

This Collingwood homeowner's backyard golf oasis, modeled after the Arizona landscape, is entirely maintenance-free. The faux grass surface means no watering, weeding, cutting or chemicals. Ike's Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions created exactly what the homeowner was looking for.

TEE TIME

BY JULIE SIMMONDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

“Puttering around in the back” is a phrase that often describes leisurely tasks or chores around the yard, but for one Collingwood weekend resident, it’s a phrase that’s taken literally. This weekender installed a putting and chipping green where he practices putting part-time, readying himself for his weekly game on the Monterra Golf Course.

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Short game heaven. The good doctor enjoying the good life, warming up with a chip shot onto his custom-designed putting green. **BELOW:** Jeff Eichenberger's desert-like landscaping plan included Canyon Rock boulders, colourful striated rocks, desert flowers and ornamental grasses. **RIGHT:** An elevated deck, overlooking the verdant Arizona-style putting and chipping green, is where the homeowners like to linger over breakfast. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Fresh peonies from Paperwhite Flowers and accessories from Habitat in Thornbury add finishing touches to this intimate outdoor table for two. **FAR RIGHT:** The homeowner, disappointed that he couldn't purchase cactuses for his desert-like haven, instead selected a variety of native Ontario plants such as yuccas, sedums and hostas.



Two years ago, the 34-year veteran cardiologist from the Toronto area built a 2,530 sq. ft. second home with **Curtis Barr** of **C. Barr Construction**. It wasn't until last summer that he finally found the right landscaper to design a yard he envisioned for his weekend retreat, and possibly his retirement home (upon his wife's approval).

Using the Arizona landscape and golf courses as his inspiration, the homeowner imagined a backyard with a silhouette of varied heights, rocks and plants and, of course, a maintenance-free lifestyle. "I like playing golf, so I thought it was a good idea to putt," says the homeowner. "I wanted it to look like Arizona. I like what the desert looks like – the desert vegetation."

And that is precisely what he got with **Jeff Eichenberger** from **Ikes Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions** in Nottawa. "I had actually gone to another company, and they did three different drawings," says the homeowner. "I told them I did not want grass, and I wanted it to look like Arizona, but none of the drawings even looked like Arizona," he adds. "When I called Jeff from Ikes Turf, he did one drawing within 24 hours, and it was exactly what I was looking for."

Jeff created "an arid look using unique rockery and minimal turf – like you would see at a golf course in the desert." To the golfer's delight, the golfing green is faux grass, which is 100 per cent maintenance-free – no weeding, no watering, no cutting and no chemicals. Additionally, "The turf fibres and the backing material are recycled polypropylene and polyethylene – general plastic," says Jeff. "The UV inhibitors allow the turf to withstand fading from the sun."

Jeff was able to add dimension to the flat space by building up portions of the yard with leftover soil from the excavation, creating wave-like bends, curves and elevation. Carrying out the Arizona theme, Jeff used an enclave of distinctive Canyon Rock boulders to accent the landscape. "These unique rocks make the space what it is and play a large role in creating the desert feel," says Jeff. All boulders and rocks are from **Greenmarc Farms** in Nottawa and Grand River Natural Stone Ltd. in Fergus.

The boulders are an art piece of their own with beautiful grey and gold striations, creating a strong and firm presence within their environment. Small pieces of reddish-orange and grey and black Canyon Rock engulf the beds around the synthetic turf in both the back and front yards – bringing a little piece of the desert to Collingwood.

The doctor's yard isn't without a few natural green elements though. Small trees and plants also dot the landscape. "Unfortunately, we can't get cactuses here," laments the homeowner. Sourcing plants native to Ontario, "we used a lot of ornamental grasses, yuccas, sedums, yews, large hostas, and Amur maples (from **Clearview Nursery Ltd.**) to name a few," Jeff recounts. *Continued on page 83*





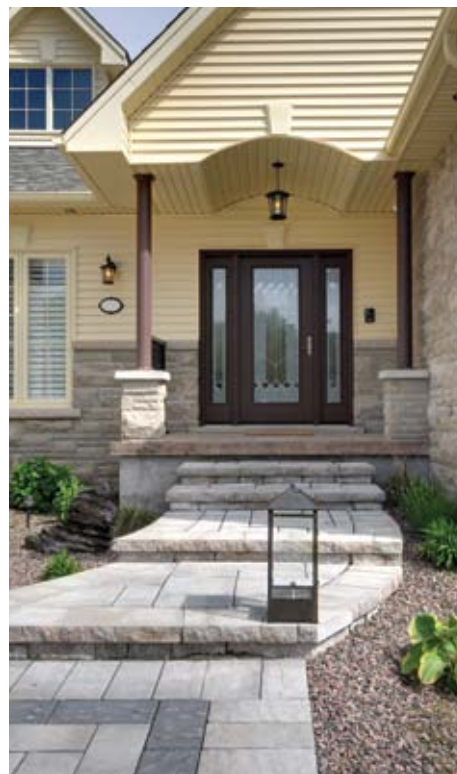
An open-concept foyer features Italian marble tile, which gives way to gleaming maple hardwood floors. A stunning yellow quartzite feature wall leads to the lower level bedrooms, bathroom and media room.



