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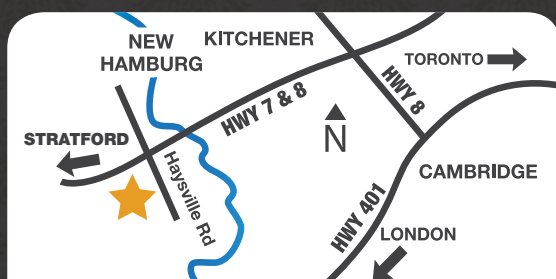
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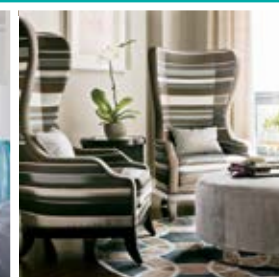
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editor's note

A FEW YEARS AGO, when we first moved into our current home, I was giving a dear friend of mine a tour of the space. Standing at the top of the curved stairs outside of the bedrooms, looking down towards the main floor, she remarked, "this is where your kids will sit on Christmas morning before you let them race downstairs."

I laughed – but it's been a vision that's stuck with me ever since.

While my son is only two and doesn't always have the patience to sit still and wait for the cue to go – and doesn't yet really understand how exciting Christmas can be, either – we're starting to get to that stage.

I'll try to snap a photo of Carter at the top of those stairs this year, still in his pajamas. Next year, he'll have a little buddy to sit with him. That's going to be our best gift, but not until into the new year.

Both of our homeowners this issue are celebrating the holidays in newly completed homes. One, a brand new build on the east side of Waterloo (page 42), is owned by an ambitious couple with big design ideas. The other is home to a young family who will be celebrating just their second season in their renovated Uptown home (see it on page 24). I'm sure they'll be starting to make special memories in their fresh spaces, too.

What treasured spots do you have in your home? Do you have an everyday space that holds special memories or transforms into a magical place at certain times of year? I'd love to hear about how your home plays a part in your holiday memories and traditions.

Best wishes this holiday season and into 2017!

Adrienne

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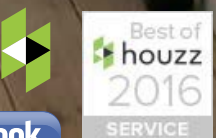
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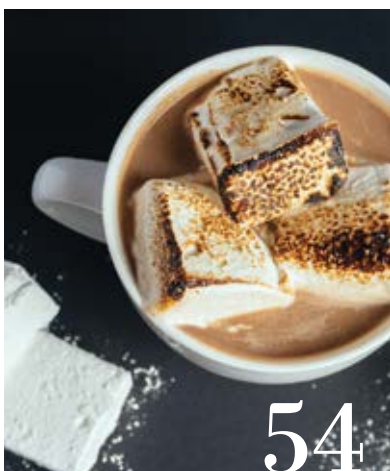
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A rundown home in Uptown Waterloo gets a marvellously modern update. Story, page 24. Photography by Jason Hartog.

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Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

It's been a long time since the first statement lighting fixture in the universe was created with a bang.

Back here on earth and in our homes, we mortals have been trying to replicate the same wow factor ever since.

Entranceways, bedrooms, kitchens and even bathrooms can use lights that make a statement. More often than not, we love to use chandeliers for this purpose. They are grand. They command attention. And, most definitely, they are striking.

Traditionally, chandeliers with tiny lights were gathered up into one large fixture and were central to the décor of a room, in most cases the dining room. Distinguished homes had Schonbek chandeliers with Swarovski crystals. We would also see fanciful, sweeping shapes of colourful glass from Murano and Venice, Italy – much like a grand dame in her wonderful gown attending La Scala Opera.

Over the past 10 years, traditional chandeliers have become objects of desire once again, evoking an era of glamour and style. Sleekly styled teardrops, without the faceted cuts, are the updated version of crystals, creating modern styling in a traditional fixture, such as the Crawford by Hudson Valley Lighting.

Today, lighting statements come in twos, threes or in clusters. Some are floating sculptures. Modern technology allows us to be more creative with different shapes and materials.

Artemide, one of the world's most progressive and grooviest lighting manufacturers, from Italy, regularly creates fantastical pieces that provide a lifetime of beauty and joy. One of their latest pieces, Chlorophilia, designed by Ross Lovegrove, cleverly up-lights a series of petals that act as prisms, producing light and shadows with the help of LEDs, creating a delicate, space-expanding effect.

Sometimes a statement chandelier is not a chandelier at all, but a large lamp that arcs overhead, such as the Arco, by Italian manufacturer Flos. It is considered an ageless classic suitable for any décor or function.

Light It Up

- Think of your chandelier as a stunning investment in visually-beautiful eye candy that will make an impression both by night and by day.
- In open-plan spaces, while your chandelier is the focus, it's good to mix sizes and type of fixtures that are flexible to your needs. The other fixtures don't have to match, but they do need to coordinate.



- Structurally, make sure your ceiling can support the weight of your light fixture. Not usually a problem but best to consult with your contractor. Better safe than sorry.
- There are so many wonderful options out there: traditional, vintage, transitional, modern, ultra modern, suspended, ceiling-hugger, colourful, clear, metal, glass, wood. No matter your tastes there's something to suit your personality and style.

Turn it On

- Buy quality bulbs with a colour temperature of 2700 K to 3000 K. The lower the number the warmer and cosier the atmosphere. Different lighting and colour temperatures will bring out different shades in your wall colours, fabrics and carpets.
- Dimmers set the mood and provide as much light as required when needed. Dimmers can also be calibrated to preset light settings to provide the atmosphere and the timing of your choice.
- Incandescent filament bulbs are still the best for that warm fiery glow. They are the softest and most flattering bulbs available.
- Halogens are crisp and warm and make objects look sensuous and rounder.
- Fluorescents make objects and colours look flat, despite the colour temperature.
- LED lights are efficient and can be warm providing that you choose a warm colour temperature. Beware of pointy hot spots – make sure that you have a diffuser to soften the light source.
- If you're feeling nostalgic and you want to see a clear bulb, Bulbrite produces bulbs that replicate the exposed filaments of clear bulbs through LED technology.

Although lighting's primary function is to see and be seen, it's important to think of your empty ceilings and walls like a canvas to create your personal statement. Now all you have to ask yourself is: How will I light up my universe and make my statement? **OH**

1. SWAROVSKI LIGHTING: Valterri Chandelier **2. HUDSON VALLEY LIGHTING:** Crawford Chandelier
3. VESOLI: Infedele Suspension Light **4. ARTEMIDE:** Chlorophilia **5. FLOS:** Arco Floor Lamp
6. BULBRITE: LED Filament Bulbs

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2



1

WINTER wonderland

'Tis the season to cosy up at home with loved ones. These picks will help set the scene on a cold winter's night.

PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA WEST**



3

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3 ST. JACOBS HOME FURNITURE

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6 LEATHER BY MANN

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4



5



6

in the kitchen

Whisk-y BUSINESS

STORY **KIM MASIN**

A whisk is a staple tool for any chef or baker, but which whisk is the right one for the task at hand?

The variations, shapes and uses are many. Our guide will fix the mix-ups so your sauce is thicker, your cream is creamier and your egg whites reach the thickest peaks.

The most popular material for a whisk is wire, however, there are wooden whisks and silicone-coated variations in different shapes and forms, each serving a specific function. Silicone-coated whisks are made of wire coated with heatproof silicone, perfect for non-stick pans.

