hand-loomed rugs have a way of warming up our homes and can provide a connection with the natural world that counteracts the pervasive technology-driven world we currently inhabit.

Whether you're purchasing a handmade item from a local artisan, or purchasing a piece made overseas that provides a woman the opportunity to support her family, every dollar you spend is a vote for the world you wish to see. **OH**

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plants for POLLINATORS

1.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **MELANIE REKOLA**

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

Basic Needs

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

The Food

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



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

TIP

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

Egg Laying & Nesting

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



Water Source

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

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

Overwintering

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

Melanie’s Pollinator Plant Picks

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

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

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

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

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



Salmon WELLINGTON

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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



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INGREDIENTS Makes 2

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

DIRECTIONS

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

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

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

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

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WORK & LIFE in BALANCE

PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF

Dog or cat? Tea or coffee? We check in with some of Niagara's pros to find which team they're on and gain a little more insight into their work and home life.



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AT WORK

Latest Project: Residential renovation and a restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake. **Business Philosophy:** Our clients' needs are of utmost importance and we aim to exceed their expectations. **Small Change with Big Impact:** Kitchen cabinet reface with new hardware. **Splurge On:** Customizing each space with built-in cabinetry.

AT HOME

Dog or Cat: Dog. **To-do List:** Ours is long! Too busy making other homes beautiful. **After Work Gathering Spot:** We always gather in our kitchen. **Favourite Meal:** Anything barbecued.



AT WORK

Favourite Project: I designed a great garden party venue recently. **Business Philosophy:** Listen to my clients. **Essential Daily Task:** Communication is the key. **Current Trend:** Transitional gardens with new sleek finishes for the outdoor kitchen. **Perennials or Annuals:** Perennials are easy and keep coming back each year.

JANET ENNAMORATO

PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNER & CHAIR OF CANADA BLOOMS 2019

Creative Garden Designs Inc.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

I've been designing residential landscapes for over 25 years and love every minute. Meeting with the clients to discuss their needs and wish list for their garden allows me to provide them with a fresh perspective, making sure it fits their lifestyle and budget. After coordinating installation, it's always rewarding to help celebrate the completed project with everyone.

AT HOME

Neighbourhood: Stoney Creek and soon Niagara-on-the-Lake. **To-do List:** Set my yoga schedule for the year. **Fresh Flowers or Potted Plants:** Fresh cuts for the table and potted tropicals throughout the garden. **Favourite Place to Dine:** Trattoria Leonardo – fantastic food! **Cereal or Smoothie for Breakfast:** A wholesome smoothie to super-charge the day.

Continued on page 62



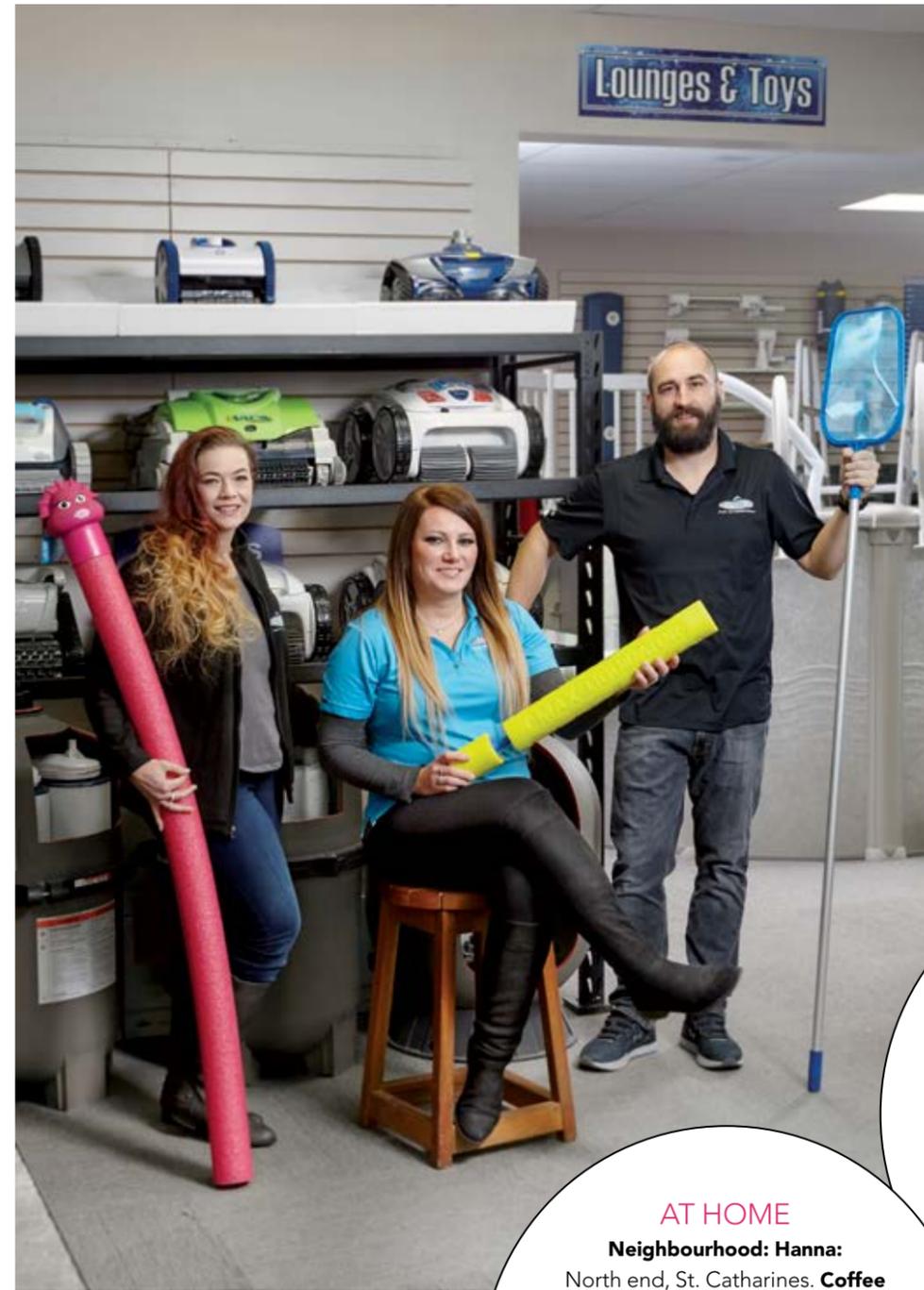
AT HOME
Neighbourhood: Grimsby.
To-do List: Contact, even for brief moments, my new neighbours. **Favourite Gathering Spot:** Any coffee shop I can find to meet a friend.
Favourite Meal: Pasta, pasta, pasta.

