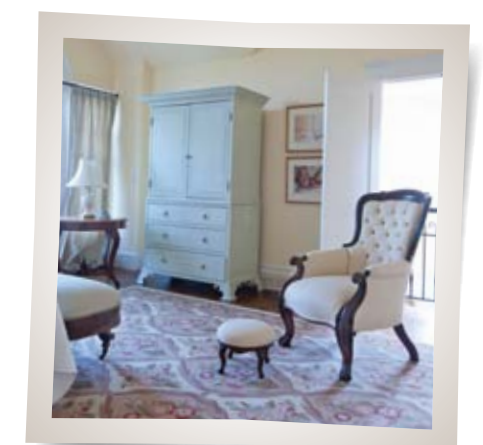
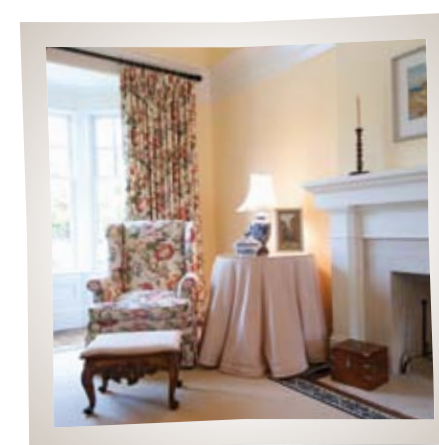
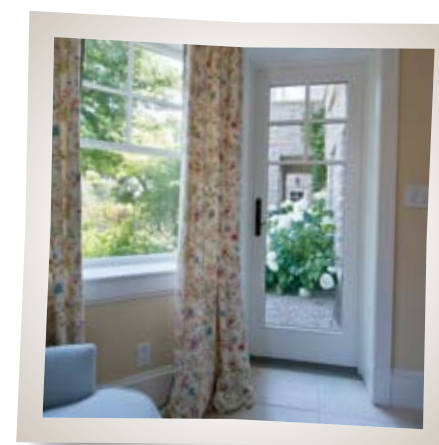
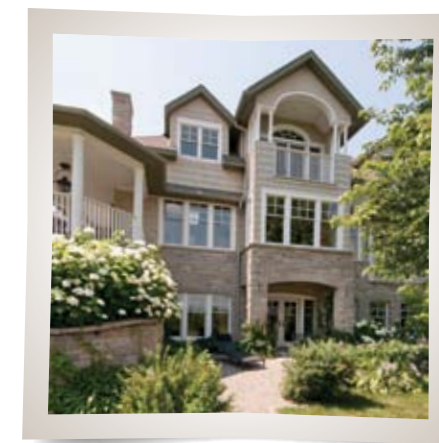
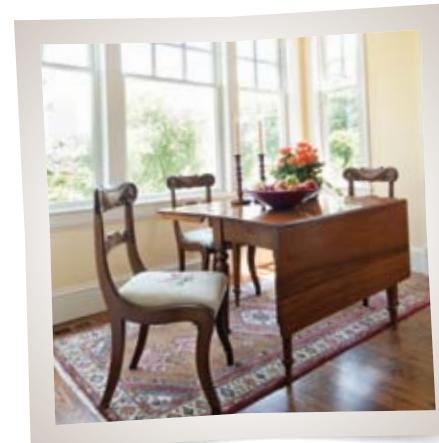
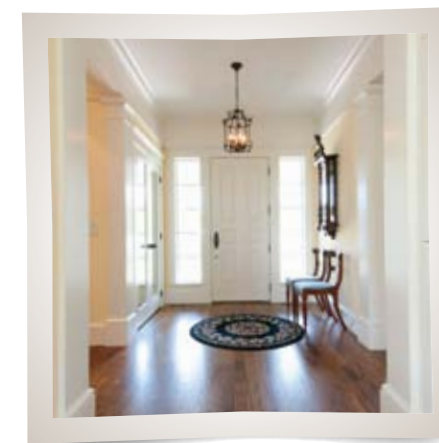


feature

DOWN BY THE *River*

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

When your custom-built home overlooks the tranquil Scugog River, it's all about the view.



