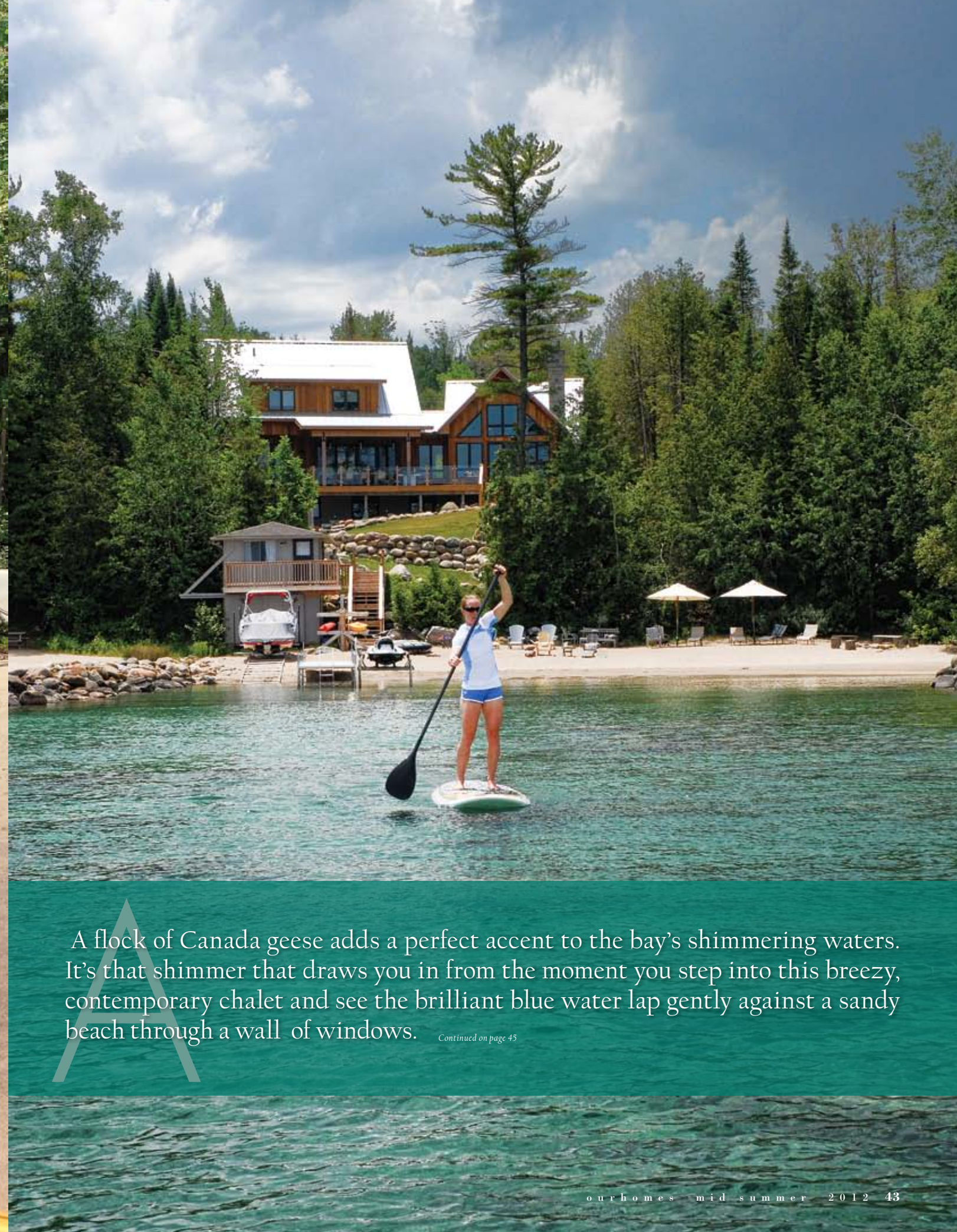


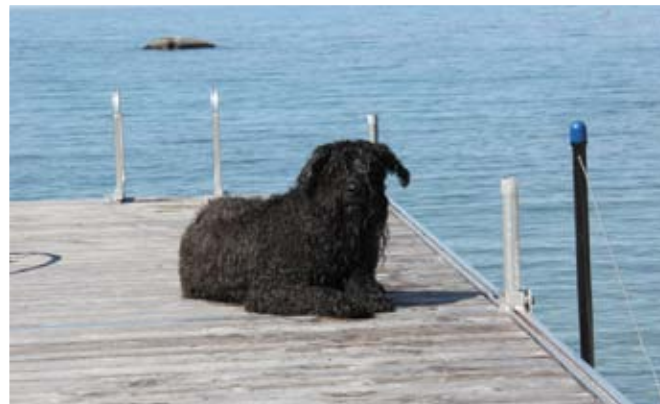


LIFE'S A *Beach*

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



A flock of Canada geese adds a perfect accent to the bay's shimmering waters. It's that shimmer that draws you in from the moment you step into this breezy, contemporary chalet and see the brilliant blue water lap gently against a sandy beach through a wall of windows. Continued on page 45



TOP: Builders Chris Allen and Scott Carter of Carter Allen Ltd. **LEFT & ABOVE:** The beachfront property is enjoyed by the entire family, especially the dog.



ABOVE LEFT: A colourful bench and rustic mirror in the front entranceway set a stylish, yet casual tone for the rest of the home. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A huge cedar post off the entranceway is used to display the kids' medals and to hang jackets. **LEFT:** Desiron Custom Metal crafted a unique firewood holder to hang on the wall in the entranceway.



This stunning waterfront home is a holiday haven for a fun-loving family of five that enjoys escaping the hectic city and participating in the active all-season lifestyle of the Georgian Triangle.

The joy this peaceful retreat creates excites the homeowner. When asked what she and her husband like most about their home she points to the expanse of blue water beyond. "Look at that! What could be more beautiful than that view?" she says. "We wanted a home inspired by those we had seen out west – a little country but contemporary, and we got it. We wanted a mountain-modern feeling. We couldn't have expected better."

This spacious cottage, built by **Carter Allen Ltd.** of Thornbury, exemplifies the firm's watchwords – Pride, Passion, Innovation. These three qualities can be seen in every facet of the construction.

The home is the perfect complement to the rustic Georgian shoreline that it inhabits. The exterior of this three-level home blends beautifully into its surroundings, from the custom B.C. cedar siding and the unique blend of grey limestone and granite highlights to the sturdy galvanized metal roofing, .

The homeowners worked closely with the builders to bring their vision to life. "It was truly a custom job for us," says **Chris Allen**, co-owner of Carter Allen Ltd. "It became a team approach – a real partnership. As time went on we pulled together as a group. Our clients had their own choices to make every step of the way. It's fair to say the build was personal for us." *Continued on page 46*

The main-level powder room is warm and elegant with sparkling dark tiles, a floating vanity and vessel sink. **OPPOSITE:** Natural elements blend together beautifully in the great room where a wood-burning fireplace is surrounded by a granite limestone blend and a soaring, pine timber frame ceiling makes room for a towering wall of windows.