MARY COUTURIER
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Royal LePage NRC Realty Inc.,
 Brokerage, Grimsby

I've been in the industry for over 15 years and consider myself an expert in areas of investment and client relationships. I have my broker status, my BA in social development, and an appraisal background. I've also founded Women and Real Estate, a mentoring and investment group for women.

AT WORK
State of the Market in Niagara: Stable with a small increase in listings and time on market compared to 2017-18.
Business Philosophy: Love what you do and approach every opportunity with an open mind and desire to serve to the utmost of your ability. **Essential Daily Tasks:** Remember what's important, be grateful and exercise.
Advice for Buyers: Be cautiously optimistic and think about what your real estate goals are.



REBECCA DRAPER, HANNA OLEJNIK & ERIC NOLET

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AT HOME
Neighbourhood: Hanna: North end, St. Catharines. **Coffee or Tea:** Eric: Chocolate milk. **Cat or Dog:** Rebecca: Love both, don't have either. If I could, I would get a cat. **Favourite Place to Go for a Bite:** Hanna: Chicago Style Pizza in Hamilton. **Eric:** Charlie's Steakery. **Rebecca:** Really depends on what I'm in the mood for.

AT WORK
Latest Project: Rebecca: Gearing up and getting things ready for the 2019 season. **Business Philosophy:** Hanna: World-class customer service. **Essential Daily Task:** Eric: Assist customers to our full capability, leaving them with the best customer-service experience. **Latest Trend:** Rebecca: Robotic pool cleaners and giant floats, like swans and flamingos.



JORDAN CECCHI

FURNITURE MANAGER & OWNER

Interiors by Better Shade, St. Catharines

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AT WORK

Best Part of your Job: Seeing a home we just enhanced with furniture and window treatments.
Essential Daily Task: Ensuring we have the latest trends at our fingertips.
Splurge On: Leather. Leather is seven to 10 times stronger than any fabric. **Trend:** Bold colours or patterns on chairs, greens and blues.

AT HOME

Neighbourhood: Glenridge.
To-do List: Using Farrow & Ball paint to create an accent wall at home. **Favourite After-Work Activity:** Cooking a delicious Keto meal!
Favourite Meal: Khao Soi at Spicy Thai. **Netflix or Cable:** Neither. I would rather go for a run. **OH**

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STORY SARA BEDERMAN



VICTORIA + ALBERT: Barcelona 2 Freestanding Tub in Matte Black

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

1. Hexagon Tile

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



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

PHOTO: STEPHANI BUCHMAN

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



VICTORIA + ALBERT: Metallo 100 Washstand

2. Open Vanity Shelving

Move over, big bulky vanities! Open vanity shelving has a fresh, lightweight look and feel that instantly opens up a bathroom – both visually and literally. This trend will be a particularly welcome addition to small spaces like condos. Victoria + Albert's Candella washstand, topped with a Lario 100 Solo basin is elegance personified, featuring sleek, polished chrome legs, a barely-there towel rail and a storage shelf beneath. Stocked or empty, open shelving is definitely one trend to watch for this year. *Continued on page 68*

ERTHCOVERINGS: Hex Tile

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3. Bold fixtures

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



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

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

4. Mixed Metals

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



VICTORIA + ALBERT: Staffordshire Bath Faucet in Unlacquered Brass



ATLAS CONCORDE: 3D Diamond White Matt 80 Wall Tile

5. Textural Elements

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



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

MAXFINE: Marmi Tile in Calacatta

6. Marble Lookalikes

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

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We have the experience to offer realistic and honest feedback on costs, design options and construction prerequisites. We are cognizant of the endless and overwhelming possibilities out there but our team will effectively collaborate with you to simplify the process. Customer service and satisfaction are of paramount importance in a Homes By Hendriks building experience and is what our reputation is built on.

