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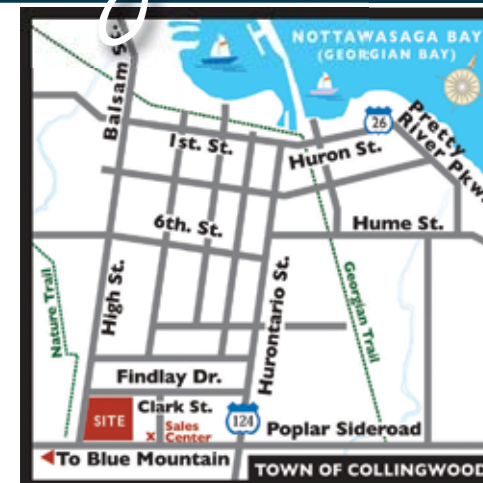
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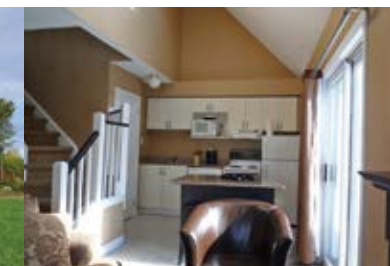


**NEW PRICE The Perch** \$1,200,000 One of the most colossal views of the Bay, 28 acres, quaint french cottage, pond, extremely private, minutes to Osler & Collingwood.

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A modernization is often a challenge when matching elevations, style and finishes. Scott made it happen. He personally picked out quality materials and took the effort to ensure that each phase of the project was completed with a high level of craftsmanship.

*Dave McFadden*

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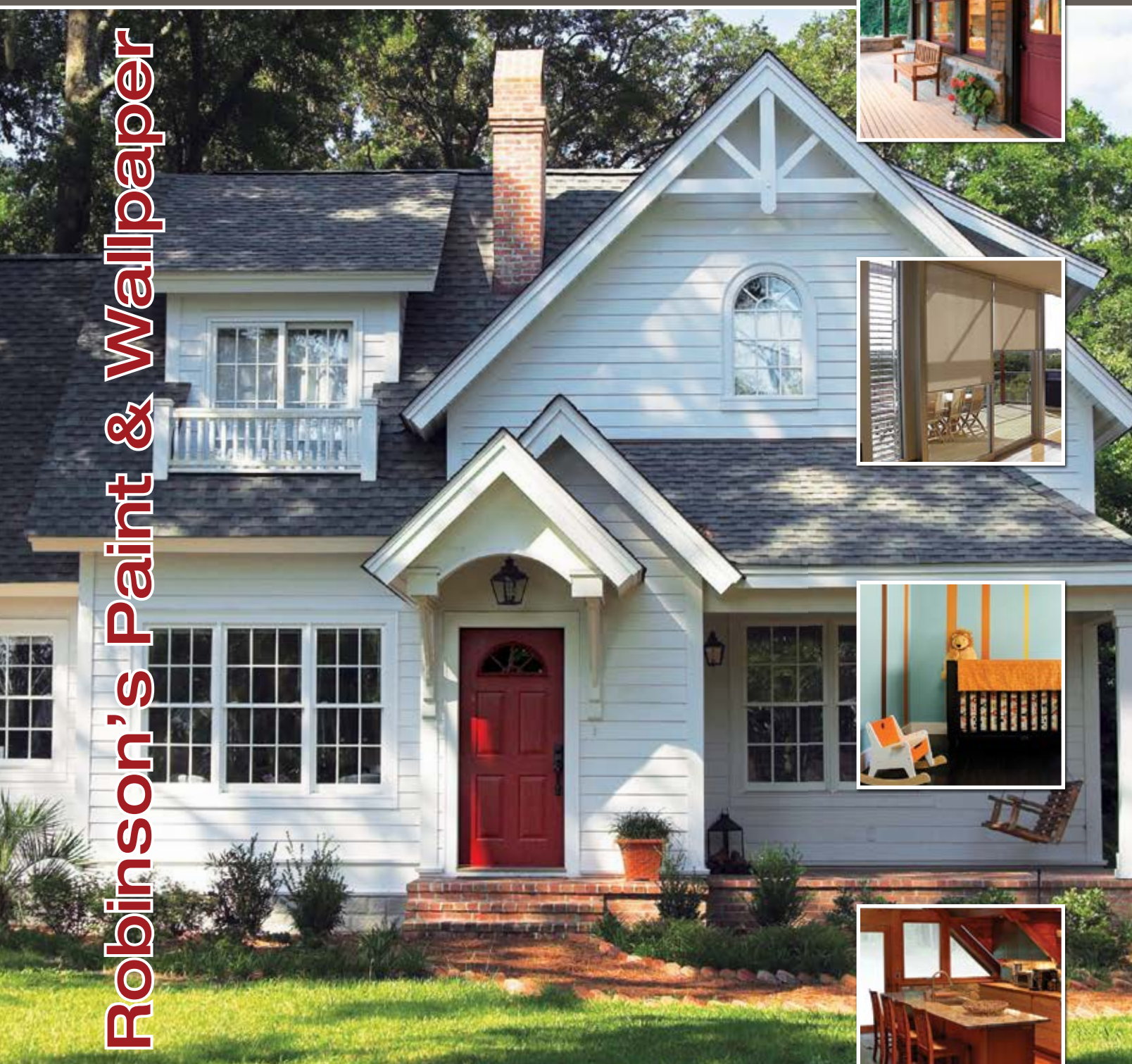


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*"Kodachrome,  
They give us those nice bright colours  
They give us the greens of summers  
Makes you think all the world's a sunny day..."*

*Kodachrome by Paul Simon*

**Y**ESTERDAY, AS I WAS RIFLING through a box of old photos, I came across a picture of my Mom and Dad, circa 1977, reading the paper in the backyard, my trusty dog Nelson at their side.

Mom's wearing a perfectly dated Jamaican shirt; Dad looks rather boyish, and he's got hair! I'd just purchased a Pentax SLR camera and was experimenting with black and white film and depth of field. The detail's not bad – you can almost read the headlines in the paper!

And then my eye drifted to the chairs. Ah yes, those classic folding lawn chairs. You know the ones – the cheesy aluminum chairs with the plastic strapping everyone had in their backyards. For umpteen years, we re-strapped them, gave them a quick wipe, and used them for yet another summer. I'll bet some of you still have an old gem or two kicking about the garage or basement.

Outdoor furniture has come a long way. Back then it wasn't about design or style. It was about function and serving a purpose, and it didn't seem to matter what the furniture looked like. If you needed a serving table, a TV tray or picnic table often sufficed. Remember those vinyl coated poly cushions that left an imprint and stuck to your legs when you stood



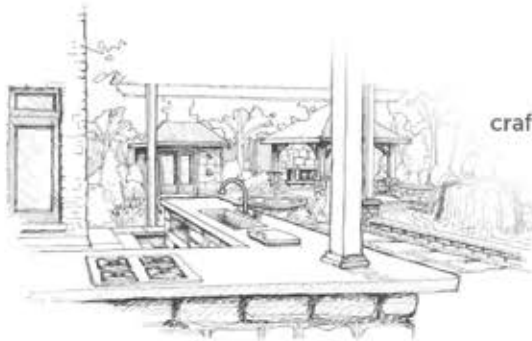
up? Or remember dashing outside to rescue the cushions before it rained?

Today, outdoor décor is big business, and the array of choices is absolutely mind-boggling. Furniture. Heating. Lights. Art. Rugs. Appliances. Now we decorate our homes inside and out. We move our entire kitchens, living spaces and media rooms outside, to spend as much fun in the sun as we possibly can. So sit back. Put your feet up. And let this issue inspire you to create your ultimate outdoor space.

This summer, you'll find me in my vegetable garden, or relaxing on my back deck, or al fresco dining on fresh garden produce with friends, family and Mick, making the most of every sweet moment outdoors.

Here's to heat!  
*Jude Wayland*  
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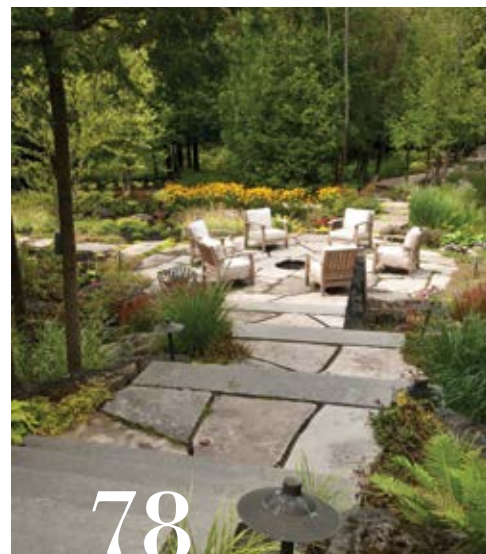
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publisher's note



**W**HATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LAZY, HAZY DAYS OF summer – in a bathing suit from sun-up to sundown, dripping orange popsicles and spitting watermelon seeds? The older I get it seems the faster summer comes and goes...

Whether golfing, gardening, hiking or biking, we're trying to pack it all in during the season and with this, our mid-summer issue, we feel the same way! There is so much to pack in during such a short time.

The families who live in the three local homes featured in this issue welcomed OUR HOMES with open arms. You'll love all three, including a multi-generation getaway tucked in the woods where gardens and artifacts fill the vast landscape. We also visit a classic "shore house" that's so tasteful and inviting. A storm whipping over Georgian Bay left us scrambling for cover during that photo shoot. Our third is a fabulous, contemporary glass home that has an indoor climbing wall! I'm sure you'll agree that our local builders, trades, designers and landscapers are producing world-class homes.

Our People feature highlights the Blue Venue Events Backyard Glam Tour, proudly sponsored by OUR HOMES and The Landmark Group. The event in early July showcased amazing outdoor spaces, professionally landscaped and staged, with a portion of all proceeds going to a great cause – Beaver Valley Outreach. Watch for Blue Venue's Holiday Home Tour in mid-November.

New shops and businesses seem to be springing up in every town that OUR HOMES reaches in Southern Georgian Bay. Check out our Comfort Zone, featuring Ashbury Cabin – a colourful new addition to Thornbury.

Sometimes in our busy world we are stopped in our tracks. So many of us were shocked and saddened by the passing of Don Ormsby. Many of you will remember Don – and his happy, larger than life personality – distributing this magazine to your business. Don was so dearly loved by his family, his community and all of us at OUR HOMES. So this summer, while trying to juggle everything on your busy schedule, don't forget to stop and smell the roses.

We dedicate this issue, and many to come, to Don.

