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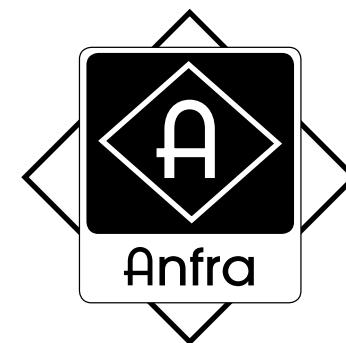
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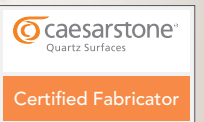
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I CAN'T LIE. I'm on Team Summer, having built enough snowmen in my childhood to work winter out of my system. But that's not saying this season is without its perks.

When the weather is sweltering, I give in to my cat-like tendencies and spend as much time as I can in the heat. But when it's cold, I seek warmth in my home, and not just because I have the furnace cranked.

There's something to be said about embracing the great indoors while Old Man Winter barks at our door. It's salve for my soul to hover over a pot of homemade soup or stew in my kitchen, and fill our house with smells that provide aromatherapy for any winter blahs that may come with shorter days and longer nights.

Sliding my feet into slippers every night when I walk through the door is another wintertime ritual I take up and love. I start to live for curling up on the couch to watch a movie when it seems too unbearably cold to go out to the theatre instead. It doesn't matter that I always fall asleep and miss the ending. It's the cocooning that carries me through.

In this issue of OUR HOMES The Niagara Region you'll be taken on tours of two homes that emanate warmth and comfort – the perfect antidote to cold weather. Our Style Picks will have you embracing the season indoors and our Comfort Zone will leave you wanting to get warm and cosy with two people passionate about living the good life at home in any season.

And me? Well, I'll be in my kitchen cooking away until I can turn off the furnace again and trade those slippers for sandals. Or maybe I'll try my hand at another one of those snowmen for old time's sake – with lots of breaks to warm up indoors, of course.

Tiffany Mayer, Managing Editor
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in a few rooms.
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Photography by
Kelly Horkoff.



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65 FOREST RIDGE COURT . WELLAND . \$464,900



Set in the beautiful Estates of Forest Ridge, this 1,630 square foot bungalow was expertly built by KARISMA Homes. From the fixtures to the floors – every inch of this home exudes luxury and class.



Offering an open concept main floor design, 3+1 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a fully finished basement, this home is as spacious as it is beautiful. Main floor living areas are lovingly adorned by maple hardwood flooring and polished porcelain tiles. The stunning maple kitchen is well equipped with premium granite, pantry, conversation island, tile backsplash, and valence lighting. A large dinette with garden door access to the rear yard provides even more space to entertain. Featuring a gas fireplace with a custom mantle and an extra wide 9-foot glass door leading to the rear covered deck (with gas bbq line), the living room is definitely the right place to relax after a long day. Large Master Suite features a walk-in closet, a large triple window and a 5-piece ensuite complete with a soaker tub accented by textured tiles and marble counters. The fully finished basement provides an additional bedroom, and huge Rec Rm, Office and plenty of storage.

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THANK YOU NIAGARA! OUR HOMES Niagara Region has received a fabulous welcome. It's always a struggle to launch anything new, but with the help and assistance of all our new friends and associates, we did it. As a new team working together, there will be tweaks as we go. We're constantly learning, and we'll strive to continually improve and bring our readers the best in home construction, renovation and decorating. Speaking of which, one of those places should have been

mentioned in our last issue. That gorgeous light fixture on Page 25 of our fall 2015 issue came from Don's Light House in St. Catharines, as did most of the fixtures in the home. Don's is a fabulous shop – stop in and see them.

This issue, we share the story of a fab new home on the shores of Lake Ontario, decorated by owner Anne Marie Wolochatiuk. She tapped into the expertise of so many local trades to build her family's stunning bungalow, and filled it with the eclectic collection of pieces she found in her world travels. Each item tells a story and makes her house a home.

