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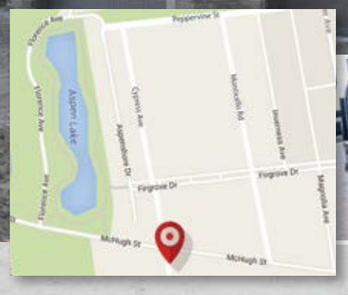

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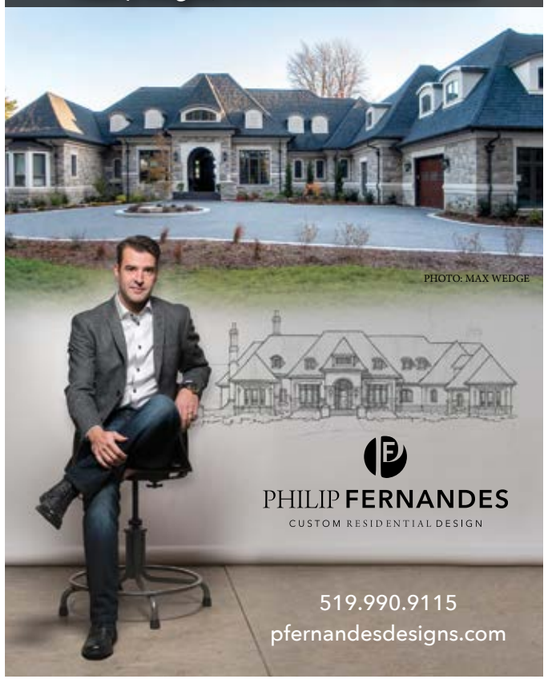

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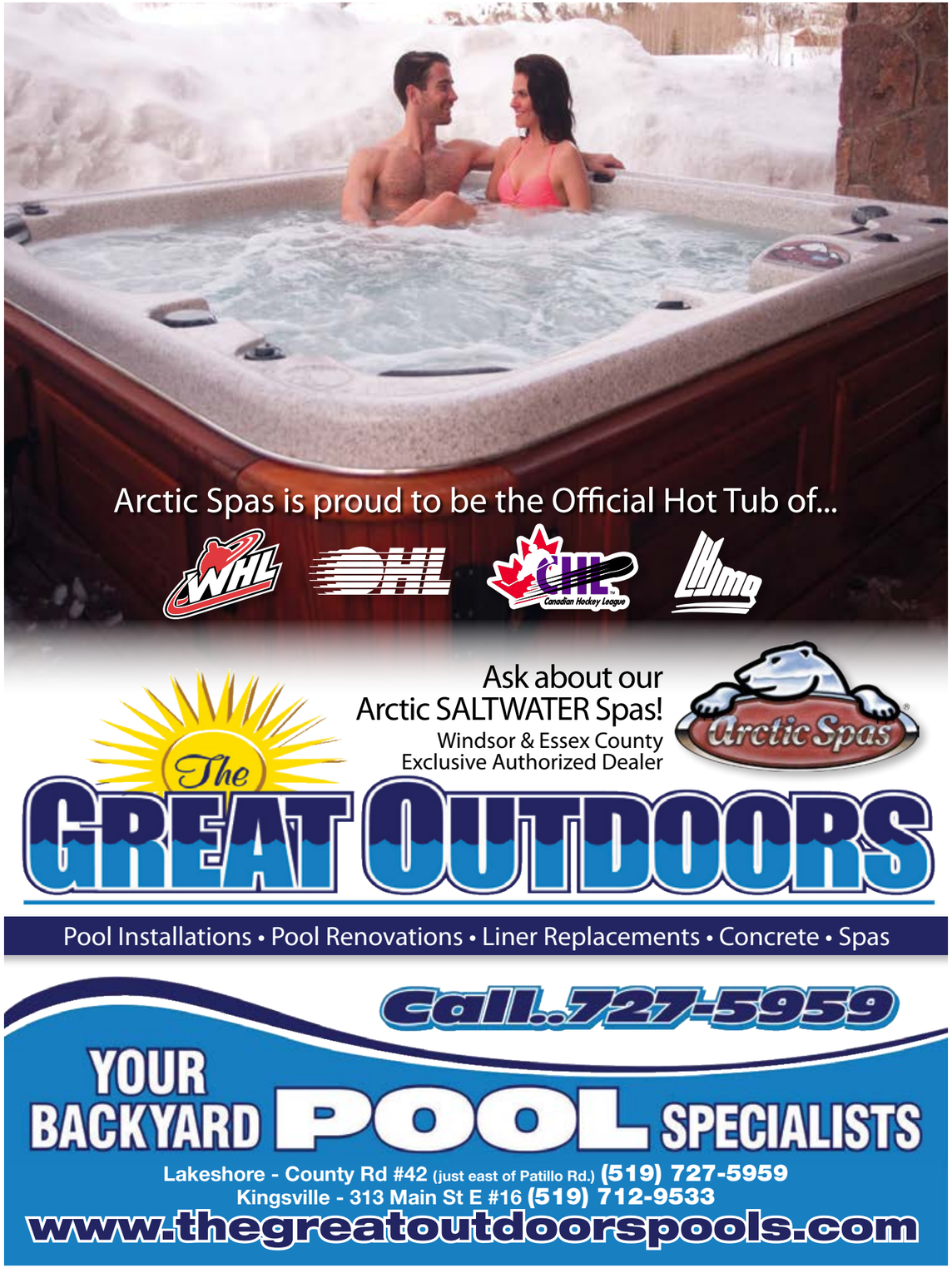

