

# TRANSITION TO MODERN

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY** | STYLING **SARA MARTIN**



The Landmark Group maintains the gardens and nurtures its new growth. "Our trust in Landmark goes back over a decade to the landscaping they created and maintained at our former property in the area," says the owner.

In the Georgian Bay Club estates, builder **Patrick B. Coulter & Associates** has given a youthful retired couple a spacious, modern-transitional home.



It's the second home Coulter has built for the owners. Fifteen years ago, Coulter & Associates put up a ski chalet for them in Castle Glen. It was a time when the owners' children were avid skiers and the family spent winter weekends away from their home base in Cambridge to relax together away from school and work. A decade-and-a-half later, the kids have left the nest and the recently-retired couple felt more ties to the Blue Mountains region than any other. They were ready to make it their permanent home. But not in a ski chalet.

"There was no question we were going to ask Patrick to build us another house," says the owner. They knew the kind of quality he had put into their chalet – beautiful finishes and a solid building envelope. Surely, with another 15 years of experience in a region where Coulter has put up over 1,400 residences – custom homes and developments – it would be a fine home with the latest building technology. Coulter delivered. *Continued on page 48*

**LEFT:** A golf-cart-sized door opens out of the back of the garage with its own lane, allowing easy access to the nearby Georgian Bay Club. **OPPOSITE:** It's hard to find a neighbourhood untouched by Patrick Coulter in the Blue Mountains.





A tongue-in-groove ash ceiling warms the look of the grey cabinets in the modern kitchen. A glass-tile backsplash and marble countertops bring the look together with brushed nickel hardware. An inset television lets the owners catch the evening news while preparing dinner. A wine and a beer fridge flank the counter that transitions to the dining area. Arrangement by Paperwhite Flowers.





“We had a lot of fun the second time around,” Coulter says. “The owners were decisive and knew that they wanted energy management on both levels of the home, and a master suite where they could access their own private garden. The view off the deck in their suite is incredibly relaxing.”

The owners have had homes in a few different cities over the years. “But both our families have been coming to ski in the Blue Mountains since 1968. It’s been the one constant place for children and extended family members to gather,” says the owner.

Coulter has been building homes in Southern Georgian Bay for clients like them since 1981. In communities as close-knit as Thornbury and Collingwood, it didn’t take long for Coulter’s work to be noticed and in demand. The real estate market has stayed strong in luxury homes in Southern Georgian Bay – Coulter says a number of his newest builds are going up for clients from across Canada and around the world who have identified this region as a prime destination not only for its proximity to Toronto but because it offers four-season amenities and activity. *Continued on page 50*



Dormers punch out of the slope of the great room roof as a way to extend the window height and add variation to the interior ceiling and exterior roofline. Twelve-seat dining table by C&G Solid Wood Furniture.



**OPPOSITE, TOP:** In the comfortable sunroom, the owners have the option of opening or closing the wall to the kitchen. The owner uses the space to design and create artwork quilts. **MIDDLE LEFT:** The stainless steel range and hood blend with the brushed nickel kitchen finishes and pot lights. Tray courtesy of C&G Solid Wood Furniture; pears and cabbage available at Goldsmith’s Orchard Market. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Goo, the resident eight-year-old pug, howls from his perch in front of the fireplace. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Stone from B.C. clads the fireplace. Arrangement by Paperwhite Flowers.





It was the prime amenity of the Georgian Bay Club golf course that drew the homeowners to choose a lot in a premier development on a mountain ridge, near the green of the 11th hole of the course. It's a private, yet very social community.

The dramatic setting lends itself to the modern style of the build. Coulter prepared a nearly 40-page brief to get the design project started. Wanting to soften the stark lines of the home, the homeowners asked to add transitional dormer windows. They coupled deep-brown exterior cladding with steel-framed windows and a black metal roof. Inside, the couple worked with Coulter on the transitional aspects of the home – a tongue-in-groove ash ceiling that runs the length of the great room and the master suite are stained to match the hickory hardwood floors. The result is a modern element of understated elegance that provides a more intimate and warmer feel than it might if they

had followed a strict modern aesthetic.

The couple wanted to achieve the feeling of living in the outdoors with nearly panoramic views of the natural elements surrounding them. With the walls of the home's width mostly glass, they opted to use bronze-tinted windows to provide privacy and reduce the amount of ultraviolet light inside. Dormers punch out of either side of the great room's peaked roof, adding variation to the window heights and architectural interest to the rooflines. The home is equipped with a Crestron wireless system that fully automates window coverings as well as the heating and cooling systems and the LED lighting, installed by Coulter's sub trades.

The owners worked with Coulter to choose stone accents on the exterior, and brought the same B.C.-sourced grey, black and buff granite inside to the floor-to-ceiling masonry of the wood-burning fireplace and a wall in the front foyer. *Continued on page 52*



**TOP LEFT:** The owners enjoy the large windows and two covered decks off the master bedroom. **TOP RIGHT & ABOVE:** His and hers vanities on either side of a frosted glass shower give the owners a spa-like space in their en suite. They are also able to walk out to their own private, covered garden.

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**LEFT:** The main floor powder room makes a statement with dramatic wallpaper and a beautiful vessel sink. **FAR LEFT:** Even the laundry room has some flair with a red wall in the bright space. **BELOW:** Glass panels on the stair railings bring light into the lower level.



The inside layout allows for main-floor living with a central great room and two wings of living space. One wing sees the entry foyer, garage, stairway to the lower level, laundry room and powder room. The kitchen adjoins the dining and living areas under the great room. And the owners' master bedroom and en suite complete the far wing.

The couple often travel to Florida in winter, which is where they visited many homes that had wide window expanses that neatly folded back to transform a full room into an outdoor patio space. Coulter knew he could integrate the concept off their kitchen in their Georgian Bay Club home. The screened-in terrace is open on three sides overlooking the landscaped backyard, a room created to resemble their favourite space at the family cottage. *Continued on page 54*



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The owners worked with interior designer **Jo Redman** of **Redman Watson** to select finishes and décor. Lighting was particularly difficult to settle on, as the couple didn't want modern, nor did they want a traditional look. They settled on an iron fixture atop their long, 12-seat dining table (custom built at **C&G Solid Wood Furniture** for their

prior home). And other fixtures coordinate throughout the home. The couple enjoy entertaining with friends and family in their comfortable home. They still enjoy getting together with Coulter, but whether they will meet at yet another building site remains to be seen. "We couldn't be happier with the home he built just for us," the owner says. **OH**

**ABOVE LEFT:** With the property backing onto a ravine, the owners were able to create a bright lower level with a gorgeous walk out to the fire pit and backyard. This level has the recreation space with billiards table and 10-foot theatre screen as well as the couple's office space, two bedrooms and a home gym. **ABOVE:** The bar on the lower level displays a collection of hockey memorabilia.



The landscape plan designed by Fran Moore of Vogel Landscape Design and Consulting reflects the owners' modern tastes yet integrates traditional plantings. Hydrangeas, lilacs, rose of Sharon and perennials cover the berm along the driveway. Three maple trees balance the design.

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