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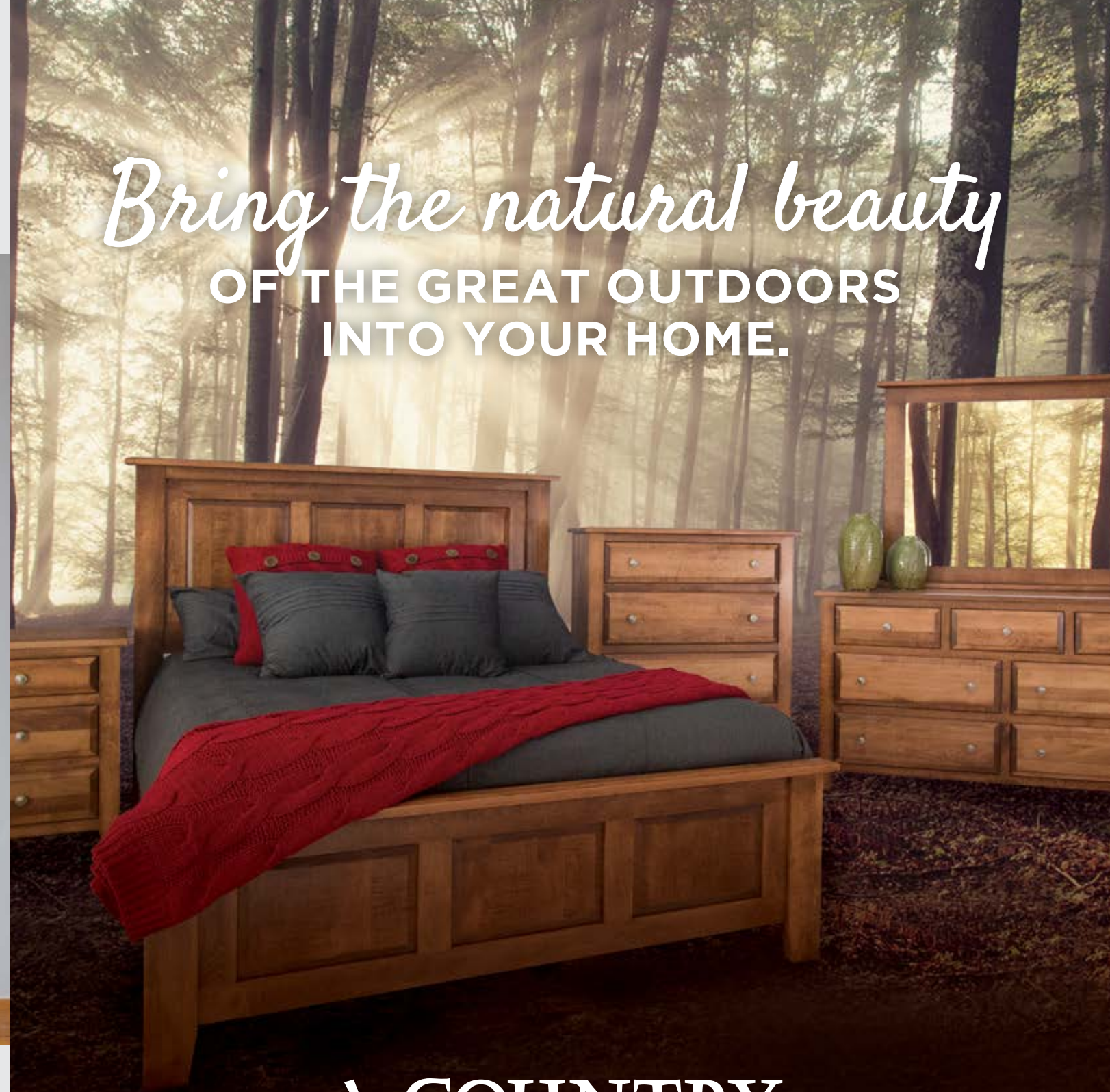


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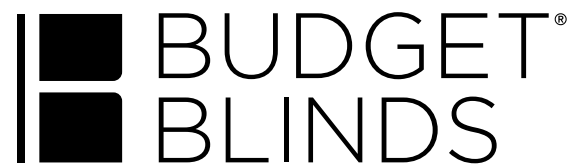
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The Makkar family

PHOTO: LISA PEREIRA

My husband and I will be married for 20 years this coming July. Happy Anniversary to us! I love this region. Everything about it is home, and so many places chart the path of our lives together.

We first met at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (It will always be Erindale to us!) during Frosh Week. Crazy story, but there's actually a photo of us on the front page of *The Medium*, the school's newspaper, holding a banner during the downtown parade. We hadn't met yet, but there we are, before our story began, already together.

The store where I bought my red dress is gone, but the night he saw me wearing it, he called me his lady in red and asked me out. On our first date, we saw *The Mask of Zorro* at the Sussex Centre. If you know Mississauga, you can't miss this pink building!

There's Lakeshore Park where I broke his heart when he wanted to get serious. It's also where he gave it back to me when I realized the mistake I'd made.

I spent a lot of time lounging at the bar at The Glen Erin Inn where Emil worked nights as a waiter, and he'd return the favour by taking me for a strawberry Yogen Früz when I was working at Donato Salon and Spa.

There's Michael's Back Door where he treated me to a romantic dinner, and the Mississauga Canoe Club where we learned to paddle together and realized there's no romance when we try to paddle together.

There's Erindale Park where we took our fall engagement photos, and our home in west Mississauga

where we spent our first 13 years together. There's all the streets we drove tirelessly when the babes wouldn't fall asleep, and the drive-throughs that served the coffee that saved us after those nights.

It's the patios in Oakville and the walks along the lakeshore where we took the time to relax. It's a life in Burlington, where we now call home, even though it first felt like we were leaving the metropolis for farmland. Now we've grown roots and we love everything about it.

When we pass all the places we've been, we retrace the steps of our history, and as we retell our stories to our children, the memories come burning to life like a vivid flame. Everything our region offers is woven into the fabric of our family, and as we toast to 20 years, we're ready for the stories that have yet to be written.

Gina Makkar

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A contemporary colour palette is inspired by the natural tones of the coast. Story, page 76.
Photography by Valerie Wilcox.



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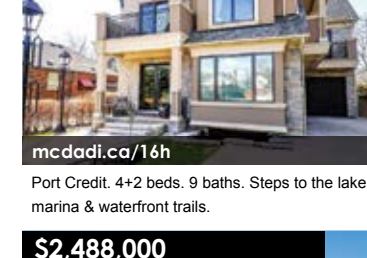
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Lorne Park. Custom. Deep 79.25 x 274.83 ft lot. Meticulously crafted. Finished bsmt w/walk up.



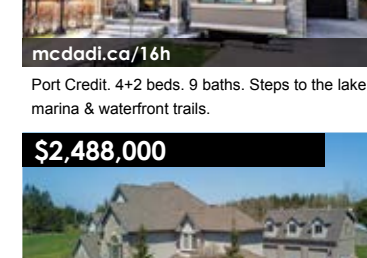
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4 beds. 5 baths. Rural setting. Gourmet kitchen. 2-storey great room. Formal dining room. In-ground pool.



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3 acre lot backing onto ravine & spring-fed pond. Gourmet kitchen. Spacious master.



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Rattray Marsh. Close to the lake. Muskoka like setting. 5+1 beds. 4 baths. New 600 sq ft addition.



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5 beds. 6 baths. Clarkson bungalow. 1.5 acres. Backs onto Rattray Marsh Conservation area. In ground pool



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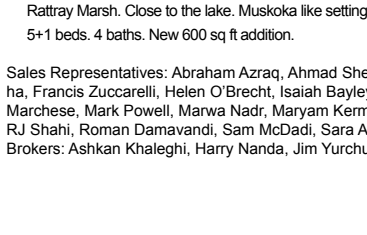
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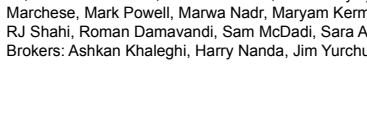
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4 beds. 5 baths. Rural setting. Gourmet kitchen. 2-storey great room. Formal dining room. In-ground pool.

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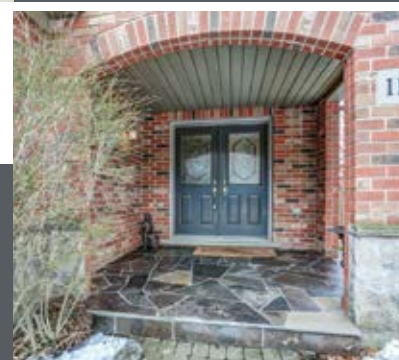
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advice



NIGHT LIGHTS

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

First impressions matter, whether it's a single family bungalow or a condominium building. Outdoor lighting can improve curb appeal, welcome you home and make you feel safe and secure.

Because lighting choices and applications are limitless, you need a well-thought-out plan to help beautify your outdoor living space.

LIGHTING STRATEGY

What is your outdoor personality? To determine that, you'll need to ask:

What do I love most about my yard, patio or balcony?

