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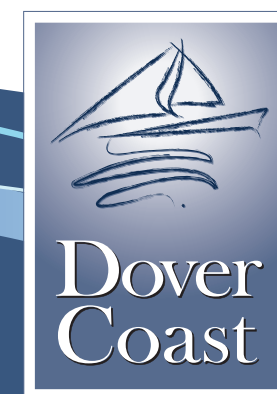


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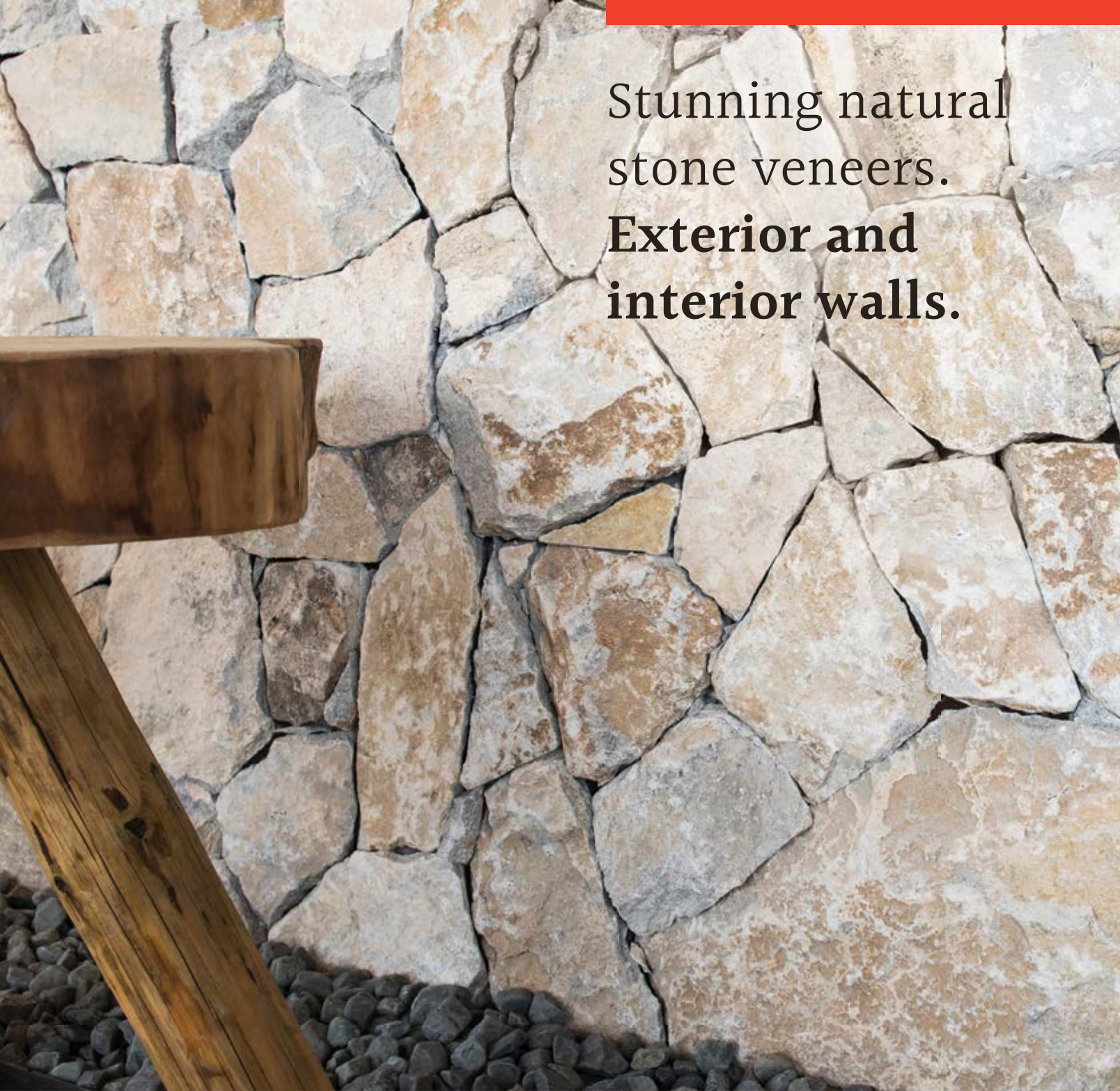
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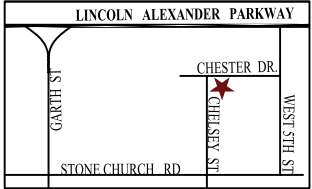
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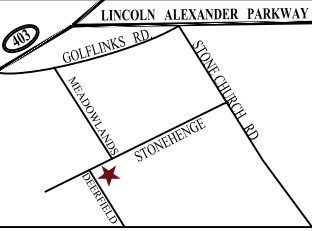
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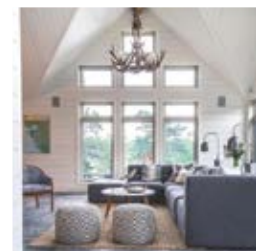
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REGIONAL PUBLISHERS Jamie Jefferson
Georgette McCulloch

REGIONAL MANAGING EDITOR Gina Makkar

REGIONAL PRODUCTION MANAGER Tracy Shuttleworth

MARKETING & ADVERTISING Suzanne Strong, 705.446.4877
suzanne.strong@ourhomes.ca
Lisa Ormsby, 705.445.5065 x200
lisa.ormsby@ourhomes.ca

REACH US EASILY: firstname.lastname@ourhomes.ca

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OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC:

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Georgette McCulloch

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Kristin Schnelten

DIGITAL EDITOR Rachael Havens

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Mary Hatt, Cheryl Long, Gina Makkar,
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OPERATIONS

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

MANAGING DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS
Georgette McCulloch

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Lisa Ormsby
REGIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Suzanne Strong

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Kelly Craig

ACCOUNTING Tyler Annette

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE Cindie Tonon

CONTRIBUTORS

Neso Basara, Stephani Buchman, Jason Hartog, Rebecca Hay, Gillian Jackson,
Connie Jeske Crane, Aleem Kassam, Phyllis Lui, Sandy MacKay, Gina Makkar,
Catalina Margulis, Jenelle McCulloch, Tamarisk McNalty Stephens, Dolores Pian,
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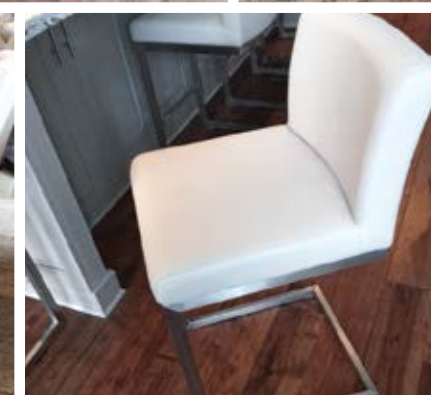


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editor's note



WE ALL HAVE those little moments that stay with us. One of mine is from my university days. As young girls, my friends and I spent hours traipsing in and out of each other's homes, our days a blur of classes, outfit changes and time spent on hair and makeup.

My friend Lisa and her family lived in Sherwood Forest, steps from U of T Mississauga. If you know the general area, it's lush

with conservation land, the Credit River and beautiful homes on sprawling properties.

Her mom Anna is a design aficionado, and their home was picture-perfect, from childhood photos artfully arranged to the spotless floors and a fresh, stylish aesthetic. Each room flowed seamlessly to the next, a symphony of beauty and function.

The home, and her family, were always warm and welcoming. But what stuck with me long after we finished school and went on to have our own homes and families was the vase of flowers that always graced the kitchen counter. From soft, simple posies to bright, dynamic blooms, there was always something fresh and lively on display. It added verve, a touch of personality, a little moment that said "Hello, you are welcome here."

Author Hans Christian Andersen once said, "Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." As a young woman, I vowed to always have a little flower in my life. As newlyweds we held firm on a budget and I had a zillion reasons why a simple market bunch was an awful waste of money. It seemed irrational that a few blooms would have the power to make me happy, but my husband encouraged me to buy them week after week, and so I did.

A couple of decades and many, many blooms later, there is always at least one bunch of flowers on my counter. For me, it's a small investment that yields a big return.

As it happens, fresh flowers offer plenty of benefits. They enhance your mood, reduce stress and promote feelings of calmness. Get out there and buy yourself a bunch!

Gina Makkar

Gina Makkar, Managing Editor
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GRAND OPENING THIS SEPTEMBER



the
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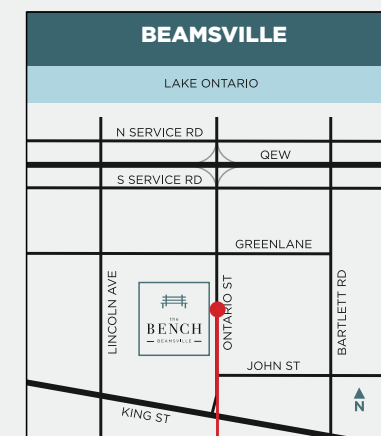
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Photography by Sandy MacKay.

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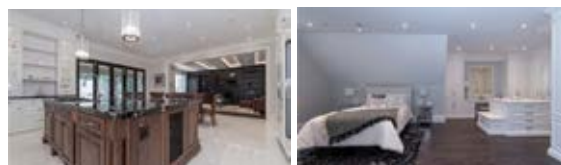
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Dolores Pian
shares her ideas.

WINE CELLARS

*WINE CELLARS AND
WINE-TASTING ROOMS
ARE COMING OF AGE.*

Wine collecting requires a special space of its own and more homeowners are installing wine rooms in new and existing homes to ensure the right bottle is on hand. With today's technology, refrigeration and modern materials, wine can be stored in almost any location. However, this 6,100-year-old beverage still requires tender loving care.

WINE IS FUSSY

Wine breathes through the cork and ages in the process. Too much oxygen makes the wine bitter. The pace of this breathing is faster at higher temperatures and slower at lower temperatures. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity accelerate the aging process.

WINE STORAGE

Wine requires a cool, dark space with higher humidity than the average living space. Wine does not like noise or vibrations from any source.

It doesn't like any temperature extremes; 45°F to 65°F are the best temperatures for serving wine and 55°F is the ideal storing temperature for long-term storage, regardless of your wine style. Wine storage rooms come in two types: passive and active.

Passive Wine Cellars such as caves, basements and closets are naturally cooler and only receive indirect sunlight. They minimize swings in temperature and damage to the wine.

Active (Cooled) Wine Cellars are fully climate-controlled and can be set to the perfect storage temperature and humidity level to ensure ideal conditions. They are more flexible and can fit into any large, small or odd space in your home.

MODERN DESIGN TRENDS

Glass enclosures allow you to show off your wine collection and can be built as tall or wide as you want. The choice of tempered glass used is extremely important. The insulation value should maximize the refrigeration, humidification benefits and UV protection required for wine rooms that are in direct contact with sunlight. Etched or frosted glass are decorative options.

Integrating wine cellar design into your space for that WOW factor. Placing wine storage in living areas, man caves or kitchens allows you and your guests to engage with the wine while you show off your collection.

A label-forward design draws attention to the label art. It creates an intimate, interactive experience between the user and the bottle of wine.

