



POST^{AND}BEAM BEAUTY

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Homeowners Maarten and Marcia Jansen were impressed with the work of **The Legendary Group** and approached the company when they were ready to build on their Thornbury lot. The couple wanted a four-season weekend home with rustic charm.

Continued on page 100

LEFT: This 2,200 sq. ft. fully customized post-and-beam home exudes warmth and comfort. The 25-foot cathedral ceiling adds grandeur to the open-concept main floor, while giant picture windows offer forest views and let the light shine in. **BELOW:** A custom colour was specially created for the home's board-and-batten exterior (Craigleith Red by Behr). Timbers were treated with Early American/Antique Pine stain by Sansin. **BOTTOM:** A wood-burning Napoleon fireplace anchors the great room. The authentic post-and-beam structure has no load bearing walls, creating a completely open-floor plan with endless design possibilities.



RIGHT: Hickory floors run throughout the main level, in contrast to the stone accent walls and board-and-batten theme. The kitchen window offers a lovely view of Georgian Bay. **BELOW:** An off-white Caesarstone island is the gathering spot in the kitchen. Bar stools were sourced at Habitat Interiors Inc.



Milan Smeh, president of The Legendary Group (**Legendary Logcrafters & Hybrid Building System**), recommended the home be constructed with a prefabricated building solution called the Hybrid Building System. “Our unique system made perfect sense for Maarten and Marcia,” says Smeh. “It enabled the Jansens, indeed any homebuyer, to get a fully customized post-and-beam home at a significant cost savings when compared to a traditionally-built post-and-beam/timber-frame home.”

The 2,200 sq. ft. custom home features warm, handcrafted beams, posts and open and airy spaces, including a spectacular great room. Marcia, who took the lead in choosing the interior finishings, says, “My vision was to create a warm, cosy and comfortable home. The layout is perfect for entertaining and downstairs is perfectly set up for our skis, bikes and outdoor gear.”

Prefabricated in Legendary’s Collingwood factory, all of the home’s exterior walls arrive in panels with siding and windows pre-installed. Interestingly, the roof structure also arrives in panels, with insulation and a pine tongue-and-groove ceiling already installed, leaving only the exterior roofing to be finished for the shell to be “weather tight.”

Sandra Smart of The Legendary Group explains a few of the benefits of the Hybrid pre-fab system. “Prefabrication reduces overall construction times by up to 50 per cent and also allows the structure to be installed in

three days (typically),” she says. “Homeowners are well ahead of the curve towards the completion of their project.”

When an owner makes the decision to build, plans are chosen and then customization begins. The building can be as cost effective or as high-end as the homeowner’s budget and taste allow. You can view a stop-action photography video of the two-day assembly of the Jansen home at hybridbuildingsystem.com. (Simply click on “Assembly in Action” on the upper left-hand corner of the page.)

The exterior board-and-batten walls of the Jansen home, painted a Legendary Group custom colour by Behr (appropriately named Craigleith Red), complement the warmth of the exterior timbers. The contrasting black window trim, door from Del Windows & Doors and carriage lights from Restoration Hardware add additional curb appeal.

A front deck extends to one side of the home, offering outstanding views of Georgian Bay from the Muskoka chairs.

Inside, the board-and-batten theme is carried into the lower and main levels, as well as the second-floor gallery. The floors are Jack pine, hickory and slate (from **Floorcrafters** in Thornbury). The colour scheme throughout is warm, yet muted, and mimics the outdoor earth and forest tones as seen from every window in the home. Hand-hewn beams used for the handrails (from Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.) are supported by thin black posts and contribute to the open feeling, providing views on all sides. The trim, supplied by **McMillan Millwork & Joinery**, continues the post-and-beam materials, while 10-foot tongue-and-groove ceilings add plenty of warmth to the rooms.

The lower level consists of a boot room, a ski/sports equipment

Continued on page 103



ABOVE: Stone accent walls figure prominently in both the kitchen and dining areas. The unique dining room fixture is from Concept Lighting in Burlington.



Open on all sides, traditional heavy timber stairs lead from the front foyer to the second level. Hand-hewn beams were used for the handrails. **OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) Project manager and general contractor Ralph Spadafora with Milan Smeh, president of The Legendary Group. (2) The lower level is completely finished and includes a handy mudroom for all the family's gear. (3) Homeowner and interior decorator Marsha loves the layout of the main floor because it is ideal for entertaining. (4) On the opposite side of the stone fireplace, the Jansens created an intimate TV/family room.



room, and a large open family room to relax in, complete with a compact kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom with both tub and shower. It's a comfortable, yet practical space.

The main level is warm and beautiful. It includes an open-concept space that features a soaring two-storey living room, with a wood-burning fireplace faced with stone supplied by Masonal Stone, and large windows that offer views of the forest out back. A dining room with a large harvest table, a kitchen and a small, more private television room complete the space. The interior north wall of the dining room, as well as the kitchen walls and backsplash are also faced with thin-sliced Masonal Stone, installed by **Steve's Masonry**. The effect, combined with the hand-hewn posts and window framing is both natural and striking. The kitchen cabinets are finished in a soft, muted putty colour and a window over the white apron sink (from Yorkwest Plumbing Supply Inc.) offers a lovely view of Georgian Bay. Stainless-steel appliances from **MacDonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances** tie into the feeling

Continued on page 106





ABOVE LEFT: Dormers, combined with the warmth of gleaming Jack pine floors, make this child's bedroom even cosier. **ABOVE:** One of the children's bedrooms features a loft that's accessed by a ladder. A Jack-and-Jill bathroom connects both bedrooms. **FAR LEFT:** A freestanding tub, slate floors and the beauty of a wintry wooded view await in the master en suite. **LEFT:** The Legendary Group employs numerous trades, such as in-house tilers, floor finishers and carpenters, who also built the custom cabinets and vanities.

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Smeh, Ralph Spadafora and Sandra
Smart of The Legendary Group.

LEFT: There's a gorgeous view from every window in the Jansen's weekend getaway. The walls throughout the home were painted warm earth and forest tones (C2 paint by Benjamin Moore). **BELOW:** The glassed-enclosed shower features fixtures installed by Debruin Plumbing.



of the house, while an off-white Caesarstone centre island complements colours used throughout the home.

On the upper level, a gallery/loft connects two bedrooms and a shared bathroom to the master bedroom and en suite. It offers views over the living room, to the forest on one side and to the bay from the dormer window. The board-and-batten wall theme continues upstairs. Bathrooms are finished with stand-alone tubs on the first level and in the master en suite, and with glass-enclosed showers featuring fixtures installed by **Debruin Plumbing**.

"It is a relaxed and wonderful getaway for the whole family," says Marcia. She has high praise for Project Manager and General Contractor **Ralph Spadafora**, who was instrumental in completing the home. The attention to detail and vision of everyone involved, combined with the pre-fabricated building system provided by The Legendary Group, created a charming and rustic four-season home for the Jansen family. **OH**

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