When and how will I be using my outdoor space?

When and where is security lighting most important?

Do I need help? Can a professional help me achieve my objectives?

Lighting up your yard, garden, deck or patio is a great way to extend the square footage of your living space. It adds ambience to your home, promotes enjoyment and maximizes your entertainment space, adding to your personal style, comfort and convenience.

Strategic placement of fixtures can enhance the architecture and the use of your space. Here are some options:

Up-lighting – lights from below to create a focal point in the landscape

Wall washing – general illumination

Silhouetting – dramatizes an interesting shaped object

Step lighting – illuminates stairways and walkways

Path lighting – enhances landscaping elements such as flower beds, shrubbery and borders while safely illuminating pathways

Deck and patio lighting – provides safety and accent lighting



FEISS: Ledgend LED Outdoor Sconce

BEFORE YOU INVEST

What you need to know before purchasing and installing outdoor light fixtures:

Not all light fixtures can be used outdoors. Check the safety rating for damp or wet locations.

FEISS: Hilo 12-Light Outdoor Chandelier



Hire a qualified electrician. Outdoor lighting requires special attention and fixtures can be located in hard-to-reach places. You only want to do this once, safely and according to the Ontario Building Code.

Buy quality, long-lasting finishes.

Quality housing protects the light and is more resistant to the elements, so fixtures last longer with little to no maintenance.

Colour temperature. Do you want cool or warm light? Selecting the correct lamp can dramatically change the look and feel of your outdoor space.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Be kind to the night sky and your neighbours by directing lights downward, use low glare fixtures and place motion sensors on essential outdoor lamps. Turn lights off when not in use.

NEW, NOTABLE & SOMETHING SPECIAL

Today's technology lets you have more fun outdoors both night and day, with clever and charming items such as:

Portable LED lanterns with wireless speakers. Great for condos and other areas where no electrical outlets are available. The Uma Sound Lantern by Design Within Reach (DWR) has a dimmable light with a speaker.

Chandeliers for that extra bit of panache. Feiss makes an explosive orb chandelier that adds elegance to any outdoor dining area.

Mobile lighting in the form of wireless globes, cube tables and other pieces of furniture. They are cordless and rechargeable with a colour rotation to suit your mood or occasion. DWR makes a variety of globes that are waterproof and glow in a variety of colours.

String lights in a variety of shapes and sizes and price points set a festive mood for patios and balconies.

LED candles come pretty close to the real thing.

P.S. PREPARE FOR WINTER

I know it's summer, but don't forget to prepare for winter. Check bulbs and replace them with LED bulbs, clean fixtures and adjust timers. You can still enjoy the winter landscapes while cosy inside.

Now, you have everything you need to get your exterior glowing and enjoy your fabulous soirées. **OH**



DWR: Uma Sound Lantern



DWR: Ball Portable LED Lamp

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PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



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86 Queen Elizabeth Blvd., Etobicoke
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4 IMPERIAL RUG GALLERIES

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232 King St. E., Toronto | 416.777.0304
imperialrug.ca

5 COUNTRY CHARM

Table

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220 Queen St. S., Mississauga
905.542.9333 | ccharm.com

6 RIVERCROFT INTERIORS

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885 Lower Base Line W., Milton
416.804.8738 | rivercroft.ca

Continued on page 20



7



8



9

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watermelon FROSÉ

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

The frosé (rhymes with okay) is the hottest drink of summer. This wine-based frozen slushie gets its flavour from watermelon, the season’s most popular fruit. Perfect for the patio or around the pool.

INGREDIENTS
Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 5 cups watermelon, cubed and frozen
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup water
- 1 750ml bottle of rosé wine
- ½ cup vodka
- Fresh mint

DIRECTIONS
Core and cube a large watermelon. Place cubes on a baking sheet and freeze. Meanwhile, combine sugar and water in a saucepan. Simmer until sugar is dissolved, creating a simple syrup. Just before serving, add all ingredients to a blender, adding ½ cup of wine at a time. Pulse until smooth. Garnish with mint and serve. If you’re strapped for time, make frosé ahead of time and store in the freezer until ready to serve. **OH**

online Get more recipes at ourhomes.ca/mag/cook



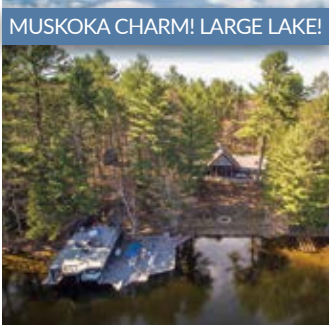
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PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

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Play Pieces

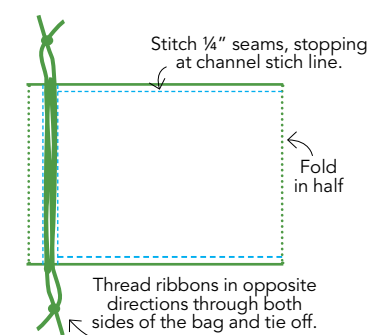
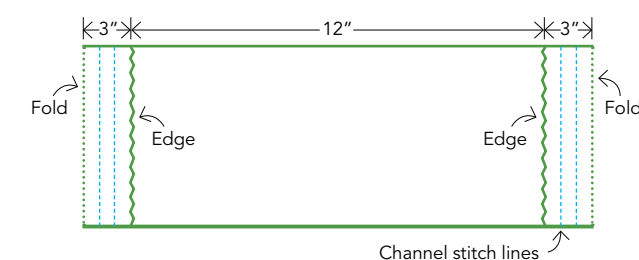
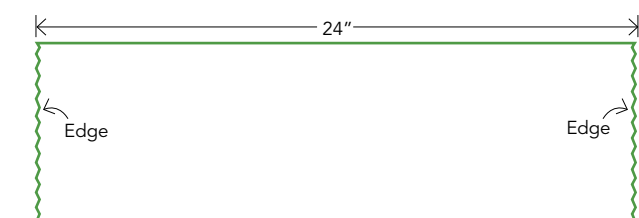
10 small flat stones
Acrylic paint (in colours noted below)
Fine paintbrush
Mod Podge
Black marker

NATURAL

Using white paint, mark five stones with an X and five with an O. When dry, coat with Mod Podge to seal.

BUGS

Paint five stones red and five yellow.
When dry, on red stones using black, paint each end, and a stripe down the middle and add spots.
On yellow stones using black, paint stripes around the stone and a wider stripe at one end for a head.
When dry, add two white dots for eyes on all stones.
Coat with Mod Podge to seal.



Drawstring Bag

Material, six-inches wide by 24-inches long (we used burlap ribbon and fabric)
Ribbon, 2 lengths, 18-inches each
Thread (we matched our material)
Scissors
Safety pin or bobby pin

To stitch a channel for the drawstring, fold 3-inches in from each end of the material. Stitch two seams at each end, at 1-inch and 2-inches from the folds.

Fold material in half, right side in. Stitch each edge with a 1/4-inch seam, stop 2 inches from the top of the bag to leave the stitched channels open. Turn right side out.

Attach the first ribbon to a safety pin or bobby pin and thread it between the stitched channel on the front of the bag and out, then thread back through the channel on the back. Knot the ends of the ribbon together to make a loop. Repeat with second ribbon, starting from the opposite channel opening. You should be able to pull the knotted ribbons and draw in both sides of your bag.

Using a black marker, draw a grid on the drawstring bag with two vertical lines and two horizontal lines as your game board. **OH**

decorating

GOLDEN STATE *style*

STORY **TAMARISK MCNALTY STEPHENS**

California has always been trending in the world of design, but the coveted west-coast style is having a moment.

The interior of a California home reflects a certain reverence for the vast and diverse landscapes found within the state, which include the redwood forests, cliffs along the Pacific Ocean, countless sandy beaches, Red Rock Canyon, Joshua Tree National Park in the Mojave Desert or Lake Tahoe – just to name a few. The connection to the outdoors is a central tenet in creating a space that aligns with the style of the Golden State.

With approximately 300 days of sunshine, Californians are well known for enjoying the out-of-doors and are recognized for being early adopters of sustainable initiatives and organic lifestyles. This connection to the landscape means that interior living environments often naturally extend to terraces and spaces that meld the worlds of indoor and outdoor living.

Inspired and influenced by the landscape, California style can be described as casual, relaxed and organic while also reflecting a deliberate less-is-more approach to obtain a look of curated minimalism. However, this simplistic approach is combined with the thoughtful layering of textures and a keen attention to natural and artificial lighting, which creates a warm and inviting space.

PALETTE

To create this look in your own home, begin with a soft, neutral backdrop in a muted palette of whites and ivories for walls and ceilings to make the space feel bright, fresh and airy. Try Benjamin Moore's Steam (AF-15), White Down (CC-50) or Deep In Thought (AF-30). A plaster finish would be a welcome, warm element that references the Spanish influence of the Adobe architectural style.



TEXTURE

Add in layers of natural textures such as heavy sisal and jute with softer elements such as a light cotton Turkish throw and breezy linen draperies. Natural, wire brushed and white-washed woods, worn leather, wrought iron and many handmade artisan elements such as woven baskets and imperfect pottery are also common design details.