Metal and acrylic wine racking. These materials are gaining popularity in contemporary wine cellar design. They provide the same storage quality as wood and can be much more cost effective.

Bridging old and new. Combining wood with metal or acrylic allows for more flexibility in a project design that is less stuffy and ornate, more contemporary and inviting.



MODERN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Use LED lights and UV film for glass enclosures.
- ▶ No vibrating wall speakers and no noisy air conditioners. Insulate your mechanical air ducts or use a ductless air conditioner.
- ▶ Vent equipment heat outside.
- ▶ Storing multiple bottles of wine requires plywood backing for wall installation.
- ▶ Proper wall insulation, a vapour barrier and moisture-resistant green board walls are essential.
- ▶ Easy access to electricity.
- ▶ Moisture-resistant flooring is a must. Consider the insulation value of the floor and materials.

RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT (ROI)

A wine cellar is a high-end investment and, in some homes, it is a must-have upgrade. With an average bottle price of \$95, it pays to design your investment so it can add value to your home.

Galileo tells us: "Wine is sunlight, held together by water." Then sunlight and water hold together the truth in wine. Take good care of your truth. **OH**



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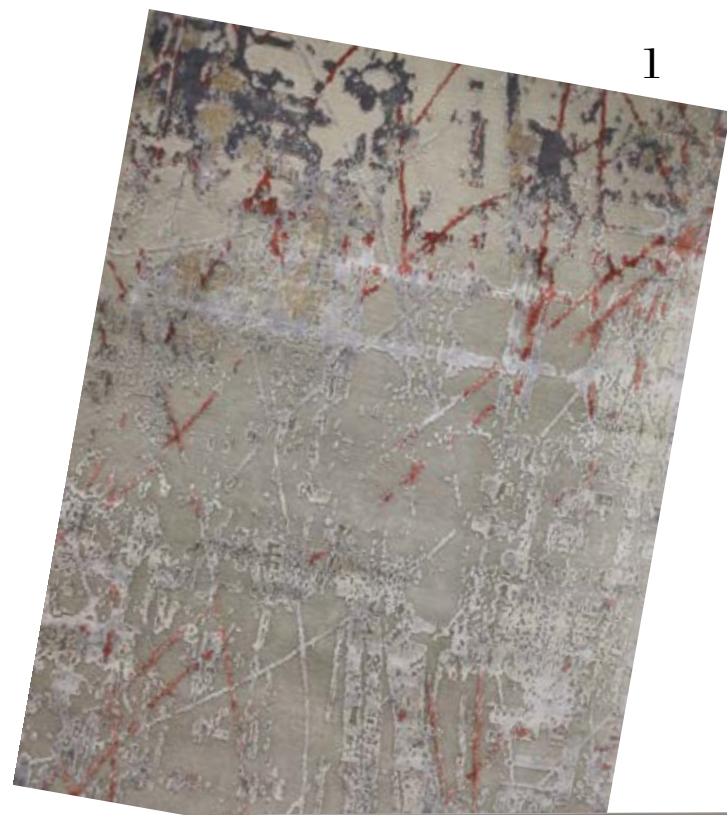
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the heat IS ON

This season’s cool design ideas will help warm up fall.

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2



3



5



4



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good taste

Homemade APPLE CIDER

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

A classic fall favourite. This homemade apple cider is the ideal way to use some of those freshly picked apples.

INGREDIENTS

10-12 apples, cored and quartered
2 oranges, peeled and quartered
Cinnamon stick
4 whole cloves
8-10 cups water

DIRECTIONS

Place apples, oranges and spices into a stock pot. Add water until the fruit is covered.

Simmer over low heat for 2 hours.

Mash fruit and simmer for another hour.

Strain through a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth.

Reheat to serve. **OH**

online

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3 LUMINOUS LIGHTING TRENDS

Inspired By Throwbacks

In the illuminating world of design and décor, history has a way of repeating itself. At least, the good things from the past seem to find their way back into the spotlight. Today's hottest interior lighting styles are taking a cue from days gone by, but these throwbacks are being revived with a cool, contemporary twist. Here are three lighting trends to keep your eye on in 2019 and beyond, inspired by the ages and back in all their glory.



STORY **PHYLLIS LUI**
AND ALEEM KASSAM

PHOTOGRAPHY
PROVOKE STUDIOS

ART DECO: 1910s-1930s

Art Deco has come a long way from its artful origins in the 1910s in Paris, France. This decadent aesthetic is distinguished by geometric motifs, curved forms, defined silhouettes and the dominant desire to be modern, influencing everything from architecture and furniture to jewelry, fashion and everyday appliances. Remnants of this distinctive style continue to inspire today's trendiest lighting designs. This bodes well for interior designers and homeowners who wish to incorporate a hint of adornment in an otherwise cool, contemporary abode. The avant-garde aesthetic is thoughtfully modernized with warm metals such as gold and copper and trendy geometric forms.

DESIGNER PICK:
Hexagons are hot, baby! They are appearing in everything from lighting to tiles and textiles. Hudson Valley Lighting has a great selection.

Continued on page 28



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design ideas



OLD HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR: 1930s-1940s

Vintage romance is the prevailing theme of the equally inspired and inspiring Silver Screen starlet era. Those who seek to bring this luxurious look into the spotlight embrace a “more is more” mentality. (To those who find themselves asking if it’s “too much,” the answer is likely, “it’s just enough.”) Look for sparkle and shine, and overall softness that comes in the form of fabric shades and gentle silhouettes, such as a cascading crystal chandelier.

TIP: A chandelier lends the perfect touch of luxury that the Old Hollywood aesthetic demands. Traditionally featured in dining rooms and front foyers, a crystal chandelier also makes a dreamy addition to a bedroom or bathroom.

MID-CENTURY MODERN: 1950s-1960s

This important style movement continues to affect interior design today. The simple and understated look is all about minimalism and integrating with nature. When it comes to lighting, this enduring aesthetic has never truly gone out of style.

FAVOURITE: One of the most prevalent examples of Mid-century modern today is the Sputnik chandelier, which is well-loved for the simplicity of its glass globes and an unfussy, linear base, lending intriguing illumination with a chic, sculptural focal point.



FUTURE FORWARD: TODAY, TOMORROW & BEYOND

What’s next in the world of lighting and design? The future looks bright indeed, and as with all things these days, technology is the driver of the latest and greatest.

LEDs have created an endless world of possibilities for modern lighting designers, and they have become mainstream thanks to their efficiency, longevity, wide range of colours and temperatures, and their unique applications. They’ve also become more economical, which is great news for all.

Lighting controls are a huge trend and an essential part of every lighting plan. Even the most perfect arrangement of recessed lights, pricey designer fixtures and top-to-bottom accent lighting won’t create the impact you want without the ability to customize. Lighting controls can range from basic fundamentals to high-tech features, so consult a lighting professional to determine what’s available to meet your needs and wants.

One piece of advice we have for all our clients, regardless of their lighting choices, is to ensure all lights are on dimmers. This allows you to adapt the ambience based on your current mood and use of the space. This is especially important with the rise of modern multi-functional rooms and open-concept floor plans.

Don’t forget about the multitude of other options available to you, such as timers, sensors and so forth. For instance, a multi-sensory switch with a motion detector in a bathroom or closet will enhance your day-to-day in a subtle way. Once you have this, you’ll wonder how you ever got along without it.

Then, for the smart-home owner, in the spirit of Google Home and Alexa, wireless and voice-activated lighting is the next big thing.



PHOTO: PUREEDGE LIGHTING

Whether you’re tempted by the throwbacks, fascinated by the future or you find yourself somewhere in between, consider your lifestyle and consult with a professional who can shed some light on what’s available and what’s possible. **OH**

Phyllis Liu and Aleem Kassam are partners at Vancouver-based Kalu Interiors.

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STORY **CATALINA MARGULIS** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The home was designed to preserve the mature trees in the backyard. A covered porch creates an outdoor space protected from the elements.

Bringing the outdoors in was a key element driving the design of this new Port Credit build, home of Walter and Margaret Zanel and their children Cole and Hailey.

The Zanel family first moved into their modest bungalow in Port Credit nine years ago. Over the years, they looked into major renovations, but instead chose minor upgrades to their home. When the time was right, they opted for a complete rebuild. They moved out for a year and handed their home to builder **Peter Giampuzzi** of **Ornella Homes**. Together with architectural technologist **Richard Kossak** of **New Age Design** and designer **Francy Kralik** of **House Candy**, Giampuzzi worked for 11 months to design and build the new home. *Continued on page 32*

The Zaneli's first encountered Peter when they followed his building of a home across the street. "We were impressed with how they managed the build and the quality of workmanship we saw," says Walter. "It was the best referral we could possibly have, to watch somebody in action, so it was a no-brainer for us to move forward with Peter. It's been a great experience. I would never do another build without Peter; he was that impressive."

"This neighbourhood is a hidden gem," says Peter. "It's walking distance to the lake, the marina, GO train, shopping and dining on the water – it doesn't get much better than this. A lot of people don't know it's here, but the word is quickly getting out. Today, it's in total regeneration with five new homes slated to start this fall alone."

The Zaneli's spacious 75-by-150-foot lot includes mature trees and greenery. "There's a first-growth oak tree in the backyard that's about 400 years old and there's also an old chestnut tree," says Peter. "The family wanted to maintain the two trees, so we designed the house around the tree canopies. They provide natural shade and privacy year-round."

The desire to integrate as many natural elements as possible was a big part of the plan. "Walter and Margaret had a very clear vision of their home from day one," says Peter. "Their design philosophy was to build a home that would stand the test of time through clean, simple lines – and I believe they achieved it!"

Ornella Homes built the home with extended setbacks from the

Continued on page 34



ABOVE: Modern lines are softened with warm wood, Owen Sound ledge rock and touches of greenery. **RIGHT:** A two-storey entrance and cantilevered staircase create a dramatic welcome. **OPPOSITE:** The home was carefully constructed to allow for maximum natural light.



"THEIR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY WAS TO BUILD A HOME THAT WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME THROUGH CLEAN, SIMPLE LINES – AND I BELIEVE THEY ACHIEVED IT!"



LEFT: A glass-enclosed bridge overlooking the modern kitchen connects the two wings on the upper level. **ABOVE:** A mudroom with integrated storage brings practicality to the main floor. **BELOW:** The use of windows instead of a traditional backsplash is an unexpected and dynamic addition. All outlets are integrated into the solid surface counter.



“ALL YOU SEE IS THE GREENERY OF THE BACKYARD POURING INTO THE LIVING ROOM. IT’S BEAUTIFUL,” SAYS PETER.



A great room with large proportions could feel cold, but the use of deep wood tones, stone and rich leather add warmth and texture. **TOP LEFT:** A built-in backyard kitchen allows the family to extend outdoor living well into fall.

property line, 36-inch roof overhangs, charcoal grey windows and panelling, and sawn Owen Sound ledge-rock to give the home a California feel.

Living space was extended to the outdoors with a built-in backyard kitchen, complete with a barbecue and simmer unit. Between the exposed, I-beam back porch and the front entrance, 12,000 pounds of exposed steel were used.

“The architectural designer did just an incredible job with all the details,” Peter says. “Richard gave us the look of a floating canopy

– the front and back porch look like they are floating on top of steel beams.”