There's also the renovation of a century home in Ridgeville. Once multiple apartments, it's now a single family home, its warmth and charm recreated by the talented crew at Tucker Homes. Both are very different homes with very different stories.

And with the announcement of Simply White as Benjamin Moore's colour of the year for 2016, it's the perfect time to introduce you to Kirk and Bren at Simply White Interiors and The Designer's Workroom in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Their shop is simply terrific.

Enjoy this issue, the season it represents and the holidays ahead. May they be Simply White.

In the meantime, we would love to hear from you if you have something to share.

Thank you again Niagara for the warm welcome and see y'all again in the spring as we bring you even more homes and shops in this wonderful region.

Laurie

Laurie Lotimer, Publisher
laurie.lotimer@ourhomes.ca

The Entirely-New 2016 RX

When you create the first-ever luxury SUV, you get to rewrite the rules.

The newly-designed 2016 Lexus RX is the new rule book – the benchmark of premium craftsmanship that all other luxury SUVs can only aspire to achieve. It's fierce yet refined. Elegant with an edge. Flawless. It exceeds current models with dramatically improved styling and leading-edge features.

And of course there's the unparalleled workmanship in every model. The takumi who work in the body stamping division think in microns. Running their hands over moulds and body pieces, they are able to detect the presence of a fleck of dust or strand of hair. Their mission is to prevent the slightest imperfection from compromising the quality of Lexus.



"In all my years in the business, I've never been so excited," said Vince Lepiane, general sales manager of Performance Lexus in St. Catharines at the recent unveiling of the 2016 RX 350. "This is the fourth generation of RX and the most important launch in Lexus history."

Every inch of the RX has been carefully considered and is deliberate in its execution but there's substance to the RX's stunning looks. The 2016 Lexus RX boasts a much-improved 3.5 Litre 6 Cylinder, DOHC, 24-Valve Sequential Multport Electronic Fuel Injection Engine producing 295 hp and comes with available Hybrid option. Drive mode select allows the driver to choose between four driving modes: Eco, Normal, Sport S, and Sport S+. An advanced electric power steering system and braking system provide enhanced response.

The Lexus safety system is designed to detect vehicles and pedestrians, avoiding or mitigating collisions before they happen. If anything is detected, it provides audio-visual warnings, brake assist and emergency braking. Steering wheel vibration, audio and visual alerts, and steering intervention help the driver in avoiding lane departure. The camera and radar are designed to sense the speed of vehicles ahead and driving speed is adjusted to help maintain a pre-determined distance between vehicles.

Then there are the other thoughtful luxurious touches from dash trim stitching to an adjustable-depth cupholder. Even opening the trunk is a magical experience, done with a wave of the hand.

"I believe this new RX will not only surprise new customers," said Takayuki Katsura, RX chief engineer, "but will also delight and satisfy our loyal customers whose high expectations will be met by many new innovations."

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THE WARMTH OF THE SEASON

The weather outside might be frightful but inside can be a winter wonderland.

PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**



1 HOMETOWN TREASURES & DECOR AMOUR

Drummond Shelf
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6 THE KENNETH LANE SMITH GALLERY

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

THE PLACE: Redecorating their family home turned out to be a life-changing experience for Bren and Kirk Petrunick. The owners of interior design shop **Simply White Interiors** and accompanying production space, **The Designer's Workroom**, had just moved back to Niagara from Toronto in 2004 and scoured the region for something – anything – they liked enough to use in their home. Inspired by Muskoka cottages, they sought clean, classic lines with the comfort of French country but everywhere they turned, they saw spaces that lacked the warmth and functionality they craved. “We wanted rooms that were meant to be lived in,” Bren recalls. They achieved that doing the work themselves. Friends and family were so wowed by their efforts, the couple began to re-evaluate their corporate careers.