- DON RUSSELL ORMSBY - MARCH 31, 1946 – MAY 25, 2014 -

Sincerely,

*Simone*

Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher  
simone@ourhomesmagazine.com

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advice

# SETTING THE SCENE

## SUMMER ENTERTAINING

STORY STEPHANIE REDMOND

Entertaining is always such a pleasure – picking the food, the wine, the music. I like to make sure the house is tidy and the kids are clean, and then it never fails – I leave setting the table to the last minute. I can hear the veteran entertainers gasping but it's true. I mean let's face it, entertaining should be about the food and the company, but putting in a little aesthetic effort sets the tone for the event and quite frankly, it can be a lot of fun.

### The Base Layer

Think of a tablecloth as your base layer. Be bold or keep it simple. White linen is always a lovely classic that can be layered with colourful or neutral dishware. For a modern-country aesthetic (or if you're on a budget), use burlap. It stains and can't really be washed, but for a one-night affair, it's the perfect cheap and cheerful fix.



### Layer 2

If you're not into tablecloths you can always start with placemats or a runner. Generally you can't accommodate both, but it depends on the width of your table. If you choose to do both, make sure they don't overlap or your table will feel crowded and messy. I love a thin linen placemat with a fine detail around the edge. It looks contemporary and timeless.

### The Necessities

If you have a full set of dishware, don't feel obliged to use everything that got ticked off your wedding registry. Mix and match so it doesn't feel too uptight. And if you're lacking on serving pieces, set up a buffet and skip the table clutter altogether.

2



You can layer three different sets of dishes and not feel stiff if you pick the right combination. Try a plain white base, a patterned centre dish and a textural plain top piece. Whether you're formal or free-spirit, the style of tableware will set the tone. And plain white is always an option (pair with colourful linens, flowers, serving dishes and candles to add some interest).

### Twigs And Petals

A striking assembly of flowers in the centre of the table is always beautiful but the guidelines for flowers are: Make sure they are not



Designer  
Stephanie Redmond  
shares her ideas.

overly scented; are not too tall so people sitting across from one another can see each other and not so wide that a guest ends up with a hydrangea in their soup. For something less traditional, create a long grouping of greenery down the centre, running the entire length of the table. It takes a bit of work, but the effect is striking.

### Lighting

Please don't make your guests eat underneath a 100-watt bulb without a dimmer! Lighting is key. It's important to see your food, but it's equally important to not feel like you're eating at a sports complex.

Dim the lighting and light the candles. If you're outside, try battery-operated candles or tall glass hurricanes to block the breeze.

### A Little Je Ne Sais Quoi...

Sometimes we just need to treat ourselves (and our guests). Here are a few ideas to keep you on the VIP list:

- Decant your wine – it allows your wine to breathe and looks great.
- Put sea salt in a small bowl (personally I prefer to use my fingers so I can feel how much salt I'm using).
- Put out some nuts or small appetizers. Life is busy, and we're all on the run. Don't leave your guests waiting for dinner to be served.
- Have sparkling and still water available – invest in a Soda Stream if you like carbonated water, it saves money and recycling.
- Make butter balls – I know, it's 80s, but who doesn't like a butter ball?
- Create a playlist beforehand so you are not fussing with the music throughout the evening.
- Use your old brass candlesticks – with tall white candles they add whimsy and formality.
- Put your cell phone away – it shows thoughtfulness. (And this goes for the guests too!)



At the end of the day, we entertain to discuss life, to live life and to escape from life. All the little touches surrounding an evening make a difference. So make an effort, and take a minute to decorate... and have a toast – to life! **OH**

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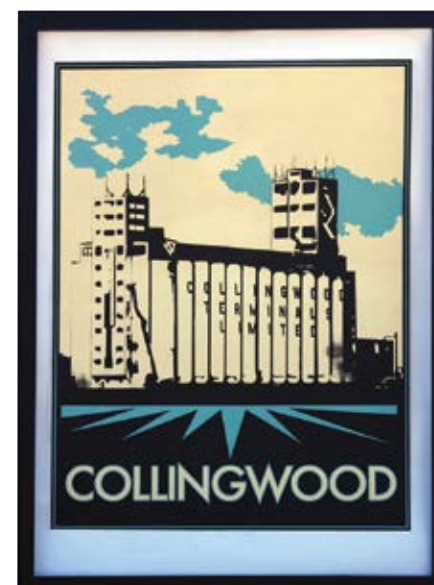
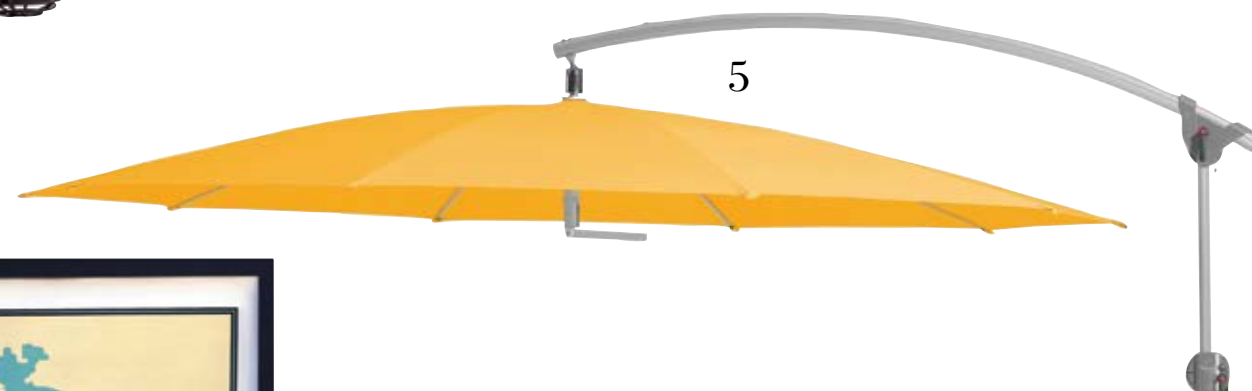




PHOTOGRAPHY BONNIE FOX

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*Continued on page 32*





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# WHERE TO NOW?

Baby boomers are giving retirement a whole new meaning, especially when choosing where to live.



“Today’s seniors are not your grandmother’s seniors,” says Susan Eng, vice-president of advocacy for CARP, a national group dedicated to enhancing the lives of aging Canadians. “There is a huge difference in terms of attitudes and expectations about what they ought to be doing,” Eng tells *Zoomer* magazine.

Census statistics show 92 per cent of Canadians age 65 and older live in their own homes, homes that are changing in step with the habits of people born during the 18-year baby boom that followed the Second World War. Retiring boomers are living longer than previous generations. Most intend to work, in some form, beyond age 65. They want to stay active, engaged and healthy for as long as they can. For many, that means moving to a home better suited to a new lifestyle, an opportunity to live life on their own terms, to get what they want as well as what they need.

Anyone who has owned a home in the city or nearby suburb for 25 years or more can sell it and buy a new house in a small town for less than half the cost of a city home. It’s an appealing idea, and a growing industry caters to this market.

Design consultant Adam Stuart is too young to be a boomer, but in the past six years he’s helped design nearly 200 homes, most of them for retirees who are tearing down old family cottages in their favourite summer haunts and replacing them with new homes.

Most clients, Stuart says, are looking for smaller, low-maintenance, energy-efficient homes. “If they’re going to go away for a couple of months, they can close their houses up quite easily and not have to worry about any pipes leaking,” he says. “They don’t have to worry about spending three or four hundred dollars a month, trying to maintain heat.” They favour homes with open-concept designs. Two-bedroom homes, with en suite baths and main-floor laundries are popular. “A lot of people now are looking for a crawl space, rather than a full-height basement, so they eliminate the amount of stairs in the home,” Stuart says.

Anticipating customers’ future needs, his company offers wider doors for wheelchairs and walkers. It also installs blocking for the

future installation of bathroom grab bars. Quick draining tubs that eliminate that big step over the tub wall are a new option.

Some builders incorporate “visitability” design standards, such as no-step entrances, wide hallways and doors that allow people in wheelchairs and on scooters to come into a home and, if needed, use a ground-floor bathroom.

Although the choice of floor plans, upgrades and finishes can be exciting, a new home, in itself, is just one part of the retirement equation.

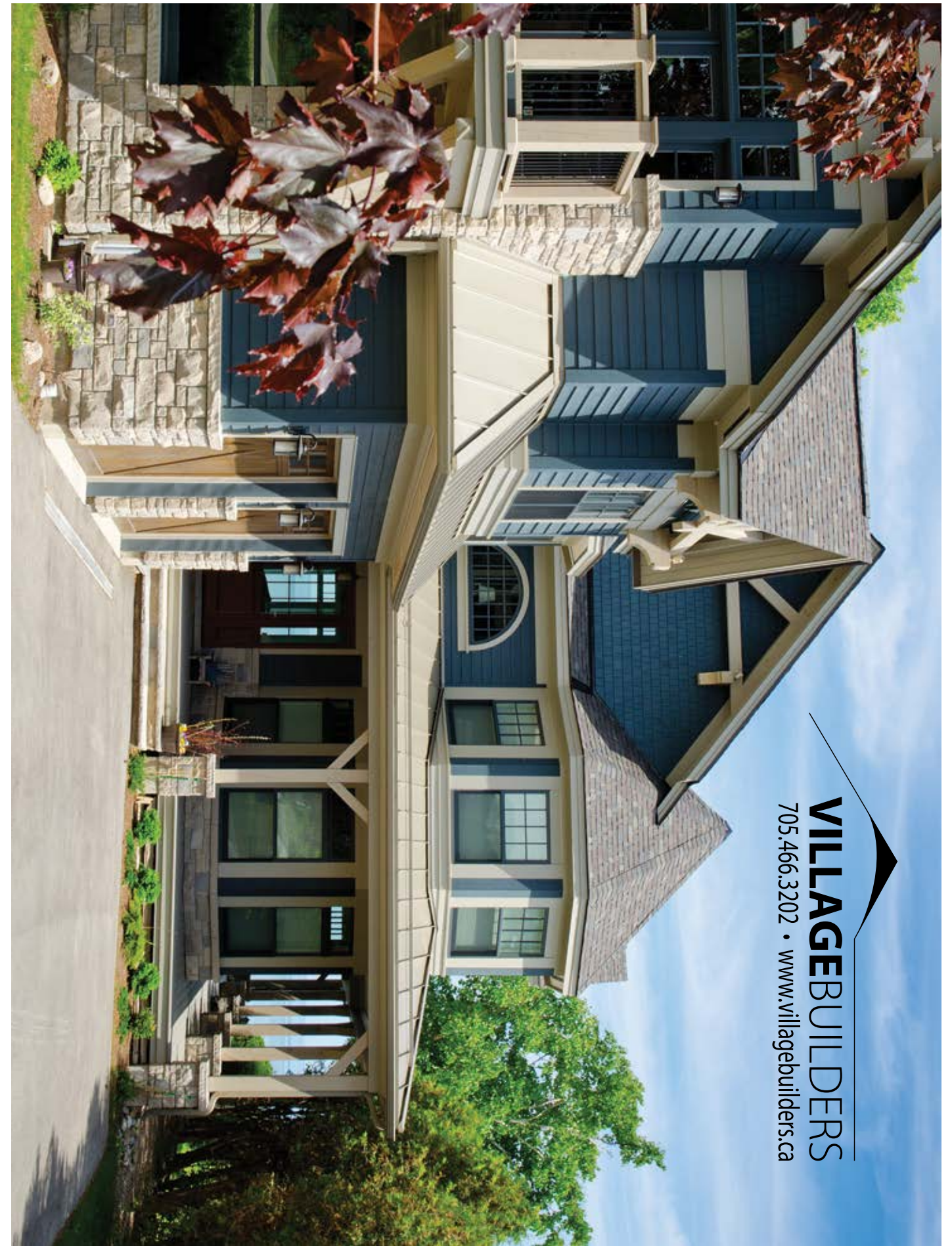
Many builders realize retiring baby boomers are making lifestyle decisions. Across Canada, there are hundreds of new neighbourhoods, some as small as a few dozen houses, others with hundreds of homes, geared to people creating a new way of living in retirement.