Bohemian touches like patterned tiles and textiles such as vintage Moroccan rugs, Turkish kilims, Navajo weaving or African mud cloth can add a focal statement piece while anchoring the space with a splash of colour and another layer of visual interest.

Continued on page 28



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INTERIORS

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decorating



FURNISHINGS

Another common design statement is created by carefully selecting furniture that is practical in nature and beautifully simple in form. As a mecca of mid-century modern design, the influence of this movement is evident in the clean lines and modern forms that have become synonymous with Californian style (think Palm Springs, home to Modernism Week, which is devoted to celebrating and fostering an appreciation for mid-century design and architecture.)

GREENERY

Bring the natural world indoors with lots of greenery through house plants. Try an oversize fig tree, a rubber tree, which are surprisingly easy to care for, cacti, or native botanicals to add the fresh feeling of Mother Nature in your living space. Integrating natural elements such as driftwood and other treasures found along the shore is another common way to accessorize the home.



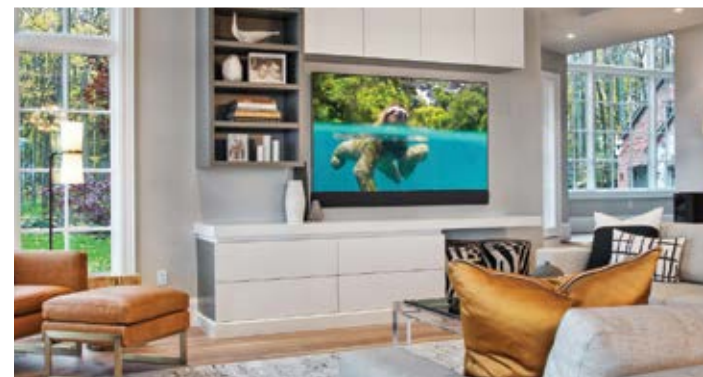
WALL ART

Art that is simple in form and appropriately scaled in tones reminiscent of the sand, ocean and desert landscapes complete the look. Adorn the walls with simple line drawings, textural woven wall hangings or paintings of native plants and animals to create a design aesthetic consistent with California style. **OH**



1. CB2: Love One Another Natural Pendant Light 2. TONIC LIVING: Mali Mud Cloth, Inked Pillow 3. TONIC LIVING: Turkish Towel - The Soho in Stone 4. PADDYWAX: 8oz Urban Candle in Tobacco + Patchouli 5. TONIC LIVING: Hand Woven Baskets 6. CRATE AND BARREL: Large Botanica Vase 7. OLIVER WOOD DESIGNS: Large Distressed Stump Side Table 8. JAIPUR LIVING: Anatolia Ottoman Rug in Smoke Blue and Pelican 9. ABBOTT: Leafy Palm in Pot 10. CRATE AND BARREL: Manzanita Branch 11. DÉCORS VÉRONNEAU: Artificial 5-foot Traveller Palm 12. RENWIL: Force Wall Décor 13. RENWIL: Flint Framed Prints 14. CB2: Kathleen Framed Print by Leslee Mitchell 15. RENWIL: Bratley Woolen Handwoven Wall Hanging 16. MOOOI: Zio Buffet 17. CRATE AND BARREL: Spoke Marble End Table 18. STYLUS: Naples Accent Chair 19. CB2: Cacti Glow Brass Table Lamp 20. CB2: Moon 2-Piece Pearl Sofa

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Happy TO SEE YOU

STORY **CATALINA MARGULIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Often a more formal space in a home, this living room is playful and springs to life with colours and textures.

*A BURLINGTON HOME
SEES HAPPIER DAYS WITH
ELEGANT UPDATES AND
COLOURFUL ADDITIONS.*

Continued on page 32

feature

RIGHT: The colour palette flows from the living room to the dining room.
BELOW: A small entryway can have big impact. Here, pretty tile paired with simple seating and a mirror complete the space.



The switch to brighter tones leaves the dining room awash with light. **TOP RIGHT:** Vibrant pops of colour are used throughout the main floor.



A casual evening with pals turned into a dream come true for Sabah Ahmed when she enlisted the help of designer friend **Trisha Ross** of **Trisha Ross Interiors** to update her 2,800 sq. ft. home.

“It was early last year,” recalls Sabah. “Trish is a friend of mine, so I asked her to come in for a paint consult. She came in with samples one night and we talked about what we could do in terms of brightening things up. She had amazing ideas that got us all excited. Everything happened very quickly after that. She brought in her contractor, he gave us quotes, and here we are, a year later, enjoying this beautiful house.”

Located in Burlington’s prestigious Millcroft neighbourhood, Sabah and her family (husband Shaun Rath, daughters Safiya, 8, and Adeena, 7) have lived in their home for over five years. “There’s a community feel to the neighbourhood. It’s well established, with a good school, and the lot sizes are bigger,” says Sabah.

While the family loved the neighbourhood and bigger footprint, they never liked the house’s darker palette and features, and Sabah found the interior landscape dark and unappealing. “When we first moved in, I loved the layout, but everything was very dark – dark

Continued on page 34

The dated kitchen cabinets received a facelift. New quartz counters and backsplash give the makeover finesse.



floors, dark kitchen cabinetry, dark paint. It was always in my mind to brighten it up; it just didn't fit our family and our style," she says.

Enter Trisha, who set to work brightening the space and increasing the flow of natural light. To start, she tackled the foyer. "Previously it had doors on it, so we opened it up to increase natural light in the entryway," Trisha says.

"I needed the house to be bright, and wanted it more modern and more contemporary," adds Sabah. "I wanted a nice happy feeling when you walked in. Trisha came up with the exact same vision I had in my mind. It's fabulous."

The entire home was repainted and floors were refinished in a lighter, brown-grey stain. In the kitchen, a tile floor was replaced with a hardwood floor that matched the rest of the house for a seamless look, while a plank-style tile from **Eden Tile-It** was installed in a chevron pattern in the entrance and laundry room.

The kitchen cabinetry was in good condition, so Trisha had it painted. Quartz counters were installed by **Aussie Stone**, and a new faucet, hardware, sink and backsplash were added. Curtains from Fabricland impart a fun pop of colour to the neutral space.

"What I love about Trisha is that she worked with what we have



LEFT: The main floor hallway now transitions beautifully to the adjoining mudroom.
BELOW: Consistent colours and finishes create a seamless flow from room to room.
BOTTOM: Friendship turned into a great partnership between designer Trisha Ross and homeowner Sabah Ahmed.



and was able to change our home in such a dramatic fashion without changing things structurally," says Sabah. "She told us to keep our existing furniture and she got finishing touches – she changed out all the pillows and got new artwork for the living and dining room."

"Not everything has to be ripped out," says Trisha. "It's about bringing out the best in a home, as well as adding new things."

Likewise, Trisha kept the powder room vanity but had it sprayed "greige" by **The Bradburn Group**. "By changing the colour palette on the vanity, it toned down the yellowness coming through the counter," says Trisha, who also added a new faucet, lighting and floor tile.

Continued on page 36

feature

“The powder room floor looks like wood but it’s not. Little things that Trisha put in are so cool and unique,” says Sabah.

Electrical work in the home was done by **Dias & Sons Electric Inc.** Lighting from **Home Lighting** and new furnishings were added throughout. The front living room lightens things up with colourful artwork from Celadon and mirrored coffee tables. In the family room, a bright red sofa is upstaged by an even more colourful ottoman from **UpCountry**. A gallery wall of family photos adds to the fun, playful feel of the room.

The laundry room also got an update. “It previously had a door and was closed off. We blew it open and repeated the chevron tile from the entrance, as well as building all new custom cabinetry. We brought in lockers for backpacks and added a bench with custom cubbies,” says Trisha.

While Trisha used a light touch on the rest of the home, the master bathroom was “completely gutted,” she says.

“The highlight for me is the master bath,” says Sabah, “I wanted it to be calm, to have a serene feeling, and be a private little oasis, and

Continued on page 38



Colour and pattern take centre stage in the functional yet playful family room. **BELOW LEFT:** The original powder room vanity was given new life with paint.

“The powder room floor looks like wood but it’s not. Little things that Trisha put in are so cool and unique.”



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feature

Trisha did exactly that. Before the reno, it was all shiny and black. The shower was like a coffin. It doesn't look like the same room at all."

In addition to a new vanity, mirrors, tub and large-format, marble-style ceramic tile, Trisha increased the shower size. Wallpaper with a whimsical branch design from **Katie's Wallpaper** appears along one wall, while custom artwork was ordered from Celadon. "It's photography printed on acrylic, which is good for moist areas like bathrooms," says Trisha.

"What also made a huge difference was changing all the lighting throughout the house," says Sabah. "There's a flow now. The lighting is all similar, modern, with clean lines. It catches people's eyes when they walk in the house."

