

WINTER 2011/2012

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

# ourhomes

O A K V I L L E   A N D   B U R L I N G T O N

## *classic* CAPE COD

REBUILD WITH  
**MUSKOKA APPEAL**

HOME PROS  
WITH *panache*

FABULOUS FURNITURE  
*at* **JOSHUA CREEK**

*plus*  
**WINTER DRINKS**  
TO WOW YOUR GUESTS



## SIMPLY EXQUISITE CUSTOM CRAFTED CABINETS



2102 SPEERS RD, OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, L6L 2X8  
P: (905) 842-3095 | F: (905) 842-6407  
WWW.TOPNOTHCABINETS.COM

m i c h a e l B R E J N I K  
Sales Representative

OFFICE (905) 335-3042  
TOLL-FREE 1-800-290-0163

www.michaelbrejnik.ca  
michael@michaelbrejnik.ca

ROYAL LePAGE  
BURLOAK REAL ESTATE SERVICES  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED BROKERAGE



EXCLUSIVE LUXURY LIVING

**\$8,269,000** Timeless Palatian Estate designed & to be built by BREJNIK FINE HOMES. 18,000 sf of luxury living, 12 car parking, theatre, wine cellar, helicopter pad. Unparalleled quality & finishes.



LAKEFRONT ESTATE

**\$6,899,000** Rare opportunity to own a Ferris Rafauli Designer Estate home on Lakeshore Rd. Approx 7000 sf of luxury, 4 bdrms, main fl master, 3 car garage 12' & 10' ceilings, hardwood, marble.



STUNNING LAKESHORE ESTATE

**\$2,795,000** Architecturally dramatic facade, elegant landscaping, stately entrance & meticulous detail. High ceilings & magnificent hardwood floors abound. Masterfully designed by BREJNIK FINE HOMES.



SOUTH OF LAKESHORE

**\$2,495,000** Over 6,200 sf of luxury living. Custom masterpiece, 4+1 bdrm, 4.5 bath, classic w/dark hardwd, radiant heated limestone flooring, granite, wenge wood kit cabinets, coffered ceilings, gym, home theatre, hot tub & gas fire pit.



LAKEFRONT BUILDING LOT

**\$2,295,000** Gorgeous lot in highly sought after Roseland. Stunning lake views & ready for your custom home. Situated amongst multi-million dollar homes & framed by soaring mature trees.



70+ ACRE-RES ESTATE LOT(S)

Absolutely gorgeous 70+ acre picturesque property just north of 401 & west of Guelph Line in Milton. Build your custom estate or take advantage of possible future residential development.



AWARD WINNING BUNGALOW

**\$899,900** Magnificent custom Branhaven on ravine. Open concept w/2+1 bdrms & 3 baths. Maple hardwood, Italian stone tiles & calif closets/shutters. Prof landscaped w/ plunge pool & waterfall. Furniture pkg avail.



WATERFRONT PENTHOUSE

**\$709,000** Stunning penthouse condo with many upgrades. Bdrm, den & LR overlooks lake. Large tiled terrace, custom kitchen w/ granite & custom cabientry in each closet. This Penthouse comes w/2 parking spots.



MISSISSAUGA EXECUTIVE

4 Bdrm home upgraded top to bottom. New dark hardwood t/o main flr. New tile & granite in kitchen. Large LR, DR, FR & laundry on main level. Upgraded master bath w/new vanity. Large Lot!

m i c h a e l B R E J N I K . c a





Simplicity  
Chandelier



Tartufo  
Chandelier

FULFILL THE DESIRE FOR DISTINCTIVE HOME FURNISHINGS.  
CURREY & COMPANY



Sebastian  
Sconce



Eclipse  
Chandelier



Bohemia  
Chandelier



355 Iroquois Shore Road, Oakville, ON L6H 1M3 905-845-2461 gls@gerrie.com  
Studio open 7 days a week. Shop online 24/7 [www.gerrielightingstudio.ca](http://www.gerrielightingstudio.ca)



SPACE PLANNING • KITCHEN & BATH DESIGNS • CEILING & LIGHTING • TILE & FLOOR FINISHES • FURNITURE • WINDOW & WALL TREATMENTS

*Full Scope Interior Design Services*

P A R K Y N *PD* D E S I G N

1440 HURONTARIO STREET, SUITE 100 MISSISSAUGA, ON L5G 3H4 TEL: 905.271.2021 [WWW.PARKYNDESIGN.COM](http://WWW.PARKYNDESIGN.COM)





[www.cameokitchens.com](http://www.cameokitchens.com)

*Cameo Kitchens*  
AND FINE CABINETRY



*Cocoon*

Cocoon Furnishings  
2640 Bristol Circle, Oakville, Ontario  
P. 905.829.2780 [www.cocoonfurnishings.ca](http://www.cocoonfurnishings.ca)



# HERMES MOZAIK

STONE  
TILE  
MARBLE  
DESIGN

## SPECIALIZING IN NATURAL STONE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

- Bathrooms, kitchens, foyer and fireplaces
- Classic to contemporary designs
- Come visit our boutique to see a wide range of our products



Authorized Dealer of Pera Tile.



WITH 2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU.

BURLINGTON: 389 Pearl Street. L7R 2M8, 905.635.8456.

OAKVILLE: 86 Lakeshore Road West, L6K 1E1, 905.582.6431.

[hermesmozaik.com](http://hermesmozaik.com)

*Upscale designer decor  
At a price You can live with*



SECTIONAL CHAISE \$1598



• SOFAS • SECTIONALS • LEATHER • SOLID WOOD BEDROOM & DINING SUITES • TV CABINETS • BAR STOOLS & MORE

JOSHUA CREEK TRADING  
**FURNITURE**  
& HOME DECOR

1029 SPEERS RD, OAKVILLE (SPEERS & 4TH LINE) 905.842.3739

[www.JOSHUACREEKFURNITURE.COM](http://www.JOSHUACREEKFURNITURE.COM)



# ELIZABETH INTERIORS

DESIGN SPECIALISTS

Exclusive  
RALPH LAUREN

Timeless  
HICKORY CHAIR

Luxurious  
CENTURY FURNITURE

COME AND VISIT OUR 32,000 SQ. FT. SHOWROOM  
WITH OVER 500 LINES TO CHOOSE FROM



## MAKE A STATEMENT IN STYLE

Fine furniture for the discriminating buyer  
with an eye for value.

Exclusive lines include Ralph Lauren, Hickory Chair,  
Century Furniture, Kincaid, Henredon and much more.  
Our interior designers will be pleased to help you.



ELIZABETHINTERIORS.COM

ELIZABETH INTERIORS  
409 BRANT ST, BURLINGTON  
905.333.6670

THOMASVILLE BURLINGTON  
2269 FAIRVIEW ST, BURLINGTON  
905.631.6000

ELIZABETHINTERIORS.COM

## ourhomes

STYLE • COMFORT • IDEAS • REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER RUSSELL STREET MEDIA INC.**  
SHANNON MACPHERSON  
shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com

OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC:

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH  
editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

**MANAGING EDITOR** GINA MAKKAR  
gina@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ART DIRECTOR** TARA CHATTELL  
tara@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR** SHEILA BRITTON  
sheila@ourhomesmagazine.com

**PRODUCTION DIRECTOR** LYNN DERRICK  
lynn@ourhomesmagazine.com

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** JANINE STONHILL  
janine@ourhomesmagazine.com

**WEB EDITOR** SHELBY HILSON  
shelby@ourhomesmagazine.com

**PRESIDENT** DAVID LOOPSTRA

### CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Arnott, Rebecca Dumais, Bonnie Fox, Jason Hartog,  
Gina Makkar, Terry Smith, Tonia Wilson

### MARKETING & ADVERTISING SALES

**For Advertising or General Inquiries**  
SHANNON MACPHERSON 289.242.5599  
shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com

OUR HOMES™ is a registered trademark of  
OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.

OUR HOMES™ Oakville & Burlington is published four times a year by  
Russell Street Media Inc. under the license of OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.

## ourhomes

STYLE • COMFORT • IDEAS • REAL ESTATE

OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.

OUR HOMES™ is distributed to residents of Oakville & Burlington via direct mail.  
Copies of OUR HOMES™ are available for free pick up at  
high traffic locations throughout the region. OUR HOMES™ is distributed  
to select business leaders via direct mail.

Advertisements and the content, including photos, of advertisements published within OUR HOMES magazine  
are supplied solely by the advertiser and neither the publisher nor OUR HOMES Media Group Inc accept  
responsibility for opinions expressed in advertisements or for copyright issues with regards to photos, advertising  
copy and advertisements, nor shall they be held liable thereby. By act of reading this publication, all advertisers  
and readers agree to indemnify and hold harmless both OUR HOMES Media Group Inc., and the publisher thereby.  
Copyright ©2011 OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

Please send all letters and/or feedback to OUR HOMES™ Magazine,  
11 Russell Street, Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 3Z1  
Or email us at editor@ourhomesmagazine.com. All letters received  
are subject to editing for grammar and length.  
If undelivered, return to above address.