Inside, the home features a two-storey light tunnel from the front of the house to the back and splits the second storey into a master bedroom on one side, and kids’ rooms on the other. A glass bridge connects the two wings and floods the interior with natural light throughout the day.

“Richard is a master of form and function. He did an excellent job in maximizing the amount of natural light into the home, without sacrificing privacy or space. The home

Continued on page 36

With so many windows throughout, the home has a cottage in the city vibe despite its modern aesthetic. **BELOW:** The powder room blends simple, organic materials to echo the home's overall feel.



features floor-to-ceiling glass across 80 per cent of the rear of the home – all you see is the greenery of the backyard pouring into the living room. It's beautiful," says Peter.

In the kitchen, glass windows were used for the backsplash, giving the impression of a "floating kitchen." All cabinetry and built-in closets were imported from Venice, Italy, by **Trevisana Kitchens & Interiors**. **Gian Luigi Ongaro**, who leads the Toronto office, has been part of the family business from the beginning and launched here in Toronto five years ago, bringing a range of products I've never seen before in Canada," says Peter. The lacquer kitchen features powder-grey cabinets, concrete panels and LED track lighting recessed into the millwork. "It's simple, clean and elegant."

City Stairs created stairs made of cut and welded steel with floating white oak slabs to match the hardwood floors, which are white

oak with a bleached finish. The home also integrates natural elements, with a feature wall in the entryway made of 600 square feet of natural stone.

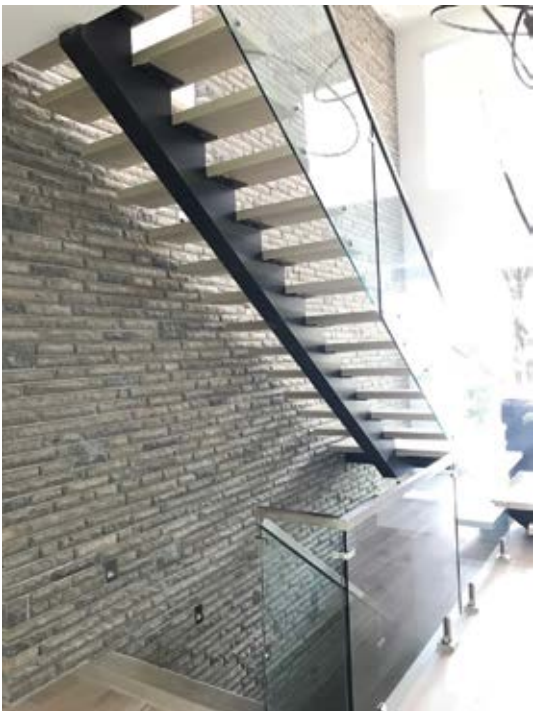
It was important to maintain the warm, modern feel throughout the home. This was accomplished by Francy the designer. "She ensured that the choices we made aligned to this vision: Tiles, flooring, countertops, millwork, fixtures, lighting, doors and paint colour all worked together perfectly," says Walter.

Ornella Homes did all the landscaping. A mix of ornamental grasses and river rock give the exterior an exotic look, while highlighting the simplicity of the house and the nature surrounding it. "Every house we do, we try to plant at least a dozen trees. We planted oak trees, Japanese maples and dogwood trees for seasonal colour and foliage," Peter says.

Continued on page 38



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The home also includes a family space in the basement, as well as a gym and nanny suite. In addition to LED lighting throughout, the home has a two-stage furnace that allows heat and air conditioning to be controlled from each room in the house.

The project delivered exactly what the homeowners wanted, a month ahead of schedule, which makes for happy homeowners and a happy builder.

“Like anything else in life, it’s important to have the right team in place, and we really did,” says Walter. “When you have the right team, you are able to overcome any hurdles or issues pretty easily. We are very happy with the end result.” **OH**

LEFT: Wood elements are carried to the upper level for continuity. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A peek into a custom closet in the master bedroom. **BELOW:** Integrated custom shelves and sleek furnishings in the office maintain the modern feel and add function.





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HYDRANGEA *love*

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

*I'VE BEEN HAVING A NOT-SO-SECRET
LOVE AFFAIR WITH HYDRANGEAS FOR
MORE THAN 20 YEARS.*

These beautiful, classic shrubs look great in traditional gardens, mixed gardens and modern gardens. There are so many luscious varieties, but over time (and through trial and error) my tastes have changed. Here is my tried and true list, including straight talk on all the popular varieties and the toughest, best of the best!

The name hydrangea stems from the Greek word for water, hydros and jar, angos, and more than hints at the constant moisture required to keep these plants happy, healthy and blooming. Their long-lasting blooms are not actually flowers, they are actually flower bracts, which explain their very long flowering cycle.

PANICLE TYPE (*HYDRANGEA PANICULATA*)

These are the hearty types with strong woody stems and panicle-shaped flowers that bloom reliably from mid- to late-summer, well into fall. They don't require as much watering as the fancier types and don't require staking. They bloom on new growth each year, so no need to worry about a hard winter destroying tender buds. In colder climates like ours, these beauties take full sun but enjoy protection from the strong afternoon heat. They typically grow between three to eight feet but can be pruned to maintain height. Their leaves are dark green, oval-shaped and turn shades of red/brown in autumn.

VANILLA STRAWBERRY

The fragrant Vanilla Strawberry hydrangea takes a few years to really get growing but when it does – oh my – patience will be rewarded with huge, fluffy and creamy white blooms slowly fading to pink and white bi-coloured flower heads.

Continued on page 42



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QUICK FIRE
(AND LITTLE QUICK FIRE)

Quick Fire hydrangea (as the name suggests) blooms earlier than all the others. The flowers open white and quickly turn to dark pink. Little Quick Fire is exactly the same except it grows only about four feet in height – great for small spaces.



BOBO

Bobo hydrangea is a dwarf panicle that is exceptionally floriferous. White blossoms turning to blush pink smother this small-statured three-foot shrub.

LIMELIGHT AND LITTLE LIME

Yet another wonderful panicle type, Limelight hydrangea sports cool lime-green blooms. Little Lime hydrangea does too, in a smaller size.



SMOOTH TYPE
(HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS)

Sometimes called wild hydrangeas, these have gorgeous, round snowball blooms that last for weeks in mid/late summer. They are much more shade tolerant than the panicle types but bloom best with some morning sun. They flower on new wood and can be pruned to the ground or near ground level in late winter/early spring to encourage abundant blossoms. The leaves of arborescens are large, dark green, heart-shaped, and thin.



CLIMBING
HYDRANGEA
(HYDRANGEA PETIOLARIS)

As the name advises, these hydrangeas are actually vines. Gorgeous white and fragrant lacecap flowers cover this sturdy vine in June/July. Mid-green leaves turn yellowish in fall with pretty peeling bark. This is a slow grower that enjoys a shady spot but can grow 50 feet, so plant wisely.

BIGLEAF TYPE
(H. MACROPHYLLA)

These include both lace-caps and mophead types and are sometimes called French hydrangeas. They have big, glossy leaves and have gorgeous pink, blue, purple or white blossoms and are the fancy kind coveted by many. I hate to be cynical and the bearer of bad news, but in our Ontario climate, this type of hydrangea will often produce lots of leaves, but blossoms can sometimes be a scarcity. Most varieties bloom on old wood, making the flower buds susceptible to killing winter temps, though there are some that flower on both old and new wood. Read below.

ANNABELLE

Annabelle hydrangea is a well-loved classic hydrangea with tremendous staying power. It has large, pure white snowball blooms but they do tend to flop after a heavy rain. Peony rings work to keep them upright and are quickly hidden by their large leaves or you can prop them up with strategically placed dead branches.



INCREDIBALL

Incrediball hydrangea is exactly like Annabelle but with even more gargantuan white blossoms the size of basketballs!

ENDLESS SUMMER

Endless Summer hydrangea and its offspring (The Endless Summer collection) bloom on old and new wood, making them the most reliable of the bigleaf type for our climate. The blooms of the whole series are beautiful! Just be prepared; they are high-maintenance and if you want to keep them blooming, you need to water them often and just the right amount. They need to be kept moist, but not have wet feet. Best of luck! OH



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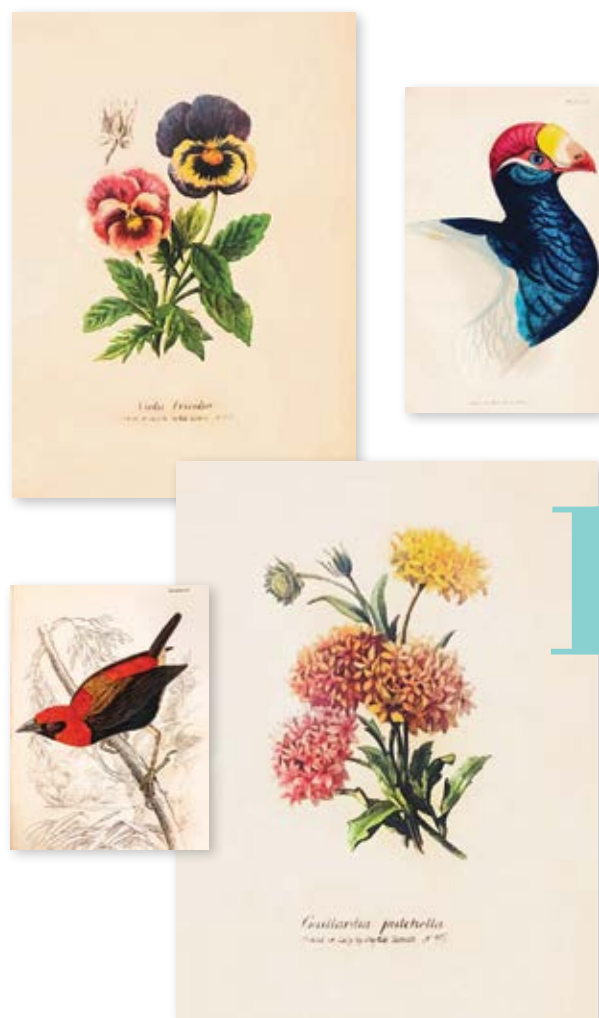
10 WAYS to add VINTAGE STYLE to your home

Gargantuan mahogany dining sets. Towering armoires. Royal Doulton figurines, anyone? If items like this aren't your thing, you're not alone. As *The New York Times* recently reported, thanks to today's small homes and pared-down aesthetic, the market for traditional antiques has shifted sharply in the last two decades.

"As far as decorating, I think we're contemporary," confirms Marlene Cook, owner of the Sunday Antique Market in Toronto. So, why is thrifting all the rage? And why are markets like Marlene's still mobbed on any given weekend? Marlene says that while her urban hipster shoppers give certain items a pass – yup, those dark old furniture suites – they love to snap up quirky vintage and antique pieces from savvy sellers.

Yet the mindset has really changed. "Some people are thinking about upcycling and recycling," she says. "When you buy something from a market like mine or somewhere else, it doesn't go to landfill." Today's buyers also want quality craftsmanship, and investment potential. Above all, says Marlene, rather than rooms stuffed with antiques, buyers want single pieces to inject interest into modern interiors. "It could be a really great piece someone has seen in a magazine. Here they can buy the original. It doesn't have to be a reproduction."