WHAT IS IT ABOUT SNOW? I could, and have been known to, go on and on about the beauty of snow. And if that makes you want to rip this page from the magazine I do apologize. But consider this. Snow is one of nature's miracles. It's actually true that no two snowflakes are alike and just think for a moment about the wonder of that – all those crystals growing into a snowflake that is mathematically impossible to duplicate. When winter comes it brings a gentle sort of peace with it. Everything quiets down. We stay indoors blanketed, buffered, protected from the noise and haste and we remember "what peace there may be in silence." For me, snow is a generous permission slip from Mother Nature to relax, rest and reflect.

In winter, the animal world comes to my door. Bright flashes of a crimson cardinal and the intense blue of a cocky jay catch my eye, along with the serviceable grey and dun feathers of the sparrows. They all visit my bird feeder twice a day. Squirrels sit on the snow-capped patio table that I forgot to put away, eating the black walnuts they dig up from their caches under the frosted hydrangeas. Other tracks crisscross my yard. Who has been here?

The maple tree out my window is bare, its branches stark against the sky like Japanese calligraphy. There are books stacked on my side table and a kettle whistling on the stove. Later there will be a visit from my son and his girlfriend. We might walk under the stars, down to the lake to breathe in the intoxicating smell of snow. At the lake, the ice formations are sculptural wonders.

For me, winter is a cherished break in the hustle and bustle. I wonder why more people don't see it that way.

I will see you again in spring, friends.

Peace. Out.

Nancy

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Sleek reno gives a 90s home a brand new life. Story, page 22. *Photography by Max Wedge.*

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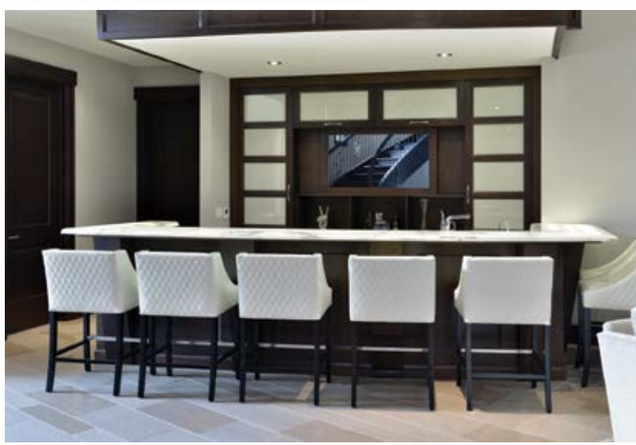

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

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. VESOI:** Infedele Suspension Light **4. ARTEMIDE:** Chlorophilia **5. FLOS:** Arco Floor Lamp **6. BULBRITE:** LED Filament Bulbs