Water: it's the source and sustenance of life. That may account for the near-universal attraction we feel for living next to the water.

Alex and Debbie Richardson shared a lifelong dream to live by the water, but with Alex's professional offices located in Lindsay they were content to raise their two daughters and conduct their busy lives from the 1910 centrally located house they called home for many years. Fortunately, they live in the Kawarthas, where bodies of water are never far away. In 2004, they discovered the perfect answer; over an acre of land on the Scugog River, which flows into scenic Sturgeon Lake. Within easy driving distance of downtown Lindsay, the site allowed for the creation of a custom year-round home with a river view that suited all their needs. Of course, they snapped it up.

Continued on page 24



LEFT: These custom designed, illuminated cabinets are ideal for displaying the Richardson's impressive antique china collection. **TOP:** This stately, custom-built Lindsay home backs onto beautiful Scugog River. **ABOVE:** Homeowner Debbie Richardson, flanked by Willow Aagaard and Christopher Wallace, enjoying the river view from her kitchen. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Debbie's dream kitchen boasts a custom range with six gas burners and electric oven, and the quintessential river view. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Perfect for entertaining, the great room overlooks the river and leads into the open-concept kitchen. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** With its cathedral ceiling, wood-burning fireplace and unsurpassed river views, this great room lives up to its name.



Chris Wallace of **Christopher Wallace Architect** in Port Hope planned the entire home's design with the view to the river in mind.

"All the house's service utilitarian functions (washrooms, laundry room, mudroom) are situated on the street (non-river) side," he says, while all the rooms with key views – the kitchen, living, dining, great room areas and master bedroom are all on the east side, facing the river. "As well as planning for the river view, my client wanted as much natural light as possible. The windows were placed so that at any time of the day, there would be direct sunlight into the principal rooms."

Willow Aagaard, a Toronto based Interior Decorator, worked extensively with the Richardsons on their previous home. Aagaard and Wallace were acquainted through a previous residential project in Toronto. Theirs was a happy collaboration providing the Richardsons with every desired detail.

Since he chose historic Port Hope as his own base of operations, one would expect Wallace to be a fan of traditional building design, and he is. So, as it happens, are the Richardsons. As well, the couple had a great collection of antiques – some inherited, some acquired – that they wanted to showcase in their new riverside home. Wallace had two criteria in his design: the view, and the heirlooms. He rose to the occasion with both. The house was one year in the design process and 18 months in the building.

It may sound awkward, having all the principle rooms ranged along one side of the house, but the finished effect is anything but.

The house is much wider than it is deep, ranging along the river front. "It is not an architectural 'type'," says Wallace. "It is custom designed, with a traditional flavour, to suit the location and the needs of the clients."

There is 2,600 sq. ft. of living space above ground and 2,100 sq. ft. in the walk-out basement.

The front facade, clad in Arriscraft stone, authentic cedar shingles and wood soffits, features four dormer windows. Both the cedar shingles and the soffit were supplied by Maibec Inc.

"The wood is permanently stained, not painted, so over time, it will fade, but never peel," says Wallace.

The main floor is bisected laterally by a hallway showcasing custom-designed cabinets displaying the couple's impressive collection of antique china. The design of this feature was a collaboration between Willow and **John Humphries** of **J. W. Humphries Antiques** in Lindsay, Willow and Debbie's go-to person for quality antique furniture and china. **Fred Waines** of Cambray built and installed the cabinetry. *Continued on page 26*

RIGHT: As with the rest of this house, this bathroom was designed to allow as much natural light as possible. **BELOW LEFT:** The Richardsons' custom armoire and dresser feature their names and wedding date as well as their daughters' names and birth dates. **BELOW RIGHT:** The elegant master suite offers views of the river, plus a sitting area overlooking the great room.