Beyond the actual goods, Marlene says the market experience itself – communal, hands-on, revelatory – is another huge draw today. "People get to talk to our vendors, they can get to shop and touch it and feel it, and see the vibrancy of the colours," she explains. Vendors can also tell you about an object's history, she says, meaning buyers are likely to take home a story along with their fab finds.



Ready to dive into the happy chaos of your local antique market and find some deco treasures of your own? Looking for inspiration, we asked a couple of pros what's flying off the shelves these days.

HERE'S OUR LIST OF MUST-HAVES FOR 2019:

BOTANICAL AND FLORAL PRINTS

Bring the outdoors in with framed antique prints. Marlene says, "We had a book dealer with beautiful botanical prints and prints of birds from the mid-1800s and they just sold like hotcakes!"

Continued on page 46

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2

FULL-COLOUR VINTAGE MAPS, GLOBES AND TOYS

Often featured in high-end design magazines, buyers love using these items to add interest to kids' rooms.



4

STERLING SILVER CUTLERY

While you can buy electroplated pieces for a song, pricier sterling silver cutlery elevates any table and is in high demand.

VINTAGE VINYL LPs

Whether for display or listening pleasure, at the St. Jacobs Antique Market, manager Patrick Gilkes says, "Records are still the number-one seller right now."

3



6

DISPLAY PIECES

From typewriters to vases and sculptures, people are buying vintage objects for display.

5

TEA CUPS & DISH SETS

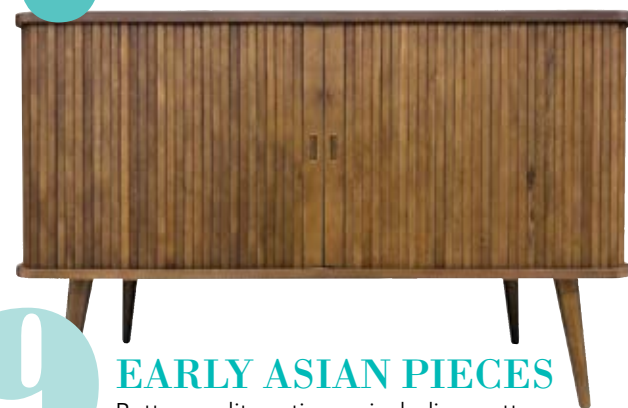
Want to add superb quality and vintage wow-factor to your table? Patrick says, "Entire dish sets are constantly selling, especially around holidays and Thanksgiving."



7

MID-CENTURY ANYTHING

Vases, coffee tables, credenzas – sellers say the demand for well-designed mid-century pieces remains strong.



9

EARLY ASIAN PIECES

Better-quality antiques, including pottery, are very popular.

10

VINTAGE HARDWARE

It's a fantastic way to transform generic furniture, and dealers see many people hunting for hardware, particularly handles and drawer pulls. **OH**



GLASSWARE

Whether funky cocktail glasses, colourful goblets or delicate stemware, Marlene says glassware sets are hot. "That's something anyone can buy for a party."

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STEP *inside*

PHOTOGRAPHY **NESO BASARA**
STORY **DENISE WILLSON**

THE PLACE: For more than 35 years, **Value Wood Floors Ltd.** has been showcasing, selling, and installing beautiful flooring in the Greater Toronto Area. For general manager Robert Barnsley, expressing the beauty not only in his products, but in his customers' experience, is all-important. "Our showroom is designed to be a cosy, inviting environment," Robert says. "We don't work on commission, so there is no feeling of pressure for our clients, and our sales staff are extremely educated regarding flooring and installation. Our focus is on quality products, so our customers feel comfortable in what they are purchasing from our store."



Robert Barnsley
and Gordon Main



THE STYLE: The main focus at Value Wood Floors is hardwood flooring and installation. They also offer engineered hardwood, laminate, porcelain tile and vinyl flooring. Robert believes vinyl is currently the workhorse of the flooring industry. Today's vinyl imitates hardwood almost exactly, yet it's 100 per cent waterproof and extremely durable, making it ideal for bathrooms and basements. "Hardwood is beautiful, but not always the best option for the space," Robert explains. This unique attention to customer needs, not just aesthetically pleasing options, further illustrates Value Wood Floors' commitment to quality service.

THE TREND: Wide plank hardwood flooring is back in vogue, with white oak being particularly popular for its natural colour and unique graining. European white oak in long planks is ideal for large spaces, and neutral colours, such as greys and browns, are great for hiding wear and tear. Traditional patterned floors, like chevron and herringbone, are also making a return. Flooring is taking its rightful place as a home's design feature, not just a necessary element.



THE FUTURE: To offer customers more options, Value Wood Floors plans to increase the size of its 2,000 sq. ft. showroom. The additional space will showcase custom designs, sanded finishes and custom colours and patterns. "We consistently work with designers and builders throughout the GTA," says Robert. "They know our reputation for offering quality products and top-notch service, and enjoy working with us." It's obvious why. A commitment to quality is evident in everything they do.

WHERE: 106 Advance Rd., Toronto
416.247.5110 | valuedwoodfloors.ca **OH**

Hello Streetsville!

Country Charm was established just south of Owen Sound in November of 1996, when some might say the name was slightly more fitting. What started as a renovated shed behind the family farmhouse that displayed traditional oak pedestal tables and pine curved sleigh beds has evolved to a contemporary mix of everything from live edge to Scandinavian to everything in between. What hasn't changed is the quality; every piece is handmade by Amish and Mennonite craftsmen, built entirely from domestic, solid wood. Three short years after starting what we thought was a side business, we evicted the cows and expanded from the little shed into our century old barn. Just last year we brought "Country Charm" to the city, opening a new store in the village of Streetsville, Mississauga. Far beyond what our name suggests, we sell all styles of dining room, bedroom, living room and office furniture. We also do custom built ins, mud rooms and complete kitchens.

We offer both standard product lines and one of a kind pieces. When it comes to live edge, our wood is sourced

from local sawmills and Wayne, the owner handpicks each unique, beautiful piece based off character and the story behind it (just ask!). We use only domestic woods that have been sustainably cut. Some of his favourite styles are made from reclaimed lumber sourced from old Ontario barns and

tables made from Douglas Fir salvaged from the Welland Canal, showcasing character marks bearing the dark water stains and oversized holes where it was bolted to the walls of the canal.

We are so grateful for the warm welcome that has been extended to us upon our recent expansion to Streetsville, and we look so forward to sharing with you all our wide selection of solid wood furniture. Each piece is made to order, specifically designed with your particular needs in mind... stain colour, wood choice and size – whatever it is you require, we can accommodate at a competitive price point with a lifetime quality guarantee.

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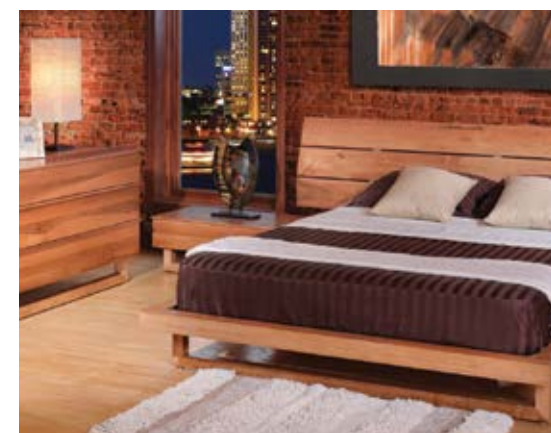
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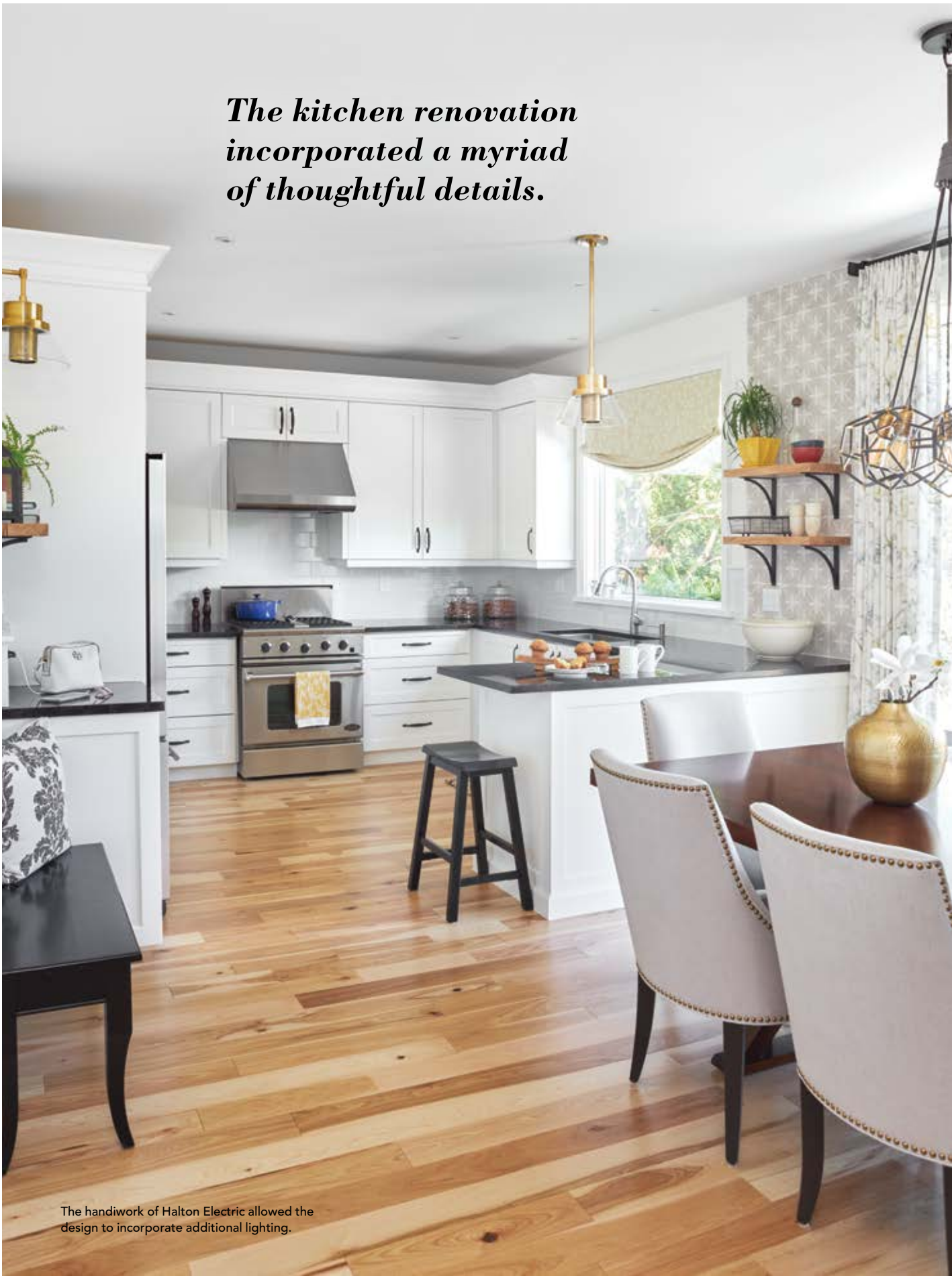
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The kitchen renovation incorporated a myriad of thoughtful details.