**For franchise inquiries please visit**

www.ourhomesmagazine.com  
Or call: Suzanne Strong at 519.538.4528  
e-mail to franchise@ourhomesmagazine.com



# Elena Cipriano

sales representative

Office: 905.639.7676

## RE/MAX

ESCARPMENT REALTY INC.  
Real Estate Brokerage Independently Owned & Operated



**2260 #1 Side Road** Rare opportunity to own this 5.4 acre property, minutes to highway 5 and 407. Panoramic views of the Lake and City. Approx 6000 sq.ft. with a triple car garage. Features 4+2 Bedrooms, 6 baths, 2 fireplaces, outdoor pavilion with pizza oven, backsplash, fireplace & bathroom. A fenced tennis & basketball court with an oversized salt water in-ground pool with breathtaking views. A partially finished basement with nanny quarters/in law suite, wine cellar & rec room, etc. An entertainer's dream! — \$3,999,900



**2331 Wuthering Heights Way** Luxurious freehold 3 bedroom townhome backing onto ravine in desirable upscale Bronte Creek. This Fernbrook model is approx 2450 sq. ft., showcasing an open concept layout with 9' ceilings. Features include an oversized great room with gas fireplace, modern eat-in kitchen with island, breakfast bar granite, oak staircase, separate formal dining room, 7" vintage hardwood flooring, laundry room, master bedroom retreat with walk-in closet and spa-like 5 piece ensuite. Beautifully landscaped with patio with views of the pond and access to walking trail. Ideal for entertaining, just move-in and enjoy all this home has to offer. — \$ 729,900



**3284 Lakeshore Road** Fabulous lakeshore home set on quiet crescent that overlooks the lake. Ideal custom built layout with vaulted ceilings, large open concept great room and kitchen, includes hardwoods throughout, granite counter tops, California shutters, main floor office with ability to convert to main floor bed, media space in lower level, all completely finished with mature landscaping and upgraded drive and walk ways. This home blends the best of both worlds, mature setting with newer construction and design. — \$1,099,000

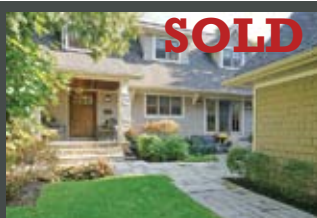


**4499 Escarpment Drive** Experience a natural treasure in your own backyard with beautiful landscapes, countless square miles of wooded wonderlands & sweeping scenic views. This custom built 4-bedroom bungalow in the exclusive "Bluffs" offers direct access to the Bruce Trail. Situated on 2 acres of land in one of Burlington's most exclusive locales, this home is just minutes to the city & close to all amenities. Offering approximately 3900 sq.ft. above grade, this home has spacious rooms & a practical floor plan ideal for entertaining. This family home features an over sized 3-car garage, a gourmet "Barzotti" kitchen, a great room with cathedral ceilings, a main floor master bedroom retreat with a 5-piece luxurious ensuite & dressing room, 3 spacious bedrooms on the second level plus a loft area. Low maintenance landscaping with an irrigation system, a rear patio & a hot tub. — \$2,300,000





**TERRY SMITH**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE



Exceptional townhouse  
Downtown Oakville \$1,125,000

Incredible opportunity. Luxury townhouse, completely rebuilt in 2007. Timeless, sophisticated, very comfortable. Feels like a fabulous french country home. Open living on main floor with gorgeous kitchen, dining and living. Custom millwork throughout. Gorgeous rear courtyard. Soaring ceilings upstairs. Master with juliet balconies, bathroom right out of the finest luxury hotels in Europe! This is a rare find.

Unlocking the value in your home.  
c: 647.405.8057 | e: tjsmith@cogeco.ca



t: 905.388.9000  
f: 905.842.7010



**SMITH  
& COMPANY**

TIMELESS HOMES

- DESIGN/BUILD IN A CLASSIC STYLE
- ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY
- PASSIONATE ATTENTION TO DETAIL

647.405.8057  
tjsmith@cogeco.ca

## editor's note



**THE TREES ARE SHIVERING AND SO AM I.** Even though I'm Canadian-made, I'm still surprised by the tickle of winter's cold fingers year after year. I'm usually sporting a toque by October 1.

Don't get me wrong, I see the magic of the season in the frost painted windowpanes and the snow draped trees. I'll just enjoy it from this side of the glass.

As kids, we couldn't wait to race into the bright outdoors and dig our hands into the snow. We'd scramble up snow banks, build forts, and make snowballs that would last for weeks. These days, I'd rather retreat to my kitchen and whip up a savoury stew and dozens of holiday treats.

It gives me time to examine my home, and I have to admit, I'm frozen, and it's not just the weather. We've been in our home for six months, and we can't seem to find our decorating style. Our place has beautiful bones, but the builder beige walls and lack of accents is uninspiring. I'd love to wave a magic wand, but it doesn't work. I've tried.

I want a home that's a haven, a place that feels good from the moment I walk through the door. That's just what you'll see in the Kristjanson home, where thoughtful architectural details and beautiful finishes create comfort and luxury (page 32).

This issue, we also feature professionals that can help warm up your space, whether you're looking to create a welcoming entrance or reinvent the heart of the home, your kitchen (page 38).

As a designer, our feature homeowner Tracy Ray and husband Bob's well-defined space speaks volumes. Clean and edgy, their style radiates comfort and elegance (page 20).

I've been hoping our space would speak to us, but I guess we need a little magic. I hope you'll open this issue and find a little, too.

Happy winter!

*Gina Makkar*

Gina Makkar, Managing Editor  
gina@ourhomesmagazine.com

Follow us at [twitter.com/OurHomesMag](https://twitter.com/OurHomesMag)

# Enjoy Affordable 4 Season Chalet

LIFESTYLE

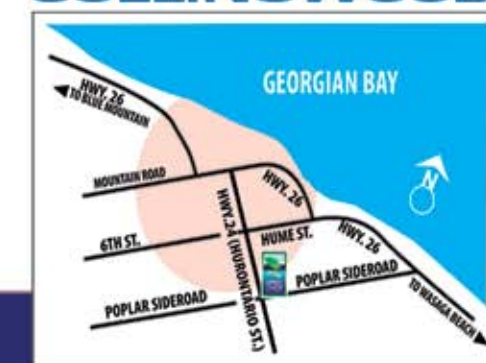
**60 DAY  
CLOSINGS  
AVAILABLE**



**3 fabulous model homes!**  
**Collingwood's Best Bungalows  
& Singles just got better with  
New Models starting at \$299,990.**

Perfectly located on the Collingwood Trail. Hike, bike or sail, enjoy a round of golf, ski the slopes shop and dine to your heart's content. It's all right here.

**COLLINGWOOD**



**\$25,000  
BONUS SPECIAL**  
LIMITED TIME OFFER

**Plus**  
Bring in this ad today  
and get an additional  
**\$1,000.**  
in builder upgrades  
with the purchase  
of a new home.  
LIMITED TIME OFFERS.

OPEN DAILY 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM

1-888 257-1999  
705 293-3311



**BRIARWOOD  
HOMES**

[prettyriver.net](http://prettyriver.net)



# contents

## winter

16



### ON THE COVER

Casual Luxury  
Story, page 20.  
Photography by  
Jason Hartog.



### departments

EDITOR'S NOTE	12
STYLE PICKS Fabulous Finds	16
COMFORT ZONE Designer Décor At A Great Price	30
PEOPLE Adding Distinctive Details	38
HOME RESOURCE DIRECTORY	45
FINISHING TOUCH Toast The Season	46

### features

FEATURE HOME Classic Comfort In Oakville	20
REAL ESTATE A Room To Keep	28
HOME & BUILDER A Warm And Welcoming Rebuild	32
ENTERTAINING Wine And Cheese	42

30



20



46



32

  
**Anderson's**  
your design partner

WHEN THE RIGHT  
PIECES COME TOGETHER  
a story unfolds...



Furniture · Carpet & Area Rugs · Wallpaper & Paint · Drapery  
686 Guelph Line, Burlington · 905-639-0666 · [andersoncarpetandhome.com](http://andersoncarpetandhome.com)

Visit our blog for more outstanding pieces



## style picks

*“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.” – Edith Sitwell*

Finishing touches transform your home and give it personality. Your home is yours to decorate and love, so let it radiate with a style and character that’s uniquely you.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

### GLORIA RINALDI DECORATING AND DESIGN

#### (1) Calista Pendant Light Fixture

The unique design of this fixture blends nature with modern elements. Finished in polished chrome, the silver silk string drum shade softens light and the crystal fretwork adds a glimmer of sophistication to any space.

