



The front of the Dee Dee Taylor Hannah designed home, which was built by Patrick B. Coulter and Associates. The home has five distinct areas: three inside plus the garage and the backyard.

BELOW: The rear of the home shines. The outdoor entertainment centre includes a full kitchen with a pizza oven. The pool is tucked close to the home and there are several lounge areas, perfect for large gatherings.

# TIMELESS AND *Beautiful*

BY GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Having to return to the city after a blissful weekend at their cottage is never easy for Julie Anne Smedley and Gary Scholl. They've discovered the joys of living, even part-time, in Southern Georgian Bay. The destination and their sophisticated new home is a welcome respite from their busy urban lives. *Continued on page 48*







Scholl is the CEO of POI Business Interiors, a company founded by his father in 1958; Julie Anne is the president of POI, named one of Canada's 50 best-managed companies.

Business and pleasure converge for this dynamic duo. Together with their two teenaged boys, they embarked three years ago on a quest to meld their love of fine architecture and furnishings with nature and recreation in a serene setting backing onto the Georgian Bay Golf Club.

"(The area) has great restaurants, shops and amenities that allow us to get away all year round," Julie Anne says of their choice location. "We also entertain friends and clients here so the variety of activities, skiing, cycling and golf, is very attractive."

Gary and Julie Anne selected **Patrick B. Coulter and Associates** to construct a home designed by celebrated Toronto architect **Dee Dee Taylor Hannah**.

Patrick Coulter came highly recommended and Julie Anne met Taylor Hannah at an event in the city. "Dee Dee called me the next day and told me she wanted to design our home," Julie Anne recalls.

Taylor Hannah and Coulter worked well together, creating a timeless dwelling that fits the landscape and the couple's penchant for a contemporary interior with fine Italian furniture. *Continued on page 50*



A view inside the courtyard, which includes the kitchen, living area, master bedroom and a library upstairs. Fine Italian leather lounge chairs and sofas by Giorgetti add a contemporary, European flair to the mountain home.

TOP LEFT: A floating staircase with iron and glass railings leads to the upstairs library. Two sets of double doors open into the room, which is furnished with dark leather Italian sofas.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Arturo cabinet by Giorgetti, located in the courtyard of the home, is a very special piece. Gary and Julie Anne have configured the cabinet for use as a bar.





The sleek kitchen has Douglas fir ebony stained cabinetry and a large sparkling granite-topped island. The stunning chandelier over the island, which came from the Netherlands, is beautiful and unexpected.

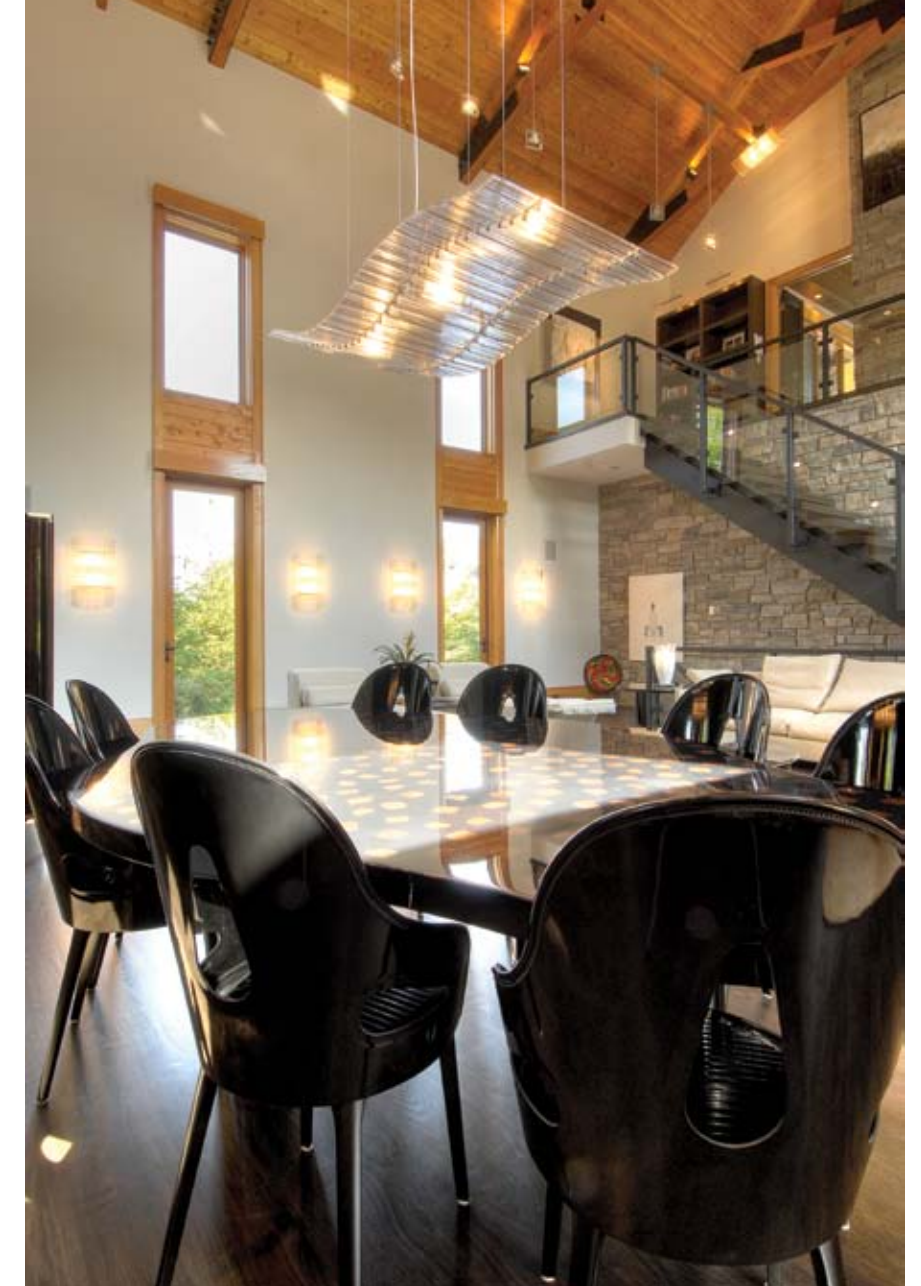
The home has five distinct areas to fit the family's lifestyle. Area one is the building with the master bedroom and en suite, kitchen, courtyard and upper level library. "This is all we really need if it is just the two of us in the home as our children get older and may not be with us every weekend," Julie Anne explains.