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FIRST HOUSE LAST HOUSE

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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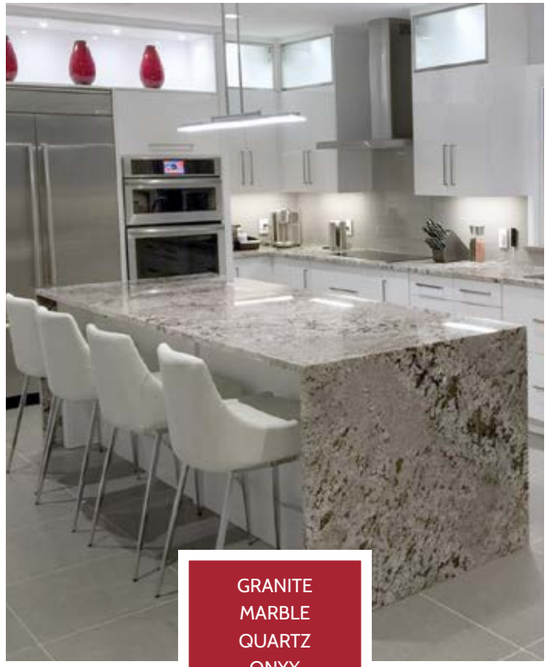

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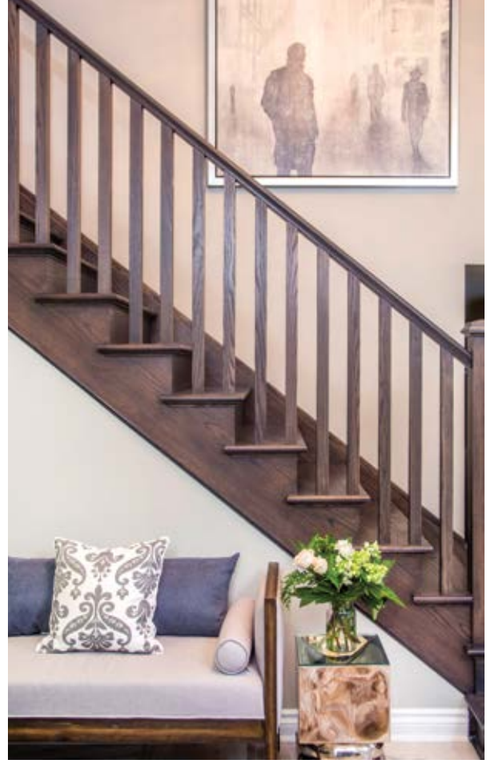
BETTER AND BETTER

STORY **NANCY BELGUE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

Renovating a home is often full of surprises. But perhaps the most surprising thing for this homeowner was that once she started, she didn't want to stop.

Continued on page 24

With the help of Designer Danielle Nicholson, carefully curated art and accessories have transformed this home into a true statement of the homeowner's personality. **BOTTOM:** The small but efficient kitchen was designed to be modern and timeless. **RIGHT:** The foyer is an elegant, welcoming space. The staircase was rebuilt and expanded to create an impressive entryway.



Danielle Nicholson of Danielle Nicholson Design

2017 is an exciting year for designer Danielle Nicholson as it will see the launch of a storefront location at 3055 Dougall Ave. "It's a dream come true," says Nicholson of her new venture. "I will be featuring private label Canadian-made furniture and accessories in the furniture boutique but I'll also be able to assist people who want design advice but are not in the market for a full-scale design project. It will be a place to browse, talk, get advice and see great merchandise." The boutique will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment.

Under the skillful guidance of designer Danielle Nicholson (**Danielle Nicholson Design**) the 2,800 square foot home was brought out of the 90s and into 2016. "Everything Danielle was doing was so beautiful we just kept going," the homeowner says of her lengthy renovation.

"What started as a kitchen refresh became a gut job," Nicholson remembers. "Originally we were going to redo the kitchen and get some new furniture to update some of the other rooms and the next thing we knew it was three years later and I was still here."