The handiwork of Halton Electric allowed the design to incorporate additional lighting.

STORY **GINA MAKKAR**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

still the ONE

What happens when homeowners, a talented designer and an innovative builder team up to transform an older home into a modern family retreat? It's serendipity.

RIGHT: Homeowners Connie and Dave made thoughtful changes that aligned with their current needs. **OPPOSITE:** Refacing the kitchen cabinetry gave it a whole new life.



With their kids grown, Connie and Dave Wootten were ready for a change. “We were going to move to a smaller house on a bigger lot in downtown Burlington, but we couldn’t find anything,” says Connie. Instead, they decided to renovate, and enlisted the help of **Rob and Todd VanderBruggen** of **Ridgeline Renovations Inc.** and designer **Mary Cath Altobelli** of **Alto Interiors**.

“Every time I get an opportunity to work with Rob, I take it,” says Mary Cath. His craftsmanship is exceptional. He really takes pride in his work. He sees what I speak. It’s like he already has the vision of the end project.”

Hiring a designer to help reinvent your space shouldn’t feel like a leap of faith if you’ve teamed up with someone who gets you, and Mary Cath can walk into a space and see its potential. She presented the couple with option A and option B, the latter a complete overhaul to maximize unused space and update the main floor.

From there, the team spent several months planning, a step Mary Cath says is paramount. “It’s where you hash out ideas and get to know a client and find out what works for them,” she says. “They have a vision, but you want to enhance the vision with a decorator’s perspective. It’s their space, and it needs to be connected to them. I know when I have done a good job when they can’t tell a decorator has been there.”

Continued on page 54



The home’s original footprint included a fireplace that separated the main floor. Ridgeline relocated the fireplace to the back wall, and it now blends seamlessly into the aesthetic. “They travel extensively and want to come home and unplug,” Mary Cath says of the owners. “Now, the fireplace is the first thing they see when they walk through the door, and it can be enjoyed from anywhere on the main floor,” says Mary Cath. Floor-to-ceiling stone creates a dramatic focal point. Rob had the stone mason lay out each and every stone, ensuring a dynamic variety. Connie and Dave helped choose each piece. An extended hearth adds depth and creates a cosy nook under the window.

An area at the front of the home, traditionally slated as a dining room, was transformed into an office for Connie. “I was very persuasive about it having doors,” says Mary Cath. An oversize sliding barn door adds dimension and opens to the entryway. “Rob came in and made the magic happen and sourced the door.”

A harvest table sourced by Mary Cath from **Zoey’s Consignment** was refinished by **House&Canvas**. A shelving unit, desk chair and lounge chair from **In House** complete the space.

ABOVE: Removing cabinets made way for a knock-out feature wall. **RIGHT:** The charging station adds function, ideally situated as the family comes into the kitchen, tucking things neatly out of sight.



RIGHT: Artwork by Marina Randazzo makes a statement in the hallway. **BELOW:** Moving the fireplace created a much better flow on the main floor, and careful construction makes it look as though it’s always been in its new place.

Glass french doors open between the office area and the main living space. “In the future, they can use the space as a dining room. There’s a fun chandelier in there. It gives so much energy, and it gives them options for today and options for the future. It’s just limitless.” At Rob’s recommendation, new trim work adds detail and a rich layer throughout that becomes the framework of the new space. Everything is crisp, clean and welcoming.

The furniture, fabrics and rugs were sourced by Mary Cath through **The Decorating Centre**, and window coverings were custom-made by **Gotcha Covered**.

In the living room, an antique table and chairs behind the sofa were recovered. “It gave them a whole new life, and they relate to the new textures

Continued on page 56





The team worked together to create a beautiful backdrop for daily life.

LEFT: Mary Cath Altobelli of Alto Interiors and Rob and Todd VanderBruggen of Ridgeline Renovations Inc. BELOW: The pretty powder room makes a statement with wallpaper.



and colours in the space and come in handy,” says Mary Cath. Original artwork in the office, entry hall, powder room and kitchen by artist **Marina Randazzo** adds colour and texture. “Whenever you have original art, it adds so much depth to the space. The piece in the powder room, titled *Primp* was a piece brought in for the Junior League Holiday Home Tour a few years ago,” explains Mary Cath. “Connie liked it so much that Marina did an addition to that series, so the art was customized for Connie. It’s a little wink in the powder room.”

Lighting, says Mary Cath, elevates a space like no other feature. “Once you put in some personality lighting, it’s a whole other space,” she says. Fixtures sourced from **Gerrie Electric** include chandeliers in the family and dining rooms, a pendant light over the kitchen peninsula and an accent light over the charging station, which is a fun yet functional custom addition. “The house is still the original size, but it feels so much larger now because these little moments catch your eye.” In planning, they considered furniture

Continued on page 60



CORBETT
LIGHTING

Haiku

Polished Stainless Steel accents layered within white aluminum diamonds increase the piece’s glamour and intensify its oblique light diffusion.



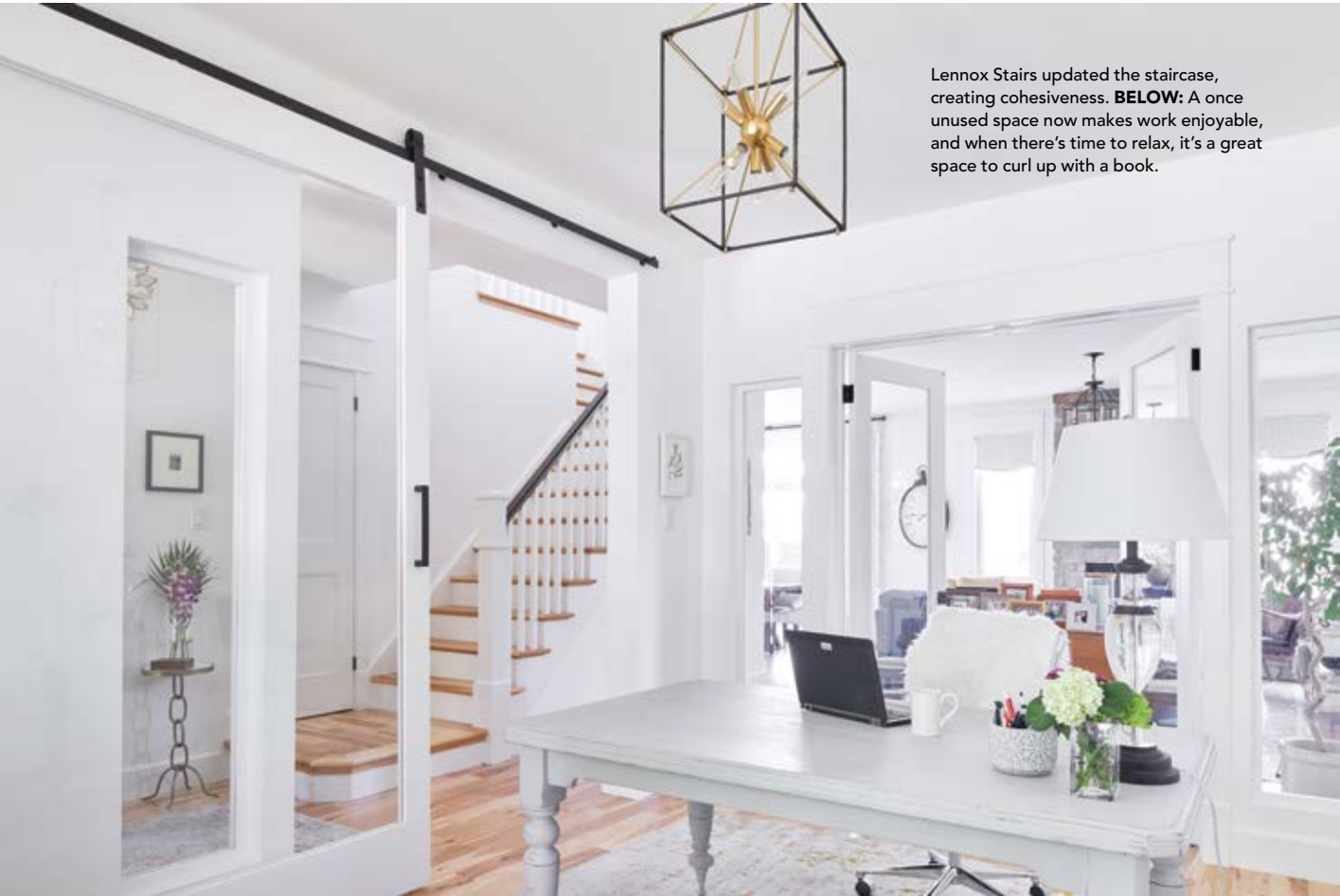
When seen from below and seen from the side, it’s two very unique different fixtures.

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Lennox Stairs updated the staircase, creating cohesiveness. **BELOW:** A once unused space now makes work enjoyable, and when there's time to relax, it's a great space to curl up with a book.



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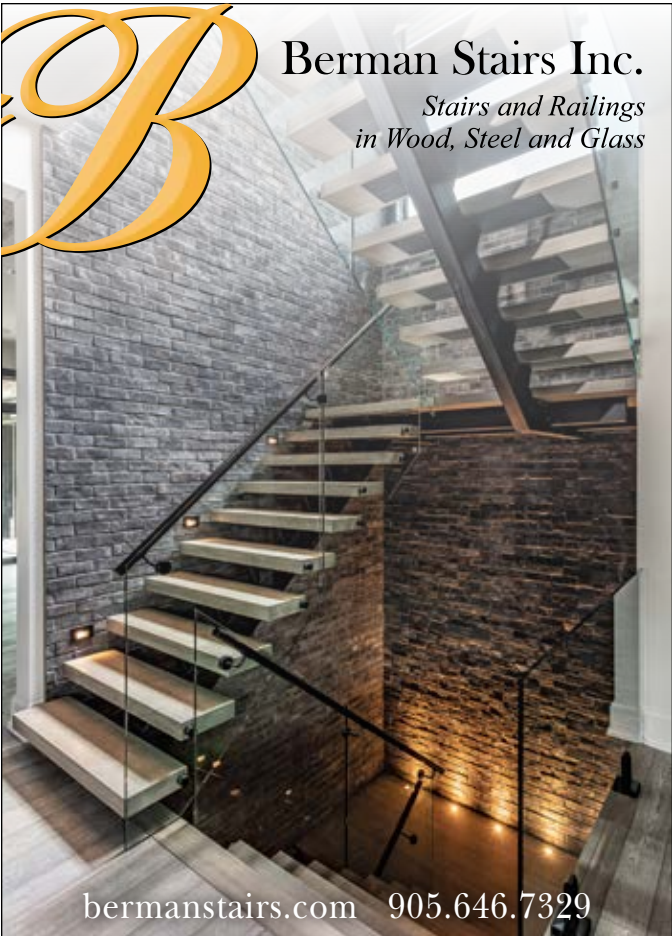


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ABOVE: The master bedroom is layered with muted colours and textures for simple tranquility. **TOP RIGHT:** Removing a built-in desk created more visual space in the upper level landing. **RIGHT:** A pop of pretty blue ties the en suite and the master bedroom together.

arrangement and added a floor receptacle to create an easy path to plug in a lamp or seasonal accent when needed.