416.526.4102

[grinaldi@rogers.com](mailto:grinaldi@rogers.com)

[www.decdens.com/oakville](http://www.decdens.com/oakville)



### HERMES MOZAIK

#### (2) Natural Stone

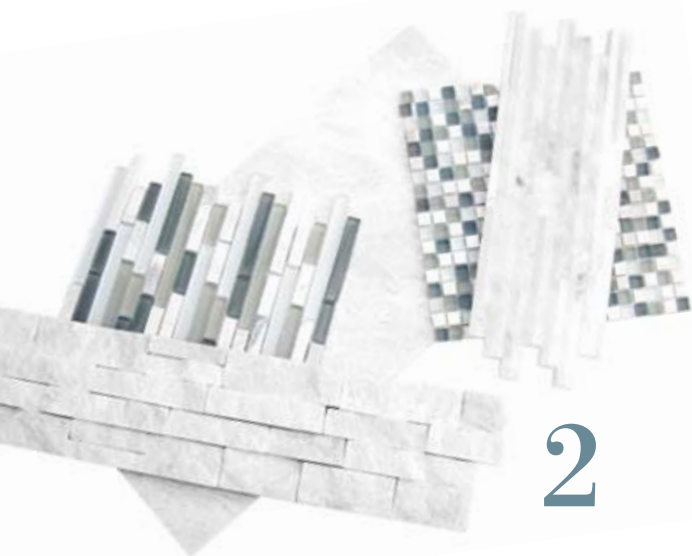
Make a statement with high-quality, natural stone from quarries in Turkey, Italy, Greece, Spain and Indonesia. Contemporary textures and finishes such as Iceberg Marble, Spa Glass Mosaic, and Ice LedgeStone add beauty and dimension.

86 Lakeshore Rd. W.

Oakville

905.582.6431

[www.hermesmozaik.com](http://www.hermesmozaik.com)



### HIGHLAND CHAIR CO.

#### (3) Bar Stool

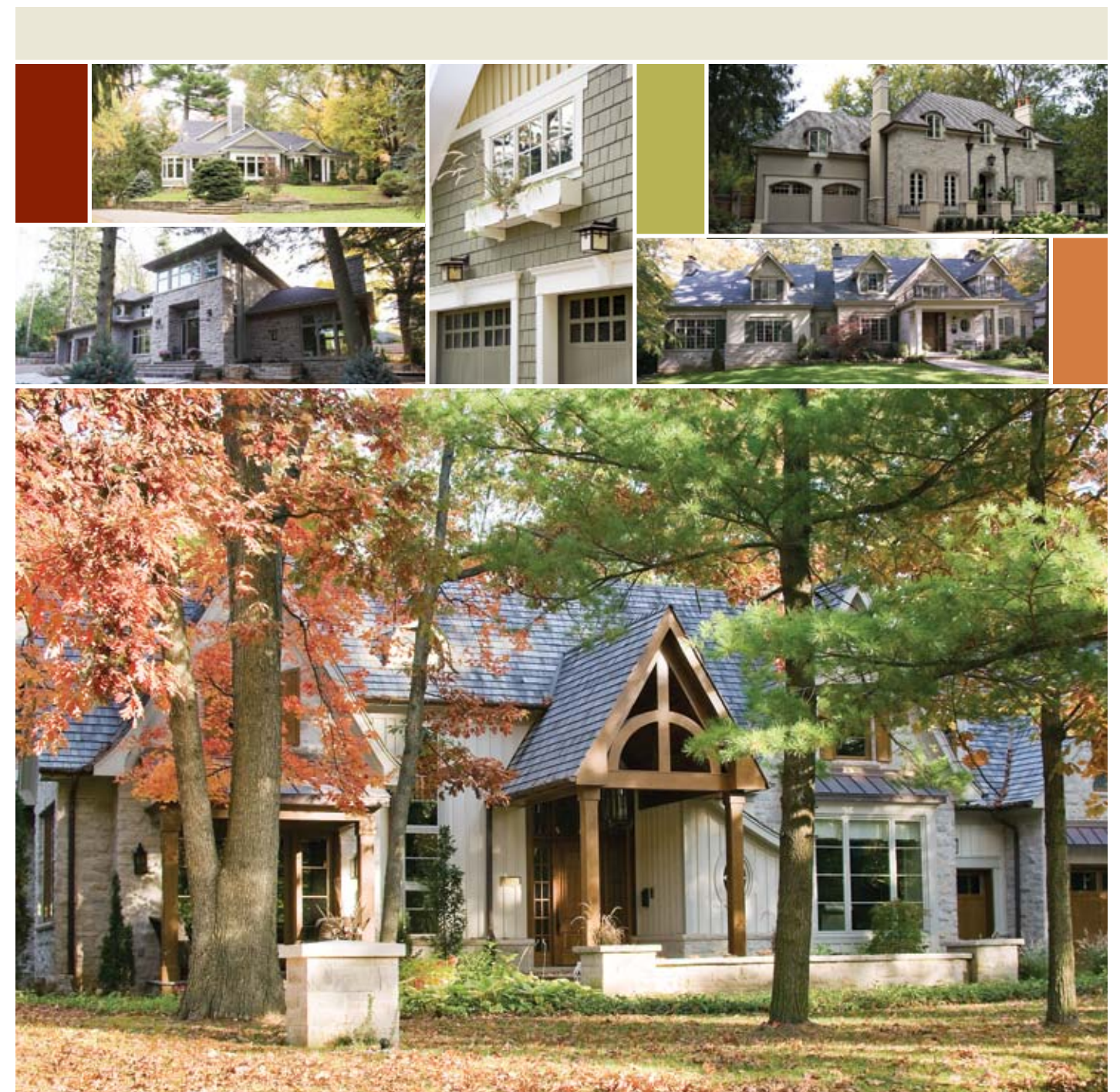
With clean lines and a low back, this stool works in both traditional and contemporary spaces. Available in counter and bar height, the dark upholstery and brushed nickel finish add a hint of urban flair.

3443 Fairview St.

Burlington

905.637.1195

[www.highlandchairs.com](http://www.highlandchairs.com) Continued on page 18



WWW. DAVID SMALL DESIGNS .com

1440 Hurontario Street, Suite 200, Mississauga ON 905.271.9100





#### GERRIE LIGHTING STUDIO

##### (4) Havana Chandelier

Let the light shine in with an eco-chic chandelier. Wrought iron wrapped in two tones of natural, hand-woven abaca from the banana plant give this fixture edgy style with organic appeal.

355 Iroquois Shore Rd.

Oakville

905.845.2461

[www.gerrielightingstudio.ca](http://www.gerrielightingstudio.ca)



4

#### ELIZABETH INTERIORS

##### (5) Chalkboard

Fun meets functional with a three-dimensional cow chalkboard. Great as a gift, you can use this unique piece to jot down a dinner menu, create a grocery list, or send a reminder to yourself or the family.

409 Brant St.

Burlington

905.333.6670

[www.elizabethinteriors.com](http://www.elizabethinteriors.com)



5

#### ANDERSON CARPET AND HOME

##### (6) Cocktail Table

Looking for a modern classic? The overlapping inverse L shapes of sable Argentinean walnut and flame bubinga create a stylish and distinctive centerpiece for any room.

686 Guelph Line

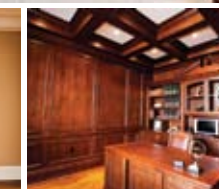
Burlington

905.639.0666

[www.andersoncarpetandhome.com](http://www.andersoncarpetandhome.com) OH



6



TRADITIONAL DOOR  
DESIGN AND MILLWORK

Specializing in  
Wood Doors & Mouldings  
for over 20 years

Interior Panel Doors  
Interior French Doors

Exterior Prehung Systems  
Custom Mouldings

905.851.1118

261 Regina Road, Woodbridge, Ontario

[www.traditionaldoor.com](http://www.traditionaldoor.com)

**in house etc.**  
482 John St. Burlington  
905-637-3600  
[www.inhouseetc.ca](http://www.inhouseetc.ca)

Open Sun & Mon 12-4pm  
Tues through Sat 10-5pm

**The Perfect Christmas Gift**

**in house**  
481 John St. Burlington  
905-637-0823  
[www.inhousedecor.ca](http://www.inhousedecor.ca)



Shona Fitzgerald

Renovate • Decorate • Celebrate

# Fitz by Design

Time is Precious, Mistakes are Costly and Decorating is complicated.



**Inquire about your Personal Design Consultation**

At Fitz by Design we are committed to creating breathtaking, functional spaces that are unique as the individuals living in them.

905.334.3583  
[shona@fitzbydesign.ca](mailto:shona@fitzbydesign.ca)

416 • 699 • 3229  
[www.fitzbydesign.ca](http://www.fitzbydesign.ca)



# CAPE COD IN MORRISON

BY REBECCA DUMAIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

Waffle ceilings, bold print chairs, and warm dark tones provide drama and elegance in the dining room. Floral arrangements by Convallaria Floral Design add instant beauty. **OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** (1) Large dormer windows are accented by white pillars and trim to add visual interest to the front of the home. (2) The lit fireplace provides the perfect backdrop to gather the family around the piano on special occasions. (3) Tall windows flood the living room with light. Bergère chairs provide a cosy space to read or lounge. (4) Tracy's home office marries beauty and function with custom built-ins and an array of stylish accessories.