Area two is the living/dining area, which is where you enter into from the front door. Area three, behind a large white rolling door, has a cool space with an entertainment unit, fridge and sofa for Keewatin, 16, and

Nicholas, 14, to enjoy their space. There are four bedrooms – two for the boys and two rooms to accommodate friends and family overnight – including Gary's two grown sons.

Area four is the garage "and it is exactly as Gary wanted it!" laughs Julie Anne.

Area five is the fabulous outdoor area, designed and built by **The Landmark Group**. "Landmark did an excellent job and were great to work with," Gary says. *Continued on page 52*



**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A view from the kitchen into the bright courtyard shows off the detailed ceiling.

**TOP RIGHT:** This table, just off the kitchen, is a beauty. It's finished in black ebony epoxy with solid pau ferro wood inserts and is surrounded by black patent leather chairs.





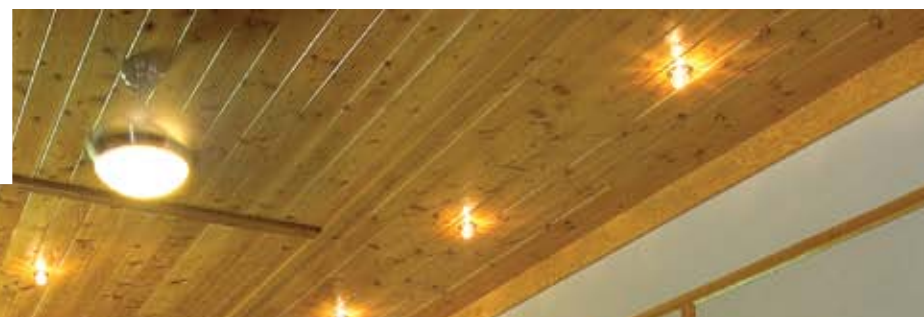
“The covered outdoor kitchen/dining area with infrared heaters allows us to spend as much time outdoors as possible and extend our short northern summers,” Julie Anne adds. This area also includes a wood oven from an Italian company called Mugnaini.

“We love to entertain and this oven is a lot of fun for us to make pizza as everyone can create their own and they cook in only two minutes,” says Julie Anne. “You can, however, cook anything in this oven that you would in a traditional oven so it’s very practical.”

The backyard also includes the pool, hot tub and lounge areas with a firepit and firebowl to add warmth and drama to the yard in the evening. The furniture is from Dedon.

Inside, the ebony-stained hickory floors set a dramatic tone for the sleek, modern furnishings.

