

BRINGING THE *outdoors* INSIDE

BY HEATHER WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DEEKS

The grand doors open up in to the great room. The incredible view of the Ottawa River can be seen through the huge glass panels. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Paul and Mona enjoy their new home.



It may seem counter-intuitive to go inside to become aware of the outdoors, but that is precisely the experience you are when crossing the threshold of Paul and Mona Raynaud's Dunrobin Shores bungalow on the banks of the Ottawa River.

Approaching this home from the street, there are two handsome, solid wood front doors (**Lambden Window & Door**). When these doors are opened, you are greeted with an acute awareness of volume, light and space, placed in context by magnificent views of the river and of the natural setting that cradles this home. The views are framed by floor-to-ceiling windows (**Mason Windows Ottawa Ltd.**), high ceilings and an open concept living space.

These front doors reveal some of the very deliberate, specific choices that Paul and Mona made when designing and building their home. They desired to bring the outside in and maximize the majestic view that their lot offers them. They wanted a home that offers peace, tranquillity and respite, but with a pragmatic appeal.

For Paul and Mona, this home is the culmination of a lifetime of observation of design elements they valued. This is intended to be their home through retirement. However, when your desires are precise, and when this is the final stop on the property ladder, the margin for error when building the home of your dreams is slim and the pressure is intense.

"We wanted to have a second opinion on the various plans that were of interest to us. Who could we talk to? That's where we got the idea," Paul says.

Paul and Mona contacted the Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism at Carleton University, which put them in touch with recent grads Jeff Salmon

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and Rick Kellner. The graduates, in conjunction with Blake Waugh of **Caswell Custom Home Design**, delivered the creative thinking that would ultimately serve a design to breathe life into their housing dream.

“We met and showed them the plans that were of most interest to us,” Paul says. “They said, ‘How would you feel about something a little bit more out-of-the-box?’ We looked at each other and said go for it!”

“The process was really interesting. The designers, including project manager **Mark Kranenburg** of **Greenmark Builders**, were 30-years-old or younger.” It was important for Mona and Paul to have a design that was fresh. They felt this could be accomplished with the enthusiasm of their youthful design and building team.

Obviously, they knew that they wanted to embrace the view, but what does that mean when it comes to physical design?

The primary design decision, keeping in mind the desire to maximize the view, was to angle the home, rather than incorporate the standard rectangular footprint. Floor-to-ceiling windows span the main floor and lower level walkout throughout the back of the home. The main floor and lower level face slightly different directions.

The light is enhanced by an open utility staircase to the lower level, which has the effect of creating volume without seeming cavernous.



OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: The sitting area was carefully designed with custom-built cabinetry and fireplace. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Flowers by Trillium Floral Designs. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The dining area separates the kitchen and sitting room. **THIS PAGE, LEFT:** A large kitchen perfect for entertaining. **BELOW:** An antique set of scales from France is a family heirloom.

The angles create a view that is not only glorious but dynamic, and shifts depending on the vantage point.

A focal point in the great room, their favourite room in the house, is a charming fireplace by **Harding The Fireplace Ltd.** that is framed by floor-to-ceiling stone from **Merkley Supply Ltd.** A uniquely thin insert continues past the stone wall adding warmth and comfort to the room. Off to the side is funky, custom built-in cabinetry (**Against the Grain**) that gives the space a polished, chic appeal.

Interior elements support the lines and contemporary feel that this angled design delivers. In the kitchen (**Kitchen Interiors**), they selected white, traditional shaker-style cabinetry and gave it a more contemporary look with square door knobs and handles, explains Mona.

The master bath embodies this sleek style as well, with a soaker tub by **Mondeau Bathroom & Kitchen** that boasts clean, deep lines.

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The master bathroom houses a beautiful pebble chandelier. The pebble theme is continued throughout the house.



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The master bath also offers a different view of the river, which Paul jokingly refers to as “the loo with the view.”

Currently, the home has two bedrooms, but there are numerous rooms, including a gym, complete with glass walls and infrared sauna, an office and a workshop that could all easily be converted to bedrooms.

Nature manifests itself in the décor. There are earthy tones of greys, blues, browns and reds in the paint palette. The flooring throughout the main floor is maple (**Gaylord Hardwood Flooring**), infused with subtle gingerbread hues that tie it to the outdoors. They even have sconces and a dining room light fashioned from twigs (Hubbarton Forge Collection, **Marchand Lighting & Electrical**). Paul and Mona incorporated a pebble theme throughout their home as a nod to the river. They have pebbles in both fireplaces, as part of the shower floor in the master bath and enmeshed in the granite in the powder room (cabinetry by **Deslaurier Custom Cabinets Inc.**).

Ironically, before any of the design decisions were made, Paul and Mona purchased brass pine cone door knockers, which now rest on their front door, emblematic of their desire to fuse nature and design. “We didn’t have a plan; all we had were these door knockers,” says Mona. Now, with the end result, Paul and Mona’s love and excitement for their riverside retirement retreat is palpable, not just for the design itself, but for the path they took to get there. **OH**

RIGHT: This grand entranceway wows any visitor. **BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT:** The bedroom, decorated with a touch of safari, sports window coverings from Custom Blinds Plus.







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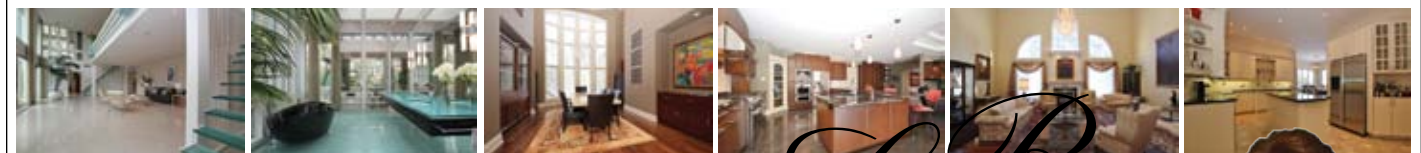
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