The stone walkway to the Rays' home in Oakville's established Morrison neighbourhood greets visitors with a bright, airy, Cape Cod feel, as if stepping into the comforts of the coast without being right on the water.

Tracy and her husband Bob were first charmed by the community because it blended with their lifestyle, Tracy's interior design business, and was close to daughter Lexi's school. The home, developed by **Stuart Riley** of **BRS Construction** (now partnered with Bryan Bauemler to manage Bauemler Quality Construction), was built to blend into the area and looks as if it's been standing there all along. "I wanted it to fit in the existing neighbourhood," explains Tracy. "We wanted it to look like it has been here and that it was comfortable right away."

The clean blue exterior and fresh white trim is capped with a grey-blue roof by **SPAR-Marathon Roofing Supplies**. Dormer windows and sprawling porches help give the home its coastal feel. The veranda features a tongue-and-groove cedar ceiling and twinkles with pot lights. "We can all sit out on the porch, even during a rainstorm," says Tracy.

The solid front door opens into a cosy main hall painted in Hummus by C2 Paint. Custom railings and hand-distressed black walnut floors extend to every room of the house. Crown moulding is featured throughout, from the dining room to the mudroom. *Continued on page 23*





# feature

**RIGHT:** Upholstered dining chairs and a simple drum light add softness and visual interest in the bright kitchen. **BELOW:** A built-in butler's nook between the kitchen and the dining room is a great place to showcase pretty glassware.



**FAR LEFT:** A dark island and stainless accents provide a nice contrast to the white kitchen cabinetry. **LEFT:** The finished lower level includes a recreation area complete with a wine room. **OPPOSITE:** A graphic rug anchors the mixture of dark and light accents throughout the spacious family room.



The Rays worked with a draftsman to create the architectural plans for the builder. "I was able to be specific with the rooms and create larger rooms for the kitchen and family room. That's where everybody always is," Tracy says.

As a designer, Tracy is no stranger to what works in a home. Whether you're looking for help to select paint colours or you want to work with a designer from start to finish, she welcomes the opportunity to work with each and every client. "I really get passionate when working on a space and I get as excited as my client to see the end results."

A main floor office was important to allow Tracy to run her business, **Unique Ideas**, from home. "I love the functionality it has," she says. Two distinct work areas allow Lexi to complete homework nearby while Tracy works. "We can multi-task in there," she says. Artwork created by Lexi hangs in the room and creates a whimsical, personal touch.

A breezeway connects the mudroom and laundry room to the rest of the house, and is easily accessible from the garage, perfect for an active family that plays sports and rides horses. "It's really convenient for our lifestyle," says Tracy.

The intimate living room is adorned with a baby grand piano and a dramatic floor-to-ceiling Owen Sound Ledgerock fireplace supplied by **Betz Cut Stone Ltd.** The adjacent dining room features a dramatic waffle ceiling and panelling finished in C2 Paint's French Roast. "My favourite restaurants are always more moody and more elegant and they're darker, so when we designed the dining room, I wanted it to feel like I was out dining somewhere."

The walnut hardwood continues throughout the eat-in kitchen and family room. The kitchen is well-equipped with a Viking stove and an integrated Sub-Zero fridge and freezer from **Goemans Appliances**. A striking kitchen design inspired by **Top Notch Cabinets** features clean white shaker-style cabinetry adorned with an eclectic mixture of cup and knob pulls. A tapered pendant light adds visual interest above the kitchen's dining table. Off the kitchen, a servery connects to the dining room and provides easy access to mix drinks or grab a platter. A graphic rug and mixture of furniture with clean lines, soft colours, and masculine influences by **Cocoon Furnishings Inc.** creates a cosy family room retreat to lounge or entertain. *Continued on page 24*



# feature

The home is a contemporary version of a classic Cape Cod home with an updated dark wood exterior contrasted with light trim and details. “This dark and light theme is carried through the house and we supplied Tracy with furniture finishes and fabrics that supported this direction,” says Glyn Austin, owner of Cocoon Furnishings Inc. “The furnishings are largely classic, clean, updated traditional styles that lend well to complement the architecture of the interior.”

Comfortable counter stools anchor the kitchen and antique nickel pendants draw the eye to the kitchen work area. “Cocoon was able to provide Tracy with the ability to complete her vision because of the flexibility of our furniture finishes and customization capability,” says Austin. *Continued on page 26*



**ABOVE LEFT:** The slipper claw-foot tub is a dramatic focal point in daughter Lexi's bathroom. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Blue accents add a whimsical touch to the clean and contemporary white counter and cabinetry. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Banks of cabinets and an expansive counter provide plenty of room to store or fold in the airy laundry room. **LEFT:** Daughter Lexi's room is a haven for her love of all things equestrian. Unique play spaces are carved from the placement of the dormer windows.



Bathroom  
Design &  
Renovation  
Professionals

*often imitated  
never duplicated*

Opal  
Baths and  
Design

A Trusted Name in Service Since 1960

4104 Fairview St., Burlington  
905.639.0500  
www.opalbaths.com

Beautiful  
Secure  
Affordable

DOORWAY inc.  
Quality Windows and Doors

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM  
4361 Harvester Rd.  
Burlington

www.doorwayinc.ca

905.639.5122

Solid Maple, Walnut, Oak & Cherry Since 1981

HEARTY

Specializing in designs, builds, and finishes

NEW LOCATION  
TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

Buffet

Wall Unit

Vanity

Bookcase

www.heartyfurniture.com

3300 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 6, Mississauga  
PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION

We do custom designs  
Appointments available please call:  
(905) 569-7088 info@heartyfurniture.com

Mon-Fri 10-6  
Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 12-5





**ABOVE LEFT:** Clean and simple lines in the espresso cabinetry provide a nice contrast to the Statuario marble countertops in the master en suite. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A chandelier throws a little sparkle over the vessel tub in the spa-like master bath retreat. **RIGHT:** An eclectic mix of furnishings creates an impressive master bedroom and waffle ceilings add a unique architectural twist.

The decision to limit the upper level to three bedrooms provides the family with expansive hallways and extra bedroom space. A myriad of alcoves crafted by the dormer windows in Lexi's room creates the perfect escape for a young girl. "I love the lines the dormers create in there, and the little nooks and the built-in benches," Tracy says. "I love the bathroom with its river rock and the aqua colours."

White bathrooms feature clean lines and crisp hues, showcasing Tracy's preference for organic influences, such as the limestone and porcelain flooring. Both the basement and the bathrooms throughout the home

feature heated floors, perfect for cold winter mornings. In the master bath, a crystal chandelier adds a little sparkle to the soaker tub and polished nickel fixtures. Statuario marble provides a nice contract to espresso cabinetry.

As a designer, Tracy admits she has the option to start with a clean slate when moving from one home to the next. Tracy and Bob wanted the house to function well for the family and include the ability to house Tracy's business. "I like clean lines with a bit of an edge in a home design, but it has to feel comfortable." **OH**

The home is now for sale by Kieran McCourt of the Goodale Miller Team.

*Like a butterfly, the Metamorphosis that takes place in your Home will be Magnificent*

**CLOSED**



**OPEN**



**MONARCH**  
MOVEABLE GLASS WALLS



**NEW FACTORY SHOWROOM LOCATION: 132 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, BARRIE**

**(705) 735-0072**  **www.MMGW.ca**



**Highland Chair Co.**  
Barstools • Tables & Chairs  
WOOD • METAL • IRON • STOOLS • CHAIRS • TABLES  
Extensive Selection of Counters & Barstools



**(905) 637-1195**  
**Monday to Friday 10-6 & Saturday 10-5**  
**3443 Fairview St., Burlington, ON L7N 2R4**  
**www.highlandchairs.com**

**30 EMINENT DESIGN HOUSES UNDER ONE ROOF. THAT'S SOFABULOUS.**

SOFA is 30+ furniture and accessory manufacturers in 200,000 sq ft of independent showroom space. The ultimate resource for design professionals and discerning homeowners. Shop SOFA with your design professional for accessories, area rugs, window and wall coverings, furniture, lighting, wall art, mirrors, upholstery and much more!



**S O F A** **SOURCE OF FURNITURE + ACCESSORIES**

**Restricted Access. By appointment ONLY with your design professional.**  
Call SOFA for details 905.678.5626.

6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, ON  
inside the International Centre.  
(minutes away from Toronto's  
Pearson International Airport)

visitsofa.com

MEMBER OF: IDC, ARIDO,  
CDECA, IDRC, NKBA

real estate

# HOME DESIGN *comes full circle*

BY TERRY SMITH

We've all heard the expression "what goes around, comes around." Usually we use this in reference to a style that's made its way back into our lives as in "wow, that skinny tie you're wearing looks just like the one my dad used to wear in the 60s!" or "grasscloth is back in style...who knew?!" But I was thinking recently about another trend that took much longer to return – centuries, actually.