The home is furnished almost entirely in a furniture line POI sells called Giorgetti. “Giorgetti is the second oldest furniture company in Italy and they make very unique and incredibly beautiful pieces,” Julie Anne says. “We wanted our home to be a showroom for these products.” *Continued on page 56*



**TOP LEFT:** The master bedroom has a modern gas fireplace with a stainless surround and TV built into the wall above.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Light woods on the walls and ceiling add a new dimension to this timeless home and recognize its location in The Blue Mountains.

**TOP RIGHT:** The dark cabinetry is carried into the master en suite. White marble gives the room a classic look. The glass shower is located across the back of the room, while the tub sits in the centre.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Closets and storage for the master sit outside the suite – a very clever design and use of space.



feature



The front door opens into the living and dining room. The metal fixture over the table is from a company called Brand Van Egmond in the Netherlands. Gary and Julie Anne purchased the John Little painting over the fireplace at a gallery in New York.



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LEFT: A second table in the dining room also has a stunning metal chandelier from Brand Van Egmond.

BELOW: Sons Keewatin and Nicholas enjoy their own space in the home, designed and furnished just for them. It includes an entertainment cabinet, with fridge by Jim Edgeson.

BOTTOM: Julie Anne rolls back the large door, which opens into the boys' private space and guest suites.



Taylor Hannah, who also worked on the interior design and placement of furniture, says it was a privilege to work with such beautiful pieces. "Giorgetti furnishings are top-of-the-line," she says. "It was like working with Ferraris everyday."

Gary and Julie Anne have their favourite pieces, including the Arturo cabinet in the courtyard designed by Massimo Scolari. The exterior is polished ebony macassar wood with brass hinges, trim and handles. "The handles take the shape of wings as Mr. Scolari loves to fly," Julie Anne explains. The legs are molded crystal. Gary and Julie Anne use the cabinet for a bar, but it can also be set up as a wardrobe.

Other favourites include the YFI sofa in the living room designed by Chi Wing Lo, who was trained in architecture in Toronto, and the Royal sofa upstairs in the library designed by Antonello Mosca.

The black Dora patent leather chairs and Theo table off the kitchen were also designed by Massimo Scolari, and are truly unique.

The specialty Italian glass lighting from Venini, another product POI carries, is truly spectacular. "Our favourite pieces are the Nastri series, including the wave-like piece over the Theo kitchen table, which enhances the organic shape of the table," Julie Anne says. *Continued on page 60*



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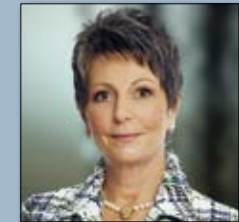
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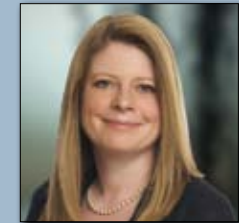
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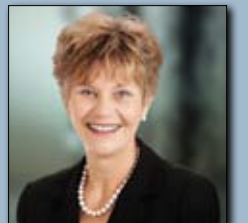
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This backyard has it all. Gary and Julie Anne worked with The Landmark Group to create an elegant outdoor space.

ABOVE: The outdoor kitchen and grill, complete with an ice maker. There's easy access to the courtyard and kitchen inside.

ABOVE LEFT: Gary returns to the cottage after exploring the area on his Harley.

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The metal fixtures in the dining room and over the kitchen island are from a lighting and furniture company in the Netherlands called Brand Van Egmond.

Taylor Hannah returned to the home for a visit after the family moved in just before Christmas of last year. She was pleased with the final collaborative result.

"It was a pleasure working with Patrick," she says. "He was knowledgeable. He builds beautiful homes and understands value for the dollar. It was an interesting piece of architecture and we needed someone who could execute and Patrick did that all the way through."

Coulter was equally impressed. "The Smedley-Scholl house is an extraordinary quality residence," Coulter says. "The architecture is well planned and the building has incredible street presence. Julie Anne, Gary and Dee Dee made this project a pleasure and an honour to be involved with."

This summer, Gary, Julie Anne and their two boys are enjoying their retreat – golfing, entertaining and relaxing with friends and clients, eager to share their beautiful, timeless home.

"Gary and I were sitting outside the other night and he asked me if I would have done anything in the home differently," Julie Anne says. "We both agreed that we wouldn't change a thing." **OH**



**ABOVE:** The theatre room is located downstairs. The family gathers here to watch their favourite movies in complete comfort.

The spa is also located downstairs, next to the gym area. Gary and Julie Anne love their steam room and infrared sauna by SaunaRay.

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