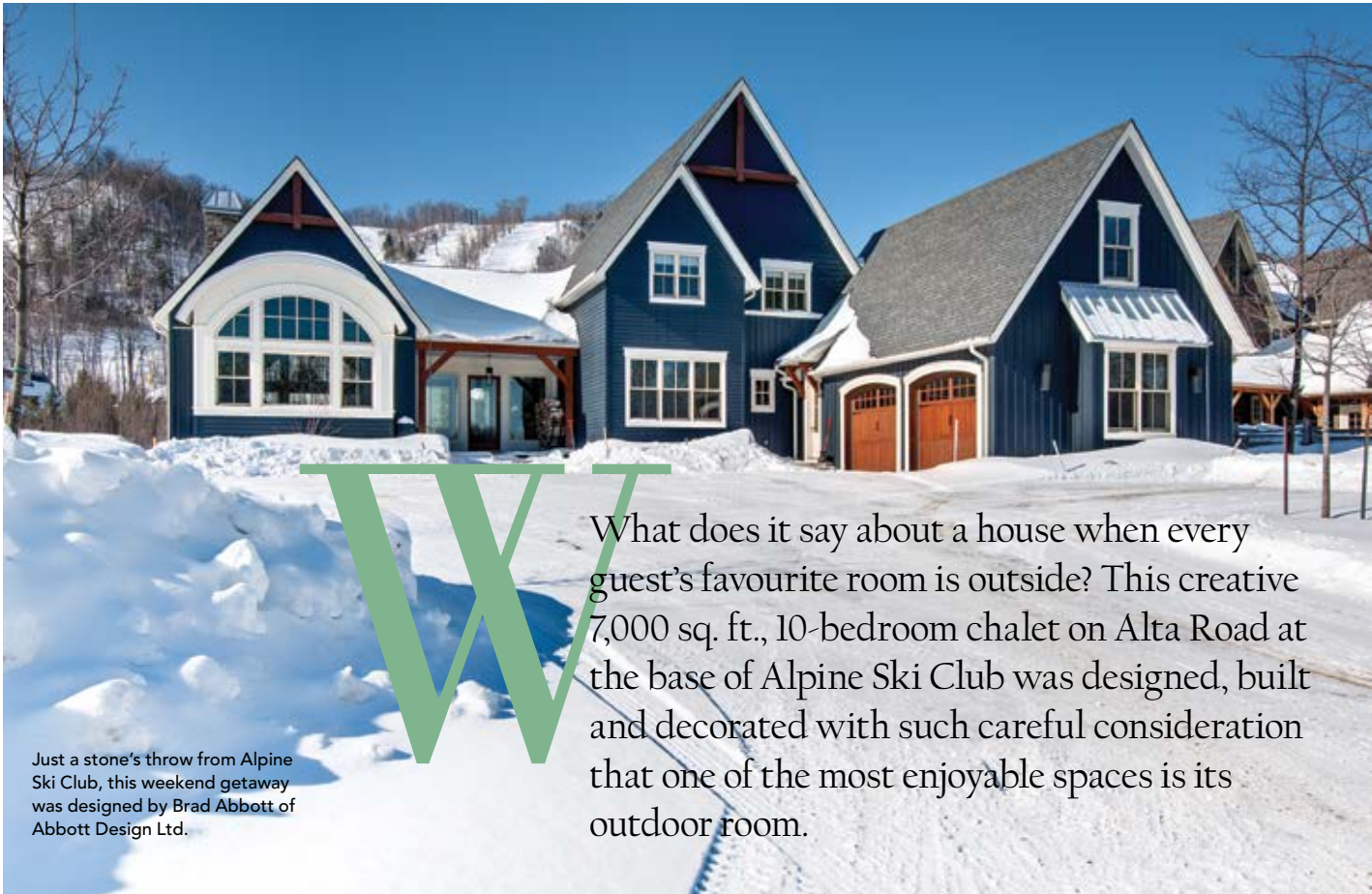


FACING THE NORTH CHAIR

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STAGING **SARA MARTIN**

The homeowner and Sharon Allan designed this timeless and detailed kitchen. The exotic Ciot "Blue Fire" granite countertop dictated the colour palette in the kitchen; custom-designed fixtures complement the vintage living room chandelier the homeowner inherited from his friend's mother.



Just a stone's throw from Alpine Ski Club, this weekend getaway was designed by Brad Abbott of Abbott Design Ltd.

What does it say about a house when every guest's favourite room is outside? This creative 7,000 sq. ft., 10-bedroom chalet on Alta Road at the base of Alpine Ski Club was designed, built and decorated with such careful consideration that one of the most enjoyable spaces is its outdoor room.



Vintage skis and boots outside the front door once belonged to the homeowner's mother. The metal log rack was designed by Thornbury Steel Fabricators Ltd.