ABOVE: The homeowner drew what he envisioned for the kitchen, and then handed his sketch over to builder Curtis Barr, who took care of all the details. The lovely contemporary kitchen features granite counters, stainless appliances and a big centre island for family gatherings. **RIGHT:** A dining area off the kitchen features custom shutters from Shades and Shutters Inc. in Collingwood. Most of the walls in the home are painted Bleaker Beige by Benjamin Moore.



An impressive stone façade, maize-coloured siding, tall ornamental grasses, and desert-like landscaping welcome visitors to this modern home. **RIGHT:** An elegant covered walkway leads to the front door creating a formidable sense of arrival.



Like most weekenders, the good doctor didn't come to Collingwood just to play golf, he also came for the skiing – his true passion. “I've been skiing with my girls for about 25 years, and we'd always come up here on the weekends to ski,” he says. “I decided I'd like to have a place here so I could ski in the winter and play golf in the summer.”

Once again the doctor had a vision, which translated into a modern, minimalist-style home built by C. Barr Construction. With one master suite and two additional bedrooms on the main floor, a second master suite in the loft and three more bedrooms in the finished basement, the home plays host to many friends and families from the big city. A fully finished basement provides an additional 1,500 sq. ft. of space, awaiting future grandchildren.

Upon entering the home, beautiful New Venetian gold Italian marble tiles welcome you (supplied by **Havens Home Building Centre**). Immediately, the home opens up to a great room with a feature wall on the left, designed as a backdrop to the basement stairs. The wall showcases rich Sydney yellow quartzite, supplied by Simcoe Masonry Centre and installed by **Riverside Masonry**. *Continued on page 86*



feature



His and hers master bedrooms, one in the loft above the three-car garage, another on the main floor, offer the ultimate in privacy. **LEFT:** A sloped ceiling in the hallway to her en suite posed quite a problem, so the homeowner adeptly re-designed the space to include built-in closets, cupboards and shelving. **BELOW:** Mirrors galore reflect light into his master en suite.



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LEFT: Touches of red leather add a splash of vibrant colour to this main floor bedroom. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A fiery red bench and leather office chair liven up this functional space, as does a contrasting red, white and black carpet. **BELOW:** The large laundry room features a frosted glass door, and plenty of convenient cupboards and storage space.

Behind the stone wall is a gorgeous cream-coloured kitchen, housing tall cabinets that reach to the ceiling. The contemporary style is clean but bold, creating a sanitary feeling in which to prepare good food. Added warmth comes from the Antique Brown and Delicatus Rustica granite countertops. Both the kitchen cabinets and countertops are from Havens Home Building Centre. Stainless steel appliances continue the modern look, sourced at **MacDonald's BrandSource Home Furnishings**.

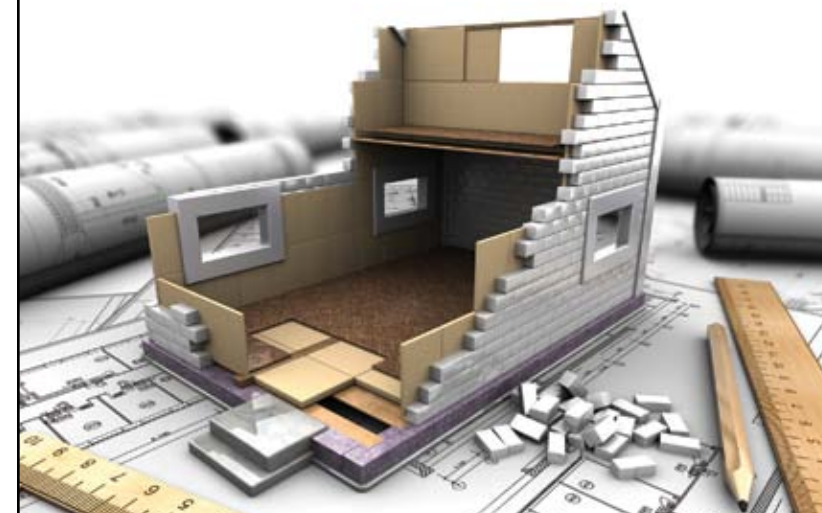
Off the main floor living area is an enclosed porch, stepping onto several layers of large decking, leading down to the hot tub and eventually back to the doctor's putting paradise. The doctor's atypical recreational terrain yields to more relaxation time, turning tee time to any time. "We spend lots of time out here," he says, pointing to the back yard. "No putting parties yet, but we've had a few competitions." **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

Blackstock Custom Stairs and Handrail, Brad Buckle, Campbell Mechanical Ltd., C. Barr Construction, Green Painting, Habitat, Havens Home Building Centre, Ikes Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions, Jeffery Custom Hardwood Flooring, Macdonalds Brandsource Home Furnishings, Paperwhite Flowers, Robertson Electric, Shades & Shutters.



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