

If a human dwelling could, in fact, naturally evolve from the earth, chances are it might look a lot like this one.

Earth-toned, clad in weathered zinc siding, the shape of this Port Hope-area home echoes the rolling waves and the undulating hills. When its green roof is complete, it will appear even more a part of the countryside from which it has sprung. Today, the roofline rises smoothly and gracefully toward the south, in the direction of the trees and the Great Lake, beckoning the spectator to explore the ever-changing panorama of Lake Ontario's four-season shoreline.

This is not your father's lakeside country home.

Designed by **Stephen Teeple** of **Teeple Architects** of Toronto, the home's design and construction was principally overseen by Teeple associate **Luc Bouliane**, who has since opened his own architectural firm in Toronto. The builder was **Derek Nicholson Inc.** of Toronto who "was involved from day one. He brought in the most amazing crew that framed and built this house," the homeowners say.

The homeowners, a professional couple with teenaged youngsters and some very large and handsome dogs, prefer not to be named. "We want the focus to be on the house, not on us."

The location was their initial inspiration. "We wanted to live in a place where kids can be kids." They got that, and much more. When they found 75 acres in the Port Hope area, with utter privacy and stunning all-season views, they knew they had their building site. They were inspired by the "Tube House" in Toronto, also designed by Teeple Architects, and just knew when the perfect site was married to the perfect design, they would have a dream come true. And they do.  $_{Continued\ on\ page\ 40}$ 



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## feature

BELOW: A custom cabinet wall designed by Form and Function is ideal for wood and fireplace implements. The steps lead up to the kitchen dining nook and secondary kitchen at the front of the house, which will service a future exterior deck. RIGHT: A dining table imported from Denmark can extend to seat 20 people. The walnut wall contains cabinets for convenient storage space. BOTTOM: The wood-burning fireplace is visible on three sides, attached to a primary vertical support beam.







Their home is not visible from any public road. The rustling of wildlife in the tree branches and the susurration of the waves are the only outdoor sounds. The structure is so designed that outdoors and indoors are one. Views from inside could render superfluous decorating the walls with art, so compelling is the scenery beyond the numerous floor-to-ceiling expanses of glass.

Walls are intriguingly curved, ceilings are marvelously high. The impression is one of limitless space and light, freedom and joy.

The living room is the high point – in every sense. Cantilevered, the elevated room extends southward, 90 feet above a long-disused Grand Trunk railway bed, which is now well treed.

The interior décor might best be described as organic. The floors are mainly sealed concrete, finished in an earthy, charcoal grey. "Bullet-proof," chuckles the mother of two and owner of three large dogs. Eramosa stone tiles add a touch of elegance to the living room and dining room, an open space with cosy, radiant floor heating that can easily accommodate the Danish 20-foot extension table for entertaining. Continued on page 43



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The homeowner herself took a large part in designing the adjoining kitchen space. "I knew exactly what I needed," she says. Alan Sharpe, the craftsman-owner of Port Hope's Form & Function, gave her just that, with natural, streamlined, beautiful walnut cabinets. Concrete countertops were installed by **Evergreen Cast Stone** of Port Perry, which also installed

custom concrete sinks in the master and guest bathrooms.

All kitchen and laundry appliances are manufactured by Miele.

In the breakfast area, abundant storage is conveniently located under bench seating and in a half-wall that divides the kitchen area from the living-dining area, as well as in the traditional wall cabinets. The half-height wall creates visual division, allows for free flow of visitors and also permits a subtle separation of food-preparation and socialization functions, if desired.

The dividing wall also accommodates storage for cord wood for the three-sided, glass-enclosed, wood-burning fireplace (by **The Fireplace Specialist** of Concord) that adds ambience to all three spaces. The layered concrete fireplace surround is striking. It serves as the main support for this portion of the house.

A future plan is to add a raised deck space off the breakfast area that will also give direct access for dogs, kids and adults to the gardens, woods and the beach. Continued on page 44







TOP RIGHT: In-wall stainless steel appliances and storage space lie opposite the kitchen's prep area. ABOVE AND LEFT: A secondary kitchen area adjoins the breakfast dining nook on the ground floor at the front of the home.