The room is prominently nestled between the great room's timber frame height and the quiet bedroom wing of the house. It has sight lines that run right through from the home's glass-walled front entrance. Sheltered on three sides, the outdoor room is furnished with comfortable sofas, and features a stone hearth (masonry by **MBM Stone Works**), a gas fireplace installed by **Chantico Fireplace Gallery**, and a built-in vented barbecue. A hot tub sits on the stone patio just outside (landscaping by **Parklawn Landscaping**). With a view of the north chair at the ski hill, this space has become the place where family and guests congregate on all but the coolest of evenings – and after a day on the slopes, you'll find everyone in the hot tub.

"This house really reflects that the owners cared enough to make all of these choices," says interior decorator **Sharon Allan**, whose shop, **Van Allan Design Centre**, recently relocated to First Street in Collingwood. "An incredible amount of thought went into the house." The owners first approached Allan when they needed help choosing a colour for shingles that would coordinate with their exterior siding and partial metal roof.

The owners clicked with Allan. "Sharon asked us what we liked and what we had and how we would use the house. She helped us decorate in a way that is incredibly our own. We love every room; every element of it reflects us and our family," says the owner.

Says Sharon, "The owners brought things with them that had stories; together we found a way to feature their treasures in the house and build from them." Among the many treasures are wooden crates that carried the owner's parents' belongings when they fled Europe before the Second World

Continued on page 83



Sharon Allan and the homeowner share a glass of wine by the fireplace in the home's outdoor room.



Funky factory wood die cast molds line the mantel above the reclaimed brick fireplace. The fireplace screen was custom made by Desiron in Clarksburg. **TOP RIGHT:** It's a spectacular view from the living room through the dining room to the kitchen. A soaring 28-foot ceiling features rustic pine beams. **BOTTOM FAR RIGHT:** The upstairs hallway showcases several wooden horses collected over the years by the homeowner's son. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** When one of the homeowner's parents immigrated to Canada, this shipping box, now the living room coffee table, housed their worldly possessions. It still has its original lock and key.

War, a gem-toned glassware set collected one piece at a time every summer they took their kids to camp in the Maritimes, chandeliers the owner remembers her mother purchasing, and a half dozen wooden horses their son gathered over the years.

The owners use the chalet as their weekend getaway from their busy London dairy farm. "We've been coming to Alpine for 18 years with our family to ski, and now our young adult children are spread around Ontario," says the owner. "This house has become our meeting place for weekends and special occasions; we wanted our family heirlooms to be here."

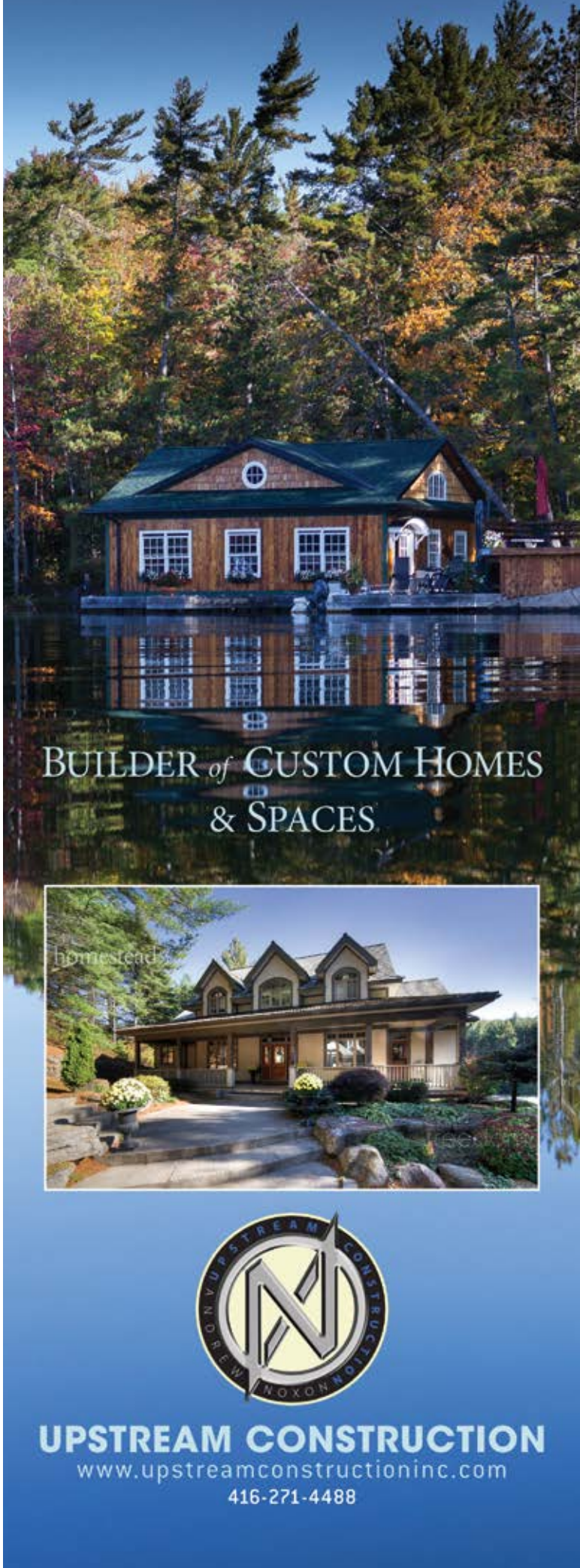
They sought out **Brad Abbott** of **Abbott Design Ltd.** to create the unique floor plan. It incorporates a timber frame great room with massive windows that let in a day's worth of light. The outdoor room and causeway-entry lead to the bedroom wing, where 10-foot ceilings demanded dramatic 100-inch high doors to reflect the scale. The family salvaged beams from a derelict century barn on their farm and installed them in the chalet as aesthetic beams. The contrast between the fresh pine beams in the great room and the aged beams in the outdoor room and throughout the main floor gives the home a lived-in feeling.