Each of these communities is distinct, with its own attributes and amenities. Some offer recreation centres, swimming pools, fitness centres and places for people to congregate. Many surround golf courses and offer memberships as part of the home package. Some are built on scenic lake shores, near ski hills and walking trails.

Community kitchens, woodworking shops, art studios and theatres with tiered seating serve a variety of interests.

Often called adult lifestyle communities, these developments attract people who like the idea of aging with neighbours of the same vintage; like-minded people who share similar interests and enjoy the same activities. Selecting the ideal place to build or buy a retirement home takes time and a lot of visits to different communities. It’s a choice that requires looking at the surrounding community as well – medical facilities, hospital, curling rinks, shopping – and gauging the distance to children and grandchildren.

Homes in adult lifestyle communities range in price from \$139,000 for a house in a land lease development to more than \$1 million for a home in a gated community surrounding a private northern lake. Even monthly rentals are available, from \$490 for an apartment to \$763 for a detached house. The choices are endless. They’re not just about bricks and mortar, they’re about enjoying life to the fullest. **OH**



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PHOTO BY JEFF THOMASON

# COTTAGE style

STORY MELODY WREN

Colin and Justin’s tips to give your home a cottage vibe this summer.

Scottish decorators Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan have taken Europe by storm for the last 10 years, and now they are re-designing Canadian homes, one at a time. They recently renovated their own cottage in Ontario’s Muskoka region. Their show *Cabin Pressure* on Cottage Life television documents the overhaul. Here are their top tips on how to give your home a cottage vibe this summer.

**1. Accessories:** Use cushions with stags on them, or art with twigs that remind you of the great outdoors – nothing too twee. Lay a visual path to give that wonderful escapist feeling.

**2. Colour scheming:** A big colour this season is green in its myriad of shades. Layer it on with textures from knobby throws and gorgeous touchy-feely cushions that are a feast for the eyes and fingers. All these things allude to life at the lake.

**3. Timber and wooden elements:** You might want to think about having a timber feature wall, or you can get the same effect with photographic murals, which can be made to look like the side of a barn.

**4. Artwork:** You can suggest so much with one purposeful piece of carefully-chosen artwork. Bring back a piece of art from a local gallery or cottage artisan. Every time you see it or look at it, you will be immediately transported to life at the lake.



2



1. KICHLER LIGHTING FIXTURE: Living Lighting  
2. LIVE-EDGE WOOD TABLE: Kincaid Furniture Company, Inc.

**5. Cottage escapism:** Add some quirky elements next to your stylish sofa – a milking bench or a gnarly piece of timber. It may seem that these pieces shouldn’t go together, but they do, and will give a little taste of the cottage right in the middle of a very metropolitan look.

**6. Lighting:** Light at the lake is bright and welcoming by day with a lovely, woody atmosphere at night – really indulgent, beautiful and comfy. So play around with your lighting in your primary home environment. Create those atmospheric pulls that suggest life at the cottage.

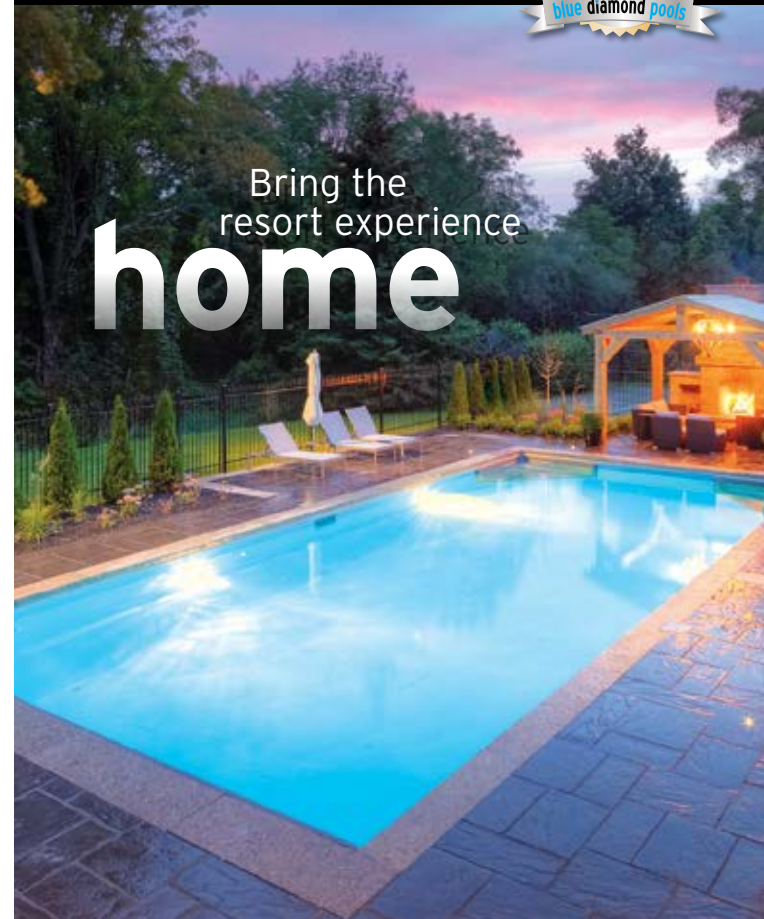
**7. Seasonal adjustment:** Pale slipcovers and bright cushions are amazing for changing the mood and look of a room. Check out Bemz.com for slipcovers and myoverlays.com for transfer stickers and panels that adhere to standard, ubiquitous Ikea-style furniture, so you can add images to bookcases and shelves.

**8. Scents:** “When we are decorating homes for our clients, it probably sounds cliché, we are not just interior designers, but interior diviners,” Justin remarks. The mood of a room is changed by how it looks, how it feels and how it smells. So add lots of beautiful scented candles. Buy good soy wax candles that don’t contain any of the nasties of the cheaper waxes.

**9. Noise:** A soft cottage soundtrack will always remind you of the lake. Get an alarm that sounds like a loon. It’s such a beautiful, soft way to wake up.

Continued on page 38

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3



4

**Inspired by Nature:** A vase of twigs and nature-themed artwork give your space a natural vibe. Wooden elements such as weathered, grey barn-board or re-purposed strip flooring add rustic charm.

5



PHOTO BY MINTO 775 KING WEST

**10. Shopping:** The best designs come from clever, careful shopping. It's not just buying stuff, it's being creative in your shopping. It's about going to garage sales or shopping smart online and at consignment stores.

**11. Do it yourself:** Save money by creating your own heritage. Work with local artisans, shop local and do what you can yourself. "We don't pay anyone to do anything we can't do ourselves," Justin adds. "There is DIY and DFY – do it yourself and done for you. There is a time for each of these things. We do things quickly, and people can learn from our carefulness."

**12. Create memories:** In Colin's words, "Canadians need to be selfish, especially empty-nesters. Encourage people to have great memories. Memories start today." **OH**

**3. CUSHIONS, THROW:** Pottery Barn **4. ARTWORK:** Pi'lo  
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STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY MELANIE REKOLA

Echinacea Purpurea "Raspberry Truffle"

Attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds to gardens across North America, its colourful, fragrant flower heads are held high upon sturdy stems. Though its foliage is somewhat weed-like, going against my usual rule of thumb, the masses of eye-catching blooms vindicates its place in most garden circumstances. Just be sure to hide that weedy vegetation with some nice foliage companion plantings such as dwarf daylily, coreopsis or sedum.

## Coneflower Facts

Commonly known as purple coneflower, and possibly Canada's most popular native wildflower, Echinacea is simple to cultivate. Indigenous to the central plains of North America, it performs best in full sun but also adapts to partial shade situations. It is drought tolerant after it establishes. Most varieties are considered large by perennial standard, about 36-inches tall and 24-inches wide. But bear in mind, the plant's height when blooming varies widely by

cultivar and can range anywhere from 12 to 40 inches. Echinacea petals are edible and can be made into a savory spread, added to fruit salad, or sautéed with onion to add to various recipes. Coneflower is a strong and resilient plant resistant to deer destruction and damage from most garden variety pests such as aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers, Japanese beetles and whiteflies. The only exception is the leafhopper. Though Echinacea is impervious to most sickness, leafhoppers transmit a disease called aster yellows, which often causes the flowers to form abnormally and remain green. Echinacea is also susceptible to powdery mildew.

## Remedy For The Common Cold?

Frequently cited for its medicinal attributes, it was aboriginals who dubbed Echinacea "snakeroot," because its thick, black roots were used to treat snakebites. First Nations also used Echinacea as a cure-all for a wide range of other illnesses. *Continued on page 42*

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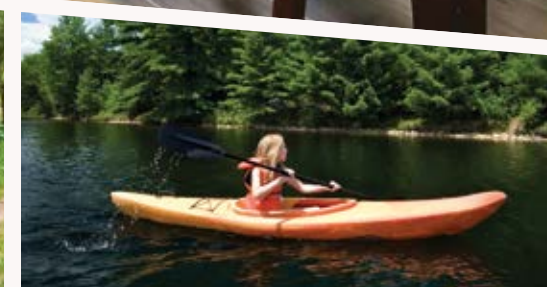
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Razzmatazz Pink Double Delight



Since then, the healing properties of Echinacea as treatment for cold and flu viruses have become recognized world wide. Although the cure to the common cold seems forever elusive, and although the herb's countless advocates claim that it possesses anti-viral and immune-boosting properties, there has been little scientific evidence to substantiate these claims.

