



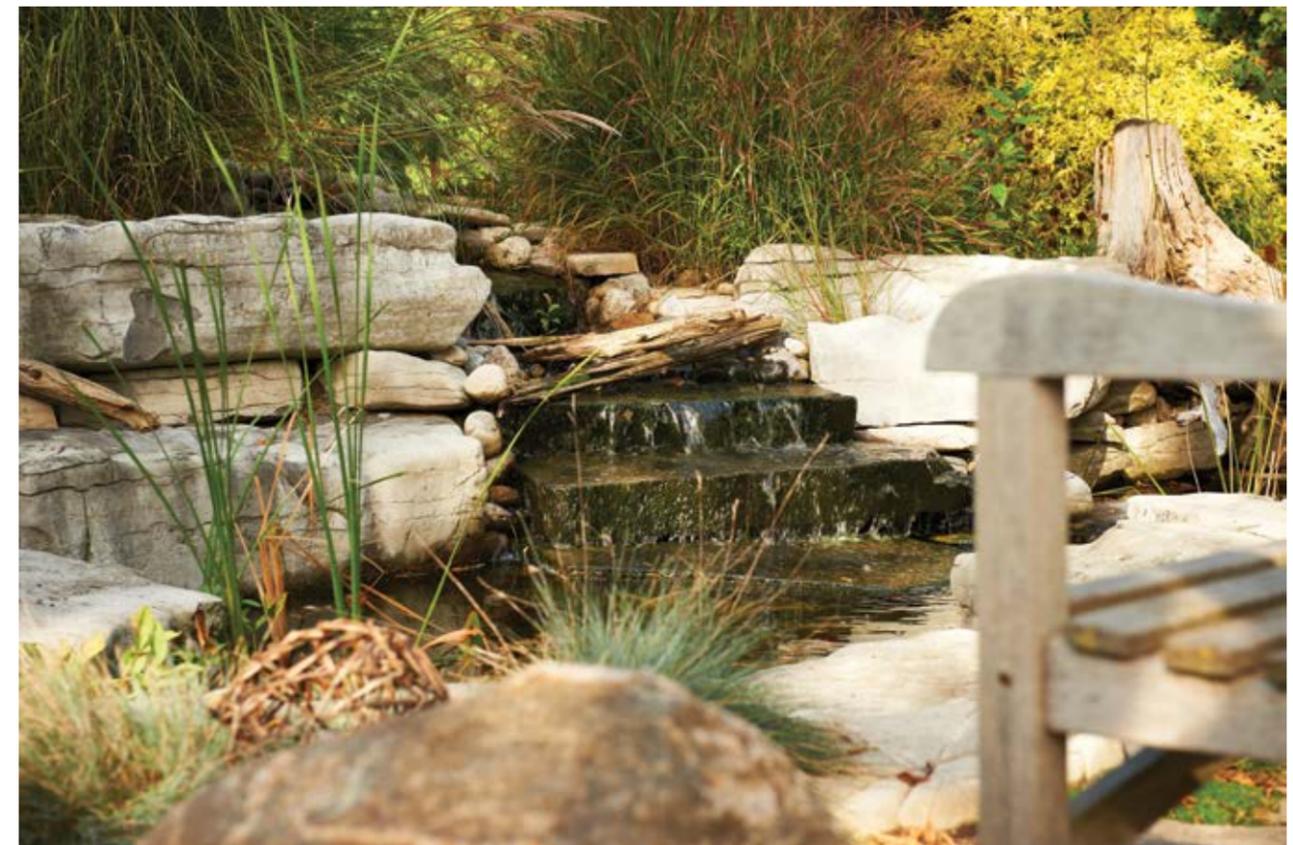
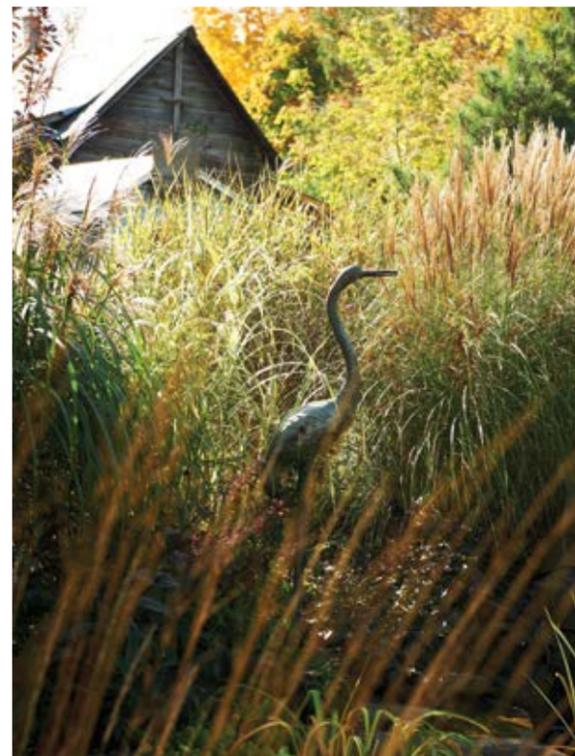
AN *Artistic* DESIGN