If you've ever visited an old pioneer village you will have experienced a slice of family life from the early days of Canada. Small homes, simply built with few rooms. In fact, in many cases, there was only one room for living – commonly called the "keeping room," and hardly anything else – maybe one bedroom for the parents and one other where all the kids would bunk down together.

The keeping room was where virtually everything happened. There was a huge fireplace for cooking, a table for food preparation, a large metal tub for washing dishes and a large table for eating. Maybe a few uncomfortable wooden chairs for sitting by the fire and chatting, or reading, or watching the hockey game on a big screen TV (oh yeah, sorry, that comes much later...). Everything happened in this one room mainly because when you're clearing the land yourself and probably building yourself, you keep it simple. It was also easier to keep warm in the winter if you did everything in one space.

The few families with a bit of affluence started to live differently. They had enough money to design a home and have it built. The first thought when designing for this group was to get away from the common man idea of doing all the living in one space. Hey, we're rich, let's act like it. Let's have a bunch of rooms, each with a special purpose. A parlour for meeting guests. A dining room for serving guests. A drawing room to withdraw to after a fine meal. Maybe even a ballroom for dancing. And meal preparation? Put that in the basement or maybe even in a separate building where we don't have to see the servants working. Too crass! This idea of specialty rooms took off and continued unabated through the growth of the middle class in the 20th century. Eventually, all houses were built this way, even for the common man!



Pioneer keeping room



Today's great room

But then a funny thing started to happen. People with enough money to have even more specialty rooms started wanting something new – a family room! Here they could just "be themselves" and live comfortably – get away from the stuffy formality of all their other fancy rooms. Gradually, most homes for people of greater means started to include family rooms, while paradoxically, homes for the common man did not.

In their first incarnation, family rooms were distinct and separate from other rooms. The idea was to have a room for sitting comfortably and chatting, reading and, oh yeah, watching the hockey game... But after a while, this wasn't enough. "Hey, I'm working here in the kitchen and you are all in the family room and we can't talk together. Let's open the kitchen and family room and create one big space, where we can do all of our living." Sound familiar? While we no longer use the term "keeping room" (I guess "great room" might be the most common current term), the idea is the same – a room where EVERYTHING happens.

Today, most houses, whether for the affluent or the "common man," have evolved so they have some form of this great room. And in many cases, even among the affluent, most of the other specialty rooms have been dropped, in favour of nicer and nicer great rooms. So interestingly, what we think of as new is actually old and what we think of as having been an innovation for the affluent was actually conceived by the common man, and not out of choice, but out of necessity. There is probably some cosmic symmetry in all this.

The circle is complete. We're back to where we started. We're all in the same room again. Something to reflect on, maybe with family and friends, in the keeping room! **OH**

*Terry Smith is a builder and real estate agent.*

**GREENSVILLE SOAPSTONE COMPANY**  
WWW.GREENSVILLESOAPSTONE.COM  
**1-888-95-STONE**  
**1-888-957-8663**

**Soapstone**  
Countertops, Sinks  
and Tiles



**Visit our showroom**  
4055 Harvester Road, Unit 12, Burlington, ON  
(QEW & Walkers Line)  
Monday - Friday: By Appointment,  
Saturday & Sunday: 10am - 4pm

*Gloria Rinaldi* **CELEBRATING 15  
AWARD WINNING  
YEARS IN BUSINESS**  
DESIGN & DECORATING



*Decorating Den Interiors*

416 526.4102 [grinaldi@rogers.com](mailto:grinaldi@rogers.com)

DESIGN CONSULTATION FOR WINDOW TREATMENTS  
FINE FURNITURE • RUGS & ACCESSORIES  
SPACE PLANNING • COLOUR & FINISHES  
CONSULTATION





Joe Levine and Linda Johnston



## UPSCALE & AFFORDABLE

BY REBECCA DUMAIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

**THE PLACE:** Whether you have a single room to fill or an entire home to furnish, **Joshua Creek Furniture & Home Decor** offers everything you'll need to decorate your home, and you'll be as comfortable with the price as you are with your new sofa. Business partners and lifetime friends Jim Hobbs and Joe Levine grew up in North Oakville and recognized the need for a furniture store that offers quality, affordable products. Step inside and you'll find a wide selection of upscale transitional furniture and accessories in the latest trends, styles, fabrics, and stains. "We pride ourselves on selling a higher-end product at a more than competitive price," says Hobbs.

**THE STYLE:** The store carries a large selection of solid wood dining tables and bedroom sets with features you won't find in big



box stores, such as English dovetailing and ball bearing glides on drawers. "Ninety per cent of what you find in our store is made in Canada," says Hobbs. As trends come and go, they constantly adapt to meet their clients' changing needs. If you see a sofa you love but want a sectional or a different fabric, chances are it's available. "We ultimately want the customer to get exactly what they want at a reasonable price."

**WHAT'S HOT:** Hobbs says discerning customers look for quality features and timeless designs crafted from solid wood, top-grain leather and the latest trends in upholstery. "Texture has become a big part of people's decisions," he says. "Microfibre was the big seller a few years ago, but now customers and designers are

leaning toward something with a heavier texture in upholstery." In addition to the contemporary greys and rich espressos currently in style, the store offers other custom finishes. Popular television stands and entertainment units combine style and functionality and are a must-have for any living space.

**FAVOURITES:** When it comes to a well-decorated room, Hobbs says quality is number one. "People notice quality right away when they walk into a room. From an esthetic standpoint, a proper colour palette and layout are important. Our experienced staff can assist you with your needs and requirements."

**WHERE:** 1029 Speers Rd. Oakville, 905.842.3739  
[www.joshuacreekfurniture.com](http://www.joshuacreekfurniture.com) **OH**







**FAR LEFT:** The intimate dining room sparkles with the splendour of table settings and accessories provided by In House. Valerie's flair with floral arrangements adds a hint of classic elegance. **LEFT:** The comfortable nook in the eat-in kitchen is dressed up with interesting artwork. Upholstered chairs help create the perfect dining space. **BOTTOM:** Open cabinetry provides plenty of room to put pretty things on display, and the mixture of light and dark elements bathe the kitchen in warmth and brightness. **BELOW:** Erik and Valerie read a book with son Hayden in the cozy great room.



# A Natural BEAUTY

BY KIM ARNOTT AND GINA MAKKAR // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

The quiet residential neighbourhoods that skirt Old Burlington are reminiscent of past decades. Recreational trails wind along the lakefront to Beachway Park. Tree-lined streets and generous front lawns call to mind childhood cartwheels and games of tag. It's the ideal place for Valerie and Erik Kristjanson to settle in and raise their son Hayden.

Erik's company **Urban Elements Inc.** collaborated with **Jordan Riley Group Inc.** on the design and rebuild of their new home. Elegance, functionality, and luxury are incorporated throughout 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. "We worked with the footprint of the original home and added to the back and side to gain additional square footage," says Valerie.

"It's important to us that our projects fit within the neighbourhood and complement the houses around them."

Urban Elements Inc., first started eight years ago by Erik, specializes in renovations, additions and custom-built homes. "Erik is involved in every project from design to completion," says Valerie. "The details and features of each project are of the same standards found in our own home, and this is of the utmost importance no matter what the size of the project."

The interior finishes were inspired by a sample of wide-plank, white oak flooring that Erik had acquired long before purchasing the property. The flooring, manufactured by **Kentwood**, gives the home a timeless character and appeal. "You could say the house was built around the floor," says Valerie.

*Continued on page 34*







**LEFT:** The stone fireplace provides an interesting architectural focal point that can be enjoyed from both the great room and the dining room **BELOW LEFT:** The homeowners have added thoughtful design elements that reflect their unique sense of style to every corner of the home. **BELOW CENTRE:** The timeless and beautiful vanity complements the clean and classic lines of the quartz countertop in the master en suite. **BELOW RIGHT:** The master bedroom is an eclectic mix of textures and styles that work together to create a relaxing synergy.



A vaulted dining room ceiling and craftsman-style white staircase create a light and airy feel and complement the colour and texture of the wood. Stone fireplaces by **Erindale Fireplace** create warmth and visual interest. Oversized **Kolbe** windows were chosen to ensure the external appearance reflects the traditional style of the homes in the area.

While large enough to be comfortable and functional, the house is built to a scale that respects older neighbourhoods and preserves the lot's generous yard and mature trees. To compensate for the smaller square footage, the couple built in plenty of luxury. "We put a lot of fine detail into a small space," says Valerie. "We took cues from the places we love being, like the cottage and the Caribbean. A friend described this house as being elegantly Muskoka which was a huge compliment, as we felt we had achieved the welcoming feel we were after."

The couple's eclectic style combines casual furniture with natural elements like stone, brick and wood. "The natural finishes make it feel

like we've brought the outdoors in," says Valerie. Unique and unusual light fixtures offer a sense of fun and surprise throughout the house. A sparkling glass chandelier hangs over the tub in the upstairs bath. A chandelier from the Robert Abbey line carried by **In House** provides an element of interest in the stairwell.