The new kitchen (**Wayne's Custom Woodcraft**) was the starting point and Nicholson redesigned it to be clean, fresh and modern. She replaced the dated cupboards with shaker-style cabinetry and linear nickel-toned hardware. A grey, glass subway tile backsplash and a grey-flecked, granite-topped kitchen island keep the look contemporary and timeless. The installation of the new grey hardwood flooring (**Roma Tile**), however, was the real game changer. "As we figured out the flooring," Nicholson recalls, "we discussed also replacing the living room flooring to create some continuity and flow. So even though there was relatively new hardwood in the living room area, the homeowner loved the look of the new floor so much she decided to carry it through the entire main level."

Once the kitchen and dining room were transformed, the homeowner realized the rest of the home needed to reflect the same modern, updated aesthetic. The tiles in the front foyer were replaced with oversize greige porcelain tiles and a stunning crystal chandelier was installed (**The Lighting Boutique & Appliance Shoppe**).

Next up was the staircase. "We discussed whether to paint the existing railing but in the end we decided to rip it out, replace it and build a completely new stairwell," Nicholson says. The extra-wide stairs, stained in a deep charcoal colour transform the entryway.

As the main-floor renovation neared completion and began to reflect a single vision, it was time to tackle the décor. "I like to create a look that is timeless," Nicholson says. "And this homeowner was willing to invest in some classic pieces that she will have forever." The hand-knotted, wool, living room rug is a beautiful fusion of grey and cream in a traditional eastern pattern. Nicholson framed a selection of personally selected, unique black and white photographs that reflect the homeowner's interests. In fact, the choice of artwork is a particular talent of Nicholson's. "I spend a lot of time sourcing images that are truly meaningful for the homeowners," she says. "I have used everything from old architectural prints to family photographs to mementos to create an individual expression of a person's life. I oversee the matting and framing. It's a labour of love for me."

Continued on page 26

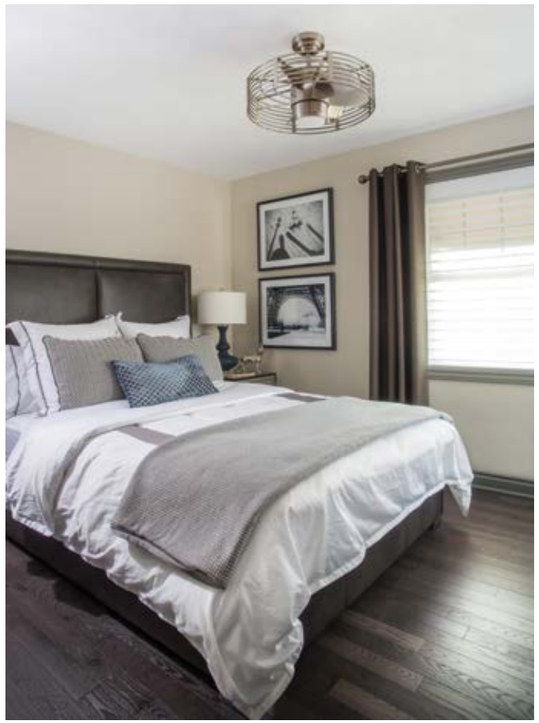
FAR LEFT: Every inch of the "hang-out" room is put to good use thanks to the clever use of built-ins like this desk in an otherwise unusable alcove. **LEFT:** The accessories throughout the home add visual interest and touches of glamour. **BELOW:** More built-ins, a sectional sofa and a coffee table that can double as extra seating make the hang-out room a perfect place for the homeowner's teenage son to gather with his friends.

The collection of four, art deco informed mirrors on the den wall and the bracelet-cuff coffee table amp up the cool glamour of the room that is the homeowner's "escape." There's no TV in the room, which is to the immediate left of the foyer. "It's a place for reading and conversation," Nicholson says. Accordingly the furnishings were chosen to give it a clean, modern feel. The charcoal leather chairs with sculptured chrome backs and legs are reminiscent of an Eames silhouette. The linen-upholstered chaise was selected for its open-ended design, which invites the eye into the space instead of cutting it off as would a traditional armed sofa. There is meticulous consideration to every design choice. And no more is that evident than in the "hang-out" room on the second floor. Converted from an extra bedroom, the space had a number of challenges including coved, sloped ceilings and limited square footage. To maximize the space Nicholson had Wayne's Custom Woodcraft create a series of cleverly configured built-ins in a dark-stained wood. A fireplace (**Scotts Fireplaces**) was built into the wall (**Dekko Mantels of Stone**) and a custom-made coffee table artfully conceals four ultra suede covered cubes that double as extra seating. Every inch is functional. *Continued on page 28*

Nicholson also transformed the master bedroom with bedding from **Beddazzle Bedroom & Bathroom Studio** and sleek window coverings (all window coverings are by **Decorating Ideas**) that give the room a clean and restful boutique hotel feel.