The result is nothing less than stunning, as the homeowners would agree. "When I walk in, it makes me feel happy," concludes Sabah. "All those little things have totally changed the look of the house. It's bright now and fun and sunny. Happy is what I think of when I look at it." **OH**



TOP: The wallpaper's delicate design gives the master bath its spa feel. **LEFT:** Photography printed on acrylic adds a dramatic touch. **ABOVE:** The reno made room for a larger, brighter shower space.



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ARTERIORS:
Hammond Chandelier

Splurge WORTHY

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**

We know some things we shop for will be a passing fancy – like a “millennial pink” pillow or a glitzy brass bauble. However, some pieces in your home should absolutely be approached as an investment, and if chosen well can become a true heirloom, weathering decades of use and shifts in style.



CIRCA LIGHTING:
Sanger Small Chandelier

A ROOM-MAKING RUG

While too often rugs end up being an afterthought, if chosen properly they will and should anchor and elevate the look of an entire room. Rugs can also last for generations, if selected in a quality material, tight weave and a timeless style. Traditionally, patterned rugs can feel very hip and trendy when mixed with contrasting styles of furnishings, but you also know they’ll stand the test of time, as these styles have already endured for centuries. Just expect to pay as much for a long-lasting rug as you would a good sofa, and in some cases, depending on size, even more.

LOOK FOR: Wool in a tight weave.

TIP: Bend the rug on a diagonal to make sure there isn’t excess empty space between the rows of fibres for soil to gather.



THE RUG COMPANY: Amritsar 403

A STATEMENT CHANDELIER

Individual pendant lights may not be worth moving from home to home, but a grand chandelier is forever. Plus, it can be enjoyed from all angles and makes a natural focal point, so it’s worth investing a bit to get something that stands up to all the extra attention. For the best long-term investment, choose a handcrafted one-of-a-kind piece, or look for a style that has lasted for at least 15 years (such as a French mid-century period crystal chandelier), to avoid passing fads.

LOOK FOR: Honest finishes like smoked glass or bronze, rather than faux finishes like gold-plate.

TIP: Choose one with an adjustable cord or chain, so it can be rehung in a taller or lower space later. *Continued on page 42*

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design ideas

A STRONG BUT SOFT
LEATHER SOFA

A good sofa needs to do a lot: be comfortable, look good, survive spills and indulge naps. This is definitely not a place to cut corners in any home. A quality leather sofa in a natural, supple material, will only grow more beautiful with age as the material develops a patina over decades of use. The best thing about a comfortable sofa? It can start as the central feature of your first home, and eventually move to a den or study in a future space – but you'll always have that one place you love to lounge.

LOOK FOR: Timeless natural shades like tan or soft grey.

TIP: Choose a simple and understated style that's truly comfortable, and then customize with beautiful one-of-a-kind vintage pillows. Think Hermès scarves turned into pillows.



LIGNE ROSET: Nils Sofa



TRIBUTE GOODS:
"Fleur de Montagne"
Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Galop Chromatique"
Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Marcelina" Gray
Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Marcelina" Plum
Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

AN ORNATE MIRROR

Like Modern? New Traditionalist? Art Deco? No matter your preference, you can find a beautiful mirror that adds style to your walls, while also being functional and doubling the visual size of a room. Ultimately while the frame will add flair, it's a quality piece of glass that will make a true heirloom, so look for one without the subtle ripples and warps that you often find in flimsier mirrors.

LOOK FOR: Clear, flawless glass.

TIP: A traditional mirrored frame with bevels and facets will be the most timeless.



RESTORATION HARDWARE:
Louis Philippe Gilt Lener Mirror

THE ART SHOPPE:
Nero Mirror

A PAIR OF CHAIRS

Whether you host massive family gatherings or intimate dinners, every home probably needs at least two great one-of-a-kind vintage chairs. While mixing and contrasting your furniture gives great creative results, having at least one matching pair gives lots of options: they can be part of a living room set, serve as end chairs anchoring a dining table, or be broken up to give differing rooms a sense of continuity.

LOOK FOR: Sturdy construction – good bones can be reupholstered later.

TIP: Seek out reputable manufacturers that have perfected just a few classic models over years, as these are proven to stand the test of time. **OH**



THE ART SHOPPE: Velvet Bergère Chair

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STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

The addition of a fabulous outdoor structure enhances a backyard garden by providing an architectural destination to enjoy with family and friends. Garden structures firmly underpin and contrast the relaxed shapes of plants, thus providing valuable focal points.

Not only do garden structures provide functional requirements such as shade, shelter and privacy, they also enhance the landscape by adding opportunity to express one's individual personality and style.

Garden structures have countless uses – anything from saunas and yoga rooms to complete outdoor kitchens with fireplaces, pizza ovens and home theatres. They also come in many different shapes, forms and combinations. Let's take a closer look.

Cabana: A cabana (sometimes called a pool house) is basically a miniature house that usually shares architectural style with the existing home. They typically hold the pool equipment and have plumbing, electrical and fixtures just like any house, and can serve a multitude of functions in the backyard. Pool houses are the epitome of luxury and can even be equipped with glass walls and pocket doors that can open up fully for the summer months. They sometimes are designed with a pavilion or pergola attached to create a unique structure that maximizes outdoor living space.

Pergola: A pergola is an outdoor structure that consists of posts or columns and an open "roofing" grid of beams and rafters. Often rustic and made of wood (though sometimes modern and metal) these offer aesthetic value and a feeling of walls and ceiling. They provide some sun protection by way of light filtration but not any real protection from rain and other adverse weather. An option is to build it with a louvered cover system that can open and shut as needed, offering maximum versatility. They can be freestanding or attached to the home, depending on the structure and rooflines with pillars added to the posts if appropriate for the space.



Arbour: An arbour is similar to a pergola, but on a smaller scale. Both arbours and pergolas can provide support for climbing plants, adding a lovely lush effect. Arbours can frame a view when placed alone or added in succession to provide a gorgeous tunnel effect.

Pavilion: A pavilion is an open-air structure with a solid roof. They generally don't have walls but are sometimes enclosed on one or two sides for privacy or wind shelter. A wonderful function of having a solid roof is that these spaces are protected from the elements so there's no need to store outdoor cushions or apply furniture coverings. These spaces are ideal as outdoor living rooms complete with plush sofas, toss pillows and, of course, a freestanding fireplace.

Gazebo: Similar to a pavilion and offering many of the same functional benefits, a gazebo has a solid roof and no walls but with one key difference – they are always octagonal in shape. These fit in well to country settings but in a modern application they often look awkward.

TIP: Sometimes prefabricated metal and cloth canopy structures (typically sold by big box stores) are also called gazebos. Though these are tempting because of their price point, they are a temporary solution and will require frequent replacement.



Greenhouse: Perhaps these buildings are self-explanatory but couldn't you just imagine a gorgeous glass greenhouse in your backyard filled with lavish plants and a swanky little seating set ready for afternoon tea or an evening glass of vino? As these are prefabricated, there is no need for architectural design, though proper placement is crucial. Buyers beware – permits may also apply!

Though a landscape designer can provide concept plan and inspirational photos as the starting point for outdoor structure design, most will require a technical draftsman to blend detailing with local building code requirements. This can be accomplished

through some combination of a Landscape Architect/Engineer/Builder/Architectural Technologist. Designing an outdoor structure is a process and a specialty field – larger structures will require building permits and zoning permissions.

As the illustrious Benjamin Franklin once said, "The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." The application of this phrase to outbuilding construction is no exception. Be forewarned – great tradespeople are in short supply and many good builders are already fully booked a whole year in advance. Take your time to find the construction company that's right for you and be prepared to wait for the perfect end result. **OH**

Melanie is a landscape designer and a certified horticulturalist.



cooking at home

PEACH & COCONUT *caramel* POPSICLES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

This yummy frozen treat is full of sweet, fresh peaches and coconut. These home-made popsicles make a healthy and wholesome dessert.



PEACH MIXTURE

2 large or 3 medium peaches
1 Tbsp honey
1 tsp cinnamon

Dice peaches and add to saucepan with honey and cinnamon. Heat until soft, then set aside to cool.

COCONUT CARAMEL

1 can (14 oz) full fat coconut milk
½ cup coconut sugar
¼ cup honey
1 Tbsp coconut oil
1 tsp vanilla extract
Sea salt

Combine coconut milk, coconut sugar and honey in a saucepan and heat over medium.

Cook for 10-15 minutes or until thickened.

Remove from heat and add coconut oil, vanilla and a pinch of sea salt.

Set aside to cool.

COCONUT MILK MIXTURE

1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
1 Tbsp honey

Mix together coconut milk and 1 tablespoon of honey, set aside.

TO ASSEMBLE

Using popsicle moulds, spoon in peach mixture then coconut caramel until each mould is half full.

Top up each mould with coconut milk mixture.

Place popsicle sticks in the middle of each mould.


Release any air bubbles in the moulds by gently moving the popsicle sticks.