They eventually traded them in for 500 square feet of retail space in downtown St. Catharines to test the market for their design services. After a few months, the store moved to a larger location in the Garden City's core. Today, Simply White is in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is stocked with Pine Cone Hill, Brunelli and David Fussenegger bedding and blankets, lighting and wall art. There's also space for workshops and the unique Designer's Workroom, a large production area where the Petrunicks' design team makes custom bedding, drapery, blinds, headboards and upholstery for corporate and residential clients.



THE STYLE: Picture a classic button-down shirt paired with broken-in loafers. That sums up the Petrunicks' personal style and it carries over to their store. It's all about crisp, sharp lines. Products and designs are rooted in comfort, versatility and timelessness.

THE TREND: Simply White is Benjamin Moore's paint colour of the year for 2016, and much like the store, it's clean, crisp and multi-purpose. The Petrunicks are seeing a move away from bold colours, but plaids, tartans, chevrons, colour blocking, stripes and Aztec prints dominate as accents. Other go-to colours from Benjamin Moore are Sea Salt, Cosmopolitan and Plaster of Paris.

NEWS: Annie Sloan chalk paints were added to Simply White's offerings this past summer along with seminars to help the DIY-decorating crowd transform their homes with the stylish product. “It's turned into something where people are saying, ‘I want to have 10 ladies together and I'm looking for something different to do,’” Kirk says. “That's great. It's not just going to someone's place and having cheese and crackers. It's something interesting to do and you're learning.”

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Once divided into apartments, the Ward House is now a single-family home that draws attention from passersby.



When Hugh Scholaert first showed the online listing for the Ward house property in Ridgeville

to his wife Christine, she thought the house looked haunted, and the neighbouring barn that held a tea room was, to put it mildly, in disarray.

The Victorian house has a three-storey turret with a widow’s walk – the sort of look Hugh concedes is often associated with horror movies. From what he can tell, the home was originally two separate houses, and in 1880, Josiah Ward built brick walls around them to form one home. Floors were built to cover old foundations. Exterior walls became interior walls.

As for the barn, Hugh says it had three generations of faulty wiring. His son touched the wall once and was blown back by a renegade current. A dishwasher once took a step and her foot went through the floor.

But the Scholaerts bought the property anyway. The old house, its 27.5 acres of surrounding land and its accompanying tea room and shop would be their retirement project. Now, three years of renovations later, Ridge Berry Farm is a showpiece.

When Hugh first looked for a property, he was in his last years as an executive for a telecommunications company. He and Christine were about to move back to Canada after five years in Switzerland. They had lived the commuter lifestyle for years. They were done.

“I just wanted to buy a farm and change my lifestyle and learn how to grow my own food,” he says.



David and Jonathan Tucker of Tucker Homes, who led the charge on the renovation of the house and accompanying barn.



LEFT: An accent colour in the bay window of the dining room highlights the details in the original windows that are still in the home. **BOTTOM:** An updated kitchen offers function with a butcher block island and nods to the other ornate details of this century home with a La Cornue range in Provence blue, available at Nickerson Appliances.

They found the Victorian house and farm on a website for people selling their own properties independently. And while they loved the description of the farm itself, the photos of the house looked “horrendous.”

“I showed my wife and she said, ‘No, no, no, that place is haunted. I don’t want anything to do with it,’” he recalls. “It did look pretty spooky in the pictures. It was bleak and gloomy.” So they clicked away from it.

Eventually, the house popped up on MLS and the Scholaerts’ Oakville realtor brought it up with them.

“Our Realtor grew up in Niagara, and when she was a little kid, she used to walk by the house and always wanted to go inside,” he says. “She asked if I would do her a favour and go see the house. So we came, saw the house and thought, ‘This is not so bad.’”

The property has history. Ward was born in New York, the son of Quaker parents, Hugh says. He was a dredge manager for John Brown, a Welland Canal contractor. When Ward died in 1903, Alandis Crowe acquired the property and started the township’s first canning factory.