So Many Varieties To Choose From!

The genus Echinacea was named after the Greek word “echinos,” which means hedgehog or sea urchin and refers to the prickly, spiky central cone of the flower. The old garden standby, Echinacea purpurea had proved to be very easy to hybridize. Recent cultivars produce a rainbow of delicious flower colourations and types consisting of single, double or quilled varieties in hues of magenta, orange, pink, purple, white, green and yellow. Some varieties even boast petals that change colour over time. Continued breeding breakthroughs will surely follow to keep up with the demand for these ever-popular garden perennials. Below are a few of my favourites.

Melanie's Plant Picks

- **Echinacea Purpurea “Magnus”:** Though common, this original heritage favourite still makes my cut. Its magenta petals are held horizontally, making the blooms appear even larger. And with its rusty-orange centre, who says pink and orange don't go together? It's also very robust and multiplies quickly. A close cousin that also

- performs amazingly is Echinacea “Pow Wow,” with vivid, deep rose-purple petals that retain their colour even longer than the original.
- **Echinacea Purpurea “Raspberry Truffle”:** This is a short and sturdy selection of coneflower with salmon pink blossoms held upon thick chocolate stems. I often prefer the shorter varieties, including Echinacea “Kim's Knee-High” and “Echinacea Red Knee-High” as they take up less room and can be placed towards the front of the perennial border.
  - **Echinacea Purpurea “Razzmatazz Pink Double Delight”:** I adore the uniquely shaped pom-pom flowers of this coneflower. Its showy blooms have a rose-pink centre with magenta, daisy-like surrounding petals. It's another shorter, sturdy variety of coneflower that is easy to place, even where space is limited.
  - **Echinacea “Big Sky Sunrise”:** Large and architectural, this elegant butter-yellow coneflower is a beauty to behold. Its five-inch blooms have an orange centre with petals that fade from yellow to cream with age.
  - **Echinacea “Tomato Soup”:** Tomato Soup is a bright, tomato-red coneflower whose five-inch-diameter flowers feature slightly drooping petals with rounded, dark yellowish-brown centres. Tomato Soup is also one of the larger varieties of the coneflower family.



As with all perennials, be bold and plant in groups with repetition throughout your garden to get maximum impact from this marvelous statement plant. Keep your Echinacea looking its best by deadheading regularly to extend its blooming period, and bring a bouquet inside as they also make excellent cut flowers. In fall, leave your Echinacea standing as the seed heads provide winter interest to the often barren landscape. Plus they provide a food source for local songbirds. And if you haven't yet already, why not experiment with the immune enhancing properties of this famous herb the next time you contract a cold? Science fantasy or science fact; you be the judge! **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.



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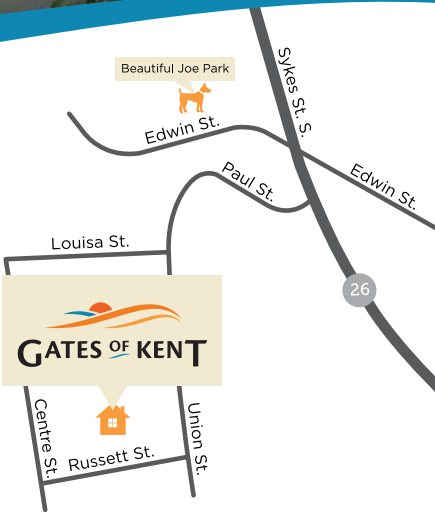
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# GEORGIAN BAY *meets* WEST-COAST MODERN

STORY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

Fabulous flat rooflines, and windows, windows, windows showcase this modern year-round lakefront home built by Dave Harrington of Absolute Craftsmen Ltd. Whether you're inside or out, the views are spectacular at every turn.



Passing sailors and paddle boarders are treated to the most exciting vantage of a modern glass home built by **Absolute Craftsmen Ltd.**

On the west side of Thornbury, from out on the bay, the face of the glass house reflects water, sky and trees; the roof lines and cement chimney draw the eye in many satisfying directions. On land, the best vantage of the house is from inside the second-floor lounge, which overlooks the courtyard by the front door, but because the front and rear walls of

the house are glass, the view encompasses the stunning great room, past its stone walls and orbs of light, and outside to the shores beyond. This home is the year-round getaway for a busy Toronto family of five. Originally from British Columbia, when they decided to buy a vacant lot on the water, the owners drew inspiration from the large windows and flat

roofs of the modern homes on B.C.'s West Coast. With a modern design, the family could have their wall of windows, and an airy, open space with simple lines that draw the eye to the home's setting, instead of its interior features. But Georgian Bay winters are more severe than those of coastal Vancouver, so the homeowners needed an architect and builder to design a wall of windows strong enough to withstand bay-side storm fronts.

Enter **Dave Harrington** of Absolute Craftsmen, who is a sought-after builder with 26 years of experience, and a former neighbour

*Continued on page 48*

Off the dining and living areas, a wall of windows opens to a screened-in porch, where the family watches movies in front of the wood-burning fireplace. Vases and floral arrangements were supplied by Paperwhite Flowers in Thornbury.



**RIGHT:** This fun, kid-friendly home features a ping-pong table in the dining room. The functional kitchen also has two built-in fridges, and two separate work zones – one for cooking, another for beverages. **ABOVE LEFT:** The homeowners' son thought the whimsical stag head over the bar should have a tail coming out of the wall on the living room side! **LEFT:** In the second-floor kids' wing, a lightbulb fixture ("to spark bright ideas", says the homeowner) hangs over the children's homework and games area.



**LEFT:** Sophisticated elegance best describes this wide-open contemporary kitchen. Inspired by the clean and modern Italian Polyform look, Rob Perry of Riverside Custom Cabinetry Ltd. built all the cabinetry based on the homeowner's designs.







in Craighleith. “We thought of Dave because his house is one of the few in this area with a flat roof and modern design,” says the homeowner.

For Harrington, the 2011-2012 build was exciting. “We rose to the challenge, as did all the trades people we brought on for the project,” says **Christine Harrington**, Dave’s daughter and project manager on the build. “That house inspired me to find my calling,” says Christine. “As a kid, I was around my dad’s job sites a lot. After two years of university, I took a summer job at Absolute Craftsmen and everything changed; there was no turning back to veterinary school after we built this beautiful modern house.”

The homeowners are on a first-name basis with most of the people who built their home. “When our trades feel they have all the resources they need to get their job done, they really perform, and it shows,” says Christine. **Brad Abbott**, of **Abbott Design Ltd.**, drafted the architectural plans, working closely with Collingwood engineer **Dan Barill**, of **Barill Engineering Ltd.**, who ensured the home’s two 24-foot high, 20-foot wide glass walls had steel reinforcements across the top, bottom and middle (windows and doors sourced at Tiltco). Aircraft cables were strung crosswise in the ceiling to hold the walls at a tension, bracing against the shore winds. The home is completely secure and wired for sound, using the expertise of **Red Brick Group**.

Indoor and outdoor spaces merge together. The sauna-grade cedar ceiling, and stone wall cladding start on the front exterior, pass inside across the great room, and end on the rear patio. Floor coverings are dark throughout: custom-stained walnut and flamed-and-polished basalt stone on the inside. Outside, walkouts are man-made Owen Sound pebbled patio-stone sourced by **Parklawn Landscaping**. A

*Continued on page 50*

**ABOVE:** Dave Harrington created the unique fireplace from photos supplied by the homeowner, with help from an experienced forms man from Grey Bruce Construction. Since it was all done in cement, it had to be perfect the first time around. **RIGHT:** Who needs an outdoor dining space when an entire wall of windows opens to the outdoors, providing indoor-outdoor dining and absolutely breathtaking views of Georgian Bay?



It’s always playtime in this great room! The homeowner designed the area around the orb light fixtures the family call “starry night lights.” One seating area is for TV viewing and another is for enjoying bay views.



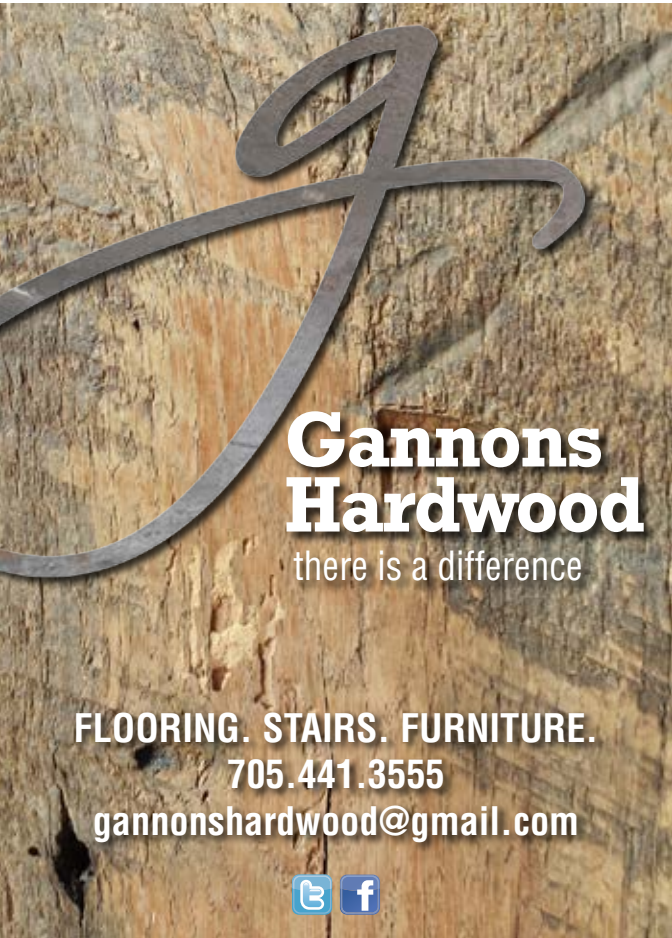
**RIGHT:** A glass breezeway leads to the master bedroom, the couple's Zen-like oasis.  
**BELOW:** A funky "meringue" fixture hangs over the freestanding egg-shaped tub.  
**BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Custom-stained walnut floors and floating stairs lead to the second floor. The children share an adjoining bathroom. Upstairs are three children's bedrooms and a communal games area.