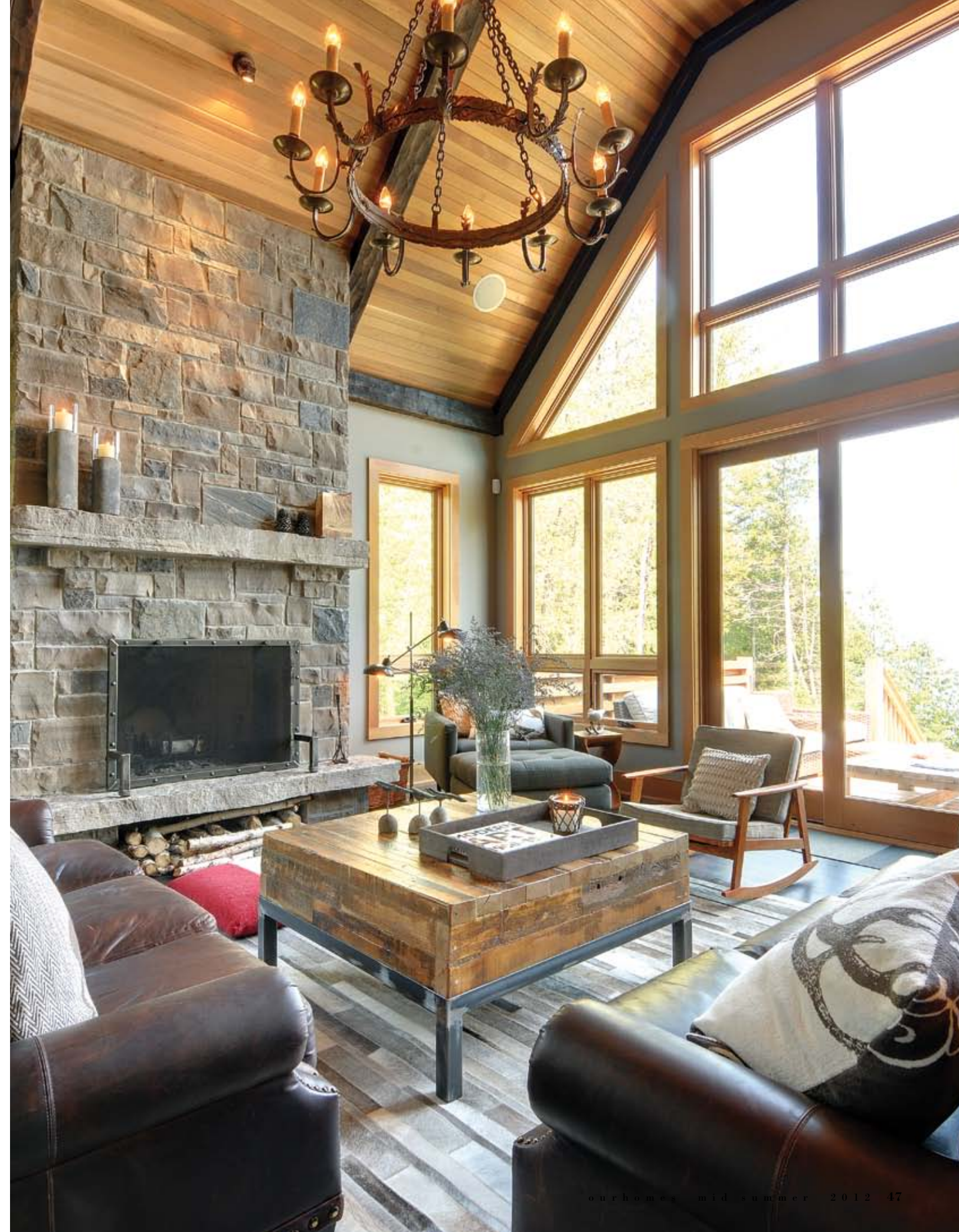
“It’s true. We really came together as a team,” says the homeowner. “It was a great experience building this home. The support from Scott (Carter) and Chris (Allen) didn’t stop the day we moved in. They’ve provided ongoing support.”

Scott Carter describes the positive link between builder and client: “We worked hard to provide our clients with options to satisfy their needs, not just when sourcing fixtures and finishes, but throughout the build from framing and beyond. It was a truly collaborative effort. The sense of mutual trust allowed everyone’s input and the positive results show it.”

As Carter suggests, the homeowners had definite ideas about the kind of home they desired. Keeping it natural, both inside and out,

was a priority successfully achieved. They stayed away from materials that create off-gassing, like medium density fiberboard, plywood and plastics. “We tried to make it a healthy home,” says the owner.