"The owners were great at shopping and sourcing," says Allan. The guest bathroom concept started with a chandelier hung with amethyst charms. The owner spotted an onyx vanity that glowed gold and orange when lit from below. The dramatic room came together with wallpaper in a deep brown plum. *Continued on page 86*



home & designer

This new house has lots of history, including three original leather suitcases used by the homeowner's grandmother on her honeymoon. **RIGHT:** A second floor bathroom, named "girls with pearls" because of its shell pearl accents and inlaid floor, joins two of the girls' bedrooms. **BELOW:** Dramatic under counter lighting in the main-floor powder room beautifully illuminates a stunning onyx vanity. **BELOW RIGHT:** One of the home's 10 bedrooms features colourful clothesline art from Nova Scotia. Wide plank reclaimed hemlock floors add rustic warmth.



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RIGHT: The homeowners salvaged beams from a century barn in London for the master bedroom, where the walls are painted Glacial Stream by Benjamin Moore. **BELOW:** The master en suite features another vintage chandelier from the homeowner's family home, as well as window coverings from Van Allan Design Centre.



The owners speak with high regard for the customer service provided by **Red Brick Group**, which coordinated and installed the home's audio, lighting and alarm systems. A master access panel in the kitchen lets the family set lighting levels throughout the home. Another favourite feature is the kill switch that lets them shut off almost all the lights in the house from the front door, and similarly light up strategic fixtures upon re-entry.

With help from Allan, the owners designed a roomy kitchen around a large granite counter. Display shelves on either side balance a beautiful wide-arched window. The owners installed an under-counter rollout freezer and a pair of built-in dishwashers. "With four children, I don't know why I waited so long to install two dishwashers," the owner confesses. Appliances were sourced at **MacDonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances**. *Continued on page 88*

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A breezeway lined with generous windows connects the main living area to the bedroom wing. The tile floor was sourced at Stone Tile. **BELOW:** One of the homeowners collects and trades pinball machines, which are displayed in the lower level games room.

The focus in the 28-foot-high great room is the view of the mountain, while guests are invited to play on a century-old fully functional casino slot machine. The Rumford-style, wood-burning fireplace has a gorgeous custom iron screen designed by **Desiron**. The reclaimed plank floors are from **PR Antique Products**.

Upstairs, each of the four children's bedrooms has unique floor and wall coverings, either board and batten or beadboard (**Complete Value Painting**). One of the daughters' rooms has three stacked leather suitcases on display that were her grandmother's honeymoon trousseau. Allan added wall colour and bedding to coordinate. The shared bathroom is christened "girls with pearls." Simple white floor tiles feature an inlay of pearl seashells that give it some sparkle and personality (installed by **Dafom Flooring**). A few other hints of pearl were incorporated on the vanity and the bathroom came together easily says Allan. In-floor heating was installed by **Airstar Mechanical**.

Rounded out with five guest bedrooms, the family has hosted up to 14 of their children's friends at a time. To keep clean-up simple, says the owner, "Every guest gets a basket with towels and a set of sheets, so when their stay is over, they switch their own sheets and drop what they've used in the laundry." Inside or out, this creative home is a place where memories are made... and treasured. **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Brad Abbott of Abbott Design Ltd. • Airstar Mechanical • Chantico Fireplace Gallery • Claude Fernandez of Complete Value Painting • Desiron • Jason Manning of Dafom Flooring • Macdonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances • Mark MacLeod of MBM Stoneworks Masonry • Paperwhite Flowers • PR Antique Products • Scott Park of Parklawn Landscaping • Carla & Doug Johnson of Red Brick Group • Sharon Allan of Van Allan Design Centre • Thornbury Steel Fabricators Ltd.



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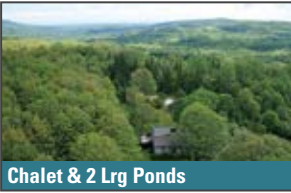
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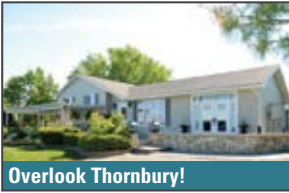
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