16-foot side wall with 10-foot-high bi-fold doors separates the great room from the Muskoka room. A massive cement fireplace, built by **Grey-Bruce Construction Ltd.** and Dave Harrington, is the centre point of the space, with comfortable sofas to relax on by the fire. Motorized screens (installed by Ontario Screen Systems Inc.) can be drawn up or down to keep the bugs out.  
The home is heated via both forced air and radiant, in-floor heating, installed by **Nottawasaga Mechanical**. Air ducts



blow a blanket of air up the sides of the great room to combat any drafts from the glass. **Chantico Fireplace Gallery** installed a gorgeous 80-inch, two-sided gas fireplace in the front entry, inset in an eight-foot wall to act as a privacy guard at the entrance. "We challenged Chantico to vent the fireplace from below; we didn't want any pipes or bulkheads obstructing the open space inside," says the homeowner. All interior painting was done by **Complete Value Painting**.  
The focal point in the great room is a

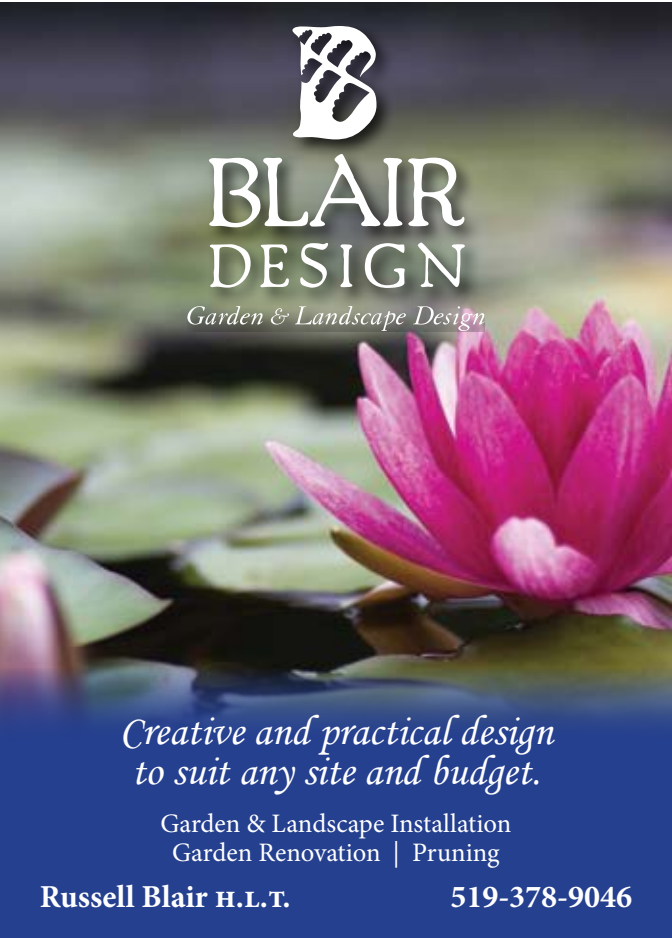
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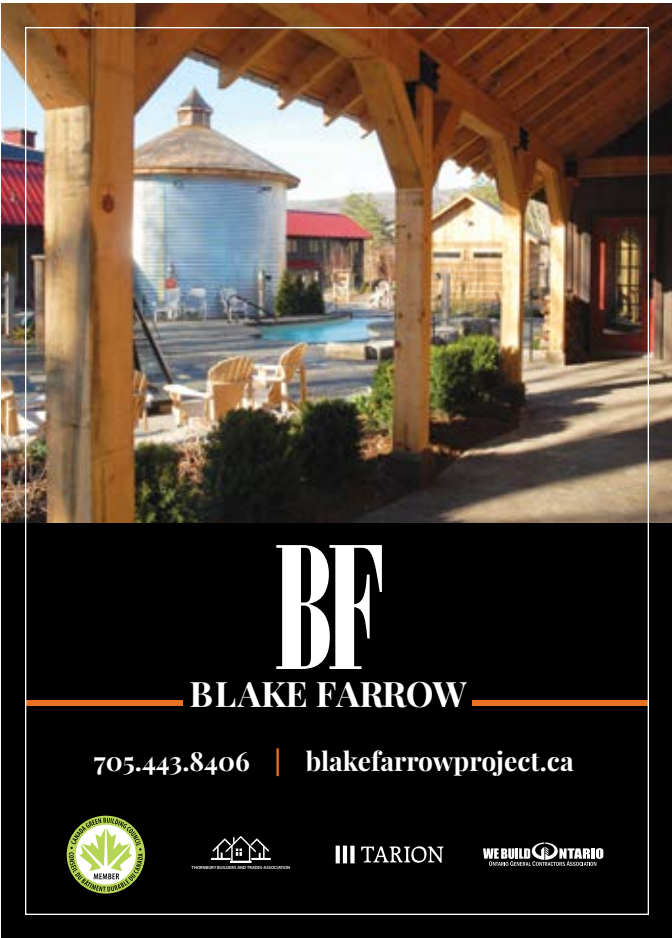


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24-foot rock-climbing wall, professionally installed by Rockwerx of Calgary. The toe holds and wall materials were custom stained to coordinate with the home's stonework. The kitchen opens to a ping-pong table, rather than a formal dining room. "We wanted this to be our fun, relaxing weekend home – simple and easy to care for," says the homeowner.

**Rob Perry (Riverside Custom Cabinetry Ltd.)** built all cabinetry from the homeowner's design specs, including the kitchen, living room, walk-in closets and bathroom vanities. The cabinets are floating, reinforced to hang from the wall studs. Perry custom manufactured the kitchen in white, moulded acrylic. An 18-foot island is topped in white quartz, with fridges installed underneath in drawers facing the sink and stove.

Off the kitchen, passing through a glass hallway, the couple transition to their private, main floor master suite. Crisp, white floor-to-ceiling drapery, activated on a motorized track, was custom made and installed by **Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters**.

Up a set of floating stairs, the three children each have rooms with a view of the water. A media room and lounge is tucked above the garage where the kids do homework on ski weekends.

With open sight lines from the lounge to the glassed-in great room, the family has an easy closeness, staying connected without being in the same room. "Our modern getaway is a place our family and our imaginations can all grow into," says the homeowner. **OH**



**ABOVE:** The homeowners designed their lakeside abode to be a fun and relaxing weekend place for their three children. "It's all about family," says the homeowner. **BELOW:** This active Toronto family transitioned from a rustic home to a very modern lakeside dwelling, inspired by B.C.'s coastal flat-roof glass houses. The vibe is definitely relaxed.

Architectural design

Interior design

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STORY JUDE WAYLAND  
PHOTOGRAPHY BONNIE FOX

**THE PLACE:** Lisa Proctor has a passion for upcycling and repurposing “things.” In her previous life, she spent 15 years recycling vintage clothing. After a three-year hiatus, she discovered a passion for recycling furniture, and opened a vintage furniture studio, **Ashbury Cabin**, on Bruce Street in Thornbury. Lisa is all about finding a special piece of furniture that someone discarded, fixing it up, painting it, and making it new again in its own way. “Each piece speaks to me, and takes on a life of its own,” says Lisa, “and that’s where I have fun. I make whimsical accent pieces to make a room pop, or turn furniture into works of art for my clients.”

**THE STYLE:** Rustic elegance, with a splash of chic. Lisa has her finger on

the pulse of one of the latest décor trends: milk and chalk paint. Milk paint, a combination of clay, chalk, limestone, casein (milk protein) and pigment, is zero-VOC, non-toxic, completely natural, and biodegradable. Mix your own, purchase specific colours, and create solid, opaque or wash effects. Pre-mixed chalk paint also offers limitless possibilities. No stripping necessary! Lisa carries a full line of Miss Mustard Seed’s Milk Paint products and finishes, and will soon offer do-it-yourself chalk and milk paint workshops in her studio.

**THE WARES:** In addition to paint, Lisa also showcases products from several local, socially responsible artisans such as: upcycled barnboard furniture from



Mumba, recycled, handcrafted wood furniture by Josh Cox, Simply Rustic Furniture’s square log bed frames, refinished and antiqued décor pieces from The Rustic Tree, factory carts and reclaimed furniture from Scott A. Murray, and Megan Vanderpol’s all natural goat-milk soap made from the goats she raises. “This fall, I’m carrying a line of handmade rugs from a socially responsible company in India (Jaipur) that’s big on empowering women,” says Lisa, “and that’s very important to me.”

**WHAT’S HOT:** Sliding barnboard doors are hot, and Lisa can’t keep them in stock. Shabby chic was once all the rage, now the focus has shifted to colourful milk and chalk-painted recycled furniture. Come check it out!

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Storeowner Lisa Proctor painting a reclaimed door.







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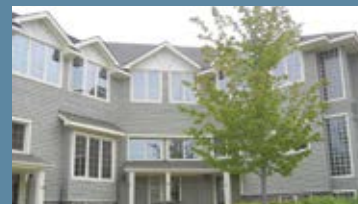
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## PAULA CONNING

*Outdoor Stylist, Clerkson's Home Store*

**LYNN: DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE GARDEN:** My favourite garden has colour throughout the season and smells amazingly fragrant in spring, but has softer, more therapeutic aromas in summer (herbs are great for this!) It has shrubs, lots of grasses and perennials, but no annuals. There are birdhouses and a bench or two in little hideaway spots to sit and contemplate life.

**PAULA: HOW WOULD YOU DECORATE FOR AN OUTDOOR GARDEN PARTY?** I like a comfortable casual atmosphere, with a food and drinks table, and numerous seating areas with smaller tables scattered about. I use fresh flowers in heavy Mexican glass containers, and brightly coloured linens and cushions. As evening comes, I prefer candlelight (or bonfires) and I keep cosy throws handy for guests on cool nights.



## CATHY LANE

*Outdoor Stylist, Panache Design Works*

### HOW DOES OUTDOOR STAGING DIFFER FROM INDOOR STAGING?

Outdoor elements will certainly factor into your event. For a casual party in a windy area, put your candles in lanterns, and use heavy linens with weights on the corners or clipped to the table. Choose cloth napkins, tied with silverware in a rollup. Glasses and flower vases should be as low as possible. *Continued on page 62*





## SHARON VAN ALLAN

Outdoor Stylist, Van Allan Design Centre

**WHAT'S HOT IN BACKYARD STAGING & DESIGN?** I've fallen in love with the latest UK sensation called the "Cacoon". It's a cross between a hanging tent and a hammock, and it can be hung from a tripod, or a ceiling, or even from the big willow tree that overhangs my pond! What kid, young or old, wouldn't want one? *Continued on page 64*

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**CHRISTINE: WHAT ARE A FEW BASIC OUTDOOR STAGING TIPS?** Make your exterior an extension of your home. By adding colour, you add personality to your backyard. Drawing from your surroundings can provide inspiration and actually tie into the colour combination you're selecting. Don't be afraid to go bold or stay all-natural.