STORY HEATHER WRIGHT
 PHOTOGRAPHY JESSICA DEEKS
 STYLING ELISE SCHMITZ



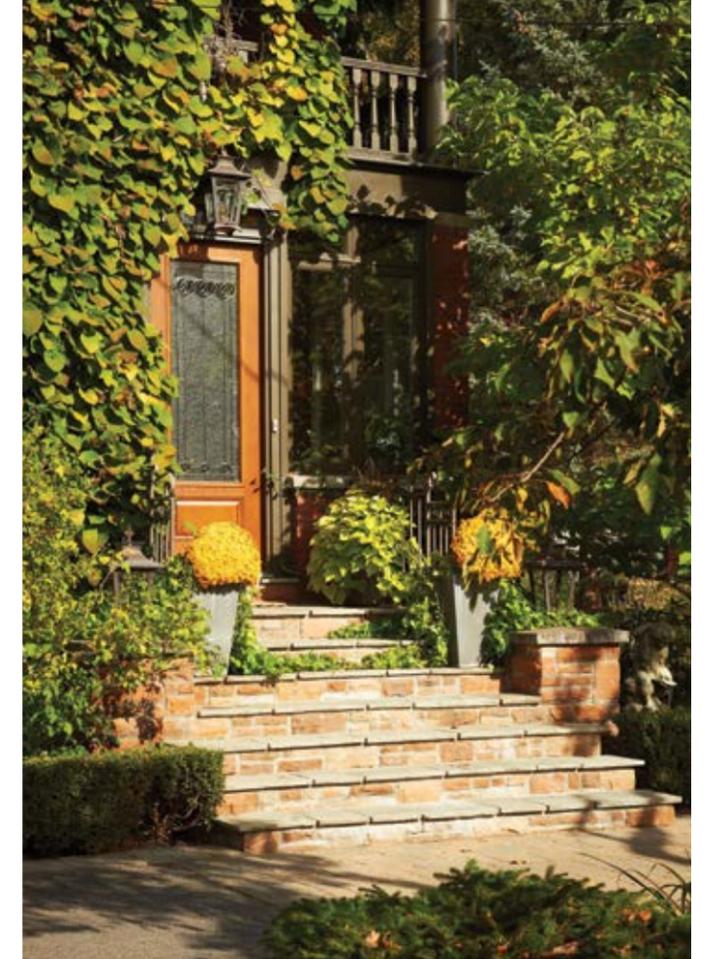
OPPOSITE: The beautiful gardens of this Kenmore home are landscaped by the owners of the home and also Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd. **LEFT:** A bench perfectly placed to enjoy the fresh outdoors. **BELOW:** A crafty deer pokes its head from the bushes. **BOTTOM:** The pond adds flowing water to the landscape.

Time. There is never enough of it in a day, but when you translate time and patience into quality, appeal and design, it takes on a whole other meaning. That is the quiet statement that Hans Jurgen and Mary-Anne Schmitz's century-old home in Kenmore makes, nestled amongst a nurturing backdrop of carefully planned gardens and mature trees. *Continued on page 26*





OPPOSITE TOP: The large sitting area creates a space for entertaining. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Hans Jurgen and Mary-Anne Schmitz enjoy their century-old home. **RIGHT:** A fall setting outside the side entrance. **BOTTOM:** Hidden nooks in the garden create getaway spaces for the family.



The house was built in 1914 and originally owned by the son of the local Carkner Mill owner. It has had few other owners. Mary-Anne and Hans bought it 17 years ago. This red brick, two-storey home portends a wise elegance, the kind that belongs only to those who have weathered and endured the test of time. This is one of those houses that, if the walls could talk, you would be very interested in what they had to say.

With four bedrooms, well-appointed living space and a funky attic done beach style, this home unfolds like a walkway to the past, with many of the original design pieces still present, such as sturdy maple floors, railings, trim and wood mouldings.

Upon entry, you are greeted with a sunlit, funky, functional country kitchen that is an excellent example of how the past meets the contemporary. Exposed brick casts rich colour into the neutrally coloured space, playing nicely against the cabinetry (kitchen renovated by **Andrew Bols, Triangle Kitchen & Bath**) and backsplash from **Ceratec Ceramic Tiles**. The influence of their pragmatic style is

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displayed with a custom-made breakfast bar and countertops, made of black, unpolished granite.

In the attic, original gable boards are painted with a semi-transparent, latex stain (painting, interior and exterior by **KWN Contracting Services**), lending it a fresh, nautical feel. A coffered tin ceiling, with lights from **Architectural Antique Lighting**, offers visual dimension and interest.

Outside, the gardens (landscaping by **Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd.**) snake through the whole property. It's a far cry from the mature trees and vine creeping up the side of the house, the only things growing outside when they moved in.

