



**LEFT:** Various elements layer the entryway with character and texture. Square pendant lighting is a distinctive feature against the rustic wood.  
**BELOW:** Dramatic timbers are a focal point in the spectacular raised dining room. Natural earth tones provide soft contrast.

# THE COTTAGE

BY DENISE O'CONNELL // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN TRIGIANI

Diane and Tom never spent their childhood summers at a family cottage, but they still recognize the decompressing exhalation of every person who comes through their door. The tranquility of their property on Lake Ontario allows visitors to leave the hustle and bustle behind and relax.

The original property included a small homestead. Although Diane and Tom lived there when they first purchased the idyllic lot, they knew they wanted to build a new home that would nestle perfectly into its landscape. “The original home had been renovated and additions had been added, but it felt very piecemeal to us. We really felt like it was time to start fresh,” says Diane.

With the help of custom home designer David Small, of **David Small Designs**, and Tania Parkyn, principal of **Parkyn Design**, they replaced the original structure and custom-created their own cottage in the city.

As you drive up the narrow laneway to their new 5,800 sq. ft. home, the placard on the garage says it all: “The Cottage.” But this is no ordinary cottage. This home is reminiscent of the luxury dwellings found in Aspen, the Hamptons or Muskoka.

David designed an open concept space that brings the breathtaking lake view indoors at every turn. Tania worked with David to add design details at the drafting stage. Where David designed pillars, Tania ensured that the couple's desire for hand-hewn knotty pine and Douglas fir timbers was brought to life. Where David designed a skylight or vaulted ceiling, Tania added beams to enhance the warmth and cosy cabin appeal.

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The custom-designed kitchen blends rustic features with modern convenience. Antique furniture-style cabinetry, a large workspace and plenty of light set the scene for gatherings and meals.



**RIGHT:** The bright laundry room is both beautiful with its stone wall and functional with plenty of space to work and store extras.  
**BELOW:** No detail in this home was overlooked, including a functional shower space for much-loved family members Tucker and Willow.



Tania and Diane laugh as they remember the design process. “It was like she was in my head,” Diane says. “She knew exactly what I wanted.” Tania nods in agreement. A design match made in heaven, Diane appreciated the work that goes into home design and Tania listened intently and applied talent and skill to create the desired look. Every whimsical detail conjures the dog-days of summer spent at the lake.

Leo Ciancolo of **Easton Homes Inc.** made the plans a reality with quality construction. The exterior blends grey Owen Sound Ledgerrock and green board and batten, colours that are carried throughout the interior of the home. His focus on the trim details at the peaks and roof lines added visual interest to the façade.

Stepping inside the foyer is like entering a veritable retreat. With a clear visual pathway to the back of the home, visitors are greeted with a breathtaking lake view from the moment they arrive. Rustic, reclaimed eight-inch hardwood floors extend throughout the space and glow with an amber patina. Wrought iron spindles and the iron strapping that wraps the newel posts add distinctive detail to the stunning staircase crafted of reclaimed elm. Light streams from the skylight and floods the area with warmth.

As one enters the main living space, a majestic stone archway clearly separates and defines the kitchen. A raised dining room brings the outdoors in with framed hand hewn posts and beams by Georgian Timberworks Ltd. Tania mixed eclectic, inherited heirloom pieces with custom-made furniture. A handcrafted reclaimed hemlock table is offset by the neutral earth tones of the chairs and window treatments, creating a light, airy and organic atmosphere. An antique spinning wheel à la Sleeping Beauty sits in the window. *Continued on page 26*

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## feature



**ABOVE:** The lower level bar area with its lantern lighting and barn doors provide the perfect ambience to extend evening entertaining.  
**LEFT:** A myriad of wood accents envelop the master bath with warmth and atmosphere.


The kitchen and great room take up the centre of the main floor and afford the couple the perfect set-up for informal parties, barbecues and entertaining. Vaulted ceilings soar to a dramatic 28 feet in some areas. The kitchen by **Stutt Kitchens & Fine Cabinetry** has down-home appeal. Antiqued recessed panel cabinetry and distressed hardware are offset by the light planks and rich beams that line the ceiling. An island in rich brown tones is surrounded by Chaddock stools and topped by striking rustic pendant fixtures. Although butcher block counters might have been the safe and obvious choice, Tania chose a textured antiqued granite slab from **Marble Trend Ltd.** and fabricated by **Dixie Marble & Granite Inc.** to add a durable and functional, yet traditional touch. Wolf, Sub-Zero and Miele appliances provide a contemporary feel. A pocket door with intricately sandblasted glass and a black antiqued finish slides open to reveal the laundry room and a mudroom complete with a shower specially crafted for family canines Tucker and Willow.

In the great room, floor-to-ceiling windows provide an unobstructed

view of the lakefront vista. The focal point, a 20-foot wood-burning fireplace, was fashioned from Owen Sound Ledgerrock and constructed by Easton Homes. A reclaimed barn beam serves as a unique mantel. A distinctive wrought-iron candelabra-style chandelier hangs above.

Every intricate detail was borne from the collaboration between Tania and Diane. Throughout the space, built-in tongue-and-groove cabinetry by Stutt Kitchens and Fine Cabinetry provides beauty and function. In the bathrooms, details like pebble tile in the shower and a natural stone vessel sink accompany a luxurious Jacuzzi tub and steam bath. Instead of plain interior doors, weathered barn doors were placed on sliders for visual interest. In true Parkyn style, Tania loves to make people look up. Beams and cathedral ceilings coax the eyes skyward for a dramatic yet cosy feeling.


"Everyone who worked on this home got it," says Diane of her vision. "It's the details that make this home what it is, and each person who worked on this space had a passion for the details." **OH**



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