The dining room, located off the great room, offers a formal space for dining and entertaining. Soaring ceilings adorned with broad white beams complement the room's tongue-and-groove panelling. The natural flow of the main level is an entertainer's delight. "I love the kitchen and the fact that it feels open to the great room. In reality, I can leave a mess while entertaining in the dining room or great room and the prep work isn't on view to guests." A leather granite countertop from **Custom Granite & Marble Ltd.** creates an expansive space in which to prepare and create. The dark countertop adds texture and enhances the black and white cabinetry and the brushed nickel fixtures. *Continued on page 36*

**Bogart**  
FURNITURE & DÉCOR  
Excellent. Exclusive. European.  
*Furniture at its finest.*

**HUGE**  
winter sale

For interiors that demand elegance and upscale comfort we offer a wide selection of classic & modern furniture.

Come visit our showroom at 2988 Bristol Circle, Oakville  
905.829.0088 [www.bogartinc.com](http://www.bogartinc.com)

**kitchentune·up®**

**Hate your kitchen?**  
We have a remodeling option for every budget.

**Renew • Reface • Restyle • Custom New Cabinets**  
Thousands of door styles & finishes to choose from.  
or **SimplyReDoor** **NEW**  
The do-it-yourself remodelling option!

**Free consultation & estimate 905.637.3331**

**Visit our showroom** Every Kitchen Tune-Up franchise is locally owned and operated.  
3480 Fairview St., Burlington Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-3  
**Design Tool - Free on website** [KitchenTuneUp.com](http://KitchenTuneUp.com)

**Luxury Elevators as Unique as Your Home**

**CAMBRIDGE**  
ELEVATING<sup>U</sup>

Premier Manufacturer of Custom Residential Elevators

1261 Industrial Rd. | Cambridge, ON | 1.800.265.3579  
sales@cambridgeelevating.com | [www.CambridgeElevating.com](http://www.CambridgeElevating.com)





Valerie says the repetition of black, white and grey shades throughout was deliberate. “We like our style to be very cohesive all the way through.” She admits to a sense of adventure when it comes to accent pieces. “We like to mix whatever we like. We don’t really follow any rules,” she laughs.

Many of the home’s furnishings come from Burlington’s In House, where owner Pam Chisholm helped Valerie find unique pieces like the striking, yet functional distressed table that fits perfectly in the kitchen’s breakfast nook. “When I knew what I was looking for in a kitchen table, I told Pam and she sourced the perfect one right away. We know what we like and In House’s selection makes it easy to find great pieces.”

**In House** and **In House Etc.** are located in downtown Burlington and feature 3,000 sq. ft. of furniture, lighting and accessories, all selected by Chisholm and her son Mark. They’ve got everything you need to meet your home design needs, from full decorating services to colour consultations, artwork and accessories.

The large master bedroom features a luxurious en suite bath with indulgent touches such as an oversized shower, rain head and a quartz Caesarstone countertop by Custom Granite & Marble Ltd. “All the bathroom floors are heated and even though the upstairs bath is Hayden’s, it still reflects the same quality finishes that are present throughout the house.”

Integrated LEDs dimly light the staircase at night, a great feature for children. A spectacular carpet runner from **Anderson Carpet and Home** softens the broad white staircase and highlights the black, grey and white tones throughout the house.

No detail has gone unnoticed, including Hayden’s bedroom on the second floor, which is brightly lit with **Velux** skylights.

In the lower level, a cosy family room features a gas fireplace framed with reclaimed brick. A soft grey tweed carpet from Anderson Carpet and Home in the office and playroom warms the space and provides the perfect area for the family to gather and play, a place to call home. **OH**



**ABOVE LEFT:** Hayden’s bathroom blends function with youthful and whimsical touches such as the bright blue shower floor. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Hayden’s room is the picture perfect place for an inquisitive little boy to rest, roam and play. Skylights add natural light. **LEFT:** Interesting elements throughout the home are carried to the family room on the lower level with a reclaimed brick wall and fireplace surround.

## It doesn’t have to be complicated.

Fill your house with entertainment.  
Make it easy to use.  
Enjoy.



**PHAND**  
CORPORATION

### Custom Audio Video Data Integration

Building or renovating?  
Make an appointment with our design centre.  
[www.phand.ca](http://www.phand.ca) | 1.877.546.8540

*Rooker Phillips*  
INTERIORS



Edward Phillips, CDECA

[www.rookerphillips.com](http://www.rookerphillips.com)  
519 841 6363

**MR**  
**PAINT.ca**

Providing professional painting solutions for over **20 years** in the residential, custom home and commercial industries.

...CUSTOM FINISHES FOR YOUR HOME.

- Painting
- Wood Finishes
- Wall Covering
- Spray Finishes

**Neat, Clean,  
Professional Service  
Every Time.**

**905.338.8032**



Don’t let your home go through this while it’s being built.



Building your house or cottage outside exposes it to all the elements a Canadian climate can throw at it. It can do a lot of damage you can’t see when your home is complete. A Quality Home, on the other hand, is built in a giant, climate-controlled factory, then assembled on your lot. The result is a luxurious home or cottage built to the highest possible standards, delivered on time, on budget and guaranteed longer than any other home builder. Visit our Model Home Centres – Grimsby, Cookstown, Mount Forest.



**QUALITY HOMES**

The smartest way to custom build your home or cottage.  
[qualityhomes.ca](http://qualityhomes.ca) | 1 800 265-2648



# people

## DISTINCTIVE *details*

BY GINA MAKKAR // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



### Rick Beeke ► Doorway Inc.

**SPECIALTY:** We're a family-owned door and window company approaching our 20th year of business. In addition to sales and installation, we operate an on-site shop where we build, stain, and assemble doors. This enables us to create both custom and standard door systems at affordable prices. Come check out our showroom!

**MUST-HAVES IN A QUALITY DOOR:** An inviting front door adds character and value to your home, and must be durable to withstand our Canadian climate. Quality components such as upgraded sweeps, airtight weather stripping and secure lock systems are a must. Proper installation of a door system ensures optimum performance for many years.

**ADVICE:** As a major focal point, an updated door system will add beauty and value to your home.

*Continued on page 40*



It's all in the details, and as we huddle under the blanket of our cold Canadian winters, it's a great time to get cosy and create an inviting living space. Whether you're building an addition, investing in a fabulous front door, or dreaming up a creative kitchen concept, meet the professionals who can help warm up your home or build you a new one.

### ◀ Peter Brejnik Brejnik Fine Homes Inc.

**SPECIALTY:** Brejnik Fine Homes designs and builds custom luxury homes and renovations. **MUST-HAVE IN A NEW HOME:** Everyone's style is unique, and a touch of character brings personality to a house and makes your home your own. Homeowners are moving toward smarter, energy efficient building options. We have the expertise to build the most eco-conscious and healthy homes possible. Automation is also popular right now. It brings life to a home, saves energy, and provides security and peace of mind. **ADVICE:** The sky is the limit when it comes to custom luxury homes. It's really about choosing someone that you trust and has your best interests at heart.

L'ART DE BIEN VIVRE - THE ART OF LIVING WELL

## PARISCOPE

PROVENCE SOLEIL

2 FLOORS 46-48 Mill St. W, Elora 519.846.0958 [www.provencesoleil.com](http://www.provencesoleil.com)

### Beat the Heat!

## Save 10% Off

### Residential Film Installation

Offer valid til Feb 28, 2012.

[www.tiffanystint.com](http://www.tiffanystint.com)

Reduce Heat | Reduce Glare | Reduce Fading | Reduce Utility Cost

**Before** **After**

**TIFFANY'S TINT**

Auto • Commercial • Residential

**905.465.0819**

2334 Wyecroft Rd. Unit B6, Oakville

RBC Royal Bank®

Need mortgage financing? Look no further. Let me make it happen.

Kristin Zerbisias  
Mobile Mortgage Specialist  
905-617-7739  
[kristin.zerbisias@rbc.com](mailto:kristin.zerbisias@rbc.com)

Advice you can bank on™

All personal lending products and residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. ® Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ™ Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. 45810 (08/2010)

### Need help with cleaning? Let us do it for you!

Discover house-cleaning that's affordable, reliable, and convenient.

**Sunrise Cleaning Services**

Call us today for a free estimate!

**905-567-1199**

[www.Sunrise-Cleaning.ca](http://www.Sunrise-Cleaning.ca)

**25% off\***  
your first cleaning session.

\*HST applies where applicable. Exp. 31/Dec/2012



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HELP  
**ONE WOMAN**  
MOVE OUT OF POVERTY?

Less than you think...

Visit [www.canadianwomen.org](http://www.canadianwomen.org)  
to start one woman on her journey out of poverty today.

This ad space has been generously donated in memory of  
Julie Crocker and Paula Menendez







### ◀ John, Gavin, Adam and Constance McInnis Kitchen Tune-Up

**SPECIALTY:** Kitchen Tune-Up offers remodelling options for every budget. We restore original cabinet finishes or reface them with over 4,000 door styles and finish choices. We also re-style by refacing and adding new elements, design new kitchens and supply custom-made doors for the do-it-yourselfer.