**ANNE: EVERY LANDSCAPE SHOULD HAVE...** great outdoor living space that is an extension of the indoor living space, with great flow for ease of living. Most people want both outdoor entertaining and gathering spaces (like kitchens and fire pits). The landscape should complement the home's natural environment and make use of nature and vegetation to enhance the space.

Continued on page 66



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*Continued on page 68*

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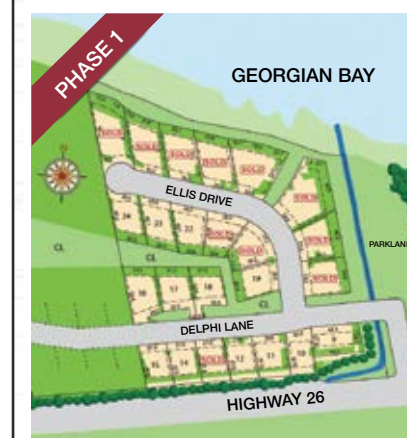
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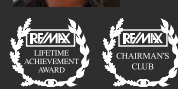


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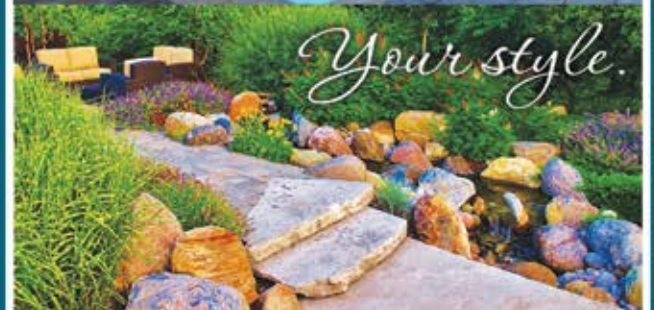


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**JOÉL ZAVITZ**  
*Landscape Architect (Event Sponsor, The Landmark Group)*

**WHAT ARE THE “MUST-HAVES” WHEN YOU DESIGN A LANDSCAPE?** It really depends on the clients and their priorities. For some, it’s a certain amenity they love, a picture perfect view to take advantage of, or the planting and overall garden style. For others, it’s simply comfort, so creating a sense of privacy, selecting materials and microclimate design (sun/shade, wind) are all paramount. *Continued on page 70*



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*Outdoor Stylist, Chautauqua Designs & Interiors & Realtor,  
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**MARCY STEWART**  
*Outdoor Stylist, Ms. Design*

**MEREDITH: HOW CAN I ENHANCE MY CURB APPEAL?** A clean, manicured look is the first step, especially if you can't do fabulous landscaping. Don't let your gardens get out of control! If plants are too big, they'll take over the view and dwarf your home behind your gardens. Select timeless, unique pieces to add a wow factor. Quality is very important.

**MARCY: WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?** Designing backyard spaces gives me the ultimate opportunity! I get to create an extension of my clients' homes that becomes their own personal oasis. Whether the design is for relaxation, recreation or pure fun, it's enormously satisfying to work with talented local trades, knowing the result will bring pleasure to all! *Continued on page 72*



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**GABRIEL MATAMOROS & TERESA MATAMOROS**  
*Landscapers, Garden Holistics Inc.*

**TERESA: WHAT MAKES A GREAT BACKYARD LANDSCAPE?** There must be a sense of mystery, so you don't see everything at once. Eco diversity is important, as is texture within the individual plants. You need to have just the right amount of conflict to create interest, but not so much to create unrest. A great backyard landscape should also be interactive. *Continued on page 74*



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*—Jana Temple on the second home recently built for her and her husband by Paragon Carpentry.*



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GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY...

Last year, a portion of the charitable proceeds from the Backyard Glam Tour was donated to the Cedar Grove Labyrinth of Thornbury, a peaceful, reflective space created by The Blue Mountains Women of 12, a volunteer organization committed to making a difference in the community. Nestled among the cedar trees in the Old Bayview Campground, the labyrinth is a calming refuge for all to pause and reflect.



LESLEY & MADDIGAN EDMED, CATHERINE SMART, *Co-Chair*, JOANNE FLEMING-VALIN, TERESA MATAMOROS, *Chair*, MAUREEN MUNDEN, KAREN SWEET, DEBBIE CROSSKILL & FISHER EDMED

*The Blue Mountains Women of 12*

**TERESA: HOW DID THE IDEA COME ABOUT?** This project came to us as a challenge to free ourselves from the limitations of old-world thinking and collaborate together to make a difference in our community by creating a project of beauty. When we put all our ideas and images together, the picture we created was much like the labyrinth we have today.

**CATHERINE: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A LABYRINTH?** Labyrinths are used worldwide as a way to quiet the mind, recover balance in life, meditate, gain insight, self-reflect, reduce stress, and discover innovation and celebration. Labyrinths are open to everyone as a non-denominational, cross-cultural blueprint for well being. The practice of labyrinth walking integrates the body with the mind and the mind with the spirit. **OH**



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**STORY** YANIC SIMARD  
**PHOTOS** BRANDON BARRE



# COLOUR FOR THE colour shy

Does the thought of inviting a new colour into your life make you blush? If you follow my guide, you can learn to pour on the pigment gradually, until you're floating comfortably in an ocean of colour-calm.



## 1. NO SHAME IN NEUTRALS:

First, let me say there is nothing wrong with a neutral palette. Whether you love a restful beige or a ravishing red, you can start your space from the same foundation:

- Use as many of these textures as possible: paint, paper, stone, wood, metal, plastic, rich fabrics, light fabrics, leather, (faux) fur, grasses/plants and glass. This will ensure your space has variety even before you add colour.
- Introduce patterns for more visual texture, and contrast warm tones (like beige or caramel) against cool tones (like charcoal or silver).
- Metallics especially add depth to a palette without feeling like a bold dose of colour. Try adding gold or copper to warm up a space that feels too minimal, or silver to chill out a space that feels too hot or busy.

**2. START SMALL:** Once you're ready to introduce colour, let yourself start slowly – you don't necessarily need to go all-in at once. Choose a favourite hue you've always loved (instead of chasing colour trends) and add little touches throughout one room via accessories.

- So that your new hue feels integrated instead of sticking out like a hot-pink thumb, create a "triangle of colour," adding approximately the same shade to three areas; for example, in pillows on your sofa, a throw blanket on a chair and a lamp across the room.



A medium grey wall colour like **Benjamin Moore's 2121-30 Pewter** works well with almost any colour palette.

- Non-committal items (like pillows) add colour with low-risk. Try new lampshades, candles, vases, glasses, plates, books or linens.
- New art is another easy DIY colour infuser: take paint chips from daring colours and slip them into existing frames for a fun splash, or paint a simple canvas in a few stripes or squares to liven up a bare wall.

## 3. WIDEN YOUR HUE-RIZONS:

As your colour collection grows bigger, it should also get wider. When you want to add a larger dose of colour, find a secondary hue, or introduce several new tones of your favourite.

- Green and blue are colours we see every day in nature, so we see them as more neutral than fiery reds and yellows. If you're unsure what colour to mix in, green and blue are usually a safe bet for any scheme.
- Fabrics and art can help guide your choices, but don't forget to mimic the proportions of the inspiration piece; notice which colours are used in big or small amounts. Go a few shades darker or greyer when applying these colours to larger surfaces like upholstery or walls.
- A rich colour palette should include at least a little bit of dark and light hues to achieve a full spectrum (even if the overall look leans to one side), so incorporate a touch of white and a sprinkling of black. Achieve this easily with details like art frames, pendant cords or stacked books.

**4. GO BIG, NOT CRAZY:** A complex palette simply needs a few checks and balances to keep you from going colour crazy.

- Your palette won't appear as busy if a majority of the colours are drawn from the same family. For example, choose jewel tones, pastels, primary colours or pale mid-tones, and keep all the accents in that family so they feel related.
- White and grey will be your friends, as they can work with any colour, while black in large doses can easily become too harsh. Try Benjamin Moore's OC-65 Chantilly Lace as a clean white, or 2121-30 Pewter as a mid-tone grey.
- You can bravely apply colour to almost any surface, and then break it up by adding neutrals over top if it feels like too much. For a busy wallpaper, hang large, framed photos with wide matting; for a sofa, cover the back with neutral pillows. Always view your space as a canvas that can be repainted, remixed and reinvented and you'll never need to fear colour again. **OH**

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**STORY** JULIE SIMMONDS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** SANDY MACKAY

Nestled into the forest at the end of a long, winding laneway sits a grand, six-acre haven where one Sudbury-based family finds tranquility every weekend. *Continued on page 80*

The Landmark Group worked wonders on the gardens, ponds and meditative areas throughout this beautiful rural property. A *Tree of Life* sculpture brings the gardens together, a metal moose is a nod to the homeowner's northern roots, and a horse and buggy celebrate his French Canadian heritage.





The magic they discovered and built upon lies within a tiny Pretty River tributary that gently runs through the property, giving them peace of mind and a chance to forget about busy work schedules.

“The stress leaves the minute we get on the highway,” says the homeowner. “This has become our play area. We have a different group of friends and different activities here. It’s turned out to be a great place for us.”

The couple discovered the area when they first tried downhill skiing, which led to the purchase of a vacation property at the base of Blue Mountain, but a few years later, they discovered this weekend retreat, and embarked upon a complete overhaul of the property.

The house itself was in a state of decay, but the owners saw nothing but potential, and an opportunity to remodel a house their entire family could enjoy (including six children, grandchildren and visiting parents from Toronto and India).

“The home had good bones,” says the homeowner, “It had really nice features and good configuration. We left the house as is, and we made it work better with the area around it.”



**RIGHT:** With six kids in the family, and grandchildren and grandparents who spend the summer, this home bustles with activity. The side porch is where the family lives and dines under the stars.  
**BELOW RIGHT:** When it rains, this family simply moves to another beautiful dining area on the sheltered front porch. Linen tablecloths were sourced at Victorian Values in Creemore.



The “area around it” is nothing short of amazing. The homeowners wanted to create a Zen-like garden inspired by *The Tree of Life*, a metal sculpture by Ontario artist Laval Bouchard. It would sit in the centre of the front gardens, which they hoped to blend into the natural surroundings. They also wanted functional family spaces, as well as a spot to just decompress. So, they called upon **The Landmark Group** to design, implement, and manage the large landscaping project.