As for the property’s earlier history, Hugh has some clues. Ward bought the property around 1865 and didn’t finish the Victorian house for 15 years. Maps dating back to 1840 show two brick buildings standing side by side. One of them, Hugh believes, may even date back to settler Ernest Martin in 1802.

Both the house and the barn, which also dates back to 1880, needed work when Hugh bought them. A lot of work. The house had been converted into three apartments and had layer upon layer of makeshift fixes. One bathroom had live wires connected directly to the shower.

He hired **Tucker Homes** for the renovations, and they jumped into it. **Jonathan Tucker**, who worked on condo projects in Vancouver before coming home to Niagara to work in the family business, took the lead with his brother David.

The Tuckers grew up nearby and knew the property, too. “It was a place I had driven past my entire life because it was sort of overgrown and uncared for,” Jonathan says.

Continued on page 24



Reconstructing THE PAST

STORY **SAMANTHA CRAGGS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

home & builder



The renovation was extensive. Tucker Homes spent 18 months restoring the home to its original grandeur, honouring its narrative in the treasure trove of long-forgotten features they unearthed in the process. Brick walls were exposed, lending both a rustic and rugged feel juxtaposed with the opulence of other spaces, like the dining room with its old-world charm or the ornate widow's walk that sits like a beacon atop the home's entrance. Gingerbread was cleaned up rather than covered.

In the barn, they closed in the porch, which now serves as a three-season tea room. The timber-filled country store stuns with both its inviting feel and attention to detail in the woodwork.

In addition to the heavy lifting by Tucker Homes, there were new doors and windows from **Crowland Sash and Frame Ltd.**; new floors – hardwood, carpets and tiles – from **Alfieri Floor Experts**; new kitchen cabinets from **Timberwood Custom Kitchens Inc.**; counters from **First In Counters**; and new light fixtures from **Home Lighting**.

The further they got into the layers of the house, the less they knew. They found passageways that suggested the rooms had been reconfigured. They dug into the ground and found old foundations, which you can now see through glass inlays cut into the dark wood floor of a three-season room at the back of the house. They found closets and dairy boxes they didn't know existed, and a coin from 1819. "It was like playing archaeologist," Hugh says.

In one area of the house – part of what is now Scholaerts' personal glass art gallery – they dug in and discovered an old staircase. The