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Honesty, integrity, quality and fairness – all these are synonymous with Homes By Hendriks.
905.563.7681
homesbyhendriks.com
(Please see ad on pg 21)



AWAY WITH GEESE

CanDetec is an Ontario-based environmental company that specializes in identifying the causes of and finding solutions for water quality problems in lakes and ponds, since 2000. Our approach extends from understanding the problem scientifically through to identifying practical technological solutions (the 'tec' part of our name) to solve or mitigate water quality impacts for our clients. One of the most common problems we are asked about, is "what can I do to reduce or discourage geese on my pond, lake or dock?" We found a relatively new product – **Away With Geese™** – a solar powered light that the geese perceive as a predator, thereby humanely discouraging them from the area. Over 15,000 units have been installed in the U.S.

Climate change has amplified the occurrence of hazardous blue-green algae in Ontario waters. One of CanDetec's most exciting technologies is being evaluated in a Muskoka lake to demonstrate the effectiveness of ultrasound technology to controlling hazardous algae blooms. This technology is used around the world and we are pleased to be the first to actively introduce it to Ontario.

We do more than feather our nest, so if you have geese problems or water quality problems, call us.
905.516.9009
awaywithgeese.com
(Please see ad on pg 71)



DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS & CABINETRY INC.

DREAMING OF A beautiful kitchen? As luck would have it, we specialize in that!!

We are entering our 19th year in business. Passion, Product and Precise Visions are what sets the tone for **Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry** experiences. From the moment you begin your no-charge in-showroom consultation you will be embraced with the comfort of knowing your investment will be taken seriously. Rely on the expertise of our approachable educated designers, to create a timeless space that will surpass your expectations.

Be reassured that Distinctive Designs hand selects from the finest manufacturers and suppliers of luxurious kitchen products and tailor-made cabinetry. Combined with craftsman skill and state-of-the-art facilities you will soon agree this is the perfect recipe for your renovation.

Don't have a renovator or trades to prepare your space? Many of the renovators and trades we recommend have been working with Distinctive Designs for close to two decades. Honouring our client's visions with the respect it deserves is why 90% of our clients are referrals.

Work with the team that is renowned for successfully Executing Award Winning Designs from concept to completion. Making life easier for YOU. We look forward to hearing from you!
distinctivedesigns.ca
905.646.3694 | 120 Dunkirk Rd, Unit #4, St Catharines
(Please see ad on pg 23)



CLEAR THE CLUTTER, RECLAIM YOUR LIFE

Since 2010 **Clutter Relief Services** has been helping overwhelmed clients reclaim their space and decrease their stress. Judy Rickey's business has grown to include a great team of sub-contractors, as well as junk removal services, handymen and realtors.

If you are thinking your home needs a makeover, we can assist, by helping you go through your belongings and deciding what needs to be kept. Then we pack up all the keepers until the renos are done (sealed into boxes or totes so no dust gets in) and unpack into your new space. Now, everything going into your new space is needed and clean.

We also work with seniors who are downsizing their belongings. From online auctions, to selling items online, to consignment stores or giving to respected charities, we work hard to have your belongings not end up in landfill.

We can prepare your home to be listed, pack for your move, and unpack into your new home. We can also help those overwhelmed with busy lives regain a sense of order.
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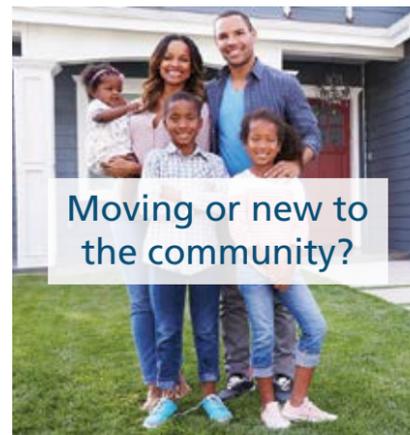
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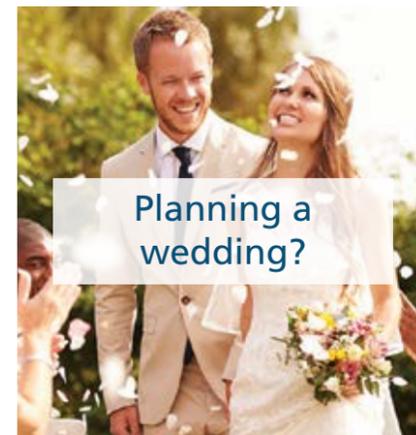
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OUR HOMES attracts the area's finest businesses to advertise in our pages, and utilize our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. We're making it easier for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. View these business ads online at ourhomes.ca/niagara. The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email laurie.lotimer@ourhomes.ca. To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 905.516.8933.

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