It's clear that the success of the ongoing project has brought the homeowner a deep satisfaction. She has recently purchased a new home around the corner from her present residence and renovation plans are underway. "This time, we are doing it differently," says the homeowner. "I have learned a lot from our first collaboration and know now that having a master plan will make the project easier and faster. No more working room by room. We will have it all figured out and done before we move in."

In the meantime, the current home is a lovely way station. "It's just awesome," the homeowner says. "So awesome, I wish I could take it all with me." One thing she will be taking with her in the move, however, is Nicholson. "This time I have the luxury of doing it differently but the excitement is still the same. It's like having a baby. At first you say you are never going to do it again, but when it's here you love it so much you would do it all over again tomorrow." OH



TOP: The master bedroom has a calm, boutique-hotel feel. Bedding is by Beddazzle Bedroom & Bathroom Studio. **RIGHT:** The second bedroom features shades of taupe and cream. Perfect for the homeowner's son.

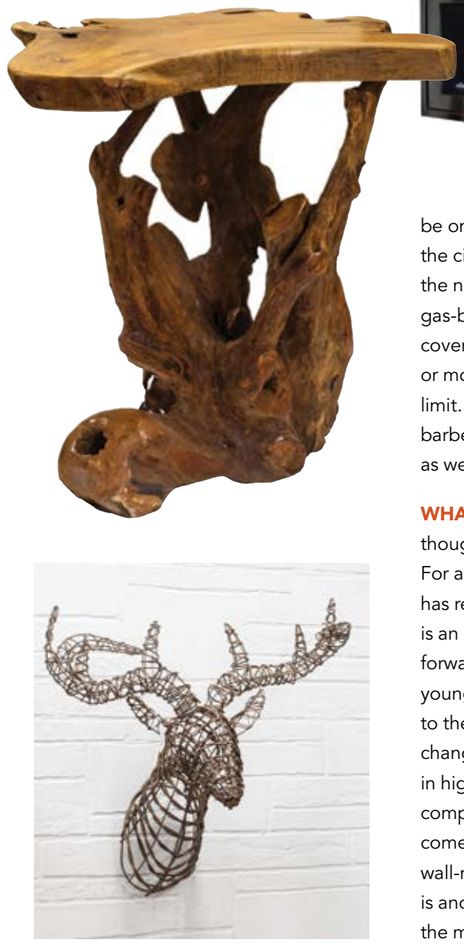
THE HEARTH OF YOUR HOME

PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

Tom and Susie Licausi with their son John, who is taking over the reins of the business his parents founded in 1984.

THE PLACE: Forest Glade Fireplaces' brand-new, design-forward, 3,000 sq. ft. showroom has opened its doors. Celebrating the latest in fireplace design and technology, the new showroom is an absolute must-see for homeowners, designers and anyone wanting to see the range of possibilities available to them.

THE STYLE: Because it's a family owned and operated business, professional know-how and personal service take centre stage. It was this commitment to customer satisfaction along with the desire to bring the best-of-the-best to Windsor and Essex County that propelled the original Forest Glade Fireplaces to be one of the most trusted retailers in the city. The new showroom takes it all to the next level. There are 20 displays of gas-burning fireplaces specifically built to cover a range of options – from traditional or modern to budget-friendly or sky's-the-limit. There is also an impressive array of barbecues, stoves, inserts and accessories as well as fireplace units on display.