Freeze until firm. **OH**


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PROUD NOMINEE OF THE 2015 OAKVILLE AWARDS FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

STORY
JOYCE TURNER-GIONET
PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG

AN OAKVILLE LANDMARK



THE PLACE: Swiss Interiors opened in Oakville in 1953, the same year Ford Motor Company arrived in town. The original owners, Sam and Betty Muller, came from Switzerland, hence the name. However, most of the furniture is designed and manufactured in Canada. "This means materials and processes are of a higher quality," says Carol Vesters, Sam and Betty's daughter, who now owns the store with husband Rick.

THE STYLE: Swiss Interiors is an anomaly in an era of online shopping. "Online sales are not for us," says Carol. "We insist that furniture is something you need to see up close, feel and try." The store is still socially savvy, with a thriving Facebook and Instagram presence. See something you like? Check out the website for more

detailed specs. To help imagine how items will look in a home setting, the store is staged with four floors of intimate vignettes. Customers are pleasantly surprised by the selection of home décor on display.

WHAT'S ON-TREND: "Clean lines, neutral palettes, furniture groupings with splashes of bright colour supplied through artwork and accessories are on-trend," says Carol. At one time, everything was sold in sets – coffee tables with matching end tables, sofas with matching love seats and chairs, even bedroom suites. Today, design leans to the eclectic, mixing individual pieces and styles. "Interior spaces have become far more interesting," says Carol. "It's also more difficult to get it right – more reason to



have the help of professionals like the staff at Swiss Interiors," she adds.

POPULAR PICKS: Mid-century modern design took hold a few years back and according to Carol, shows no sign of letting up. Perhaps because it's a classic, versatile style and the size of pieces complement today's smaller spaces. Whatever your style, this downtown

Oakville mainstay has you covered. Carol's final words? "Many people think downtown Oakville equates with expensive, but they're happy to discover that from traditional to transitional, we offer a huge selection of fine-quality furniture that is competitively priced."

WHERE: 217 Lakeshore Rd. E., Oakville
905.844.3530 | swissinteriors.com OH





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ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

PLANNING A RENOVATION? YOU MIGHT QUALIFY FOR A REBATE OR GRANT FROM ONE OF THESE ONTARIO PROGRAMS.

GREEN ONTARIO FUND

The aim of this Ontario program is to reduce energy consumption and fight climate change. It offers all residents living in townhomes, detached or semi-detached homes renovation discounts of up to \$20,000. Money is available for renovations and improvements, including replacing air-source heat pumps, installing high-performance windows and adding insulation and a home geothermal system.

Ontario condo owners can use the rebate for installing smart thermostats or upgrading air conditioning systems and electric appliances.

Using the program website, applicants can find a participating contractor in their area, who will submit the application for the client, including all necessary documentation, and install energy efficient products in the house.

A rebate cheque will be sent to the client once the work has been completed and proof of purchase has been submitted.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, starting at the beginning of the year. More information is available at greenon.ca.

ONTARIO HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Conserve energy and save some money. If you are planning a renovation, this program is for you. But don't start your renovation until you pre-qualify for the program, which includes a mandatory energy assessment.

Union Gas and Enbridge deliver this program for their customers in partnership with the Ontario government and Save On Energy. Homeowners can get up to \$5,000 back by installing two or more eligible

measures. Some of the energy assessment costs will be reimbursed.

Homeowners can use an online tool at ohcep.ca to find a participating energy advisor to help complete the application and project.

ONTARIO RENOVATES PROGRAM

This program offers seniors and others funding for urgent repairs, such as roofing, structural plumbing, septic systems and fire safety. Money is also available for accessibility modifications, such as ramps, handrails and chair and bath lifts for persons with disabilities and seniors to allow them to "age in place."

Counties and municipalities that participate in the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario program deliver the funding to its residents. Funding comes from the federal and provincial governments.

Check with your municipality for the status of the program in your area.

HOME AND VEHICLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Established by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and offered through the March of Dimes Canada, this program provides funding for basic home and/or vehicle modifications for Ontarians with impairment, enabling them to continue living in their homes, avoid job loss and participate in their communities.

Applicants must be permanent Ontario residents and have an impairment caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness that is ongoing and/or recurring and is expected to last one year or more. Applicants must demonstrate that the impairment impedes mobility and results in substantial restriction in activities of daily living.

The program provides up to \$15,000 lifetime maximum for home modifications, and/or up to \$15,000 every 10 years for vehicle modifications.

Other eligibility criteria are available on March of Dimes' website at marchofdimes.ca.

HOME ADAPTATIONS FOR SENIORS' INDEPENDENCE (HASI) PROGRAM ON-RESERVE

Aboriginal Peoples living on-reserve can apply to receive a loan of up to \$10,000, which can be forgiven if the occupant continues to live in the residence for six months after the modifications.

On-reserve seniors in northern or remote areas may receive an additional 25 per cent in funding. Eligibility states that on-reserve applicants must be 65 or older, be experiencing difficulty with daily activities due to aging, and have a total household income at or below a specified limit.

The loan money should be directed toward adaptations, such as handrails, easy-to-reach work and storage areas in the kitchen, and walk-in showers with grab bars.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Many municipalities offer grants and incentives for first-time homebuyers and for homeowners who are improving their secondary (granny) suites.

Contact your municipality for information. **OH**



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Great Value!

This 1,562 sq. ft. brand new single detached home features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, a double car garage. On a 36' lot. Hardwood in the great room and large 18x18" tile in the kitchen. 9' ceilings on main, standard! Seguin model.

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Your Next Family Home!

This Thomasfield plan, the Bayfield (1,788 sq. ft.) features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, and a double car garage. On a 36 lot. Large walk in ceramic shower in ensuite! Open concept Kitchen, Dinette and Great Room.

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Spacious and Luxurious

At 2,249 sq. ft., the Caledon plan, is sure to impress. Featuring 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms on a 36' lot, this is a great home to raise a family and entertain guests with a large great room with beautiful hardwood flooring and large kitchen with bar island and walk-in pantry.

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Beautiful Kitchen!

Beautiful 1,960 sq.ft plan "Marietta 2" with 3 bed, 2.5 bath Open concept kitchen/dinette and large loft with skylight.

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2,240 Sq. Ft Plan!

Gorgeous large home, the "Brittany 3", features 3 bed + office & 2.5 bath. Open to above living/dining with gas fireplace/hardwood.

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STORY
GINA MAKKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG



LEFT: Custom built-ins and contemporary furnishings give the dining room a stately feel. **BELOW:** The entrance received an update with new modern doors.



THE WALL

Comes Tumbling Down

When Norma and Dan were transferred to Toronto from Calgary almost 20 years ago, they chose a stately, two-storey red brick beauty in Lorne Park to call home.

They loved the location, but the home was in need of a few updates. “There was a huge wall, and my husband said then ‘that’s the first thing that needs to go,’ ” says Norma. “We moved in the summer, and I love to garden, so when it finally came time to discuss taking down the wall, he had changed his mind and it was a no. Everyone said it had to come down, but my husband dug his heels in. From then on I teased him that if he goes before me, my last words to him would be ‘and the wall is coming down.’ Then, one day, he just blew me over when he said ‘Okay Norma, here’s your budget. Take the wall down.’ ” *Continued on page 56*



Jackie's attention to detail resulted in beautiful sightlines from the kitchen to the dining room.



Designer Jackie Connolly of Parsons Interiors took the family's wish list and brought the renovation to life.

The couple had worked with **Jackie Connolly** of **Parsons Interiors** on a previous living room project, where she blended the old with the new, incorporating modern elements with vintage pieces that had been kept in the family for years. "We reupholstered a lot of pieces that are heritage pieces that are important to Norma," says Jackie.

A wingback chair with curved legs was given new life with contemporary striped fabric. "It's sentimental to me," says Norma. "It was my grandmother's. She was married in 1913, and it was given to her by her Sunday school class. It's the most comfortable chair in the world." New rugs and artwork were added to complement the more contemporary stylings. From there, the redesign continued into the dining room.

French doors that once enclosed the space were removed to create an open flow between the living and dining rooms. Where the typical dining suite and hutch once stood, Jackie designed beautiful built-ins. Glass doors with a simple mullion detail add elegance. A wood ledge that runs the length of the built-in was stained to match the new dining table, tying them together. Cream chairs and a luxe, glimmering chandelier that Jackie sourced from **Concept Lighting** completes the space.

When Norma got the green light to remove the wall between the kitchen and family room, she called on Jackie, who brought **Marquis Estates Ltd.** on board to handle the construction. "We clicked with Marquis right away," says Norma. "They are an absolutely amazing company to work with." *Continued on page 58*

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Opening the walls created a better flow from kitchen to family room. **TOP RIGHT:** The powder room was relocated and updated with fine finishes. **BOTTOM:** Old and new blend seamlessly in the family room.





The original floor plan included two sets of sliding patio doors, one in the kitchen and the other in the family room. The doors in the family room were removed and a window was added. The kitchen patio doors were swapped for larger, nine-foot sliders. The entryway between the kitchen and the family room was opened up, and the kitchen made larger. The powder room, once tucked in the centre of the home, was relocated to the front entry and made pretty with marble floors in a chevron pattern and a vanity with brushed nickel cup pulls.