Balloon Whisk

Dubbed the balloon due to its shape, this is one of the most popular types of whisks. Amazingly, the balloon is made from eight or more flexible wires joined at the ends and attached to a handle. It comes in a number of sizes, from tiny to quite large. Wide uses for this type of whisk make it the most sought after for beating eggs, creating meringues and whipping cream into a thick delight.

SHOWN HERE
TOVOLO: Stainless Steel 11" Whip Whisk



French Whisk

This whisk is similar to the balloon, however its shape is longer and more cylindrical and the series of flexible wires overlap each other to then join together at the handle. Chefs prefer this tool for mixing sauces or for combining ingredients in a deeper pan to access the sides and edges. The flexible wires are preferred when cooking with liquids to create thicker sauces and custards.

SHOWN HERE
BEST MANUFACTURERS, INC.:
10" French Whip with Red Wood Handle



Flat Whisk

Also commonly called a roux whisk, used when cooking flour and fat to thicken sauces. There are fewer loops than you'd expect in a whisk, but they lie flat, rendering the orientation uniquely suited to stirring in shallow pans to create sauces and rid the creation of any unwanted lumps.

SHOWN HERE
OXO: Good Grips Flat Whisk



Spiral Whisk

This type of coil whisk with a slightly angled head is a bit of a luxury purchase, but was specifically designed to make constant contact in a pan or bowl to ensure even mixing and prevent scorching or lumps. This is the perfect tool for smooth vinaigrettes, or for incorporating liquids into a roux.

SHOWN HERE
RÖSLE: Spiral Whisk



Ball Whisk

Fans of the ball whisk claim the lack of the typical whisk loops makes it easier to clean, and allows for quicker and better aeration. The quick aeration makes it a preferred choice for whipping egg whites into the ultimate meringue. Pastry chefs also use this to make elaborate spun-sugar decorations for dessert toppings.

SHOWN HERE
WMF: Flexi Whisk Profi Plus 27 cm



Dough Whisk

The strange triple-loop shape and strength of this whisk is best used to lightly blend mixtures like batters, fruit fillings and muffin batters without overworking the mixture or breaking down the fruit. It can also be used to bring together yeasted pizza dough without all of that sticky mess on a spoon or spatula. **OH**

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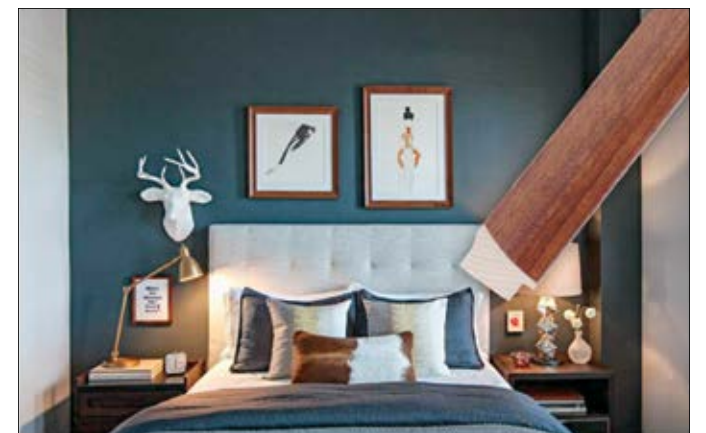


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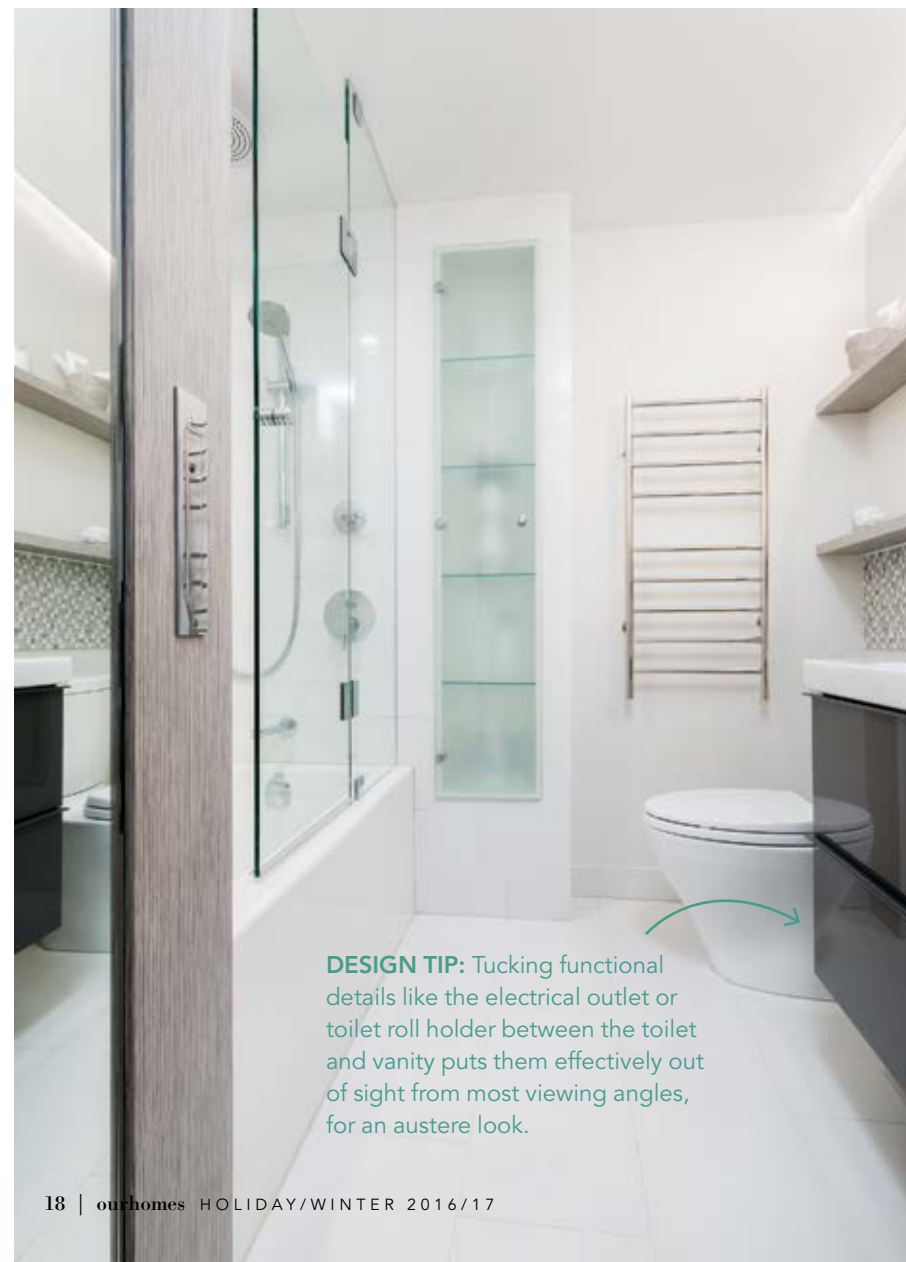
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INDOOR escape

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**
PHOTOGRAPHY
GILLIAN JACKSON

With winter arriving, you may find yourself wanting to spend a lot more time indoors – why not spend this time unwinding in an elegant, spa-like bathroom? Borrow some of my favourite design tips from a recent renovation and create your own retreat.



DESIGN TIP: Tucking functional details like the electrical outlet or toilet roll holder between the toilet and vanity puts them effectively out of sight from most viewing angles, for an austere look.