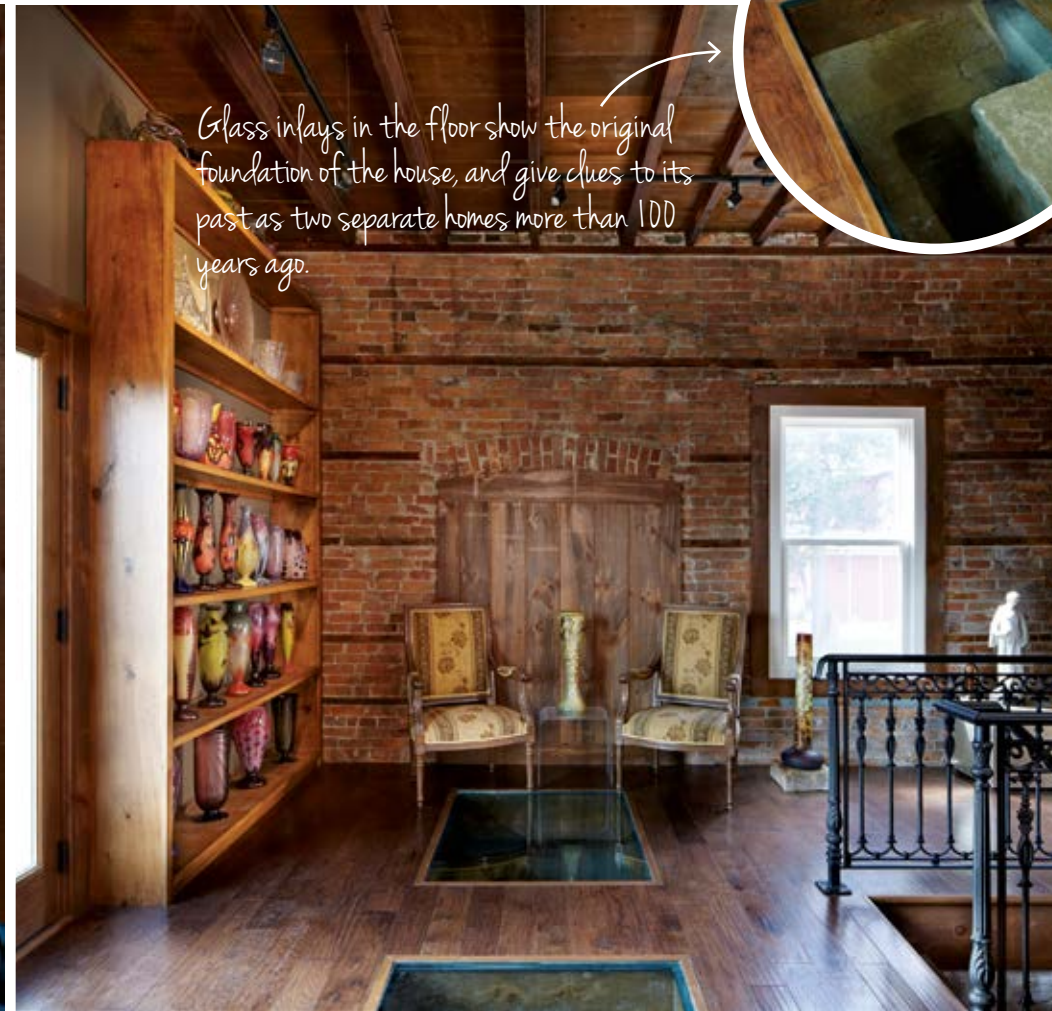


TOP LEFT: Homeowner Hugh Scholaert in a cellar that's functional and bright. **ABOVE:** A three-season room at the back of the house, with original brick exposed, is a great space for entertaining.

LEFT: The entrance to the west wing of the house has been converted into a gallery for the homeowner's collection of glass art.

OPPOSITE, TOP: Exposed brick and glass inlays on the floor are reminders of the home's heritage.

BOTTOM: The Ridge Berry Farm Tea Room in the century barn on the property. Once an open veranda, this area has been closed in to extend the tea room's season.



Glass inlays in the floor show the original foundation of the house, and give clues to its past as two separate homes more than 100 years ago.



Preserves, syrups and teas made with homegrown and other produce are for sale at the tea room's country store.



steps are likely more than 150 years old, and tree rings are still visible in the wood. They lead to a spacious cellar that was once two cellars. A Tucker worker found an old piece of wood down there with the word "Ward" scratched onto it. It now hangs on the door to the furnace room as a reminder of the home's heritage.

"Every room was like a special project," Hugh says.

The Scholaerts stayed in the home throughout the renovations, their belongings covered in tarps, coughing through the dust. They also renovated the barn into what it is today, which is the Ridge Berry Farm Tea Room and Country Store.

The tea room is a FeastON location, designated by the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance for the business's dedication to sourcing and selling local food. At the store, the Scholaerts sell the fruits of their farm labour – preserves using their raspberries and blackberries, their currants and gooseberries. They're reviving an old Concord grape vineyard and rousing some apple trees. Their dream has come true. They're growing their own food.

There's still work to do, Hugh says. But the house is majestic now, and the tea room and country store are quaint and comfortable. The main living spaces have maintained their historic appeal with furniture to match. The kitchen and bathroom areas have a modern look.

Is it haunted? Hugh can't say for sure, but there have been incidents. In one case, a window that had been painted shut by a previous owner opened when no one was around. In another, a door banged open and closed on its own.

But with all the work they've done, and their love for their farm and their Victorian home, they're not going anywhere.