In the kitchen, fresh white shaker-style cabinetry with a bevelled edge takes centre stage. A stacked stone backsplash adds dimension. Integrated appliances sourced by Jackie from **Appliance Canada** are beautiful and functional. Two islands allow for plenty of work space and multiple areas to spread out when the couple entertains. The dark finish on the second island helps to delineate the kitchen from the family room.

In the family room, the carpet, chosen at an earlier stage, was a starting point for the redesign. “This carpet was one of the original carpets, and it was customized for Norma,” says Jackie. “We picked all the wool swatches and had it designed to coordinate with other things she had.” The newer pillows and drapes were carefully selected, drawing on hints of the existing colour scheme to blend seamlessly.

A sectional was chosen for its simple, clean lines and treated to Crypton fabric, sure to withstand almost anything that’s thrown at it. Norma’s love of doors was incorporated in the artwork hanging above the seating area. Crushed red velvet chairs that were once in Norma’s parent’s home, were updated with silky fabric in a crosshatch design.

Continued on page 60



A glass enclosed shower brings in light. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The family can dine al fresco just steps from their kitchen door. **TOP RIGHT:** The tub’s streamlined shape makes good use of the corner. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Some of Norma’s much-loved pieces were incorporated with newer additions.

feature



The master en suite was also reconfigured – the total effect is Zen and tranquil.

Norma's vision for a tranquil master retreat was realized with the addition of a makeup vanity and fresh white finishes.



The front entry of the home was also given new life. A single door with sidelights was removed, and larger double doors with glass panels were added. The area is now flooded with light.

In the upper level, the renovation continues. The flooring was stained to match the newer flooring throughout the rest of the home.

In the second bathroom, an awkward pony wall that jutted into the space was removed. A freestanding tub and his-and-hers sinks were added.

The master en suite was also reconfigured. Separate Jack-and-Jill sinks on opposite sides of the room were removed. The standard corner tub was traded in favour of a soaker tub. A makeup vanity was added, and one of Norma's much loved chairs was reupholstered to match its new surroundings. The total effect is Zen and tranquil.

Norma says from start to finish, Jackie was a partner every step of the way. "Jackie and I did it together. The beauty of Jackie is that she can read a customer's taste instantly, but she never imposes her taste or what she thinks. If she thought I was straying too far off the beaten path, she'd kind of pull me back. She was a great guide." With Jackie's keen eye and attention to detail, she was able to create a space that the couple love to come home to. **OH**

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SAGE ADVICE

Our pros share must-know advice for homeowners. PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



**DIANE MACKAY &
BRITTANY NAGY**
Rivercroft Interiors

Tell us about Rivercroft

Interiors: Rivercroft is a family business specializing in full home renovations and interior design. We provide our clients with a start-to-finish detailed spec on completing their space.

What makes Rivercroft unique? Here at Rivercroft we custom make all our tables and wood products. Our custom sofas and chairs are all made in Canada. We also have amazing unique products from all over the world. We have doors from Egypt, pillows and lighting from Indonesia, wood dough bowls from Italy. Blankets, linens and candles are all custom made from our local artisans.

What's new in the barn? We are excited to be opening new locations that we can't wait to share. For more information about how Rivercroft can help you turn your house into a home call or email us. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and Instagram for all the new and exciting things happening with Rivercroft.



KEN LONG
Reno IQ

What is Reno IQ? Reno IQ is a renovation consulting company working directly with homeowners to help select the right contractor for their project, compare estimates and educate homeowners on the renovation process. As a former contractor with over 12 years of experience in renovations, I'm now providing homeowners with the knowledge to renovate smarter.

How much does Reno IQ cost? We have several packages to suit each client's needs. Starting at \$249.99, the cost is typically less than one per cent of your budget and will help you avoid making costly mistakes in your renovation.

Why would I use Reno IQ? Reno IQ will help compare contractors, their estimates, review change orders to ensure additional work suggested by the contractor is necessary and be on your side to help answer any questions the homeowner may have throughout the project. I want to grow your renovation IQ and save you money.

Continued on page 66



CHRISTIANE ALLEN
LEVESQUE & BRUNO
LEVESQUE

*Let It Rain Roofing & Home
Renovations*

Tell us about your company: A full-service roofing and renovation company, we do all types of roofing, ventilation upgrades, insulation, eavestroughs, skylights, roof repairs and custom sheet metal work. Our home renovation division does fences, decks, aluminum railings, carpentry, sheds, pergolas, painting, bathroom renovations, flooring, tiling, exhaust vents and more.

What makes your company unique? We've been around for 29 years, which is awesome considering most roofing companies go bankrupt within two years. We have a solid reputation for our knowledge, quality of work, service and the best warranty in the business. We are a select shingle master with CertainTeed, and only two per cent of roofers qualify for this service credential. We are certified skylight installers with Velux Canada and members of Renomark.

Advice to customers? Homeowners should ensure the contractor they hire is certified with a manufacturer, has insurance, WSIB and an actual place of business. Beware of low prices and cash deals. A cash job means no shingle warranty from the manufacturer or contractor. If you think professional is expensive, wait until you try an amateur.

JON DE VERA,
BRANDON COOK &
TERENCE O'BRIEN

Pool Doctors



PHOTO: MIKE BLACK

What does Pool Doctors offer? Pool Doctors specializes in custom residential pool construction and landscaping. We create designs to fit any space. Our on-staff design team works with clients to capture every item on their outdoor wish list. We are experts in steel and vinyl, fibreglass or concrete pool construction methods, and offer industry-leading landscape installation methods to create the outdoor oasis our clients demand. With the utmost attention to detail from the planning stage to installation and aftercare, we are the premier solution for those looking to turn their backyard into the ultimate staycation paradise.

How do you help clients determine what they should include in projects? We listen to our clients to make each project special and unique. We offer an extensive photo catalogue of previous projects for our clients to browse, our on-staff design team works with clients to capture every detail, including 3D renderings allowing us to truly bring our clients' vision to reality. Once the planning is done and it's time to break ground, we are in constant communication throughout the implementation phase, often making on-site changes to accommodate the wants and needs of the client as we believe that building one's dream backyard is a fluid process and creativity doesn't end at the design phase.

Why use Pool Doctors? Pool Doctors has created a unique and unmatched client experience while the project is underway. We put the client in direct communication with all levels of management in the company so when our clients ask for something, it gets done. We believe that most people only complete projects of this scale once in their lives and we strive to make the experience one they will surely remember.

Continued on page 68

AILEEN BROWN,
BLAIR LASBY &
MICHELLE LAMBERT
SALES AND DESIGN TEAM
Paragon Kitchens



PHOTO: NESO BASARA

What kind of experience can a client expect at Paragon Kitchens? From the moment you step into our showroom, it's evident that the Paragon experience offers something more. Our design process is tailored to truly understand your needs, while challenging your expectations, to provide a layout that not only excites and wows, but is a joy to cook and entertain in. The Paragon design team guides you through all the elements that need to come together when executing a main floor or kitchen renovation.

We showcase our concepts to you with fully realized colour renderings to help you visualize your completed space before the renovation even begins.

Tell us about your service and warranty: The Paragon experience is capped with our dedicated team of on-staff installers, who finish your fine custom cabinetry with the same care and precision we took during the design process. Finally, our lifetime warranty is our guarantee that our superior client experience will last for many years to come!

Continued on page 70



We are kitchen obsessed!
paragonkitchens.com



ARMEN J. TOOTIKIAN &
HAIG TOOTIKIAN JR.
Imperial Rug Galleries

Tell us about Imperial Rug Galleries: Family-owned and operated in North America since 1901, the Tootikian family has been selling and servicing hand-knotted rugs in Oakville for 38 years now. Most of Oakville may be familiar with our Uncle, Bob Tootikian. We personally travel overseas to select the rugs we bring to our showrooms. Our main focus is on selecting hand-knotted rugs with exceptional wools and silks that are very durable.

What's trending? There's still a big push towards modern rugs with some vibrant accent colours. We are seeing a small resurgence in Persian rugs that are either geometric in design or shows its age and has some worn out areas.

What should clients consider when choosing a rug? Quality of wools and dyes are extremely important in determining the durability of a hand-knotted rug. It is best to stick with natural wool and real silk, which will make cleaning very easy over time.

Continued on page 72



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SANDY BAYLEY, ROB MILENKOVIC, LEANNE SIMON, MAURICE FLIGHT & KEITH BOKOWSKI

United Lumber Home Hardware

What does United Lumber offer? As a Home Hardware Building Centre, United Lumber carries a wide range of products from everyday building materials for any size job to anything you may need to make your house a home. We are geared for both the contractor and the homeowner from our large lumber department to housewares and a full seasonal department. Our philosophy is to carry what people need and have the ability to source the more obscure items.

Why should customers work with United Lumber? The shortest answer is customer service. At United Lumber, we pride ourselves on our ability to answer the tough questions. We approach our customers instead of the customer having to seek us out. It is very important to us to give each customer our full attention and it is this that keeps customers coming back.