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

Mirror Magic

As you enter this room, you pass a custom mirrored sliding door (located next to the tub/shower), hiding a stacked washer and dryer combo. This puts the laundry centre in a functional spot, but without taking away from the aesthetic elegance of the bathroom – in fact, large mirrors can help a space feel more expansive.

Open Eyelines

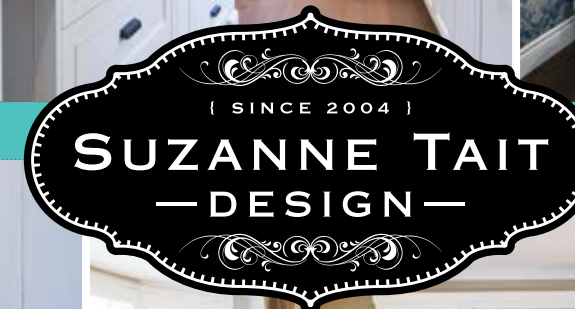
Other features help give the room a larger feel: glass doors are used for the shower and on the tall custom storage compartment to keep sight lines open. The airy material and colour palette emphasize pale tones and subtle textures, adding interest while maintaining a breezy feel. Using the same inviting wood to create the floating vanity shelves and the sliding door frame adds consistency and a touch of visual warmth.

Bringing the Heat

Two hidden features keep this room feeling cosy all year. A heated floor system (a perfect complement to cool, crisp tile) radiates warmth – a smart way to make a relatively compact space feel ultra-luxe. To top it off, the stylish wall-mounted towel bar is also heated, for that fresh-out-of-the-dryer feeling any time. *Continued on page 20*



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Niche Appeal

Often, one or more of the walls inside a shower will have a large open cavity, free of pipes – space that can be “borrowed” to add a little extra room to the shower via a wall niche. Placing a niche at elbow height will give you a handy place to store essential products and open up the feel of the space just that little bit more, making it a worthwhile upgrade during renovation.

Featured Selections

Although most of the tile in this bathroom is a classic white 12-by-24-inch porcelain plank (which creates a large, almost seamless look), an accent tile was used to make a statement in the shower. This tile was then repeated as the sink backsplash (run wall-to-wall for a sharp look), for a feeling of continuity. Repeating materials at least once is a good way to make any room appear more harmonious.

DESIGN TIP: Bordering an accent tile with an outline of plank tiles (as done in this shower) frames it like artwork and visually connects the materials, rather than taking the accent wall-to-wall. It's a contemporary twist that makes a sophisticated statement.

Bright Answers

Keeping the lighting scheme richly layered is important in any space, even a smaller one like a bathroom. Here, pot lights are used in the shower area (an often overlooked spot for lighting), but the long vanity wall is actually lit with a subtle LED strip tucked into the ceiling. This gives efficient, even lighting in a soft ethereal glow, for a real sense of brightness despite the lack of a window. Thin accent lights flank the medicine cabinet, adding a little task lighting.

Highs & Lows

Not everything has to be a budget buster. Here, a simple and sleek big-box-store vanity serves perfectly, acting as the quiet anchor in a moody grey. Adding an interesting faucet gives it a unique twist, and picks up on the other glass accents in the room. Remember: saving on some pieces and splurging on others always creates more drama than spending moderately across the board.

DESIGN TIP: One of the easiest ways to style your bathroom is to remove clutter, and then store essentials in minimalist containers like glass jars or white boxes. Just be sure to add at least one purely decorative accent like a fresh blossom!



Create your own escape at home with these picks.



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VEGGIE upcycling

I'm often amazed at life's tenacity. Dandelion roots can grow more than a metre to find water; without water, many sedum succulent plants can effortlessly survive a month; and the humble daylily can be uprooted from the ground to sit upside down for a whole fall and winter and still poke out some leaves the following spring.

The point is, life wants to keep living. A common example is garlic, onions and potatoes that sprout roots or leaves before you've had time to consume them. Tremendous life force is just waiting to be regrown again and again in your kitchen scraps. Grow edibles in winter? Yes you can.

Much easier than nursing a veggie plant from seed, regrowing most vegetables is an easy task – no green thumb required. Most begin regrowing in just water! And as world food costs steadily increase, you'll have a source of vegetables and herbs in regular supply at essentially no extra cost than the original purchase. Sound good?

There are numerous edibles that can be regrown with various degrees of difficulty, but who wants to wait three years for a pineapple to grow indoors? Here is my list of easy-peasy, fail-proof and fast veggies to try your hand at regrowing.

Herbs

It's a well-known fact that all dishes are greatly enhanced by the addition of fresh herbs. Many herbs such as basil, mint, and cilantro will easily regrow. Simply place fresh-cut herb stems in a glass of water with the bottom third of its leaves removed. New leaves will form and roots will grow. After the roots are about two inches long, they can be relocated to a pot with soil. Rosemary also re-propagates in this manner, except the cuttings need to be taken from the top two or three inches of the plant.

Lettuce

Luscious lettuce in winter is, for many, a dream come true. Romaine, leaf-type lettuces and even bok choy will all regrow so long as their stump is intact. Place the stump upright in a bowl, covering the base of the stump with water. When new leaves regrow, the stump can be planted in soil.

Onions

Such a useful flavouring, green onions and leeks are likely the easiest veggies to propagate. Cut the stalks about one to two inches from the root and place the root in water and they will quickly grow. They can then be transferred to a soil-filled pot or planted directly in soil from the start. Red and yellow onions can also be regrown into lovely green onions. Next time you chop onions, save the base with about one to two inches of bulb. Place the base in a bowl of water. Once leaves grow, transfer to soil.

Garlic

If you find your culinary garlic is already sprouting, just place the clove in a bit of water. Shoots will grow and can be harvested and used raw, much like chives, or the cloves can be planted directly in soil.

Celery

Crunchy celery is a healthy and satisfying winter snack and hinders high-carb, comfort eating. Leave about five inches of celery stalk base. Place in a bowl of water and new leaves will grow from the middle. In about a week it can be moved to a soil-filled planter.

Carrots

Did you know that carrot leaves are edible? They're perhaps a bit bitter in taste but your household culinary genius will likely find a use for them. Cut the carrot top with one-inch base and place in a plate of water and the leaves will sprout from the top. After the leaves are about two inches, plant in soil and harvest as needed.

Whichever veggie you plan to regrow indoors, a few rules of thumb apply. All plants, whether placed in water or soil, need ample sunlight from a sunny window. Always change the liquid from a plant's growing water every two days. For earth-bound plantings, choose the appropriate nutrient-rich potting soil and water accordingly. Never harvest all of the leaves at one time, as the plant needs some foliage to continue the process of photosynthesis.

Perhaps when you picture a bunch of food items growing indoors it doesn't sound very aesthetic, but depending on the arrangement and the vessels chosen, they can be a beautiful statement. Imagine your glassware filled with green stems along your dining table or a collection of beautiful pots bursting with edibles placed by a sunlit window. Beauty is always in the eye of the beholder, so get creative with this cool and edible version of upcycling. **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.

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IN WITH THE NEW

When Tanya and Justin Bischoff's son Jack was just two-and-a-half years old, he was dressed up in a construction outfit trying to be just like everyone else on the job site of his future home: carrying bricks, hammering with his toy hammer and generally trying to pitch in.

Continued on page 26

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**
STYLING **KATHRYN KIRK**

Mod, clean-lined furniture and a live-edge table, plus carefully selected area rugs in pops of red, help define different spaces in this open-concept living and dining area.

feature

Now, at four, Jack’s home is finished. The modern renovation and addition to an old home in Uptown Waterloo needs nothing but a one-room update – instead of a guest room, the third bedroom will soon become a nursery for Jack’s younger sibling.