WHAT'S HOT: Everything! Seriously though, the trend is what's "not hot." For a sleeker, more modern style, glass has replaced the traditional screen. It is an innovation that is not only design-forward but also ideal for families with young children as the glass stays cool to the touch. LED lights with ever-changing colour palettes continue to be in high demand. They are smart phone compatible, very contemporary and come in a range of traditional and linear wall-mount designs. The HeliFire 360 is another bold product that appeals to the modern aesthetic. Its long, luxurious flame makes a dramatic design statement and creates an outstanding focal point in any room.

FAVOURITES: The expansive new showroom has ample room for more accessories and furniture than ever before. One of the most arresting lines of furniture is the beautifully unique indoor/outdoor teak tables. Whether you choose one for an outdoor bar or an indoor coffee table, each piece is different and will make an outstanding organic design statement for years to come.

SEASONAL: With winter upon us, the Napoleon HDX 52 with a realistic flame will make you think of cosy mountain lodges and evenings spent drinking mulled wine while reading in front of a blazing fire.

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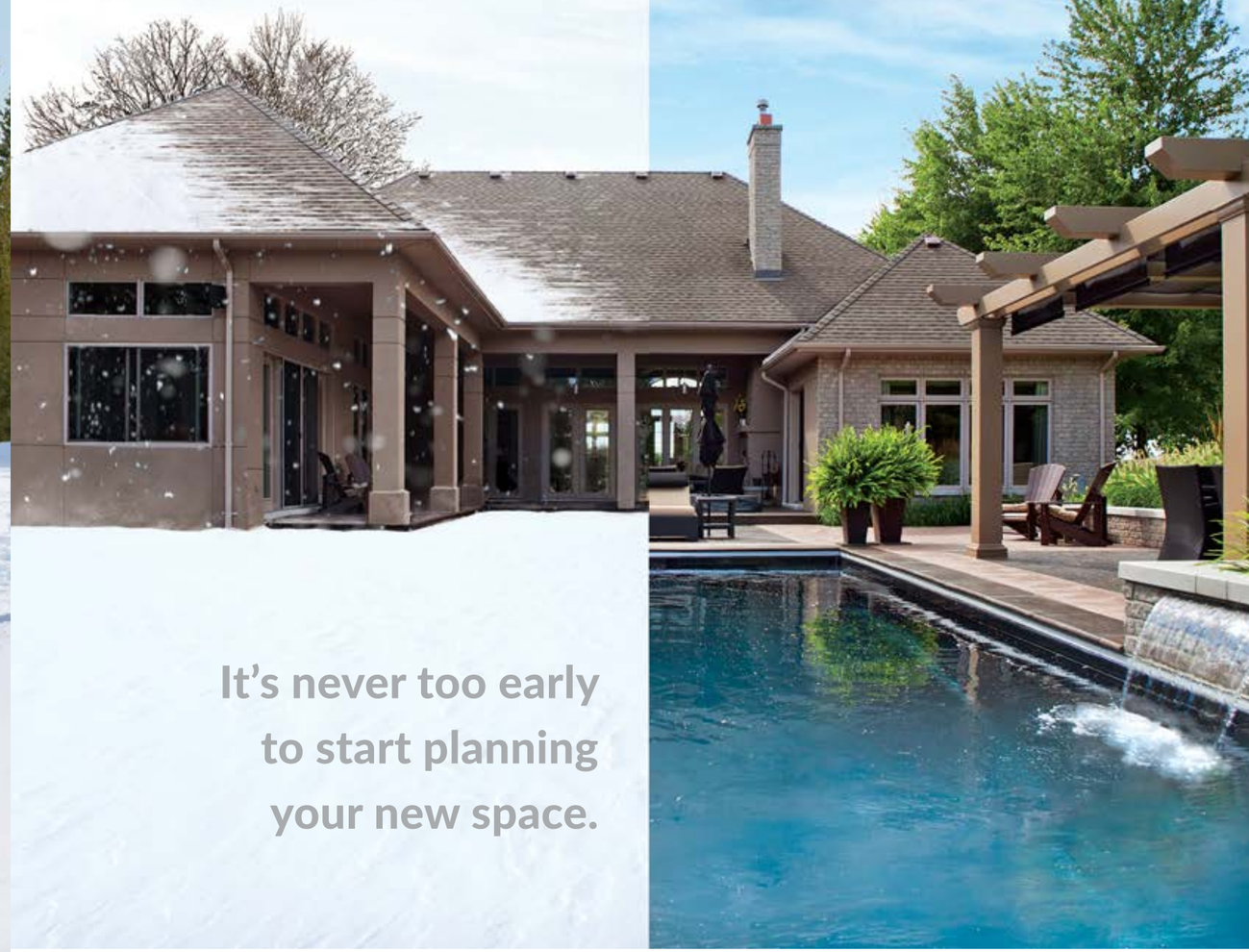