In the kitchen, the cabinets were refinished by **Silverbirch Woodworks**. Glass cabinets were removed in favour of open shelving and a Scandinavian-inspired tile statement wall. “It just adds so much personality. The natural light pours in and highlights all the texture of this fantastic feature wall,” Mary Cath says.

In the upper level, a built-in desk on the landing was removed to open up the space. An antique cabinet from House&Canvas adds whimsy.

From top to bottom, the design and renovation team made the most of the space, allowing the finer features to stand out and create a style that’s beautiful, functional and feels like home. **OH**



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DINING *By* DESIGN



STORY **REBECCA HAY**
PHOTOGRAPHY **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

5 STEPS TO CREATING A FABULOUS DINING SPACE



Cooler temperatures bring warmer gatherings as we all move indoors to entertain. That also means it's time to show off your home. No more backyard barbecues here. It's finally time to highlight your culinary skills or cocktail-making and impress your guests with a dining room design that feels both elegant and comfortable. Here are my five non-negotiable design elements for creating a fabulous dining space.

1 COLOUR & MOOD
Think about the mood you wish to evoke. A bright room with fresh white walls and lots of natural light will make you feel awake and alive. This is great for brunches and luncheons. For a more intimate vibe, choose richer colours and warm lighting. I love to use wallpaper and grasscloth in dining rooms. It adds a luxurious touch and can even act as a great conversation starter among guests while you slip away to prepare the meal.

2 FURNITURE LAYOUT
Function is foremost to dining room design. If your table is too big, the chairs may bump up against the wall, or if there are too many large furniture items, guests may knock over a lamp (or each other). A general rule of thumb is to keep a minimum of 36 inches between the edge of the table and the wall for chairs. This gives chairs just enough space to pull out so that your guest can slide in. More than 36 inches is even better. *Continued on page 64*

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3 SEATING SELECTION

You'll want to consider what type of seating suits your needs. Some families prefer a bench or banquette seating. This works great for children but not as well for adult dinner parties. No one wants to be the guest stuck in the centre of the bench. It's like having a middle seat on an airplane and the lady at the window continually has to squeeze by you to use the washroom. Benquettes do, however, work really well when you are tight for space. The 36-inch rule no longer applies when you have bench seating. Just make sure that your table has a pedestal base instead of four legs so people can get in and out easily.

4 SIZE MATTERS

The size of your table is important. It's not just about what fits in the room (although this is important too). Select a table that accommodates how you like to serve and dine with guests. You want it to have enough space for plates and décor or family-style platters in the middle, but one that still encourages great conversation across the table. Never go smaller than 36 inches wide. In general, tables 42 to 48 inches wide are most common. Anything bigger is difficult for conversation. The shape of the table can also affect your dining experience. You've seen this at restaurants. A round table is great for including everyone, but if it fits more than eight people (think of a wedding), it's too big and you get stuck talking solely to your neighbour all night. Round tables are great for smaller spaces. They lend themselves well to a space that also acts as a thoroughfare since there are no sharp corners to impede the flow of traffic.



No dinner table is properly set without candles, but use unscented so you don't compete with food aromas.



5 LIGHT IT UP

Lighting is the last main factor and perhaps the most important one if you're looking to create a space that keeps everyone wanting to get invited back. Use layers of light. Always add a dimmer to this room and use pot lights for great general lighting while you set the table, but turn them off when guests arrive and use a beautiful chandelier coupled with a pair of lamps on a sideboard or wall sconces for ambience. Chandeliers should hang approximately 29 inches above the table but this, of course, depends on your ceiling height. You can hang a light higher if your ceilings are extra tall.



BONUS DESIGN ELEMENT: If you have a little more space, consider a sideboard or a bar cart. Bar carts are fun to look at and you can set them up as an extra area for guests to serve themselves. The vintage bar cart in my own home sees a lot of action and sparks many conversations.

By considering mood, layout, table size, seating and lighting, you'll have covered all the bases to designing a beautiful and functional dining room. When you've found the perfect dining design, don't forget to add in some additional table decorations, candles and glassware. **OH**



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RURAL REBUILD



STORY **JOYCE TURNER GIONET**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

Log-house living is not a new concept: it dates back more than 5,000 years, to the Bronze Age in northern Europe.

In Canada, early settlers built log cabins as temporary shelter until they had the time and money to build permanent structures. Log-house living has experienced a resurgence in recent years, in part due to shows like HGTV's *Timber Kings*, set in Williams Lake, British Columbia. According to **Scott Tutching**, owner and VP of operations for **Pioneer Log Homes** (the company featured in *Timber Kings*), the log house is actually a very permanent structure. Built well, it should stand for more than 300 years. In an energy-conscious world, log homes are energy-efficient, thanks to the principle

of thermal mass. Logs are radiant and hold in heat on winter days and keep the interior cool during summer. Build with logs, and there are no harsh chemicals. Wood is prized for its air-purifying, moisture-regulating qualities, reducing the need for venting and air conditioning. There's also a laid-back organic vibe to a log home. Outdoorsy folk like **Martha** and **David McPhee**, owners of **Maranatha Log House Flowers & Decor** in Campbellville, wouldn't live anywhere else. The original home was built in the 1970s at Indian Point on Balsam Lake near Coboconk and owned by the Carnegie family, whose

patriarch and son were Members of the Legislative Assembly in the early Ontario Legislature. It was eventually moved and rebuilt in the town of Campbellville. For many years, it was a family home, bed and breakfast and floral design studio for Dave and Martha. Tragedy struck in early spring 2014 when Maranatha burned to the ground. The couple was determined to rebuild. Five years later the new log house, modelled closely on the original, is complete and both the bed and breakfast and floral design studio have reopened for business. Pioneer Log Homes played a major role in the

Continued on page 68



The Douglas Fir staircase is a showstopper, as is the 500-year-old tree in the front entry. **TOP LEFT:** Martha's passion for florals is contagious. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The Western Red Cedar log exterior tucks effortlessly into the landscape. **BOTTOM:** A door separates the family home from the floral studio.



rebuild. No strangers to the ravages of fire themselves, they have lost entire job sites as forest fires raged across the B.C. interior the past few years. Following an email from the McPhees' daughter, Pioneer agreed to build the couple's new home.

A team of eight carpenters worked 14 months on the project. Like all Pioneer builds, this one was pre-assembled in Williams Lake, then taken down and transported on two trucks to Campbellville. More than 100 logs were used in the 3,200 sq. ft. build; an average cedar cedes two house logs. Western red cedar is prized for its beauty, durability and resistance to rot, mildew and pests. For every tree Pioneer cuts down, it replants seven. The grandson of the company's founder is now harvesting trees his grandfather Bryan Reid Sr. planted more than 45 years ago.

Inside the McPhees' new home, the "Family Tree" – an apt name for the single centrepiece log that supports the entire roof structure – is estimated to be about 500 years old. A particularly eye-catching element is the stunning Douglas fir staircase. Martha calls it the treehouse stairway. Each tread is four-inches thick and five-feet wide – "a fact that should wow any builder," says Scott. Sunlight streams in from two upper windows featuring stained glasswork from the McPhees' neighbour, **Paul Singleton** of **Stonehouse of Campbellville**.

The solarium addition on the rear incorporates a wall of tall



Antique stained-glass windows in the sliding doors add colour and charm. **BOTTOM, LEFT:** An apron sink adds farmhouse whimsy in the kitchen. **MIDDLE:** Furnishings and accessories were thoughtfully selected to blend with the rustic surroundings. **RIGHT:** The bathroom is modern yet simple.



Large kitchen windows look onto the beautiful backyard beyond. **ABOVE:** Floor-to-ceiling wood evokes a cabin-like feel.

windows looking onto wooded conservation lands, home to deer, wolves, coyotes, the occasional curious black bear and a variety of birds. Inset with stained-glass from the 1800s, sliding barn doors, built by Pioneer Log Homes, lead to the kitchen/dining room. In the hallway, the wood doors were imported from Egypt and refinished locally.

The rustic harvest table in the dining room was built by John Bousefield of Era Cabinetry

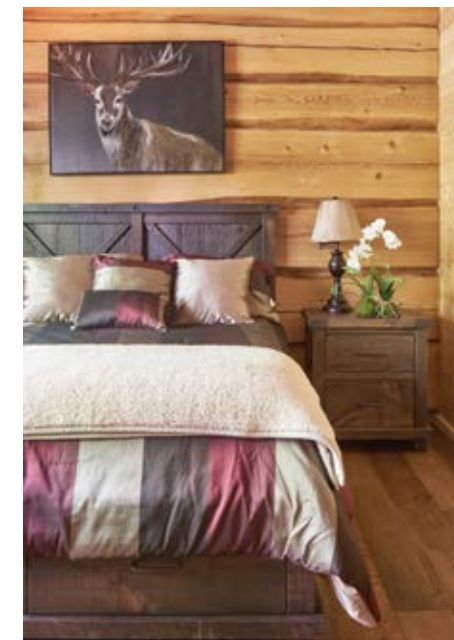
& Kitchens, and accommodates up to 16. A gold mirror rests on a dark oak buffet, both from **Elizabeth Interiors**. The couple lost everything except the clothes they were wearing in the fire, including a beautifully-curated collection of antiques. They have gradually started collecting again, although many of the original pieces were irreplaceable, some of them family heirlooms.

No log home worth its salt would be

without a natural stone fireplace; this one has three gas units, one on each level. Floors are hand-scraped hickory with an antique grey finish.

Over time, logs turn grey with exposure to sun and moisture, and many owners want to preserve the shiny new-wood look. David and Martha are different. They wanted to recapture the aged grey of the original house, so Pioneer created a custom grey

Continued on page 70





patina. Chinking – the use of mortar to seal joints between logs – was only included on this house as a ‘throw-back’ aesthetic. Log ends are dovetailed; no nails were used on the log house. David built and stained the wooden window boxes on the upper and lower levels himself. Filled with a profusion of colourful red geraniums and assorted greenery, they add a sensational splash of colour.

A unique finishing flourish, one included on every Pioneer Log Home, is branding. On David and Martha’s house, the Pioneer Log Home mark was burned into the exterior front entranceway. “It’s like passing the torch to future generations,” says Scott, “designating it a house built to stand the test of time.”

LEFT: A flagstone walkway leads to the floral studio.
BELOW: The studio brims with florals and wreaths for every season. BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: Martha creates floral masterpieces just steps from her home.

Maranatha Log House
Flower Shop

An addition on the left of the home houses the popular **Maranatha Log House Flowers and Decor**. Martha specializes in artificial arrangements, which often incorporate fresh flowers to add drama in different seasons. Holding a dinner party? Entertaining friends? Planning a wedding shower, baby shower or other event? Want your home, office or cottage dressed up for the season? Whatever the occasion, Martha is your go-to gal. She’s been creating unique floral displays for more than 30 years. Even with no occasion imminent, a trip to the shop is a delight. Fresh flowers fill planters and buckets in a riot of colours and textures, nested alongside interesting one-of-a-kind home décor, all of it available for purchase. Feeling creative? Sign up for one of Martha’s seasonal flower-arranging workshops.