"It's a nice little landmark," Hugh says, "and given what we've been able to piece together, we've enjoyed getting to share it." **OH**

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The great room is divided into four distinct living spaces, including the living room, with a view to Lake Ontario, whose chilly appearance in the winter is foiled by the glow of a roaring fire. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Homeowners Anne Marie and Rick Wolochatiuk create a welcoming and eclectic space with pieces collected on their world travels, including this hand-carved, antique doorway from India that's the gateway to the home's great room. **BOTTOM:** Barn beams add an earthiness to a glamorous dining room rounded out with thrift-store finds and thoughtful accents.

from the SEVEN SEAS to LAKE ONTARIO

STORY **AMANDA MOORE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

If you love it, you will find a space for it. That's the advice designer **Anne Marie Wolochatiuk** gives her clients, and her lakefront St. Catharines home is a testament to it.



The open floor plan, which offers Lake Ontario views from all but one room, holds a mix of old and new, reflecting a life spent exploring the world.

"Our house is a scrapbook," Anne Marie says with husband Rick while enjoying the view from the comfortable breakfast nook off their kitchen.

On a clear day, you can see the Toronto skyline, but today it's overcast and the lake and sky appear an endless blue. "It's a hodgepodge of thrift and things that form memories for us."

Anne Marie worked closely with **Chapman Murray Associates Architects** and **Gerald Redekop Builders Ltd.** to create a home that's cosy despite its open floor plan and high ceilings. The couple wanted a space that was both beautiful and functional, particularly for all the entertaining they do. Anne Marie hand-picked wood beams at **JD Wood Revival** in West Lincoln to complement antique Indian doors and pillars she picked up when the couple lived in Seoul, South Korea, and to add warmth to the great room.

She found the pillars and doors by chance in a frame shop she frequented in Seoul. The owner was moving back to India where the hand-carved doors were made, and couldn't take them with him.

"I didn't have a plan for them," recalls Anne Marie, who runs **AMW Design Intervention** in St. Catharines and Austin, Texas. "I had no idea if I could even incorporate them." But she did. She had carpenter **Lee Bambridge** install the intricate doorway of the front foyer to open into the main living space, which functions as four distinct areas: a bar, living room, family room and dining room. When the architect suggested columns in his proposal, Anne Marie had just the pieces – those pillars she purchased in Seoul in a package deal that was a steal.

The real star of the great room is the large, picture-frame windows from **Penner Building Centre** that give view to the beauty of the lake.

Vintage barn beams from JD Wood Revival form the fireplace mantel and run across the ceiling in the dining area. Salvaged barn floor planks, which Anne Marie sanded by hand, are now shelves behind the bar and in the kitchen, where they're set against a geometric backsplash by **Anfra Tile & Stone Ltd.** in Thorold. Anfra Tile and Stone also installed the quartz countertops. *Continued on page 30*



feature



Anne Marie worked with **Elmwood Fine Custom Cabinetry** in St. Catharines to design the cabinetry throughout the house, including in the only room without a lake view, the laundry room.

The rustic wood floors in a chardonnay oak from **Golia Flooring** in Niagara Falls tie together the home's theme of vintage-meets-modern.

The majority of the furnishings throughout the home were picked up in the more than 40 countries they have visited – experiences for which they are grateful. It includes the four countries they've lived in, plus another 20 that Rick has visited for business. Everything was purchased at thrift shops, consignment stores, markets or antique stores.

"I'm a big thrifter," Anne Marie says. "I find a lot of treasures in thrift shops. I find out where they are in every city we visit."

Those treasures appear in every room. Walls are lined with carvings and other art from various cultures. There are framed posters that hold memories: a "Sir Isaac Brock Wants You" poster from Brock University in the 1980s that's a nod to the time and place the Wolochatiuks met; and one from a bull fight they attended with their two daughters while

visiting Spain in the mid 90s. They're complemented by pieces that Anne Marie found and simply thought were neat, like the yellow, original Czech Beatles poster she picked up at an old print shop in Prague.