#### **MUST-HAVE IN A KITCHEN**

**RENOVATION:** Maximize functionality by adding full extension, soft-close drawers wherever you can. Adding drawers can also double the usable space.

**ADVICE:** Help ensure your design consultant makes appropriate recommendations by creating a wish list, establishing a budget, and clipping examples from magazines that show the style you envision. Ask for a written scope of work with every estimate and always check references. The most competitive quote may not be the lowest, but it may meet most of your needs within budget.

### Peter Sellors, Adam Bates ▶

#### **Greenville Soapstone Company**

**SPECIALTY:** Our craftsmen specialize in the fabrication of countertops, sinks and tiles. We provide the highest quality soapstone imported from quarries in Brazil and India.

#### **MUST-HAVE IN SOAPSTONE:**

Soapstone is considered the original stone countertop and has been used since the turn of the 19th century.

It's the perfect choice for people looking for natural, organic materials for kitchens, bathroom vanities, and fireplace surrounds.

**ADVICE:** There are a lot of misconceptions about soapstone. It's extremely durable, resilient, and forgiving. The silky smooth texture and matte, non-porous surface withstands temperatures and is resistant to stains and bacteria. Scratches are easily removed with a touch of mineral oil or a light sanding. Soapstone develops a patina and gets better with age. It's truly a timeless natural stone. **OH**



## MORE than you paid for?

It's not often you get more than you pay for, but when you advertise in OUR HOMES, you get more than you pay for every time!

- FREE listing in our online directory, which enhances your business's online presence and directs google-searchers to your company... FREE
- FREE ad placement on our online "Flip magazine" as well as free placement in our mobile PDF magazine, with a free link to your company's website...FREE
- FREE listing in our Home Resource Directory, which connects you with customers who are looking for your service...FREE
- Ask us how we can connect your business to our readers in a more personal way
- Ask us how we can boost your business's advertising impact into specific areas of our superior distribution
- Ask us how we can put your company in front of a targeted audience from around the province

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES & SALES, PLEASE CONTACT**

Shannon MacPherson: 289.242.5599  
shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ourhomes**  
Not just advertising. Marketing.

CUSTOM BARS PRE-DESIGNED BARS

## THE BAR STORE

BUILDING GOOD TIMES

Fergus, ON • 519.993.2279 • info@thebarstore.ca

**WWW.THEBARSTORE.CA**

## FOR EVERY ORDER OVER \$5000

## WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

LIMITED TRIPS AVAILABLE, ASK STORE FOR MORE DETAILS

**EQUAL PAYMENTS**  
Now Available  
(ask for details)

**CERTIFIED INTERIOR DECORATORS**  
**25% OFF**  
CUSTOM DRAPERY FABRICS  
LIMITED TIME

**www.sunshadesblinds.ca**

• BLINDS • DRAPES • SHUTTERS

## Sun Shades WINDOW FASHIONS

**OAKVILLE**  
466 Speers Rd. (Between Dorval & 4th Line)  
**905-827-1341**

Toronto • Aurora • Richmond Hill • Vaughan • Bolton • Mississauga



# CHEESE & WINE 101

WITH TONIA WILSON

Creating a concise and interesting cheese platter, along with well chosen wine pairings, can be effortless and fun.



The variety of wines and cheeses available to us is utterly astonishing, (no pun intended, no wait, that's udder). There are cheeses made from the milks of different animals – cow, sheep and goat, amongst others. There are wines made from hundreds of different grape varieties, and then there are the varied influences and styles of the regions they come from and the people who produce them.

With a few basic guidelines you can create a simple or extravagant cheese platter that will entice all your friends and family.

Cheese makes for a very easy starter. I find that if I have a big cheese board put together before people arrive I know that they'll have something to nibble on while I tend to last minute details. Don't add too much yeasty bread, otherwise everyone will be full before they reach the table. Thin crackers and bread sticks suffice perfectly. You can then round the platter out with two or three sliced meats, such as prosciutto or dried sausage, some dried fruit and olives and your work is done. The platter is visually appealing and is a great place for your friends to gather and chat with each other.

You can create your cheese platter on pretty much anything you choose, including a scattering of vintage floral plates, cake platters or old wooden cutting boards. For a more formal and elegant effect you can place your cheeses and accompaniments on a large mirror. The platter I use most is a "leftover" piece of wooden countertop trimmed to size.

Now, picking wine and cheese. We'll start with the cheese. You want a variety of "milks" on the platter, so try to have at least two of the three main milk groups – cow, sheep or goat. For a smaller group, serve three or four cheeses; a larger platter can be comprised of five or more. Make sure you've covered a variety of cheese styles. Try to offer something soft, such as a triple cream or a Brie-style cheese, something harder and aged, such as a Manchego or English Cheddar. Lastly, you can either serve a blue

cheese as your third option, or perhaps an interesting goat's milk cheese, such as a Crottin de Chavignol or a Canadian goat's milk cheddar. The main thing is to keep flavours, styles and shapes varied to give your platter visual appeal and interest.

Different cheeses go with different wines. This can get overwhelming and costly if you are trying to offer wine matches for all the different cheeses. There are, however, some wines that innately work well with cheese. For white wines, look toward bigger bodied style wines such as oaked Chardonnays or Chenin Blancs, both of these grape varieties tend to work well with cheese, perhaps because of their French roots! For reds it is always useful to have a fruit-forward Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot and perhaps something a little bit different like a new world Syrah or even a Malbec, both work well with cheese.

It's always more effective to choose your cheeses first. Once you've decided what you're serving take your list to the local wine store and utilize the wine vendor's knowledge.

Blue cheeses partner best with off-dry wines (meaning wines that have some sweetness), unlike other cheeses, which taste better with dry wines (meaning no sweetness). This can get expensive if you are opening a bottle solely for the blue cheese. A way to get around this is to serve a fortified wine that can be recorked and still be enjoyed up to two months later. Ones to try are Tawny Ports (Portugal), Madeira (Portugal) and sweet Sherries (Spain), all of which are terrific value and taste sensational.

#### Cheat Sheet:

Below I have given a few examples of cheese plates that can be put together easily. They offer great range of taste and the cheeses shouldn't be too difficult to find. For any cheese or wine related questions please feel free to contact me at [tonia@savourflavour.com](mailto:tonia@savourflavour.com). Enjoy! **oh**

#### SUGGESTED CHEESE PLATES

##### Plate #1

La Sauvagine (Canada) cow  
Aged Manchego (Spain) sheep  
Roaring Forties (Australia) cow

##### Plate #2

Saint André (France) cow  
Chèvre Noir (Canada) goat  
Gruyère (Switzerland) cow  
Stilton (England) cow

##### Plate #3

Crottin de Chavignol (France) goat  
Taleggio (Italy) cow  
Oka (Canada) cow  
Pecorino Toscano (Italy) sheep  
St. Agur (France) cow

## >> SOURCE IT

#### REMAX ESCARPMENT REALTY - ELENA CIPRIANO

Elena has never measured her success in real estate by numbers alone. Certainly, she has achieved some exceptional things in her career, routinely reaching Platinum Status within Remax, ranking her among the top real estate professionals in the city. But her own personal measuring stick is not number of transactions or dollars sold. For her, these are simply statistics that do not reveal what is truly important. For Elena, success is measured by the friends she has made along the way from satisfied clients. The greatest compliment a client pays to Elena is when that client refers her to their friends and family.

The basis of her philosophy has been built upon one unwavering tenet – "I treat a client's real estate needs as if they are my own". That means, a client is never pressured to make an offer on a prospective home or accept an offer on their existing home – quite the contrary, Elena often restrains clients from acting too hastily when wanting to make an offer on a property that Elena feels may not be right long term. A twenty-year veteran of the industry, Elena brings her extensive expertise and resources to bear in every single transaction – whether with a first time buyer or a multi-million dollar property. Her marketing savvy truly separates her properties from the masses – infusing dynamic photography, tasteful colour palettes and professional design to create a promotional strategy for your home that makes the audience beg to view more. Elena expresses her mission statement in the following way: "In the end, if I am invited to my client's new home for a cup of coffee to catch up on things, I know I have done good by the client. I feel blessed to have made so many friends from my business. Elena Cipriano 905.639.7676 [www.burlingtonhometeam.com](http://www.burlingtonhometeam.com)

(Please see ad on page 11)

#### KOLBE GALLERY/INFUSION WINDOWS AND DOORS

"In any business a certain number of customers will come your way that have already had a bad experience someplace else. Our goal is to not ever have that happen." Our Associates at Kolbe Gallery of Oakville and Infusion Windows and Doors partnered with high end window manufacturer Kolbe Windows to deliver a superior window product with the shared goal that superior service drives results.

In addition Kolbe's attention to detail and diverse product line allows for a smooth integration into any project.