The past five years have been difficult, and as they talk about their future plans for the house, the return of hope and joy is reflected in their words. Martha points to a large container filled with vibrant African daisies and strokes the petals of long-stemmed velvety coral roses. “They are so colourful, yet so simple really,” she says. “Flowers are a source of happiness and hope for all of us.” **OH**



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Art: There is a quote we love. "Buy the piece that makes you remember it after you've left it. Buy the piece that has a story that you love to share. Buy the piece that makes your room breathe and allows your eyes to rest." – EMYO. **Upcoming Events:**

In2art will be hosting its annual **Small Art Show** Nov. 16-Dec 21, 2019. This event features original works of art priced \$350 and under, great for holiday gift-giving!

RYAN A SOBKOVICH ARTIST

In2art Gallery

In2art Gallery has been connecting artists and collectors for more than 10 years in downtown Oakville. We are excited to present a solo show for award-winning artist Ryan A Sobkovich, featuring large-scale oil paintings of Muskoka. Ryan lives and creates in Wasaga Beach. Gathering inspiration from the Canadian landscape and northern rocky shores, his paintings transform the wilderness into colourful, dynamic artworks filled with light and thick impasto brushwork. He's won numerous awards including Best in Show at the McMichael Collection. Ryan's works are collected by private, corporate and public collectors nationally and internationally. Show runs October 9-19. Opening reception October 9, 6-8 p.m.



PHOTOGRAPHY NESO BASARA

It's all in the details. These pros know how to add personality to your home.

ABOUT RYAN

Neighbourhood: Wasaga

Beach. What Is Your Inspiration?

Love of nature. **Favourite Artist:** Claude Monet. **When You're Not Painting?** I'm backcountry camping, travelling, kayaking and hiking. **Favourite Season?** Winter, because I love the beautiful shadows on the snow. **My Goal As An Artist:** To encourage the appreciation of the vast Canadian wilderness and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

AT WORK

Current Project: We are currently building in Midland, the Parry Sound area, Innisfil, Caledon, Bracebridge, Georgian Bay, Seguin, Tiny and Tay Townships. **Next Project:** Our next project could be building your dream home! **Specialty:** Utilizing our building expertise doing what our customers ask of us: Designing and building quality custom homes and cottages at an affordable price. **Every Home/Cottage Must Have:** A client's input! You define the project and budget all with A & R's help. We then deliver it to you from A to Z.

RENE OUELLETT

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AT HOME

Neighbourhood: A quiet Penetanguishene neighbourhood.

Favourite Room: Our open-concept kitchen and living room area. **To-Do List:** In the process of designing and building a new home with "the boss" my wife! **Grateful For:** The fact that I am continuing on the tradition of building homes that my dad began 46 years ago and the opportunity to serve our clients to help them achieve their lifestyle dreams throughout Central Ontario.

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY





MAINA
AT HOME

Current Project: Creating unique gifts with fabric samples. **Favourite Room:** My boudoir where everyone does not gather. **Favourite Fall Scent:** Crisp morning fall air in Bruce County.

JUDITH
GILBERT,
DESIGN CONSULTANT
MAINA
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JUDITH
AT HOME

Current Project: Reupholstering Mid-century side chairs. **Favourite Room:** Kitchen, where everyone gathers. **Favourite Fall Scent:** Campfires at the cottage.

AT WORK

Trending: Whole home automation integrating window treatments for use with Google Home, Alexa or your personal devices. **Latest Projects:** Framing a wall of windows with beautiful, automated drapery. **Always In Demand:** Shutters.

AT HOME

Favourite Room: Family room by the fire. **Latest Home Project:** Newly transformed dining room. **Favourite Fall Scent:** Autumn air, orange, lemon and fir.

AT WORK

Latest Project: Luxurious new build in Oakville. **Must-Have:** Outdoor living space.



KELLY USHER
Rock Cliff Custom Homes

Rock Cliff Custom Homes has been providing luxury custom builds and remodels for more than 20 years in the GTA region primarily in the Oakville, Burlington and Mississauga areas. We also service clients in the Muskoka region. Rock Cliff Homes has extensive experience that includes both traditional and contemporary new builds, restoring heritage homes and providing luxurious solutions for renovations.

Continued on page 76



AT WORK

What's New In Store:

Items combining materials, like metal and wood. In bedrooms, entertainment stands and occasional tables. **Trending Colours:** For accents – coral, rich blue, mustard yellow.

CAROL VESTERS & SAMANTHA CRAWFORD

Swiss Interiors

Open since 1953, Swiss Interiors is celebrating 66 years of business in downtown Oakville. The 10,000 sq. ft. showroom features a variety of affordable accessories and furnishings that can be customized to suit any style. A focus on Canadian-made furniture ensures beautiful, functional pieces that will stand the test of time. Need the help of an expert? Design a piece or an entire room with the help of in-house designer Samantha Crawford.

CAROL AT HOME

Favourite Room: The living room, we really live in it! **Latest Home Project:** The family room, we updated our cosy television viewing space. **Favourite Fall Scent:** Anything fall – clear crisp air, pumpkin and bonfires. **OH**

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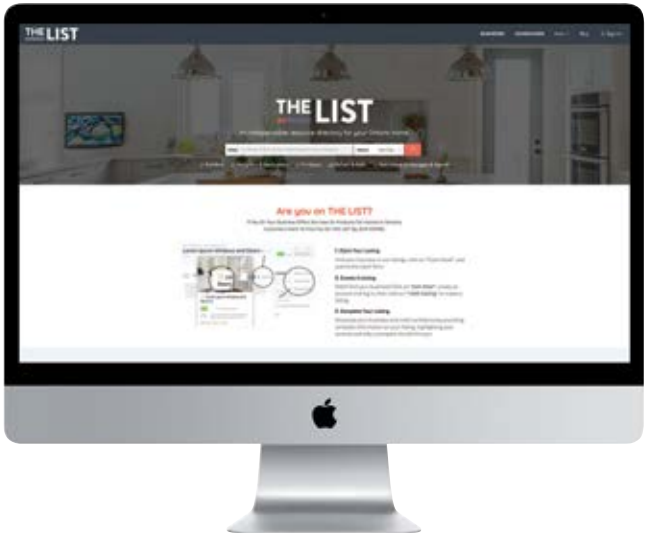


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TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STORY **GINA MAKKAR**

The original *Riverhouse* was a charming little cabin built in 1899, when Norval was a bustling town, and Lucy Maud Montgomery came to visit. The home changed hands and underwent renovations over the years, but its environment is still serene, with deer rambling across the lawn and herons soaring in the sky.

D**RAWN TO THE LAND**, the Credit River and the sweeping vistas, homeowners Mo and Julie Solomon purchased the home from the Bryant family, 25-year stewards of the property.

Advertised as a handyman's special, the tired home needed a lot of work. The Solomons decided to make the space liveable for themselves and their three children, with a plan to rebuild in the next five years. The five-year plan turned to 12 when life, budgets and building applications got in the way.

Through working with environmentalist **David Suzuki**, they learned **Mike Holmes** was building custom homes, and hired **Holmes Custom Homes** to manage the rebuild in 2010. Though the existing home could not be salvaged, a new sustainable design was created by **Francis Lapointe** of **Lapointe Architects** and approved with the help of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. *Continued on page 80*



TOP: The rooftop space provides breathtaking views. **CIRCLE:** Vintage touches add whimsy. **LEFT:** The backyard oasis is a retreat from busy day-to-day responsibilities. **ABOVE:** Raised garden beds are a grower's delight. **OPPOSITE:** This serene setting is just steps from the home.

feature

Today, a meandering driveway leads visitors to a private, cottage-like setting. There's not a neighbour to be seen, and with the land protected, there never will be. Nestled within a beautiful bend in the river, *Riverhouse* is tucked among 1.9 acres of land and more than 300 feet of Credit River frontage with riparian rights.

Built to be a "near net-zero" home, the new structure is flood-proof and made to withstand the elements. The sustainable design incorporates passive cooling, recycled and reclaimed building materials and rugged local finishes that reflect the natural surroundings.

The modern-meets-cottage aesthetic of the 2,500 sq. ft. home includes 1,000 square feet of rooftop space with gardens and a screened-in room. With three bedrooms, spa-like baths, a detached garage, a concrete saltwater pool, temperature controlled wine cellar, in-floor hydronic heating and a Swedish wood stove, the home is an oasis in the city. Despite its cottage-like surroundings, the home is conveniently located five minutes from the GO station and three minutes to grocery stores, restaurants and many of the amenities that come with city living. *Continued on page 82*



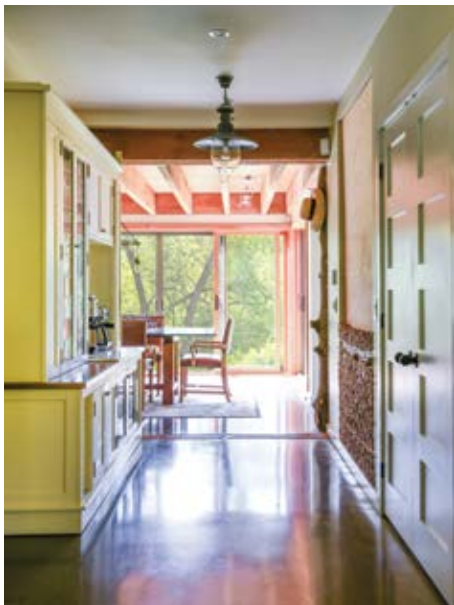
The home and property are a labour of love for homeowners Mo and Julie.



The kitchen plan and its flow was carefully thought out, as the couple enjoys cooking. Colour and texture add detail and create an end result that's beautiful and functional.



ABOVE: Wall-to-wall sliding doors create a solarium-style retreat for dining. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The flow of the home maximizes the energetic sightlines. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** A lack of window treatments allow for unencumbered views. **TOP RIGHT:** Cosy yet functional furnishings welcome relaxation. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The resort-like setting is a wonderful backdrop for entertaining or relaxing. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Rough-hewn Douglas fir beams add warmth and dimension.



The couple were involved every step of the way, from design to completion. “We loved choosing every light fixture, door knob, furnishings, bathroom vanities, faucets and paint colours; all the little details that make a house a home,” says Julie. They worked closely with **DV Kitchens** in Oakville to create a dream area. “They allowed us time and space to physically walk out our kitchen plan,” says Julie. “We both love to cook, and the flow of the kitchen was paramount.” Simple, white shaker-style cabinetry is offset with traces of French influence to add detail, especially on the light-blue peninsula. Caesarstone counters allow the chefs du jour to move hot pans from oven to counter without the fear of damage. Here, function meets beauty.

The kitchen layout seamlessly integrates a Wolf gas stove and oven, electric oven, Miele dishwasher, commercial-style Sub-Zero fridge and an appliance garage. Mo designed the Vent-A-Hood cover to mirror the other Douglas fir elements found throughout the home.

Sliding-glass doors and windows from top-to-bottom create a seamless flow between indoors and out. Heated polished-concrete floors allow the dogs and grandchildren to go in and out without a care.

Rough-hewn Douglas fir beams add warmth and dimension. Douglas fir accents can be found throughout, from the dramatic front door with its bronze colonnade handle to the custom media room shelving and a staircase crafted from rough-hewn beams.