"It's definitely a mix – an eclectic mix taken from our travels," says Rick, who credits his wife for much of the design of the home. "I never worry if it's going to work in the décor," Anne Marie adds. "It just does."

The house is a new build but that wasn't the original plan. The Wolochatiuks purchased the lakefront property in 2005 with hopes of renovating the century home that was already there. That proved to be too much of an undertaking, however. "We worked with architects for a year on a plan," Anne Marie recalls. "We took it to tender and it was not doable. Everyone told us we were better off to start over."

Though the original home was torn down, the Wolochatiuks salvaged what they could and incorporated it into the new house. A 1940s cabinet from the office of a lawyer who once lived in the home fits in amongst the new cabinetry in the kitchen, which is a mix of dark and light palettes with the commercial stainless steel fridge and matching gas stove from **Goemans Appliances**. Four old, oak doors and trim



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

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were given a place in the lower level vestibule. Anne Marie set aside other pieces to use when they finish the lower level. She also salvaged a pair of leaded-glass windows, bowed over time. They've been given a place of prominence in front of the windows in the master bathroom. "I didn't have the heart to get rid of it all; I like labour-intensive things like that," she says standing in front of an antique cabinet that contains trinkets and thrift store finds from her travels, along with wine glasses she painted by hand. "Someone had to go to a lot of trouble to make those."

Most of the furnishings in the home were laborious to create. From the hand-carved Indonesian rice beds to the handmade Balinese gamelan clay figurines – each piece tells a tale, and is now part of the home that tells the Wolochatiuks' story. **OH**

TOP LEFT: A bench adds cosiness to the kitchen nook and makes the dinner table a favourite gathering spot. **TOP RIGHT:** Items from the century home that once stood in this location now find a place in the new house, including window panes with leaded glass in the bathroom. Rope lighting adds whimsy and character. **LEFT:** Barn floor planks as shelving are both functional and decorative in a kitchen that also boasts a geometric backsplash that strays from more conventional subway tile. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) Contrasting colours on kitchen cupboards add beauty and functionality. (2) The powder room is both rich and rustic with its mix of wood, stone and gold. (3) Eye-catching touches on the dining room table cross cultures and bring the outdoors in. (4) Colourful accents throughout the home pop from all corners. (5) It's all in the details, including this mermaid door handle, acquired in the homeowner's travels, on the sliding wood bathroom door. (6) A collage wall of family and collected images adds personality, warmth and visual appeal to the kitchen nook.