What's new in store? K-cups, home décor and giftware items, Titan Railing and Fusion Stone. **OH**

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

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MATERIALS

- Black foam core board (or purchase a large letter from your local craft store)
- Paper letter pattern (your design)
- Pencil
- Utility knife
- Mod Podge
- Paintbrush
- Photocopied pictures in black and white or full colour
- Scissors
- Picture hanger

HOW-TO

Lay letter pattern on foam-core board, trace around pattern with pencil. Using a utility knife, cut out design.

Using Mod Podge, paint small areas on design surface and start laying down photos. Paint one coat of Mod Podge over the adhered photos as you go. Continue until entire letter is covered.

Trim away overhanging bits of photo. Finish with two coats of Mod Podge.

Attach a picture hanger on the back.

TIP: If using a store-bought letter, you may want to paint around the outside edges before attaching photos. **OH**

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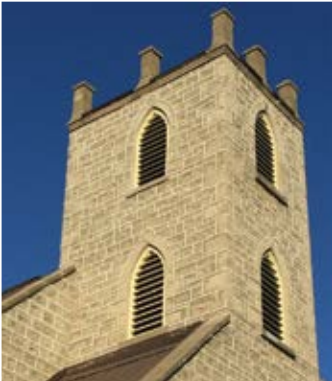
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The front room makeover brightened the room, and colour was incorporated by adding various hues, including a bright yet still tranquil blue.

THE RIGHT STUFF

STORY CATALINA MARGULIS | PHOTOGRAPHY VALERIE WILCOX

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO? THAT'S OFTEN THE QUESTION PARENTS FACE WHEN THE KIDS ARE GROWN AND THEY'RE LOOKING AROUND THEIR SPACIOUS, LIVED-IN FAMILY HOME. FOR TRISH AND DON KNOX AND THEIR OAKVILLE HOME, THE ANSWER WAS A DEFINITIVE *STAY, BUT...* Continued on page 78

“It’s the small details you notice and maybe others don’t,” says Don. “I still get a kick out of these rooms, because we got it right.”



“We’d been here 15 years and we liked the size of the house and the proximity to the trails and everything Oakville offers in terms of lifestyle,” says Trish. And yet, in order to stay and be happy, they knew the home would need to undergo some major updates.

“We said, let’s make a commitment to a renovation that won’t date, that has the look we’re looking for, with quality materials, and that will allow us to stay in the house for 20 more years,” says Don.

With their three daughters grown and out of the house, the couple decided the timing was right to tackle a redesign. They brought in designer **Elizabeth Munro** of **Elizabeth Munro Design**, whom they had worked with after they first moved into the house in 2000.

“Trish and Don love their pool and backyard, which are off the kitchen and family room, and wanted to incorporate them into the design,” says Elizabeth. “They were also frustrated with the flow of the rooms, which wasn’t working for their lifestyle. It was important too that they had a place to relax on the weekends when entertaining family. They wanted a calming and timeless classic look they could live with for many years.”

The kitchen and family room were tackled first. A partial wall between the kitchen and family room and an oversize fieldstone corner fireplace were removed to allow for a more open, welcoming space that showcases the view of the pool. Flooring was updated by **Speers Flooring**. A new gas fireplace from **CobbleStonemembers** was installed on the back wall, and tiled floor-to-ceiling with tiles from Olympia Tile. “It’s the perfect focal point for the open-concept design,” says Elizabeth.

Walls were painted navy, bringing a nautical feel to this city escape. “There are large windows and lots of light, and the navy blue is the perfect accent to the backyard pool, and it gives some personality to the calm palette throughout the rest of the house,” says Elizabeth.

Continued on page 81

Beautiful blue was used in the family room to echo the backyard pool. A floor-to-ceiling tiled fireplace surround provides dimension and a beautiful focal point.

feature

The new cabinetry reaches to the ceiling for much needed space. The large peninsula serves double duty as a seating area and it also houses backyard accessories.



In the kitchen, new custom cabinets extend to the ceiling, providing much needed extra storage. Sleek new appliances from **Goemans Appliances** add function. Since Trish and Don do much of their summer entertaining in the backyard, Elizabeth also added a hidden cabinet on the peninsula near the patio doors to store all their outdoor kitchen items. “It would have been a wasted corner, but we installed a hidden push latch on the end panel, so although it looks like a solid piece, it actually provides a place to hold outdoor dishes and glasses,” Elizabeth says.

She also removed a door to the dining room so the couple could have a double oven, and added a cookbook shelf. “We call it the Elizabeth shelf,” laughs Don.

While the couple chose to keep the porcelain tile that runs from the foyer all the way to the kitchen, the kitchen gets a new life with a coordinating quartz countertop from Caesarstone Canada and a new backsplash. “It made the floor look like new,” says Don.

Elizabeth steered them away, however, from adding a kitchen island. “It’s the number one client request on most of my kitchen projects,” Elizabeth says. “I love an island, but it has to make sense. In this case, it would have made the kitchen cramped and tight. Instead, we went with a peninsula with an oversize countertop, which provides an overhang for

Continued on page 84



LEFT: Doors open to the backyard where the couple enjoys summer entertaining. **BOTTOM LEFT:** An integrated shelf is a great space to display pretty books. **BELOW:** Parsons chairs with textured upholstery add formality to the dining room.



The boxed in tub was removed, creating space for the new one to take centre stage atop an intricate tile inlay.



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stools. Once the project was installed and they saw what a difference it made, they were glad that I had pushed them in that direction.”

Elsewhere, the front room got a dramatic makeover, with a serene soft grey-green colour scheme that is a world away from the dark, stuffy library that it used to be.

The master bath also underwent a big change, and now boasts a luxurious, freestanding bathtub that replaced the home’s old boxed-in tub. Reducing the tub’s footprint also allowed them to enlarge the shower.

“We used large tile on the floor and shower walls, and an assortment of small tiles for a custom border around the shower walls,” says Elizabeth. “We also used two different mosaic tiles to skirt the tub. There was lots of texture, but all done in the same palette. It provides a peaceful retreat at the end of the day.” New lighting from **Universal Lighting** completes the space.

From the unique, carpet-like tile inlay beneath the master tub, to the family room fireplace feature wall, the home is now all about great flow and gorgeous design vignettes.

“Each room flows into the next and you can feel a calm come over you when you are there,” says Elizabeth. “The colour palette, the furnishing, the lighting, it all just comes together in perfect balance and harmony.”

“It’s the small details you notice and maybe others don’t,” says Don. “I still get a kick out of these rooms, because we got it right.” **OH**



ABOVE: The shower was made larger and tile details were added.
LEFT: Earth meets water with soft blue walls and darker elements for an organic feel.



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JAR *Bling*

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

Top a jar with a decorative knob and create a simple solution for storing and displaying the personal care products you use every day.

MATERIALS

Jars with lids (mason jars or recycled jars)
Cabinet knobs or drawer pulls
Paint for metal and wood surfaces
Paintbrush
Large nail
Hammer
1 piece of wood in desired tray size
Cork pads for bottom of tray

HOW-TO

Remove lids from jars. Mark the centre of the lids.
Using the nail and hammer, punch a hole in the lid.
Paint lids and wooden tray with the same colour of paint.
When dry, fasten knobs to lids and cork pads to tray.
TIP: You may have to cut or replace the knob screws if they are too long. **OH**



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STORY AND DESIGN **LISA CANNING**
PHOTOGRAPHY **DANN TARDIF**



DESIGNER LISA CANNING OF LISA CANNING INTERIORS HAS CREATED A VIBRANT AND FUN CRAFT ROOM FOR A CREATIVE CLIENT.

Canning offers tips on how you can turn your crafty dreams into the ultimate room for your DIYs.

1 KEEP IT COLOURFUL

If you can't have fun with colour in a craft room, where can you have fun? In this case, we went with a beautiful teal called Sylvan Mist by Benjamin Moore. It's soft and inviting but definitely saturated enough to be whimsical and playful. I think it's also a really fun accent to the MDF tongue and groove we applied to the walls from Metrie.

I added a bit of colour with the cabinet hardware. I selected cast bronze knobs in bright bronze from Shayne Fox Hardware, adding a pop of contrast against the white cabinets. The bold stools are from Wayfair and I incorporated more colour in accessories – paper clips, pens and a feather-shaped pen holder – all from HomeSense.



2 KEEP IT PRACTICAL

Craft rooms get messy. For this reason, I wanted a really durable, but beautiful floor. I used ErthCovering's Tivoli natural stone plank, which has the texture of wood but the durability and liquid resistance of stone.

And because it is a craft room, including a sink makes so much sense. We used the Delta Cassidy faucet in the Champagne Bronze Finish. It has Touch20 technology. That means that when your hands are full of glitter, simply tap anywhere on the faucet when the handle is in the on position and the water flows. I also love the pull-down spout.