"We did always have in mind that we were going to one day have gardening workshops and have enough interest in the whole property

to allow that to happen," says Mary-Anne. They now open their gardens to the public with workshops and tours under their company **Gardening by Design Inc.**

The end result is a patchwork of ornate, beautiful gardens and outdoor living spaces that solidify the sense of endurance that encircles this century-old property.

Mary-Anne and Hans have spent the better part of the last 17 years lovingly putting their own stamp on the property. Their aim is to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the home, and to take great care that their additions and renovations will help this lovely home continue to stand the test of time.

"Because of the fact that it was not owned by many people, the condition was really good. There were beautiful wood mouldings and

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The black countertops complement the interesting shape of kitchen. **OPPOSITE:** Small details make this home simply delicious!



floors. We had to remove many doors because it didn't make sense for the layout. We did some renovations, but only to modernize because the house is so well built," says Mary-Anne.

Part of what contributes to this home's sense of fortitude is its connection to the land. It is enmeshed in its natural surroundings and linked to the community, through the owner's value, respect and preference for local craftsmanship – be it for physical design, accessories, furniture or artwork. There is a sense of mutual investment with a symbiotic relationship that firmly plants this house from the past into the present, with an eye to the future.

"Anything I have inside or outside my house is done by people who really care and by local people as well," she says. "It is really important to me that I buy locally." Mary-Anne also notes that "everything is custom, inside and out."

She hangs several local artists' work on her walls, like **M. Atkins** & **Ros Allchin** and **Pieter Doef (Doef Studios)**. An exquisite floral arrangement is attributed to **Elise Schmitz (Toast Special Events)**.

There are also several funky, custom-made light fixtures throughout the home from Architectural Antique Lighting, dotting rooms with a modern touch.

Another common thread throughout the house and surrounding garden is the liberal use of natural materials like stone, driftwood, water and large planting beds, all a nod to Mary-Anne's happy childhood growing up on dairy farm. "It brings you back to nature," she explains.

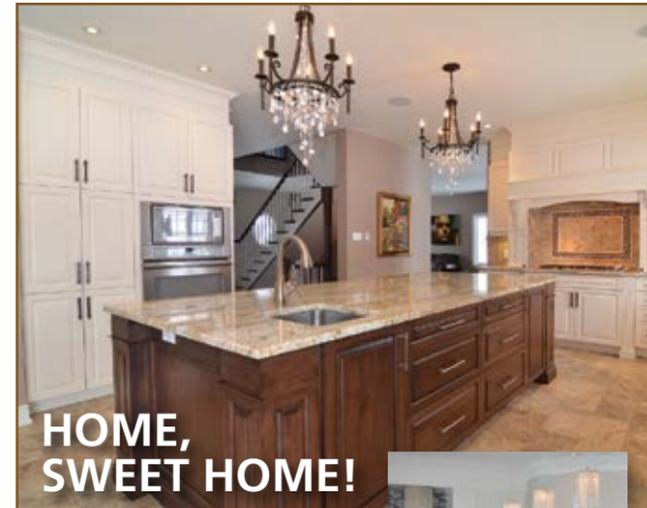
When it came to planning the gardens that surround the house, Mary-Anne says: "There should be a balance in design – some sort of unity. For us, it would be the informal garden setting, with many areas

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OPPOSITE: The kitchen is unique in shape and design. With exposed bricks and nooks, it is a place for preparing food and sitting with a small group close to the dining room. **ABOVE:** The living area is a place of comfort for everyone, including the family dog.



The blues in the bedroom create a cooling, relaxing feel.



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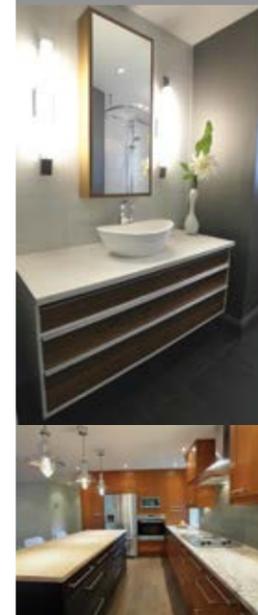
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of interest, which encourage you to walk through the garden and not stay in one place. There are multiple sitting areas. There is the fireplace area, the patio area, and then the shaded eating area.”

There is also a luxurious outdoor kitchen from Triangle Kitchen & Bath and Masonry and Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd., which offers additional outdoor entertaining space.

There is a relationship between permanence, care and beauty. Mary-Anne feels that hard work, either through skilled craftsmanship or ongoing maintenance, contributes to the overall pleasure one should derive from the finished product, truly giving meaning to “labour of love.” She also says that a nice by-product of creating something lasting is knowing that it will exist for your enjoyment for years to come.

Clearly, from inside and outside of Hans and Mary-Anne’s century home, good things come to those who wait. **OH**

TOP: The loft bedroom is spacious and luxurious with lots of natural light. **LEFT:** The balcony upstairs creates a place to relax and get away.

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