But it has come a long way. “We bought it on a whim,” says Justin. **Paul Ballantyne** from **RE/MAX Twin City Realty Inc.** had suggested they investigate the property, so they had driven by it, but written it off from the outside. But something kept bringing them back to the listing and they continued to look at it, so they finally went to take a more thorough look.

They knew they would never find a lot of this size in such a great location again. “We moved from the suburbs but we actually have a bigger property here,” laughs Tanya.

But that didn’t mean it was an easy decision – nobody but raccoons had lived in the home for a few years. It was overgrown and in total disrepair and needed a complete overhaul.

“When you buy something like this, you’re buying a hornet’s nest,” says Justin. “You have no idea what’s inside.” Many friends and family helped build this dream home. “We’re lucky to know a lot of people in the industry,” he says.



TOP LEFT: This old home got a facelift, not a complete overhaul. The homeowners wanted to maintain a similar style to the rest of their neighbourhood. **MIDDLE LEFT:** At the back of the yard, a new garage grounds the space and provides lots of storage and working space. **LEFT:** The freshly sandblasted brick wall is a feature in this media space off the open-concept kitchen.



“We wanted to keep the old charm and then make it new with all the comforts of a new home.”

This kitchen was designed by Kitchen Concepts By Martha Beckermann, who nailed the homeowners’ desire for a modern, bright space that works for real life. **BELOW:** Homeowners Justin and Tanya Bischoff are thrilled they took a chance on this home.

It was important to Tanya and Justin to balance the old home with their new addition. “We wanted to keep the old charm and then make it new with all the comforts of a new home,” says Justin. Once they had established what they wanted to accomplish, the couple had to tackle the original home’s foundation before adding to it. Next, they were able to sandblast all of the brick, some of which is visible from the street, while other walls are now character features inside the home. When the shell of the home had been fixed and was stable, the Bischoffs called contractor **Derek O’Malley** of **O’Malley Homes**. He had renovated his own home of the same era not too far away so he was familiar with the problems he faced and was ready for everything. He helped them achieve the modern and sleek style they were after. **Tara Ballantyne Interior Design** helped design the home’s layout. *Continued on page 28*





Justin's aunt, Martha Beckermann, owns one of Kitchener's oldest kitchen design businesses, **Kitchen Concepts by Martha Beckermann**. She was thrilled to have been part of this modern design project. She helped Justin and Tanya piece together their gorgeous white kitchen, from subtly textured white Caesar Stone countertops in Statuario Nuvo (from Custom Granite) to beautifully crafted glossy-white cabinets. Three reflective copper pendant lights top off the look.

The kitchen is also Tanya's favourite space in the home. She loves to cook, and in addition to getting to use such a beautiful kitchen, she also has the luxury of looking out into her fantastic backyard when she's working there.

It's the neighbourhood that really sells everything for her, though. "You have this amazing home space but you can look out the window and see Uptown Waterloo," she says. "I love being able to walk to get groceries and coffee." Plus, her new neighbours have welcomed her and her family with open arms. *Continued on page 30*



From there, to help with finishing the space, from picking just the right white to accessorizing, the Bischoffs called designer **Katie Kirk** from **Kathryn Kirk Design**. She helped them pull everything together for cohesive style, and they say she was integral to the design process.

Next, she's using her expertise and design flair to transform the spare bedroom into a calm, serene nursery space.

As for Katie, she says the Bischoffs made her job easy. "They're very much into design and have a great sense of style," she says.

They replaced all of their windows and exterior doors with sleek new picks from **Golden Windows Limited**. They selected new interior doors from **Northfield Trim & Door Inc.** and installed all new hardwood floors and tiles with help from **The Carpet Store**.

TOP LEFT: Designer Katie Kirk helped the Bischoffs choose "just the right white" for their home. They say they couldn't have pulled their design together without her. **TOP RIGHT:** This powder room on the main floor is bright and white with small hits of rustic and wood for interest, including an antler hook for the hand towel. **RIGHT:** The upstairs laundry is centrally located and convenient.



LEFT: The antler chandelier in the master bedroom came from a restaurant that was closing. Justin painted it blue himself for a pop of colour. **TOP & ABOVE:** The master bath, featuring a glass shower, white tub and floating vanity, leads through to a walk-in closet.



“The bigger the tassels, the better,” says designer Katie Kirk of the throw in this serene spare bedroom.

Outside, at the back of their deep yard, Justin built his dream garage. He and Tanya jokingly call it “the condo.” Next year, they’ll build a deck off the back of the house and their yard will be finished. **Rosco Landscaping** took care of the landscaping and finishing touches around the home.

This recent reno is just one example of how homeowners are reviving old homes in Uptown Waterloo. The Bischoffs have truly made it their own without sacrificing the most beautiful and interesting parts of the original home and they have inspired others in their neighbourhood to tackle large-scale updates, too. **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

- Brant Custom Cabinets • Galt Wood Co. • Golden Windows • Hallman & Dittmer Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. • Kathryn Kirk Design • Kitchen Concepts by Martha Beckermann • KW Blinds • Northfield Trim & Door Inc. • O’Malley Homes • Paul Ballantyne RE/MAX Twin City Realty Inc. • Pine Creek Cabinets • POP Construction Ltd. • Pristine Paint & Decorating Inc. • Rosco Landscaping • Tara Ballantyne Interior Design • The Carpet Store



ABOVE: A floating vanity in the upstairs bath maintains clean lines. The original brick wall adds visual interest. **RIGHT:** Four-year-old Jack’s bedroom is simple and clean in white with lots of fun, woodland creatures to keep him company.



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Rita, Darlene, Terri and Marge (in front).

bits & pieces FOR EVERYONE

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



THE PLACE: When Marge Smith and Rita Wagner, owners of long-time furniture refinishing and restoration business The Strippers, started to realize their customers were looking for an avenue to help them sell their good quality furniture to a new home in addition to refinishing favourite pieces, they decided they could be the ones to provide that service. "We saw a real need for a furniture consignment store in Kitchener-Waterloo," says Marge. "So in 2001 we opened **Bits & Pieces Furniture & Décor Consignment** store on Gage Avenue right across the street from our refinishing shop!" Not only that, but "We were the first furniture consignment shop west of Toronto consigning quality dining furniture, sofas, loveseats, bedroom furniture, lamps, art, carpets, décor – basically anything you would have in your home except appliances," adds Rita.



THE STYLE: "We are 100 per cent consignment from sellers only," says Rita. Bits & Pieces only sells clean, sturdy, good condition furniture and décor, from antique to contemporary – and since they opened 15 years ago, styles have certainly changed. "Buying antiques in general has declined in popularity with the exception of buying an antique because of its style and usefulness," says Marge. "All buyers want to take their new items home and use immediately – no fixing up required!"

WHAT'S HOT: The Bits & Pieces team has found that teak furniture, dark wood, neutral paint colours, retro styles and the straight lines of mission-style furniture are very popular – and leather furniture is always in style. Smaller pieces appeal to people moving into apartments, condos or smaller homes. As for finishes, chrome, bronze and high-end brass are in demand. "In keeping with the minimalist trend, décor that is multipurpose for colour and usefulness sells well," says Marge.

SEASONAL: For winter, Bits & Pieces accepts and consigns electric fireplaces and fireplace accessories. Carpets,



lamps and other décor items for cosying up at home are also welcome, as are Christmas decorations for a limited time.