3 KEEP IT COSY

This room is in the basement adjacent to the backyard entrance and as a result, it is cold and drafty, especially in the winter. To keep it cosy, we put in the Celeste stove by Dimplex. My favourite thing about this electric fireplace is just how portable and easy to install it is. A pop of colour in this carpet from HomeSense completes this cosy vignette. And to help with that exterior draft, we replaced the window with an Energy Star rated, top quality vinyl window in white by Fieldstone Windows, and finished it off with Metrie's Very Square casing to keep the details contemporary.

4 KEEP IT PERSONAL

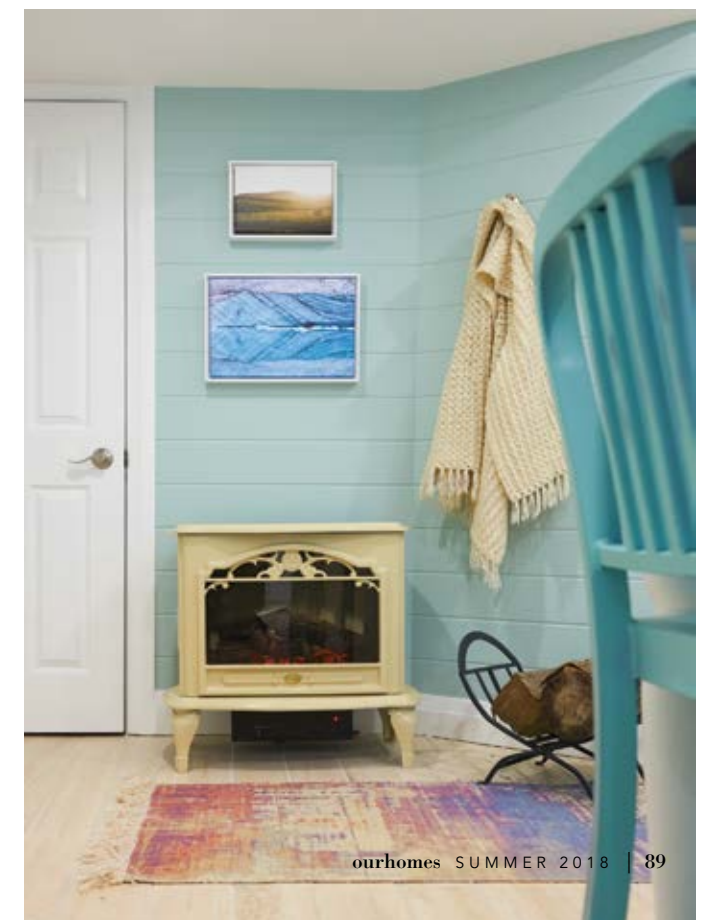
A craft room is where you can get really fun and personal. This homeowner loves the outdoors and essential oils! So I worked with Posterjack to create all of the artwork in the room using personal photos to create unique pieces.



Organization is key when creating the ultimate craft room.

5 KEEP IT ORGANIZED

Keeping craft supplies organized really is the key to an ultimate craft room. The best solution to this, hands down, is strategic storage cabinetry. I partnered with Tailored Living on this project. They provide all the tools to create effective storage solutions that will help you meet your organizational goals. In a craft room, this means a combination of shallow drawers for small items like essential oils and paper, base cabinets for tall bottles and jars, and tall cabinets for rolls of wrapping paper and banners. **OH**





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HOW TO CREATE THE BEST STREET PARTY EVER

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

It's a simple yet powerful concept – an entire block whooping it up in the middle of the road. For a few hours, traffic and regular routines are swapped out for barbecue grills, coolers full of beverages, road hockey and glow-stick wielding kids. As the daylight fades, new friendships have already begun to form.

Street parties are deeply embedded in Canadian culture. In Toronto's Annex neighbourhood, for example, Walmer Road residents recently toasted their 30th annual party, complete with dancing and tug of war.

Similarly, in the east end, many streets, mine included, have long-standing party traditions. With side benefits like increased safety and community spirit, these parties also tend to be keenly envied by everyone else. I can't count how often I've heard, "Wow, I wish we had a street party!"

So does your street want in on the party action? It's actually surprisingly doable – and so worthwhile. We consulted several successful party organizers in Toronto's east end and got recommendations for would-be planners.

Define your goals

Are you aiming to build community and inclusivity, or make memories for the neighbourhood kids? A clear vision helps guide planning decisions and also adds a sense of purpose to your event. Katharine Harrison, who launched a hugely successful event on her street 20 years ago, says she sought to build a safe and caring community after her son, now 21, was born with a disability. Over the years, she says, "The street became so social and so safe."

A few streets over, Rob Torr, Steph Graham and Theresa Bailie dreamed of an alternative car-free Halloween celebration. Now in its 10th year, their spooky-safe street event draws 300-plus kids.

Do lots of consultation and communication

Will we have a small potluck or line cooks? Activities? Do we block off the street or gather in a backyard? What's the best date? When starting up, Harrison recommends consulting neighbours on key aspects: "If you want the most people and participation, that's what you need to do."

Then, keep everyone in the loop with a Save the Date. The week before, send specifics about food, parking, kids' activities, etc.

Arrange permits

If you want to block off traffic, check in early with your municipality about permit fees, barricades or other requirements. For her street's October event, Bailie says, "I begin permit applications in January or February so that there is a placeholder date for Transportation Services each year... I also need to reach out to other city divisions for approval with the waste collection plan, safety plan, fire plan, sound amplification (if applicable). We also need to provide general liability insurance as part of the road closure permit application process."

With these extras, Torr warns, "It is not a cheap endeavour."

Cover costs

After designing your event, Harrison suggests agreeing on a per-household donation to cover agreed-upon items. And don't forget to check with your municipality – some have funding available. Burlington for example, waives street closure fees and offers funding up to \$300 for block events like hockey and movie nights.

Share the workload

Having a fearless leader is great, Harrison says, "But you also need people to recognize that not everything can be done by one person." She suggests a steering committee and planning meetings. Then, for the actual party, delegate. With her day-long extravaganza, Harrison says, "Every family had to participate" with tasks ranging from running kids' activities to clean-up crew.

Pass on knowledge

Harrison says she's now backed away from a leadership role. "My kid is 21. I might be there on the evening to eat but chances are I'm doing something else later," she says. But not before she wrote up a project plan. Ultimately, while events may ebb and flow, passing on your knowledge makes it much more likely that the event you started might just live on for decades. **OH**



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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

The grilled cheese sandwich has been around since the inventions of processed cheese and sliced bread. For your next party or luncheon, here are three elevated takes on everyone's favourite sandwich. After all, it's what's inside that counts.

TO ASSEMBLE

1 baguette, sliced
Butter

Choice of filling

Slice baguette into an even number of pieces. Butter one side of each piece.

Place slices butter side down in a frying pan over medium heat.

Fill each sandwich with toppings outlined in the recipes to follow. Top with a second slice of baguette, butter-side up.

Cook until bottom slice is golden brown, flip and repeat.



1. Peach & Candied Bacon Filling

Gouda cheese, sliced
1 or 2 fresh peaches, thinly sliced
Candied bacon (see below)
Dijon marmalade (see below)
Arugula
Fresh sage, lightly fried

CANDIED BACON

¼ cup brown sugar
⅓ cup maple syrup
Black pepper
1 pound thick sliced bacon

Preheat oven to 400°F, line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and top with a wire rack.

In a small bowl combine brown sugar, maple syrup and pepper.

Lay bacon slices on wire rack, brush with sugar mixture, flip and brush other side.

Bake for 10-15 minutes, flip slices over and continue to bake until crisp and caramelized.

DIJON MARMALADE

1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp marmalade
Black pepper

Combine Dijon mustard and marmalade. Season with black pepper.

2. Fig & Onion Filling

Brie cheese, sliced
Fig caramelized onions (see below)
Arugula

FIG CARAMELIZED ONIONS

1 Tbsp olive oil
1 cup white onion, thinly sliced
2 figs, diced
Splash of balsamic vinegar
Salt & pepper

In a pan over medium heat, add olive oil and onions. Slowly cook onions until golden brown, about 20 minutes.

Once caramelized, add diced figs and a splash of balsamic vinegar. Allow the vinegar to deglaze the bottom of the pan and scrape up all of the bits on the pan.

Season with salt and pepper and set aside to cool.

3. Spinach Walnut Pesto Filling

Gorgonzola cheese, sliced
Spinach pesto (see below)
Dried cranberries

SPINACH PESTO

Heaping handful of fresh spinach
Handful of fresh basil
½ cup walnuts
¼ cup parmesan cheese, grated

2 cloves garlic
2 Tbsp olive oil
Salt and pepper

In a food processor, add spinach, basil, walnuts, parmesan and garlic.

Turn processor on and slowly add olive oil. Process until smooth

Season with salt and pepper to taste. **OH**

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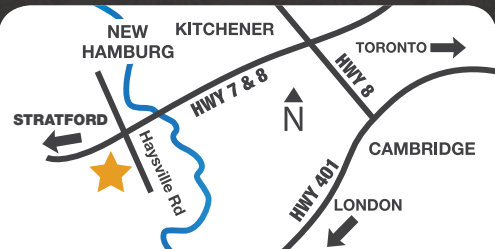
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finishing touch



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