While it is essentially a one-storey home, there is a loft above the main level that provides a lovely, quiet retreat for Debbie and Alex, especially when their two daughters and four grandchildren are visiting. One special feature is the master bedroom's custom armoire and dresser, which were built to Willow's specifications by Julia West Home of Toronto to commemorate the Richardsons' 25th wedding anniversary. Hand script was added to the custom finish detailing the names and birth dates of the Richardson's daughters as well as their own names and their wedding date.

This master suite offers views of the river, plus a sitting area overlooking the great room with its cathedral ceiling, wood-burning fireplace and unsurpassed river views.

The great room also leads into the open-concept kitchen and eating

area, again overlooking the river. "We spend a lot of time here," says Debbie, smiling in the direction of her water world view. The house is as the architect says, "predisposed to outdoor living," and Debbie's passion for gardening is greatly in evidence.

The kitchen also accommodates Debbie's other passion, cooking. The custom range offers six gas burners on top with an electric oven below. All appliances are from **Sears** in Lindsay.

Also overlooking the river is the dining room, designed around two cabinets, which are both family heirlooms. The dining room table and chairs were purchased at J.W. Humphries Antiques after the house was completed. The great room and the dining room both have direct outdoor access to two covered verandas that offer great outdoor living space and access to the hot tub. *Continued on page 28*

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feature



When their treasured family visits, they stay in two bedrooms on the lower level that feature windows over five feet high, so the feeling is that of a main-level room.

Magnificent gardens were designed by Victoria Lister Carley, Landscape Architect in Toronto. **Rosepark Landscaping Ltd.**, of Cameron, have been responsible for all recent landscaping projects as well as maintaining the irrigation system. The gardener is **Jim Bond** of **My Kawartha Gardener**, Lindsay. Weather-tight Andersen windows and doors are from **The Lakes Windows and Doors Centre**. Oak floors were finished on site by Darmaga Hardwood Flooring Ltd., tile floors in the basement, master bathroom and mud room are from Olympia Tile International Inc., and Country Floors,

Toronto (who also furnished the tile backsplash in the kitchen). Master carpenters for all the millwork, staircase, bookcases, fireplaces and custom trim were **Rudy** and **Markus Pfister** of **Markus Pfister Carpentry** of Lindsay. All wrought iron railings were made by **Don Chase** of **Don's Machine Shop Services**, Lindsay.

All the reproduction heritage hardware was sourced from Ginger's, Toronto. Stone countertops in the kitchen and baths came from Marble View Inc. and all upholstery and draperies are by Rudy's Custom Upholstery and Draperies, for Willow Aagaard Design. All paints supplied by **Benjamin Moore/Scott's Decorating Center**, Lindsay. **OH**



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Sears, J.W. Humphries Antiques, Fred Waines, Alvin Kennedy, The Kent Florist, Christopher Wallace Architect, Rosepark Landscaping Ltd., Jim Bond of My Kawartha Gardener, The Lakes Windows and Doors, Don's Machine Shop Services, Scott's Decorating Centre, Markus Pfister Carpentry

ABOVE LEFT: This exquisite antique dining room table, chairs and chandelier were all found in Lindsay.

ABOVE RIGHT: This custom staircase is as striking as it is functional.

LEFT: With windows over five feet high, even the lower level bedrooms have the feel of a main-level room

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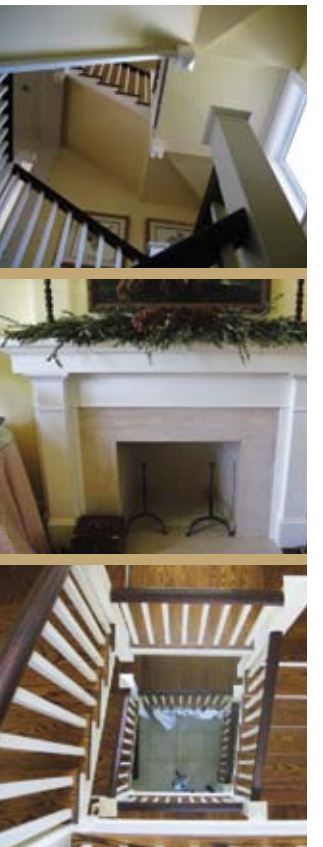
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