FAVOURITES: Although many consignors take items to Bits & Pieces to clear space at home, some people truly feel like they hit the jackpot. Marge and Rita have a favourite success story: "We got an old ceiling fixture the client had replaced with a new modern light. It was around 100 years old, hand painted, and had coloured glass tear drops. It sold for over \$600 – much to the consignor's delight!"

WHERE: 408 Gage Ave., Unit 3, Kitchener 519.742.4033 | bits-and-pieces.ca **OH**



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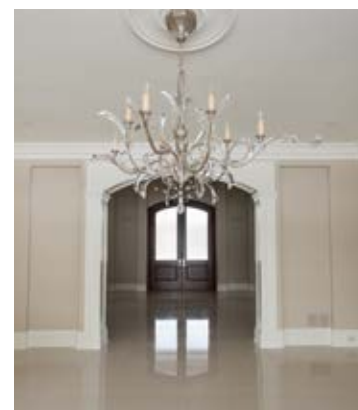
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4. ABBOTT: Skates Pair Ornament
5. TRANSPAC: Galvanized Metal Christmas Banner
6. ABBOTT: Large Pine Branch with Antler Wreath
7. GRASSLANDS ROAD: 3 Floral Sprigs on Wood Block
8. LUVCAN IMPORTS INC: Birch Garland - 3.2" Star
9. BRUNELLI: Chevreuril Cushion
10. BRUNELLI: Coyote Cushion
11. BRUNELLI: Jingle Bells Sham & Throw
12. VILLEROY & BOCH: Naif Christmas Dinnerware
13. ABBOTT: Enamel Look Mug in Red
14. GRASSLANDS ROAD: Bird Figurines With Hats
15. BALSAM HILL: Galvanized Tree Collar

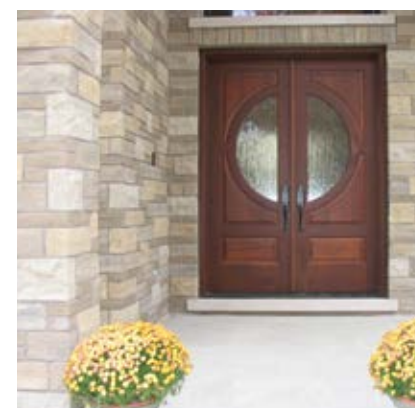
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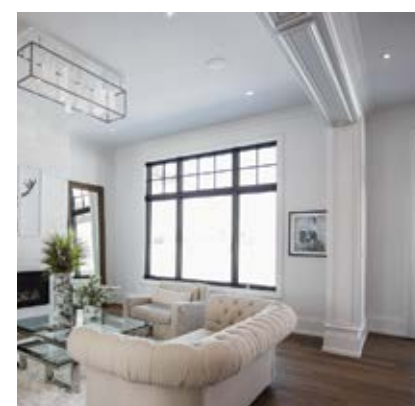
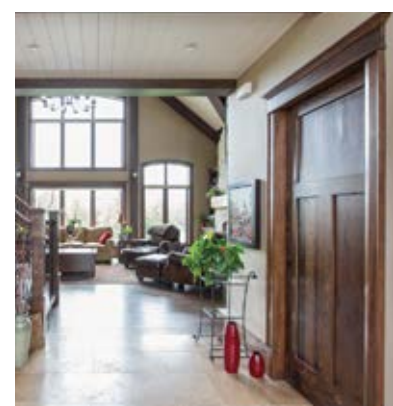
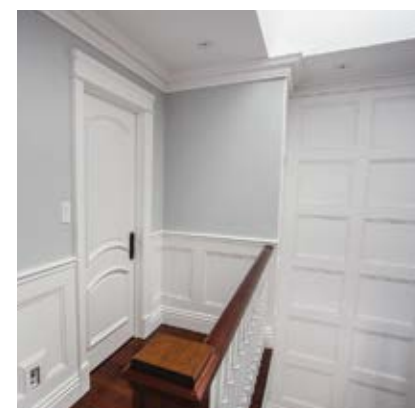


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1. **ABBOTT:** Spouting Whale Ornament
 2. **BIRCHLANE:** Driftwood Star 3. **TRANSPAC:** Driftwood Starfish Ornament 4. **TRANSPAC:** Res Silver Coastal Ornament 5. **LUVCAN IMPORTS INC:** Birch Bark Wrapped Ball 6. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Horsey Spa Stocking 7. **ABBOTT:** Medium Reindeer Head Planter 8. **PAVILION GIFT:** Holiday Door Stopper 9. **DIMOND-HOME:** Natural Driftwood Garland 10. **LENOX:** Brian Gluckstein Clara Aqua Dinnerware 11. **ZODAX:** Decorative Shell Trees 12. **ABBOTT:** Large Natural Twig Display Tree 13. **JAIPUR LIVING:** Seabreeze Throw in Mineral Blue & Birch 14. **PARK DESIGNS:** Noel Printed 16" Pillow Cover 15. **ONE BELLA CASA:** Let It Mix & Match Holiday - Ivory Ice Blue Throw Pillows 16. **ABBOTT:** Large "For Elf Use" Gift Sack 17. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Treasure Coast Tree Skirt

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1. **TRANSPAC:** Feather Garland 2. **ZODAX:** Decorative Star Ornament in Silver 3. **TRANSPAC:** Metal Cutout Tree Ornaments 4. **ABBOTT:** Knit Deer Wall Decor 5. **ALLMODERN:** Vickerman 24" Shatterproof Ball Ornament Christmas Wreath 6. **ZODAX:** Reindeer with Golden Antlers 7. **ZODAX:** Silver Plated Ceramic Stemmed Christmas Trees 8. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Gold Monogram Mugs 9. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Wishing Stocking 10. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Reindeer Glasses 11. **BRUNELLI:** Yogi Throw 12. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Peace and Joy Pillows 13. **SARO LIFESTYLE:** Jelena Placemat 14. **CANVAS HOME:** Dauville Dinnerware in Gold and Platinum 15. **ABBOTT:** Large "Do Not Shake..." Gift Sack 16. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Believing Tree Skirt **OH**

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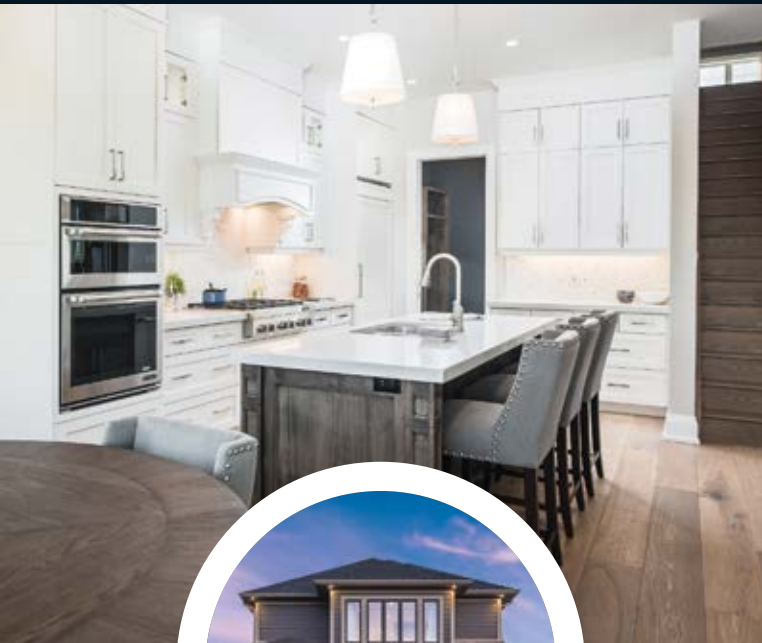
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STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID**
ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

A recent survey by CIBC shows 86 per cent of millennials view home ownership as important even though 42 per cent of them are renting and 21 per cent live with their parents. What about their baby-boomer parents? Will they downsize or stay put? OUR HOMES spoke to two millennials and two boomers about their next move in this hot housing market.