## feature

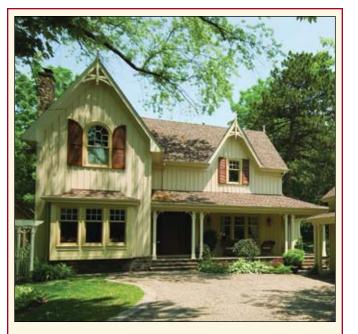




Within a total of about 4,500 sq. ft. of living space, the family and their guests also enjoy four bedrooms, a media room with projection screen and game controls, main-floor laundry and handy pet-containment and pet-bathing facilities. Stainless steel cabinetry, backsplash in the kitchen and laundry room, counter, sink and cabinets were installed by **Acero Stainless** of Cobourg. Continued on page 48

**LEFT AND BELOW:** The home theatre is situated at the rear of the ground floor. The custom walnut cabinet is an entertainment island that also houses the theatre's electronic equipment. The window overlooks the exterior lap pool and hot tub. **ABOVE:** The sink in a powder room was custom-formed for the space.





## traditional residential architecture

Port Hope, Ontario | 905.753.1122 chris@cwallacearchitect.com www.cwallacearchitect.com

**Christopher Wallace Architect** 

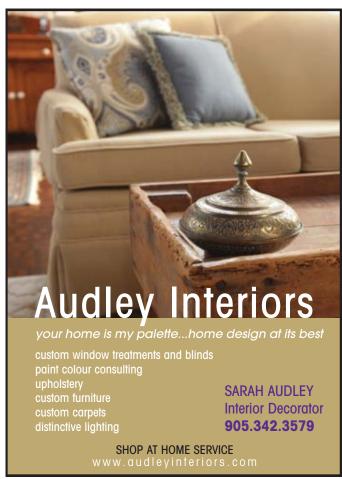
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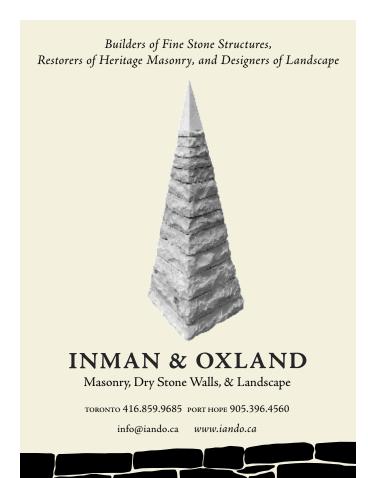














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## feature





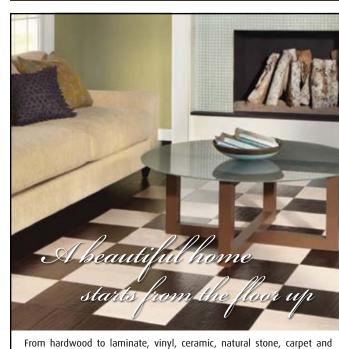
The home's upper floor belongs to the adults. It houses a spacious master bedroom with en suite overlooking the sparkling lake, office space overlooking the gardens, a spectacular enclosed staircase outside the footprint of the main building, and access to a rooftop deck area. The basement area is largely an indoor gym and gathering space for teens.

Outside recreational space consists of a year-round outdoor lap pool and hot tub, heated, as is the whole home, by geothermal technology by MGMM Services, Geothermal Specialists, of Newtonville. The hot tub can quickly be brought up to maximum heat by supplementary propane, supplied by Home Comfort Heating of Peterborough, which also installed the interior in-floor heating and air conditioning.

Other contractors who helped to make this outstanding home so comfortable and elegant include: Stadtke Plumbing & Heating of Cobourg; BonaVista Pools of East York; James Sculthorpe Ltd., Port Hope, (exterior construction); Gunn-Duncan Landscaping Ltd., Cobourg; New Wave Electronics, Richmond Hill; and dry stone wall builders and landscapers Inman & Oxland of Port Hope. OH

TOP LEFT: A rolling, hanging door separates the master en suite bathroom from the upper-floor hallway. TOP RIGHT: An all-season aerie invites comfort and contemplation in the master bedroom. LEFT: The glass-enclosed open stairway leads up to an outdoor deck along one side of the home at the second-floor level. In the foreground is the stairway down to the fitness/recreation area, storage and utility rooms.





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