We provide the highest level of services to our customers through on-staff Kolbe Certified Installers, Manufacturer and Industry trained Sales Representatives and other on-site support staff. We leave no loose ends, a business practice our clients expect and appreciate. Thank you to all the business professionals that support us and the clients who have entrusted our firms.

Please Visit Us at Kolbe Gallery 1525 Cornwall Rd., Unit 7, Oakville or Infusion Windows and Doors 4325 Harvester Rd., Unit 7, Burlington. (Please see ad on page 47)

## A MISCELLANY OF THE NEW, NEAT, UNIQUE, AND FABULOUS IN THE REGION OF OAKVILLE AND BURLINGTON

#### BOGART FURNITURE & DÉCOR

Great news!!! Bogart Furniture & Décor in Oakville is gearing up for its biggest sale of the decade! Huge price reductions await customers as Bogart celebrates its 14th year in business next year. All stock furniture will be on sale with further reduction on previously discounted showroom models!

Bogart Furniture & Décor started as a furniture importer and distributor in 1998. The company vision at that time was to bring in the finest furniture collection from Europe to Canada.

Bogart's philosophy never changed through the years. Today, it continues to be an alternative source of high-quality, beautiful and unique furniture that complements diverse lifestyles and unique needs. And more importantly, Bogart's fine furniture is available directly to the consumer, eliminating the need for the middleman and resulting in savings for the consumer.

Bogart Furniture & Décor occupies a 2-floor showroom in Oakville with select dining room and living room furniture on display. Come visit our showroom and view our collection. Here are some of the choices you have: Classic or contemporary living room and dining room furniture, Trendy office furniture, Stylish sofa bed designs, A wide variety of leather and fabric options.

You can also check our website [www.bogartinc.com](http://www.bogartinc.com) or call us at 905.829.0088 for more information.

Watch out for the opening of our new showroom in 2013! (Please see ad on page 35)



#### FITZ BY DESIGN

Fitz by Design (FBD) is a flourishing "Full Service" interior design firm operating throughout the GTA. From inspiration to innovation, we explore the design process, taking the guesswork out of even the most difficult decorating projects.

Time is Precious, Mistakes are costly and Decorating is complicated. From paint colors, furniture layouts, fabric selections or extensive kitchen renovations, we will guide you every step of the way.

Function, Flow & Feel: At FBD we listen, share ideas and gain a firm understanding of your needs, wants and desires, while managing your priorities, budget and time line.

It is all about You! Traditional, contemporary, eclectic or somewhere in between, it is our job to interpret your ideas and guide you to ensure your home is a reflection of you, your personality and your lifestyle. We look forward to exploring ideas with you.

[www.fitzbydesign.ca](http://www.fitzbydesign.ca) 905.409.8489 (Please see ad on page 19)





# Are you a PEOPLE person?



Be your own boss, put your network to work for you, provide the very best advertising solutions in your community and build equity in your very own business.

## Franchise Opportunities Available.

There are franchise territories still available in Ontario: Prince Edward County, Huron/Perth, Sudbury/North Bay, Niagara Region; PLUS OUR HOMES is expanding into communities in Eastern & Western Canada as well. Inquire for details.

Visit [www.magazinefranchise.ca](http://www.magazinefranchise.ca)  
click on franchise opportunities.

Or call **Suzanne Strong 519.538.4528**

e-mail [franchise@ourhomesmagazine.com](mailto:franchise@ourhomesmagazine.com)

Join our happy and successful team and create maximum value for your advertisers and readers.

**ourhomes** STYLE • COMFORT • IDEAS • REAL ESTATE  
*Creating value, creating opportunities*

OUR HOMES attracts the area's finest businesses to advertise in our pages, and utilize our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. We're making it easier for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home-and real estate-related purchasing decisions. View these business ads online at [www.ourhomesmagazine.com/oakville](http://www.ourhomesmagazine.com/oakville)

The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

### ARCHITECT

DAVID SMALL DESIGNS Page 17

### AUDIO VIDEO/ HOME AUTOMATION

PHAND CORPORATION Page 37

### BUILDERS

BREJNIK FINE HOMES Page 48

QUALITY HOMES Page 37

SMITH & COMPANY TIMELESS HOMES Page 12

### CLEANING

SUNRISE CLEANING SERVICES Page 39

### ELEVATORS

CAMBRIDGE ELEVATING Page 35

### FINANCIAL/INSURANCE/ MORTGAGE

RBC INSURANCE - KRISTIN ZERBIAS,  
MORTGAGE SPECIALIST Page 39

### GLASS WALLS

MONARCH MOVEABLE GLASS WALLS Page 27

### GRANITE & STONE

GREENSVILLE SOAPSTONE COMPANY Page 29  
HERMES MOZAİK Page 8

### HOME ACCENTS/COLLECTIBLES/ DÉCOR/FURNITURE

ANDERSON CARPET AND HOME Page 15

BOGART FURNITURE & DÉCOR Page 35

COCOON FURNISHINGS Page 7

ELIZABETH INTERIORS Page 10

HEARTY FURNITURE Page 25

HIGHLAND CHAIR CO. Page 28

IN HOUSE ETC. Page 19

JOSHUA CREEK FURNITURE Page 9

PARISCOPE Page 39

SOFA Page 28

THE BAR STORE Page 41

### INTERIOR DESIGN/DESIGNERS/ HOME STAGING

FITZ BY DESIGN Page 19

GLORIA RINALDI DECORATING Page 29

PARKYN DESIGN Page 5

ROOKER PHILLIPS INTERIORS Page 37

### KITCHEN & BATH

CAMEO KITCHENS AND FINE CABINETRY  
Page 6

KITCHEN TUNE UP Page 35

OPAL BATHS AND DESIGN Page 25

TOP NOTCH CABINETS Page 2

### LIGHTING

GERRIE LIGHTING STUDIO Page 4

### NEW HOME COMMUNITIES

PRETTY RIVER - BRIARWOOD HOMES Page 13

### PAINTING & DECORATING

MR. PAINT Page 37

### REAL ESTATE

RE/MAX ABOUT TOWNE REALTY -

TERRY SMITH Page 12

RE/MAX ESCARPMENT REALTY -

ELENA CIPRIANO Page 11

ROYAL LEPAGE BURLOAK REAL ESTATE  
SERVICES - MICHAEL BREJNIK Page 3

### SPECIAL/NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATIONS

CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION Page 39

### SUN PROTECTION

TIFFANY'S TINT Page 39

### WINDOW FASHIONS

SUN SHADES WINDOW FASHIONS Page 41

### WINDOWS & DOORS

DOORWAY INC. Page 25

INFUSION WINDOWS & DOORS Page 47

KOLBE GALLERY WINDOWS  
& DOORS Page 47

TRADITIONAL DOOR DESIGN  
AND MILLWORK Page 19

OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email [shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com](mailto:shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com). To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call 289.242.5599 to advertise.



There's always MORE  
OUR HOMES online

- Decorating advice & videos • Eco solutions
- Unique home offices • Wonderful homes and exceptional photography capturing home life throughout Ontario!

[www.ourhomesmagazine.com/oakville](http://www.ourhomesmagazine.com/oakville)



finishing touch

1

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

# HOT & COLD

...drinks for the Season



2



3

## 1. Hot Caramel Apple

### INGREDIENTS

Hot apple cider

½ oz dark rum

1 ½ oz Butter Ripple Liqueur

Combine ingredients and garnish with whipped cream and a star of anise.

## 2. Coffee Bean Martini

### INGREDIENTS

1 oz Vodka

½ oz Baileys Irish Cream

¼ oz Crème de Cacao Liqueur

¼ oz Kahlua

1 shot of espresso

Splash of cream

In a martini shaker add ice, alcohol ingredients, espresso and cream. Shake. Strain into a martini glass. This drink can also be mixed in a blender for a crushed-ice martini. Garnish with whipped cream and a chocolate-covered espresso bean.

## 3. Caramel Latte

### INGREDIENTS

2% Steamed milk

Caramel sauce

1 shot of espresso

Steam milk until hot and foamy. Pour caramel sauce into a clear mug. Add hot milk and foam. Slowly pour shot of espresso into glass to layer. Add more foam. Garnish with cacao. OH

*Gatherings and drinks go hand-in-hand. OUR HOMES wants you and your guests to feel special.*



## UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

Working to make your dreams into reality is one of the most satisfying aspects of our day to day business. Kolbe's attention to detail and diverse product line allows for a smooth integration into any project. Our association with the finest architectural firms and custom home builders is a relationship we value and respect. Together we continually strive to operate at the highest level of service and support on behalf of our clients. For more information on Kolbe Windows and Doors contact: Kolbe Gallery of Oakville 1.866.348.4398 or Infusion Windows & Doors, Burlington 1.877.319.0744

**KOLBE**  
Gallery  
WINDOWS & DOORS  
See the Difference Quality Makes

Featuring  
**POINT FIVE**  
WINDOWS & DOORS





Design Build Adore

BREJNIK.com 905 407 3475

**BREJNIK** FINE HOMES