FIRST PURCHASE

First homes for millennials and a house to retire in for boomers may have more in common than we think.

"I imagine myself in a suburb setting, in a single-detached home," says Renée Chaperon, a 32-year-old millennial from Orillia. "I don't want to be downtown. I like to be on the outskirts of a city but still on a serviced lot with easy access to all of the amenities."

Chaperon would like her first home to have an open-concept living space, a large kitchen with a tucked-in eating space and a large entertainment area. "Inside, I like modern, upgraded countertops and cabinetry and a separation of living space versus private space, meaning the bedrooms have to be completely separate from the living space," says Chaperon, whose ideal house size would be 2,000 square feet. Her other must-haves are enough backyard space for barbecues and parking for guests.

Millennial Jordan Milks shares a similar vision. "I like doing dinners, so I'd like a modern large-sized kitchen and living room," says the 22-year-old, who lives in downtown Toronto. "I definitely want to do a kitchen island, something stationary, with modern cabinets, either stainless steel or cherry wood." But Milks doesn't see himself buying his first home in his current neighbourhood. "It would ideally be a detached or semi-detached house, one or two bedrooms, in a place that will begin to gentrify so that property values will go up in a few years," he adds. The suburbs would also give Milks another must-have: a view overlooking green space.

FINAL LIVING SPACE

Greg Ioannou, a boomer with a love for downtown Toronto, wants many of the above features but right in the heart of the city. "I can't stand gardening, so definitely a condo or co-op," says the 62-year-old. "I want to be near restaurants, theatres, grocery stores and the library, so as central as possible."

Ioannou's must-haves include indoor parking for two cars, a dishwasher, decent laundry, a dining room big enough to entertain a dozen guests, a house wired with high-speed Internet plus a good sound system.

"Good soundproofing is a must, too," he says. "I don't want to have to keep my music quiet or have to listen to the neighbour's hip-hop."

Peace and quiet are also important for 66-year-old Linda White. "I would prefer a two-bedroom bungalow, all one level, without stairs, for easy maintenance inside the house," says the Ramara Township resident. "I still enjoy a yard, so a condo would sort of be my last choice."

Despite being afraid of losing mobility as she and her husband age, White says they like the idea of being in a close-knit community-living-style development with other boomers so they don't have to go far to connect and socialize. Alternatively, they'd rather be in the suburbs so they can enjoy a walk outdoors but still be a short drive or bus ride away from downtown.



SIMILAR WANTS

Both generations seem to agree on the necessity of incorporating green practices in their ideal homes.

"I'd like lots of windows and skylights," says millennial Chaperon. "I'd also like a rooftop garden, just to be more self-sustaining and because green roofs help reflect more heat and keep indoors cool and help with water runoff."

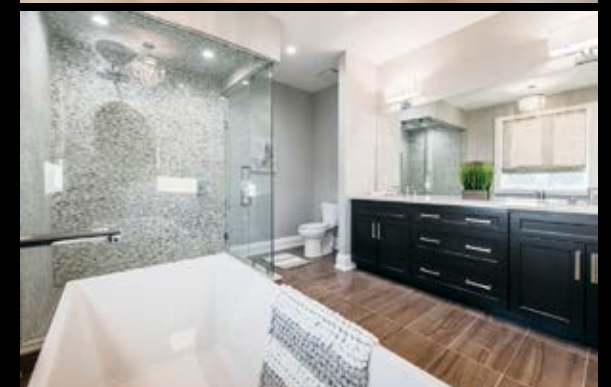
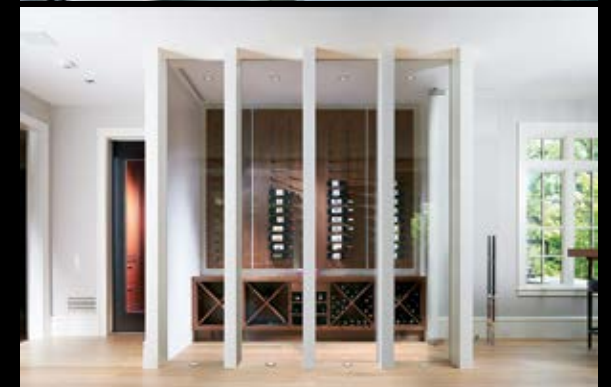
Boomer Ioannou would only opt for green practices that serve a practical rather than ideological purpose, including such features as insulation that cut down heating and cooling costs or solar energy for reducing energy costs.

Millennial Milks, who already leans toward using energy-efficient methods, such as using LED bulbs, would like to incorporate some tech-savvy factors in his first home. "I would look into using technology at home to monitor energy usage remotely," he says. Other green methods would have to stand the test of time before he, like boomer White, would consider using them.

She agrees with Milks and says she would only go for installing proven methods of energy saving and cost cutting, otherwise, it's difficult to splurge on trying out items on a fixed income.

Both groups are eager about energy-saving methods, green spaces, good-sized kitchens and closeness to city amenities. **OH**

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Carefully thought out details, such as the frosted glass door separating the kitchen from the laundry, are what set this open-concept living space – and the rest of this home – apart from others in the neighbourhood.

GLASS HOUSE

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

When two people whose families are experts in building and working on homes come together to build their own first home as a couple, beautiful things are bound to happen.

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Such is the case with **Mike Welton**, whose family owns **Sunvale Homes**, and Meghan Barber, whose family owns Barber Glass (and who is also a sales representative with Guelph's Eve Claxton Realty). At just 25 years old, these two already know a lot about homes and design – and when they got stuck, they turned to their nearest experts: their families.

The pair recently built a living model for Sunvale Homes (Waterloo Region Homebuilders' Association's homebuilder of the year for 2016) in Waterloo's **Woolwich Estates**. The 2,408 sq. ft. home was built to show local customers how they could build a customizable modern home at an obtainable entry price. "It is a product of collaboration of design inspiration from two families with deep roots in the building industry," says Mike. He and Meghan built the home together and each say they learned a lot along the way.

"We are a couple that have a passion for design, building and the housing market," says Meghan. Their complementary skill sets are what helped shape this home and make it so special.

The layout of this particular model was inspired by a home designed by David Small Design in Oakville. Mike oversaw that high-end custom build and was moved to start sketching out his own modern layout with Meghan.

Many of the features in this home are a bit different, and they come together cohesively to form a beautiful finished product. This is Sunvale Homes' most modern build yet and it has been a hit with visitors. "People really like the modern look," says Mike.

The pair purchased their windows and doors from **Golden Windows Limited**. Their flooring, from their brushed oak engineered hardwood to their tiles and carpets, was all purchased through **Sarmazian Bros. Ltd.**

Upstairs, the home has one family bathroom and two secondary bedrooms, one of which Mike and Meghan use as an office, an open-to-below media space, and a grand master suite with a gorgeous en suite bathroom. *Continued on page 46*

TOP LEFT: The new modern build in Woolwich Estates from the exterior. **LEFT:** Homeowners Meghan Barber and Mike Welton custom-designed this home together. They're currently working on a new design for their next home.