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STYLE STALWARTS

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

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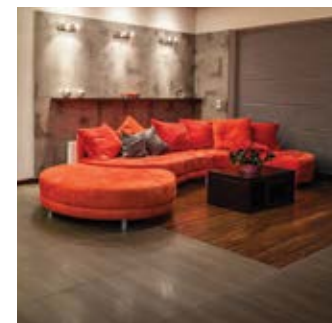
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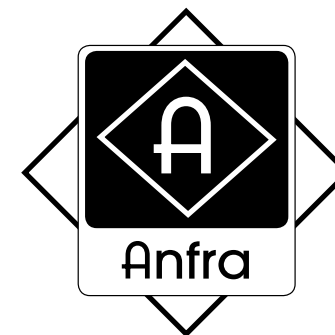
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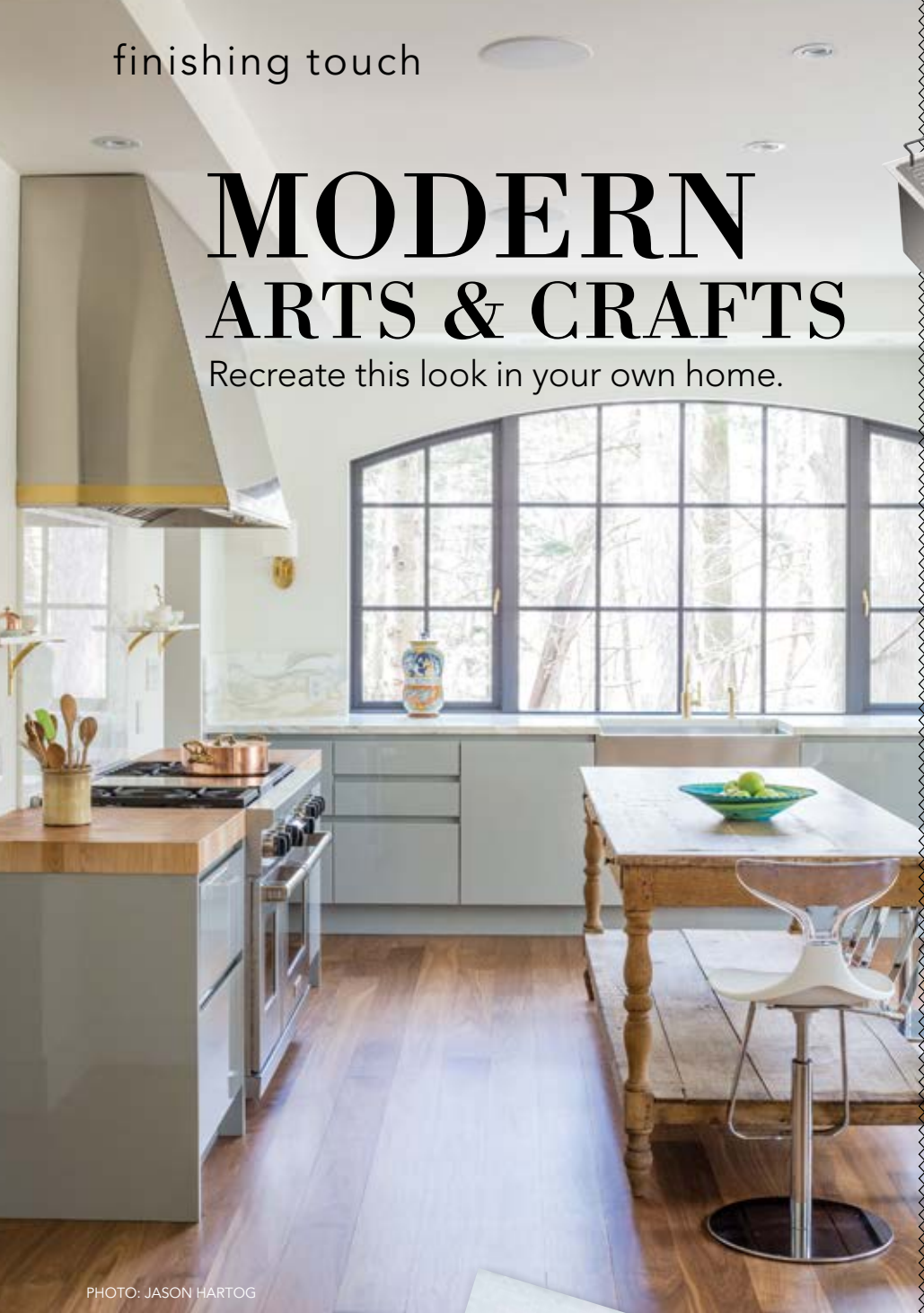


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1. **KOHLER:** Strive Apron-Front Sink 2. **NEWPORT BRASS:** East Linear Pull-Down Kitchen Faucet in Forever Brass 3. **SUNPAN MODERN HOME:** California Adjustable Barstool 4. **AYA:** Milano Light-Grey, High-Gloss, Lacquered Cabinet Door 5. **THERMADOR:** 48-inch Professional Series Pro Grand Commercial Depth All Gas Range 6. **M NAEVE:** 19th Century French Draper Table 7. **ANTOLINI ITALY:** Bianco Lasa Covelano Fantastico, Backsplash or Countertop 8. **FALK COPPER COOKWARE:** Casserole Pan



1



2



3



4



5



7



8



6

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