Aside from the all-natural approach to building materials, the practical use of space and its functional design make it a wonderful environment to kick back and enjoy. A unique, large cedar post off the entranceway that seemingly grows right in the home sets the tone for this down-to-earth hideaway. Metal hooks on the post offer to hold guests’ jackets with ease. It represents the homeowners’ determination to have minimal closets and shelving. This approach is carried throughout the home, allowing increased floor space in all the bedrooms. *Continued on page 49*



feature

BELOW: The open kitchen/ dining area is an ideal space for entertaining friends and family, with a long live-edge dining table crafted from a salvaged, 200-year-old maple tree and a large centre island to gather around. **RIGHT:** The main staircase flooded with natural light, leads upstairs to the children's rooms and downstairs to a recreation space and guest rooms. **FAR RIGHT:** Charcoal-coloured, honed marble countertops are a nice contrast to the light kitchen cabinetry.



TOP: The indoor dining space runs parallel to an outdoor dining space, which sits just on the other side of wall-sized, sliding glass doors with a spectacular view of the Bay. **ABOVE:** The back deck spans the length of the home, and with transparent railings, it provides additional living space to enjoy the surrounding beauty.

Despite its natural bent, the house has all the amenities of a modern home. The large entranceway, finished in grey marble installed by **Gervase Custom Ceramics**, includes a powder room and a wall-mounted, circular metal firewood holder created by **Desiron Custom Metal** of Thornbury.

To the left of the entrance is the great room, where a wood-burning fireplace from **Chantico Fireplace Gallery** takes centre stage, with a limestone and granite blend surround that climbs to the soaring timber-frame ceiling (**Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.**) It includes a natural, single-slab stone mantel and hearth. Like most spaces in the home, this room pulls off a rustic contemporary look by combining materials such as wood, leather, stone and metal. The owners' sense of style is evident in the soft grey and purple accents.

Beautiful light fixtures (Universal Lamp) and accent lighting throughout the house harmonize beautifully with the walls, all in earthy tones of greys, browns and charcoal, painted by **Currie's Creative Painting & Decorating**, using paint from **Birch & Benjamin Inc.** of Thornbury.

The kitchen, with its large central island, continues the theme of natural functionality with contemporary grey cabinetry by **JTI Custom Cabinets & Furniture**, accented by black hardware and charcoal, honed marble countertops. Stainless steel appliances from **Macdonald's BrandSource Furniture & Appliances** round out every chef's vision of a modern food preparation space.

The highlight of the open dining area, between the kitchen and the back-deck eating area, is a long, live-edge dining table crafted by **Tree Green Team** from a salvaged, 200-year-old maple tree. Guests are treated to a spectacular view of the bay while enjoying a meal with their hosts. *Continued on page 50*

feature

The main floor master suite is a spa-like retreat. A wall of windows floods the serene space with natural light, including the huge glass-and-tile shower, which looks into the bedroom through a full-length window. A wall-to-wall double vanity provides plenty of space for two to get ready.



Also on the main level and with no less a view is the master bedroom, which is cool and serene in soft greys, whites and blues. The en suite features a long double vanity with plenty of storage and a large glassed-in shower. Each room on the main level opens to the back deck, which spans the length of the home and features transparent railings, offering an unobstructed view of the sandy beach and bay below. The descent to the spectacular sandy shoreline and the restored boathouse is made on massive flagstone steps (landscaping by **Naturally Green Landscaping Ltd.**). As you reach the bottom, the anticipation of a day at the beach, filled with paddle boarding, sunbathing and picnicking, sets in. As you look back toward the house all the elements of nature come together to form one incredible family getaway. **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

Birch & Benjamin Inc., Bumstead Brothers Plumbing & Heating, Carter Allen Ltd, Currie's Creative Painting & Decorating, Deans Carpet One Floor & Home, Desiron Custom Metal, Gervase Custom Ceramics, Grey-Bruce Construction Ltd., GWT Trenching & Excavating, Huronia Alarms, Jeff Walker Plumbing & Heating, JTI Custom Cabinets & Furniture, Legendary Logcrafters Ltd., Macdonald's BrandSource Furniture & Appliances, Naturally Green Landscaping Ltd., Ohmex Electric, Thermo Seal Insulation Systems, Tree Green Team.

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