LEFT: Waterfall leathered granite creates a frame around the kitchen island, which looks out to the main floor living room. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Fireplaces on both the main and top floor keep the home cosy in winter. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The laundry room is tucked behind the kitchen. **BELOW:** The dining table and art from Barber Gallery were carefully selected in keeping with the cohesive colour scheme on the main floor.



"Lots of people comment on the corner windows and how much natural light comes in through them."

Bright art adds a cheery welcome to the top of the stairs while simpler details, such as the ledge shelf and tall mirrors, let the space speak for itself.

This five-foot wide pivoting wood door was inspired by a door Meghan saw in a restaurant.

The five-foot wide pivoting wood door leading into the master, rather than standard double doors, is a special feature the couple came up with together. Meghan had been inspired by a door she saw in a restaurant, and later photos on Pinterest when she had been scoping out door options for the master bath (which has an equally beautiful sliding barn door) and asked Mike to build the pivoting door. He used reclaimed barn board from Century Wood Products in Marsville and made the design work with the space.

Both the media room and the master bedroom walk out onto top-floor balconies with enough room for sitting areas. They look out over the new neighbourhood in Woolwich Estates.

However, it's the main floor living space, where Meghan and Mike tend to spend most of their time. This room also walks out to a patio, which leads into the backyard.

The kitchen cabinets were built by Barzotti Woodworking Ltd. in Guelph and the leathered granite countertops were purchased through Graniteworx.

It's the windows and glass elements in the home that really make a statement, though. "Lots of people comment on the corner windows and how much natural light comes in through them," says Meghan.

Similarly, Barber Glass not only created the frameless structural glass railings on the floating staircase, which is the first thing you

see when you walk in the front door, but they also installed the master bedroom fireplace, master bath doors, the sliding glass door that separates the kitchen from the laundry room and the range hood and kitchen backsplash, not to mention furniture like a bench in the foyer and the night stands in the master bedroom.

Needless to say, Barber Glass played an integral part in pulling this beautiful home together. Established in 1883, the company has deep roots in working with glass, but they're always trying new designs. Its sister company Barber Gallery is an art, framing and furniture business alongside the glass operation. Most of the art in Meghan and Mike's home comes from Barber Gallery, as does their dining table, buffet and chairs and the stools at their island.

Continued on page 48



TOP: An open alcove has been transformed into a cosy media nook. Behind the sofa, the space walks out to a small balcony. **LEFT:** Meghan and Mike currently use one of the bedrooms as a home office. **ABOVE:** Glass railings from Barber Glass keep the top floor feeling wide open and airy.



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“They definitely came up with some remarkable concepts for the glass, furniture and art products and the house in general,” says Mike. On the other hand, he says he owes his design inspiration to his own parents. Mike has watched them design and build homes for his entire life.

Meghan’s in-depth knowledge of real estate comes from years of working with designers, builders and architects through Barber Glass, and more recently as a sales representative with Eve Claxton Realty in Guelph.

Working and living with Mike has given her an inside look at costing as well, so she can accurately price and list properties for sale – which will come in handy this spring, when she and Mike list this modern build for sale and move to another home nearby. The couple is currently drawing up concepts for their new build and are trying to come up with more innovative ideas to differentiate it from other homes, just as they have with this model.

Next up, Sunvale Homes will be developing some detached homes in Durham region, although they are hoping to procure more lots in Orangeville and Waterloo soon. “We don’t buy anything that isn’t a good location,” says Mike. His own home is a testament to that. **OH**

TOP: A sliding barn door divides the master bedroom from the large en suite. **LEFT:** The master bedroom was made for relaxing – no matter who you are.

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DIY
MERCURY GLASS

STORY AND PHOTOS **LEIGH-ANN ALLAIRE PERRAULT**

From rose gold and copper to aged bronze and muted gold patinas, mixed metallics have been adding shine and glitz in both fashion and interior design this year.

But if you've been hesitant to test drive the latest metal trends, here is a simple and affordable do-it-yourself way to create luxe-for-less mercury glass and bring shine to the festive season ahead.

From a collection of vases on a mantel, to an assortment of glass votives to mark each dining table place setting, you can easily transform any old or inexpensive glassware into a bespoke holiday showpiece.



MATERIALS

- Clear glass vases (I sourced my collection from a dollar store)
- Drop cloth or plastic sheet
- Disposable gloves
- Lint-free rags
- Krud-Kutter Concentrated Cleaner
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup water
- Spray bottle (with mist setting)
- Rust-Oleum Mirror Effect spray paint in gold or silver (gold was used for this project)
- Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch 2X Ultra Cover in Clear Matte


PREPARATION

- Using a lint-free rag and Krud Kutter cleaner, thoroughly clean, rinse and dry the glass surface to ensure that any sticky labels, dust or dirt are removed.
- Fill the spray bottle with one-part water to one-part white vinegar and gently shake to mix.
- In a well-ventilated area, lay a drop cloth on a flat surface and place the first glass item upside down in the centre of the cloth.
- Put on your disposable gloves and shake the can of Mirror Effect spray paint well for about two minutes.

PAINTING

- Holding the Mirror Effect can approximately eight inches away from the glass, apply a light coat of the paint around all glass surfaces.
- As soon as the glass is well coated and while still wet, lightly mist the painted surface with the vinegar and water solution. The mixture will react with the paint to create a speckled, mercury-glass patina.
- Repeat on each of the remaining glass pieces and allow all to dry for approximately 10 minutes.
- To protect the mercury-glass paint finish, apply a light coating of 2X Ultra Cover to all of the glass, allowing it to dry, before placing on display. **OH**

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1. **ARTERIORS**: Sabine Floor Lamp
2. **VANGUARD FURNITURE**: Ava Side Table
3. **RENWIL**: Stardust Table Lamp
4. **ZODAX**: Kyoto Glass Hurricane
5. **CYAN DESIGN**: Hopscotch Filler Ball
6. **ZODAX**: Equestrian Leather, Glass and Brass Hurricane
7. **CYAN DESIGN**: Mirage Tray
8. **SAFAVIEH**: Antwan Gold Coffee Table
9. **COLE & SON**: Folie Parterre Wallpaper in Charcoal
10. **VANGUARD FURNITURE**: Whitaker Sofa
11. **NOURISON**: Prairie Area Rug in Silver
12. **WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME**: Woven Leather Hide Pillow Cover in Tan **OH**



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good taste

SPICED HOT CHOCOLATE AND homemade marshmallows



RECIPE AND PHOTOS **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

Hot chocolate warms short days and chilly nights. Our version not only spikes and spices it up, but homemade marshmallows make it an extra-special, personal treat.

SPICED HOT CHOCOLATE

Serves 2

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ounce semisweet chocolate
- 2 cups milk
- 2 Tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- pinch of cayenne
- pinch of salt
- 1 ounce orange liqueur, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

- Melt chocolate over low heat in a saucepan.
- Add milk, cocoa, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, cayenne and salt and heat on medium-high, whisking constantly until the mixture is smooth and combined.
- Remove from heat.
- As an option for adults, add 1 ounce of orange liqueur before serving.
- Pour into two mugs, top with homemade marshmallows (recipe follows) and brown with a kitchen torch until golden!