“We came up with the idea of multiple destination points (for different purposes and times of day), linked together with walking paths and visual motifs (sculpture, plantings and water),” says **Darren Bosch**, Design and Client Services Manager with The Landmark Group, “so you can meander around and enjoy all the meditation gardens and reflective places in different ways, but in the same experience.”

Upon entering the property, clusters of large trees and unique metal sculptures, including a horse-drawn wagon and a glorious

*Continued on page 82*



**LEFT:** The 6,000 sq. ft. home was a shell when the homeowners purchased it. **ABOVE TOP:** Limestone walkways lead to a variety of relaxation areas and reflective spaces. **ABOVE:** Out back, the covered porch is an ideal spot to dine at day’s end.







moose, greet guests as they arrive at this stately 6,000 sq. ft. home with an additional 2,000 sq. ft. in-law suite.

Strolling around the home, along limestone walkways and deck areas, visitors are invited to enjoy everything the property has to offer – thousands of plants, trees, a stream, two ponds, and sculptures everywhere, with relaxation stations around every bend.

Using over 3,500 native perennials, The Landmark Group created layers of colour and multiple grade changes to blend the gardens into the untouched forested surroundings. They also created various walk-out areas, shaded spaces and many gathering spots for friends and family. A fire pit, built near the waterfall and stream, allows guests to enjoy the symphonic sounds of nature just steps away from both the forest and home.

Working closely with the homeowners, The Landmark Group enhanced three acres of property and installed a programmable irrigation and lighting system.

“As with all our projects big or small, I went through extensive listening and “round-table” gatherings to assess the family’s lifestyle and needs, wish-list, design style, property challenges, site analysis, budget, etc.,” says Darren. “Together, we created a vision of how they

*Continued on page 86*



**LEFT:** A functioning antique stove from the early 1900s is “a charming period piece that drove the feeling of the house,” says the homeowner.

**BELOW:** Cooking is a real family affair in this home, where everyone either sits around the island, or pitches right in! **BOTTOM:** In the winter, the family gathers by the wood stove in the dining room, which features a custom-made, built-in espresso unit fashioned by Sudbury carpenter Dan Caza.



**ABOVE:** The homeowners designed everything in their home. They love to cook, and focused the efficient kitchen design, which includes several prep areas, around the stove and cook top. **RIGHT:** Wood figures prominently throughout the home. Wide plank maple floors, solid beams and meticulously designed cabinets add richness and warmth to the space.







**ABOVE:** The sunken great room features colourful native art, generous windows, pony tables and plenty of wood, stone and leather accents. **RIGHT:** Folk art is tastefully displayed throughout the home, including this fanciful wooden “Simpsons” chess set.



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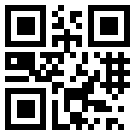
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The homeowners refer to the cosy master bedroom as their “tree house” because the windows are so low. **BELOW:** A glass-topped coffee table houses cherished photos of family and friends. **BELOW RIGHT:** Inside and out, this home and property exude tranquility – from the serene gardens to the lovely soaker tub in the master en suite.



could use the space. From there, we gathered inspiring images and like-minded reference materials to get an alignment on the feel of things wanted.”

Inside the home, it’s evident the homeowners are fans of American architect and interior designer Frank Lloyd Wright,

their source of inspiration in the home’s redesign. Adopting his philosophy to design in harmony with nature, the couple used many organic elements, including wood, stone and natural light, which floods the home through many expansive windows.

“I wanted everything to face out, so when

you looked at it, you would see wood going towards nature,” says the homeowner. “We used very quiet colours and let the wood take over, which leads your eye back out into the landscape.”

Entering the home from the front deck, the family’s warmth embraces guests in the

*Continued on page 88*



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**LEFT:** A second-floor games and media room is where the kids and grandkids unwind. **BELOW:** A skylight brightens up this bathroom, which leads to another outdoor seating area on the balcony offering a bird's eye view of the property. **BOTTOM:** Every weekend, the family drives from Sudbury to their private and peaceful oasis nestled in the country.



beautiful custom kitchen and dining area, just off the entryway. The kitchen features a very large island with stained-glass inserts and a vintage French stove, where family chef, “dear ol’ dad,” often cooks a fabulous Saturday morning breakfast. The kitchen and eating areas are large enough to treat family members and guests to a wonderful meal; the preparations are often a family affair.

Stepping down from the kitchen, a sunken living area boasts a fabulous piece of native art, which sits on the mantel of a floor-to-ceiling fireplace. The outside wall also features stone, which blends the home into the environment from the inside out.

Another deck area is accessed from the living room, a place to catch the late afternoon and evening sun as it descends through the trees. Through the kitchen's back door are tiered vegetable gardens with more seating areas, a hot tub, and a soccer field just beyond the outdoor living area. And, of course, the stream nearby is within earshot.

“This is where we live,” says the homeowner, stepping onto the back deck. “We have lamps everywhere in the evening. It’s just magical.”

And that magic is everywhere, from the inside out and the outside in. This Pretty River paradise is simply zensational. **OH**

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STORY SHELBY HILSON

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While the origin of lemonade is unknown (though some believe it originated in Ancient Egypt over 1,500 years ago), you may be surprised to discover that North America has a slightly different take on the drink than most other countries. In the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and some European countries, lemonade is a carbonated drink, more like the lemon-lime sodas offered here. Ireland, meanwhile, has three kinds of lemonade: red, brown and white!

Pink lemonade, along with several other fruit-flavoured lemonades have become popular over the years, but they all start with the same basic ingredients: lemons, sugar and water. Try out our traditional recipe along with some variations, including healthy substitutes, and entertain some guests with our delicious watermelon and lemonade cocktail!

Let us know what you think and share some of your favourite lemonade recipes with us on Facebook and Twitter.

**Variations:**

- Make it healthier by replacing white sugar with ½ cup raw honey or coconut sugar.
- For pink lemonade, add a few tablespoons of grenadine.
- Add herbs, such as basil, thyme or mint to the syrup after removing it from the heat, to infuse the flavours. Remove from syrup before adding to pitcher.
- Make limeade by switching out the lemons for limes.
- Use half sparkling water and half plain water for a carbonated beverage. **OH**

**TRADITIONAL LEMONADE**

Makes one large pitcher

6-8 lemons, squeezed (about one cup lemon juice)

5 cups water

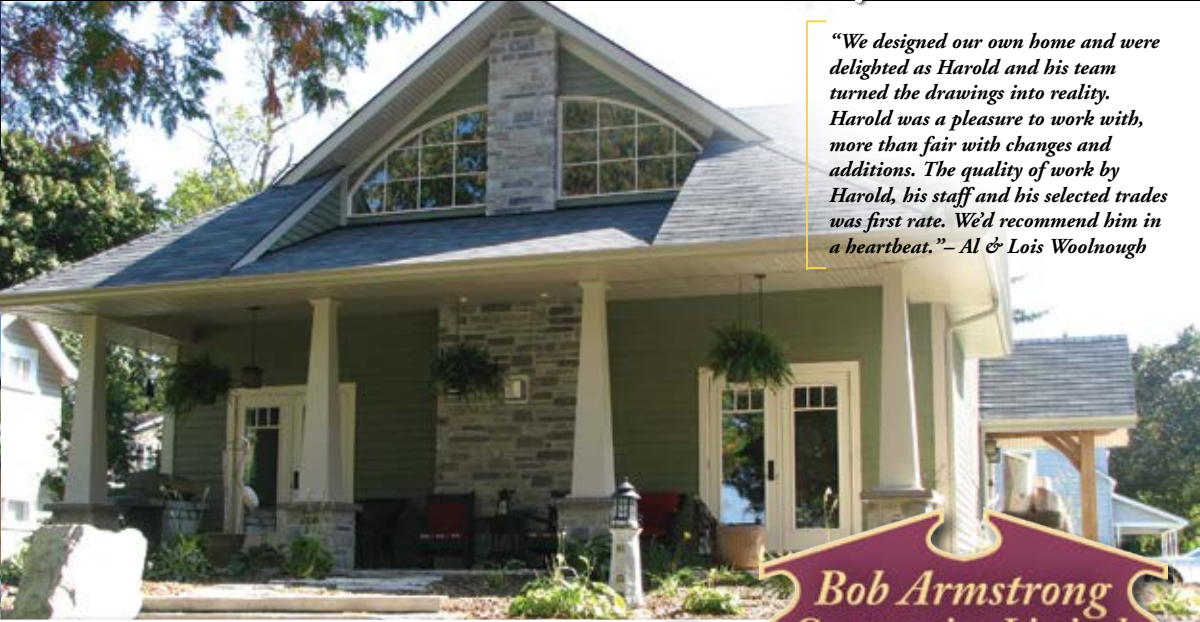
1 cup sugar

- Make a simple syrup by combining the sugar and 1 cup of water in a small saucepan and bring to a gentle simmer over low heat to dissolve sugar. Once completely dissolved, remove from heat to cool.
- Squeeze the lemons until you have one cup of juice. (Rolling the whole lemons on the cutting board first can help release the juices.)
- Add the cooled syrup to your pitcher, followed by the lemon juice and the remaining 4 cups of water. Stir, taste and adjust. Add ice and serve with garnish, such as a slice of fresh fruit or sprig of mint.

online

For a grown up lemonade cocktail recipe:  
[www.ourhomesmagazine.com/Lemonade](http://www.ourhomesmagazine.com/Lemonade)

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(Please see ad on page 55)

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(Please see ad on page 109)

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HACKStONE Landscapes have earned a reputation for quality construction with countless projects installed across the Georgian Triangle area (including no less than 3 Awards of Excellence winners last year!). This year they are pleased to welcome designer Luke Williams onboard. Luke brings a wealth of expertise in the graphic communication of design options and enjoys helping his clients visualize the opportunities for their dream outdoors. "This software allows us to quickly mockup a 3D model of the design that can be virtually walked through during the design meeting," says Luke. "We can see the proposed landscape from the kitchen window for instance, or display an analysis of daily shadow-movement across the yard, to make the most of natural lighting. 3D designs benefits the homeowner by facilitating a thorough understanding of the proposed grades, steps, walls, and other vertical elements in ways that a traditional 2D plan can't."



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(Please see ad on page 105)

Continued on page 96



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(Please see ad on page 93)

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develop the Fire Safety division in Central Ontario, with residential and commercial customers," said Leonard.

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(Please see ad on page 13)

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Another requires using a sander to grind away the dead cells and expose fresh wood. That might work on a deck, but a picket fence or window framing would present a challenge.