Continued on page 84



feature

Warm weather is the perfect time to dine al fresco.



The home is sustainable and eco-friendly wherever possible, a cornerstone of Francis's work. The sun-filled home is light and bright, thanks to a passive solar design that utilizes southern exposure throughout.

"Mike Holmes insisted on using an outstanding company for our septic system, and we have been so happy," says Julie. "He builds with such high standards." The computerized system is remotely monitored and serviced twice a year. It's details like this that elevate the home. "Although septic systems sound like a country thing, it is a non-issue for our Mike Holmes custom home."

The couple wanted a low-maintenance, worry-free design. Francis incorporated elements like the galvanized 100-year roof, and rooftop gardens where the family can grow vegetables – a garden that would otherwise be a buffet for the local furry fellows at ground level. *Continued on page 86*



ABOVE: The bedroom opens onto the rooftop. **LEFT:** A built-in workstation helps maximize space. **BELOW:** Bunk beds are a great space saver and offer plenty of space for the grandkids to sleep over. **BELOW RIGHT:** A vanity and makeup station by the window make use of the natural light.



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Multiple zones on the rooftop provide space to spread out, especially when company is coming. **LEFT:** A screened-in room extends living space no matter the weather. **BELOW LEFT:** The use of glass instead of railings makes the most of breathtaking views.

“It was our job to make every space, indoors and out, a place that invites all who come to relax, enjoy and feel like they are on vacation somewhere far away from the bustling world,” says Julie.

“It’s a hidden gem; really hidden in a little valley smack in the middle of a bustling world. And yet our vista is huge, and we swim, hot tub, barbecue or stargaze in our own little sanctuary.”

When it came time to consider selling their custom dream home, Mo and Julie enlisted the services of **James Hodgins** of **Hodgins**

Realty Group. James assisted them in buying the original property. His boutique brokerage was a great fit, as they also specialize in riverfront properties and luxury custom homes. James describes the property as “a natural evolution for city dwellers who want tranquil, peaceful living, but don’t want to compromise their lifestyle or proximity to amenities and downtown access.” This riverside retreat strikes just the right balance. It’s the best of both worlds. **OH**



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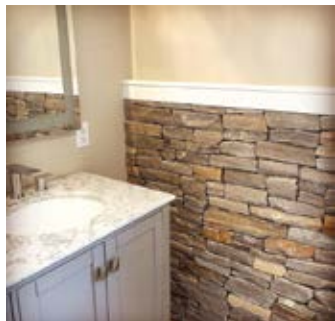
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A very hard wood that offers a distinctive character due to bold graining (which is best showcased in wide floorboards), but also requires added care during installation to achieve a cohesive aesthetic, especially in large open-concept spaces. Take note that most hickory flooring (including engineered products) cannot be installed over radiant floor heat.



MAPLE

Its subtle grain pattern provides a consistent look and when combined with its strength and durability, it can perform well in applications like cabinetry, flooring and furniture. However, maple is notoriously difficult to stain (proper procedures must be followed to avoid blotchiness) so prefinished from the factory is the best option when selecting maple hardwood. If you're looking for a solid wood cabinet instead of MDF or HDF (medium- or high-density fibreboard), maple is a great choice. Birdseye maple has a distinct pattern found in some sugar maples and makes a beautiful statement for custom furniture pieces.

OAK

A common option for flooring as it is incredibly durable, stable (when it comes to moisture and humidity) and offers a dynamic grain pattern that can hide imperfections such as scratches and dents more than other species. Red oak is more affordable than white oak, although there is a rosy undertone that the name implies. Oak generally receives stain well.



PINE

An affordable, lightweight softwood that is not the best for floors as it can scratch and dent easily (although heartwood is harder and more durable). Generally suited for a rustic aesthetic due to the dark knot, though clear pine comes without knots. Although pine takes paint well, you'll want to seal the knots so they don't bleed through. Great for wood trim.



WALNUT

A more costly wood, walnut has a distinct aesthetic with tones that can vary from dark chocolate brown to a lighter butter brown. Although strong and stable, walnut does scratch and dent more easily than hickory, oak or maple. Clear-coating or oiling walnut is the preferred finish to highlight its natural beauty. Great for statement pieces.



CEDAR

Western red cedar or eastern white cedar is a fragrant wood most suitable for exterior applications because of its ability to resist moisture (think cedar shakes), decay and insects. Exterior soffits and interior wood ceilings with tongue-and-groove cedar add warmth. You'll often see clear cedar as smooth ceiling details in modern builds.



ASH

A hardwood that has a lively graining similar to oak. It is naturally pale in colour. Even with its strength and density, ash is relatively lightweight compared to other hardwoods like hickory and oak.



POPLAR

Generally painted as it's not necessarily the most attractive wood. If you're looking to avoid the use of synthetics and MDF materials, paint-grade poplar is a great solution for interior trim, mouldings and doors.



BIRCH

Similar to maple in appearance, although not as hard. Can have a unique flame appearance when cut on the saw in a certain way. Sometimes used in engineered hardwoods to achieve an aesthetic similar to maple, but at a more affordable price tag. But remember, it is not as hard or durable as maple.

CHERRY

A beautiful and expensive hardwood with a fine straight grain and a rosy hue that reddens with age. Often used in cabinetry and furniture.



IMAGE: NELSON COSTA – AYA KITCHENS AND BATHS
Showcasing AyA's Manhattan Rye Cherry door paired with their Broadway White High Gloss door.

RECLAIMED WOODS

These offer a great way to reuse materials and prevent more trees from being harvested, while providing a unique, timeworn aesthetic with a sense of character and history. Reclaimed wood is often denser and more stable due to being harvested decades ago from mature trees that were able to reach a larger size, which can be beneficial for flooring as wider plank sizes are available.

EXOTIC WOODS

As the name implies, these woods are generally imported from international locations. One fairly expensive option is zebra wood, which is harvested from central Africa and offers a distinct striped-grain pattern from pale yellow to dark brown. Another exotic wood is acacia, which is a fast-growing and affordable import often used in furniture.

ENGINEERED VS. SOLID WOOD FLOORING:

Although cost is generally comparable, solid hardwood can be sanded down and refinished whereas the thickness of the wood veneer on engineered products will dictate whether or not it can be refinished. Engineered hardwoods are more stable and less susceptible to contraction and expansion with changes in humidity compared to a solid product. This also allows more engineered products to be available in wider plank sizes than solid hardwood.

TIP: When selecting a flooring material, consider thickness and the transition to other flooring materials (such as tile). For example, a half-inch engineered product may require an underlay so that you have a level transition from one material to the next, while a solid three-quarter-inch wood may not require an underlay to match height with adjoining flooring. **OH**

Wood samples courtesy of Arboreal Tree Care

beetroot TART

THIS RUSTIC, SEASONAL TART JUST CAN'T BE BEAT! THE BEETS ARE SHREDDED AND CARAMELIZED WITH ONIONS TO CREATE A SAVOURY FILLING.

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



INGREDIENTS

Makes 4 tarts

2-3 large beets,
peeled and grated

1 medium red
onion, thinly sliced

Cooking oil
and/or butter

1 Tbsp water

Salt and pepper

Soft cheese
(blue cheese or
goat cheese)

1 sheet puff pastry

Honey for garnish



DIRECTIONS

Filling

Over medium heat, cook beet and onion in a splash of cooking oil and/or butter. After a few minutes, add a tablespoon or so of water and cover the saucepan. Stir occasionally until beets are cooked down and the liquid is gone, approximately 10-15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Tart

Preheat oven to 350°F. Slice puff pastry into 4 squares. With a knife, score a 2-centimetre square border around the puff pastry. Score the pastry inside of the border. Bake the pastry for 12-15 minutes, until slightly golden.

Remove partially baked pastry from the oven and fill each square with beet mixture.

Top each pastry with a dollop of the cheese of your choice. Return to oven for 5-7 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown.

Serve with a drizzle of honey. **OH**

online

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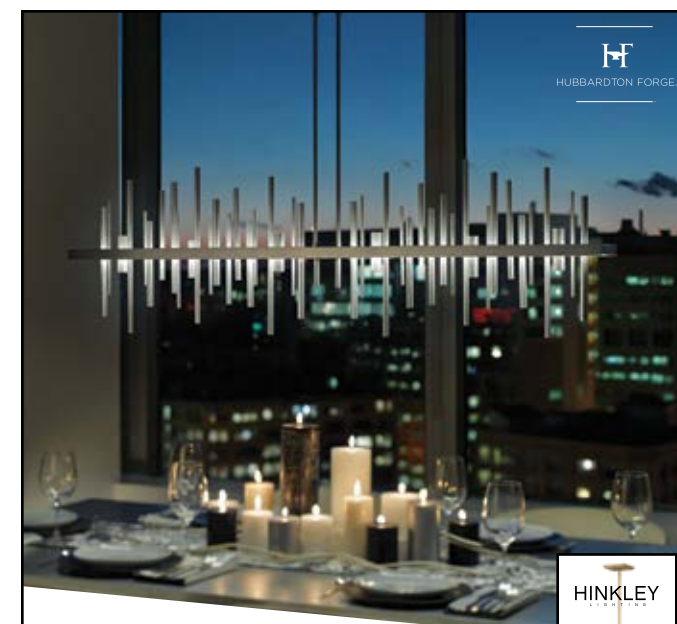
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IN THE LIVING ROOM

TEMPAPER: Intersections Wallpaper in Urban Bronze

CB2: Halo Copper Velvet Armchair

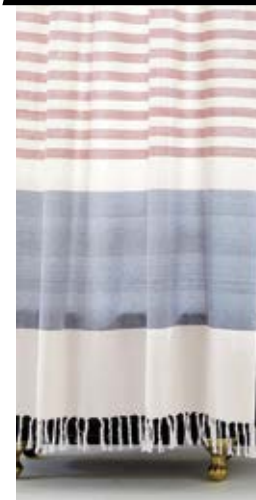
ORIGINAL BTC: Chester Floor Light in Satin Copper

COVET HOUSE: Eden Center Table in Copper Finish



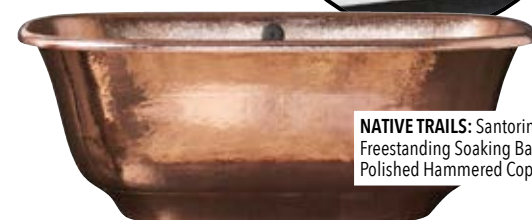
SURYA: Crescent Pillow in Medium Gray and Black with Metallic Copper

IN THE BATHROOM



NATIVE TRAILS: Maestro Round Vessel Sink in Polished Hammered Copper

CB2: Karla Copper Shower Curtain



NATIVE TRAILS: Santorini Freestanding Soaking Bathtub in Polished Hammered Copper



POTTERY BARN: Copper Handled Flatware

FOR THE BAR



POTTERY BARN: Copper Cocktail Shaker

CB2: Acrylic Tray Table



NATIVE TRAILS: Mojito Bar & Prep Sink in Polished Hammered Copper

IN THE KITCHEN

ORIGINAL BTC: Stanley Pendant Light in Hammered Copper

NATIVE TRAILS: Tempered Copper Lazy Susan

NATIVE TRAILS: Farmhouse 30 Apron-Front Kitchen Sink in Polished Hammered Copper



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