HOMEMADE MARSHMALLOWS

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup icing sugar
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup ice cold water
- 3 packages gelatin
- ½ cup water
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1-½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

- Line a 9x9 square baking pan with two sheets of parchment paper, allowing the paper to extend over each edge. Brush the parchment paper with light cooking oil, such as canola, and set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine icing sugar and cornstarch. Set aside.
- In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine ½ cup of ice cold water and gelatin. Let this mixture sit to “bloom,” or thicken, the gelatin. Place the bowl on the stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment – but don’t turn it on just yet!
- In a small saucepan, combine ½ cup water, corn syrup, granulated sugar and salt, cover and heat over medium for 3 to 4 minutes. Do not stir, the sugar will dissolve completely and come to a boil.
- Once boiling, remove the lid and place a candy thermometer to the side of the saucepan. Continue heating until the mixture reaches 240°F, the soft-ball stage. Turn off heat.
- At your stand mixer with the gelatin mix, turn the mixer on medium speed and slowly pour the syrup mixture down the side of the bowl to incorporate with the gelatin. Once incorporated, turn the mixer on high and beat for 10-15 minutes until the mixture becomes thick and looks a bit like soft-serve ice cream. Add vanilla extract during the last minute of mixing.
- Pour mixture in the prepared pan and flatten with a well-oiled spatula.
- Dust the marshmallows with half of the cornstarch-sugar powder. Fold the sides of the parchment paper over the mixture. Let sit for at least four hours or overnight.
- To cut the marshmallows, turn the pan over onto a board dusted with more sugar-cornstarch powder and cut using a pizza cutter or sharp knife. Dust each marshmallow in more of the sugar-cornstarch powder and serve. Store in an airtight container. **OH**

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PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

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PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

BRYAN KLOMP & DAVE ILOTT, Owners KLomPCO Carpentry

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cooking at home

NO-KNEAD BREAD and spreads

RECIPES AND PHOTOS **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

Trust us – you and your guests knead these spreads at your next party!



no-knead bread

INGREDIENTS

3 cups all-purpose flour

½ tsp instant yeast

1½ tsp salt

1½ cups water

- In a large bowl, mix together flour, yeast and salt. Add water and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. The dough will be wet and shaggy looking – this is ok.
- Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for 12 to 18 hours or overnight to rise at room temperature. The risen dough is bubbly and double in size.
- Set oven to 450°F and place a cast-iron pot with lid in the oven to preheat for 30 minutes.
- Meanwhile, turn dough onto a well-floured board and shape into a ball.
- Transfer the dough to a sheet of parchment paper, dust with more flour, cover with plastic wrap and let rise for another 30 minutes.
- Transfer the ball and the parchment paper to the preheated cast iron pot, cover and bake for 30 minutes.
- Remove lid and bake an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove from oven and allow to cool. Remove from pot, peel parchment and serve.

online

Get more recipes at
ourhomes.ca/mag/cook

spreads

SAVOURY TOMATO BACON JAM

INGREDIENTS

(Makes 3 half-pint jars)

1 pound bacon, chopped

1 large white onion,
finely chopped

1 pound roma
tomatoes, chopped

¼ cup brown sugar

1 tsp paprika

¼ tsp chili flakes

1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

Salt and pepper to taste

- Cook bacon over medium heat in a large pot until brown.
- Transfer bacon to a bowl lined with paper towel.
- Discard all but three tablespoons of oil from pot.
- Add onions and cook until translucent, about 4 to 6 minutes.
- Add bacon and the remaining ingredients back to the pot.
- Increase heat slightly and bring to a boil, then lower to simmer and cook for approximately 1 hour or until spread is the consistency of jam.
- Cool, spoon into sterilized jars and close with sterilized lids. Refrigerate and use within one week or preserve by canning. Go to bernardin.ca/stepbystep.htm for instructions.



SPINACH & WALNUT PESTO

INGREDIENTS

(Makes 1 half-pint jar)

About 3 cups of spinach

¼ cup walnuts

2 cloves garlic

¼ cup grated
parmesan cheese

¼ cup olive oil

- In a food processor, add spinach, walnuts, garlic and cheese. Pulse to chop and incorporate all ingredients.
- With the food processor running, slowly drizzle in olive oil.
- Spoon spread into sterilized jar with lid. Refrigerate and consume within one week.

ROASTED GARLIC OIL

INGREDIENTS

(Makes 1 half-pint jar)

2 whole garlic bulbs

¼ cup olive oil

Fresh rosemary and thyme

Salt and pepper

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Slice off the narrow top of the garlic bulb to expose the cloves of garlic inside.
- Place on tinfoil, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Wrap garlic in foil and roast for 20 to 25 minutes until soft.
- Remove from oven and let cool completely. Peel away the skin of the garlic to expose the cloves or squeeze the bulb to push the cloves out.
- Add the roasted garlic, herbs, salt and pepper to a small sterilized jar, cover with olive oil and close with a lid.
- To serve, place a clove on a slice of bread, mash and spread.
- Consume immediately and do not refrigerate.



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finishing touch

PLANK TREES

STORY EMIL MAKKAR & GINA MAKKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

It's beginning to look a lot like winter. These wood trees are a nature-inspired addition to your seasonal décor. Dress up your front porch or keep them indoors. Add twinkle lights or garland to incorporate them into your festive designs.

For this project, we used pine boards. Want something more rustic? Make them from pallets or reclaimed wood. We produced a 3-plank tree, a 4-plank tree and a 5-plank tree. Add layers to make your trees as large as you like!

HOW-TO:

- Set your mitre saw to 30 degrees.
- Cut the triangle for the treetop by mitre-cutting the end of one board, flipping the board and cutting the third side of the triangle.
- To cut the plank below the treetop, line your board up against the triangle and mark one inch on either end to offset your miter cut and create the desired layer effect.
- For cutting subsequent layers, offset the board up against the preceding cut piece so that the layered tree effect will remain uniform.
- Mock up one tree, measure its total height, add 2 to 3 inches and cut a tree trunk to that length. Repeat for all trunks.
- Sand any rough edges of your pieces.
- Stain your tree and trunk pieces and let dry. We mocked up our trees to know which shades we wanted on each layer.
- Once dry, apply a bead of wood glue to the trunk. Line up your tree layers and press them gently to the trunk to adhere. Extend the trunk at least 4 inches below the bottom layer to create a good-sized trunk.
- Once dry, turn over and fasten 1-inch wood screws through the trunk to the back of each plank. **OH**

MATERIALS:

For the trees: Three 1x5x8 boards

For the trunks: Three 1x3x4 boards

Measuring tape

Pencil to mark cuts

Mitre saw

120-grit sandpaper

Wood stain in one or more shades (we used Minwax Early American, Old Grey and Dark Walnut)

Stain brushes

Wood glue (we used Lepage)

Screwdriver or power drill with screwdriver bit

1-inch wood screws



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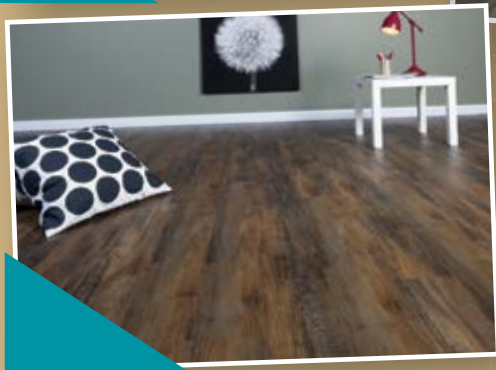
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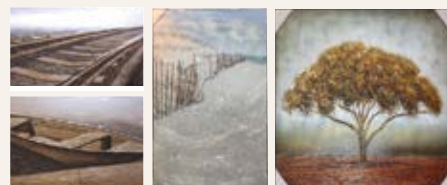
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