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(Please see ad on page 10)



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# SHORE.

STORY KATHERINE LAROUX  
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY  
STAGING SARA MARTIN

## living

Tim Burkholder, Mary Taylor and their son Peter, lived in the original cottage on Georgian Bay for two years before tearing it down and building their beautiful shore home in 2009, which features stone and wood detailing, intricate cathedral ceilings and 64 windows that let the light shine in.





days, the Toronto couple acquired the property. “We always knew we wanted to tear down the old cottage and build a place large enough for my big family to visit,” says Mary, “so we lived in it for two years, and got a good feel for the property.”

After interviewing several builders, the couple chose **Paul Rogers**, owner of **Valleyview Construction**, to build their four-season waterfront home. Says Tim, “It was a positive building experience in every way, and we remain friends with Paul and his wife Anne.”

Paul introduced Mary and Tim to **Pamela Farrow**, an architectural technologist he has partnered with on 15 homes. During Pam’s initial visit to the old cottage, she asked numerous questions about how the family live in their space. Tim replied, “I get up early and go for a run. After a swim, I sit at the dining room table, drink coffee and read the *Globe and Mail*, checking the view every couple of minutes.”

When Pam visited after the home was built, the first thing she asked when she

*Continued on page 102*

**OPPOSITE FAR LEFT:** Designer Pam Farrow and Mary Taylor welcome OUR HOMES to this unique beach house that offers an unobstructed view from the front door to the lake beyond. **LEFT:** It’s so unusual to walk into a living room and have the water view on two sides. It’s quite spectacular,” says architectural technologist, Pam Farrow, who angled the building to take advantage of more than a 180-degree shoreline panorama. **BELOW:** From left to right: Pam Farrow, Mary Taylor and Tim Burkholder. Says Tim, “This home is the only place I can actually relax.”



When Mary and Susan Taylor were growing up, they watched their father build quality custom homes in the Waterloo area. His slogan was proudly displayed on the back of his truck: “Have Your Home Taylor-Built.” His reputation grew, and the girls soon developed an appreciation for beautifully-constructed homes.

Fast-forward many years. The same Mary Taylor, and her husband Tim Burkholder, were on the hunt for a cottage. Serendipitously, after spending an active weekend with friends of their son’s in Thornbury, cycling and running, Mary spotted an ad for a waterfront cottage just down the road.

She toured the property with **Mary Norris (Cherché House of Design)**, whose brother-in-law owned the old cottage, and within





with the trundle bed is, the stone and wood frame on the outside, a stunning semi-circular staircase leading to the second floor, a bridge to the fourth bedroom, with a hanging fixture open to the main floor below, and of course, all the windows!”

There are 64 windows in this four-bedroom home, which serve to blur the lines between inside and out. Pam took full advantage of the property’s amazing side yard light, which most shoreline homes don’t have, by installing windows on two sides of the living room, creating a panoramic view wider than 180 degrees, with water views on two sides.

The open-concept kitchen, dining and living rooms feature cathedral and single-slope ceilings of varying heights. “Even though the space is open,” says Tim, “the rooms feel like different spaces.” The result? One roofline seamlessly blends into the next.

To contribute to the design and décor of their new home, Mary turned to **Cherché House of Design**, and to Ilda Howard,

*Continued on page 104*

glanced at the dining room was, “Tim, do you drink coffee, read the *Globe and Mail* and look out the window every few minutes?” “Yes I do,” he replied.

The challenge for any designer is to listen carefully to how the homeowners live, and translate their needs and likes into the architectural design. “I’m not the kind of designer who says, “This is my style,” says Pam. “There are so many beautiful styles of architecture; it has to be right for the homeowner. Every single job I’ve done is different. It’s all about adaptation (shape, sight, how they live, what they like, where to get the best light and view), and the vision unfolds over time.”

Mary told Pam she wanted a Cape-Cod-style shingle home versus a ski house. When Pam drew up the plans, she scribbled “shore house” across the top of the page. The name stuck. Tim and Mary now refer to their new abode as their shore house.

Pam designed the 3,700 sq. ft. home to take advantage of the spectacular views and natural light. She describes the style as, “Neo-Craftsman, with plenty of East Coast influence for shoreline comfort.”

Says Mary, “Pam designed so many unique details: a sloping French-Canadian-style roof, a shed dormer where the reading nook



**OPPOSITE LEFT:** A small alcove, nestled into a corner of the living room, provides an intimate spot to watch TV... or appreciate the view. **ABOVE LEFT:** When homeowner Mary’s father, a custom builder, toured the home, he complimented both Pam Farrow and Paul Rogers for creating such “outstanding and gorgeous” ceilings. **LEFT:** Rob Perry of Riverside Custom Cabinets meticulously crafted the kitchen cabinets and solid wood island top, and Mary’s friend Ilda cleverly figured out how “not” to have corner cupboards. **ABOVE:** “I have a weakness for windows,” confesses Pam. “I love gables and I love details.” High back stools were sourced at Cherché House of Design.





**TOP LEFT:** All four bedrooms in this Neo-Craftsman-style abode are flooded with natural light and offer breathtaking waterfront vistas. **LEFT:** Pocket doors lead to son Peter's private "pod" on the second floor, where his bathroom features black and white tiles and the blackest of black paint. **ABOVE:** "All I need is a little nook," said the homeowners' niece Andrea, "because I don't take up much space." So Tim and Mary designed a special shed dormer just for her.

a neighbour with a great eye for design. Mary Norris and **Colleen Wittlin** of Cherché sourced butter yellow kitchen stools and dining chairs, living room furniture, including bright green leather stools, and helped choose paint colours, like Tar, for son Peter's bathroom.

The couple didn't want their home to look too imposing, so Pam reassured them she would bring the roofline down by sloping the roof to make the second floor more architecturally interesting. "I love the effect where the ceilings angle lower," says Mary. "It's so cosy to come up here and watch a movie in the winter." *Continued on page 106*

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“We made a concerted effort to hire only local trades,” says Mary. One local painter commented, “It’s a lovely home. It’s just a pity about the view.” **BELOW:** The entire family enjoys swimming and boating at this beautiful bayside Cape Cod-style home.



“When Mary asked what style the home will be,” says Pam, “I told her, this house is going to be unique. It will be welcoming, full of architectural details, but not overdone.” Guests always comment that they feel at home from the moment they step inside.

According to Pam, the drawing and design

is a very small part of the big picture. The articulation of the house by the builder is what’s critical. “Paul’s a people person who’s really connected to his clients,” says Pam. “He’s passionate and very focused, is a great detail person, and has the right guys working for him. We respect each other.”

Both Tim and Mary are grateful to Pam and Paul for the outstanding job they did designing and building their shore house. When the couple retire, they plan to enjoy their “Taylor-made” shore home full-time... and all the outdoor activity Southern Georgian Bay has to offer. **OH**



## SOURCE GUIDE

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# THE OUR HOMES SIGNATURE BAJA-STYLE BURGER

STORY MARIA DASILVA  
PHOTOGRAPHY SCOTT HUNTER



A freshly grilled, salsa-topped burger simply screams summer!

We've looked to the sunny beaches of Baja for inspiration for our very own signature burger, but it's quite at home in backyards all across this fine country. Happy grilling and happy summer!

## OUR HOMES BAJA-STYLE BURGER

Makes 4 Burgers

1 lb (454 g) lean ground beef

2 cloves garlic, grated

2 tsp Dijon mustard

1 tsp chili powder

Dash Worcestershire sauce

Salt and pepper to taste

4 slices mozzarella cheese

4 buns, halved and toasted

1 avocado, sliced

- In a separate bowl, gently knead together the ground beef, garlic, Dijon, chili powder and Worcestershire sauce. Shape into 4 patties, about 4 inches wide and ¾-inch thick. Using thumb, press an indent in the centre of one side of each of the patties. Generously sprinkle both sides with salt and pepper.
- Place patties on greased grill over medium-high heat and grill, turning once, until centre of meat registers 160° F using instant-read thermometer, 8 to 10 minutes. Place cheese on burgers, close lid and grill until cheese is melted, 1 to 2 minutes.

Spread buns with Chili-Lime Mayo, top each with a burger, a few avocado slices and some of the Grilled Corn & Tomato Salsa. Enjoy! **OH**

## GRILLED CORN & TOMATO SALSA

1 corncob

1 tomato, finely diced

⅓ cup finely diced white onion

2 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro

2 tsp olive oil

1 tsp lime juice

Pinch each salt and pepper

- Place corncob on greased grill over medium-high heat; grill until tender and well grill-marked, about 15 minutes. Let cool enough to handle; cut kernels from cob. Place in bowl and let cool completely. Stir in tomato, onion, cilantro, olive oil, lime juice, salt and pepper. Set aside.

## CHILI-LIME MAYO

½ cup light mayonnaise

2 tsp lime juice

½ tsp each chili and garlic powder

- In bowl, stir together mayonnaise, lime juice, chili powder and garlic powder. Set aside.

## 3 TIPS FOR THE BEST BURGERS EVER

- **Handle Your Meat Gently** – When mixing the flavourings into the beef, work quickly and gently. Overworking the mixture heats and toughens it up resulting in a dense, sometimes spongy-textured burger.
- **Season Right** – Sprinkle the exterior of burgers (both sides) with salt and pepper just before they go on the grill. This helps prevent a tough interior while creating the ultimate crispy, grilled crust that is so beloved.
- **Step Away from the Grill** – Resist the temptation to stand over the open grill and flip and press your burgers constantly. For the juiciest, most tender results, put the burgers on the grill, close the lid, set a timer for 4 or 5 minutes and walk away. Only flip them once, and never, ever, press those precious juices out of your patty!

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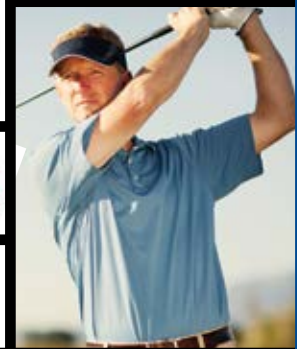
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1.

**1. Candle Holder/Vase:**  
Wrap twine about one-third of the way up from the bottom of a simple glass candle holder or a vase. Tuck in the ends and glue in place.



# GET THE LOOK: DECORATING WITH *rope*

Bring out your inner sailor and add a nautical, beach-house look to your home this season with natural-fibre rope. Decorating with rope is a simple way to transition the look of your home and it's a great look for your deck or patio. OUR HOMES created three easy DIYs using rope. OH

PHOTOGRAPHY TARA CHATTELL



**3. DIY Tray:** A wooden tray can be customized with a little paint and knotted rope handles.



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