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The golden rays of summer sunlight streaming through our windows to brighten our interiors are slowly fading away. It's the time of year to capture every bit of light, so our interiors continue to glow until our sunny summer appears once again.

STORY & ROOM DESIGN **JACKIE GLASS**
ROOM PHOTOGRAPHY **PAUL CHMIELOWIEC**

My Jackie Glass Inc. design team creates spaces that look sunny, bright and airy all year-round. Generating light in a space is key to how comfortable and happy a room can make our family and guests. Think about how a dark sky at night can be cold and ominous but when the stars are twinkling bright, the dark universe comes alive and makes us feel happy and amazed. We want to linger and enjoy every little twinkle, no matter the size.

The smallest hint of sparkle can instantly bring a room to life. Every room in the house, whether light or dark, can benefit from a little shine. From the bathroom to the kitchen, when you add reflective elements to a space, it is suddenly transformed and becomes an attractive room you want to live in.

Both artificial and natural light from light fixtures and windows brighten every room. Reflective metals, glass and mirror accents will enhance these light sources and bounce reflected light around the room, adding life and personality.

For me, I love to maximize and capture light in a room with reflective gilded decorative elements that feature either decadent polished or demure matte finishes. Whether you fancy gold leaf or polished brass for a touch of glam or prefer champagne gold, rose gold or aged brass for a more classic look, they'll all elevate your décor with the Midas touch.

« Pairing golden tones with dark wood and dark neutral colours like royal blue or the rich purple velvet chairs (as shown here in my client's living room) makes a regal statement in an otherwise traditional room. Set against walls and draperies in whispery golden tones, gilded accents like the lamps, cocktail tables and mirrors truly make the room sparkle and draw the eye toward the light and around the room. *Continued on page 36*

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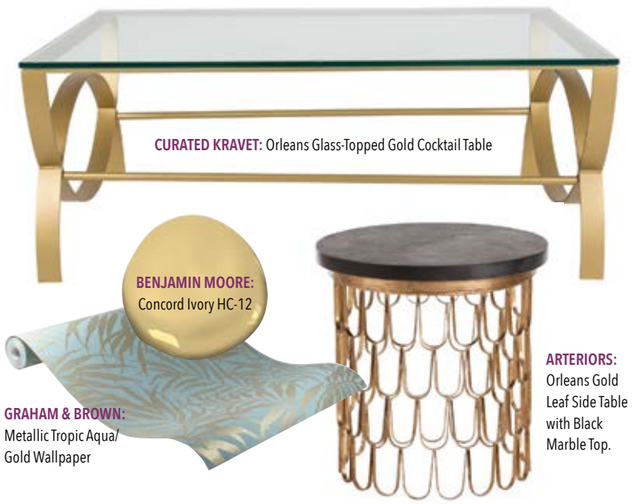
In the lovely dining room, adjacent to the living room, an elegant chandelier with matching wall sconces adds light to the space in more ways than one. The room sparkles even when the lights are turned off with the lighting's soft champagne-gold finish. Notice how the art captures the golden tones of the light fixtures while capturing the colour palette of the living/dining room to complete the space.



Use golden accents in small doses so they don't compete but rather complete the space. Even the smallest touches of shine, whether matte or polished in golden, brassy or rosy tones, will add a golden glint you can't ignore.

If you want to make a truly stunning statement in a room, introduce large objects like a glass-top table with a gold base or a large work of art or sculpture in an entrance hall or living room. Chandeliers, floor lamps, walls and draperies in warm golden hues will set off any neutral palette and satisfy our need for brilliant beams of sunlight to warm our souls, brighten our days and lift our spirits until the return of summer's sunbeams. OH

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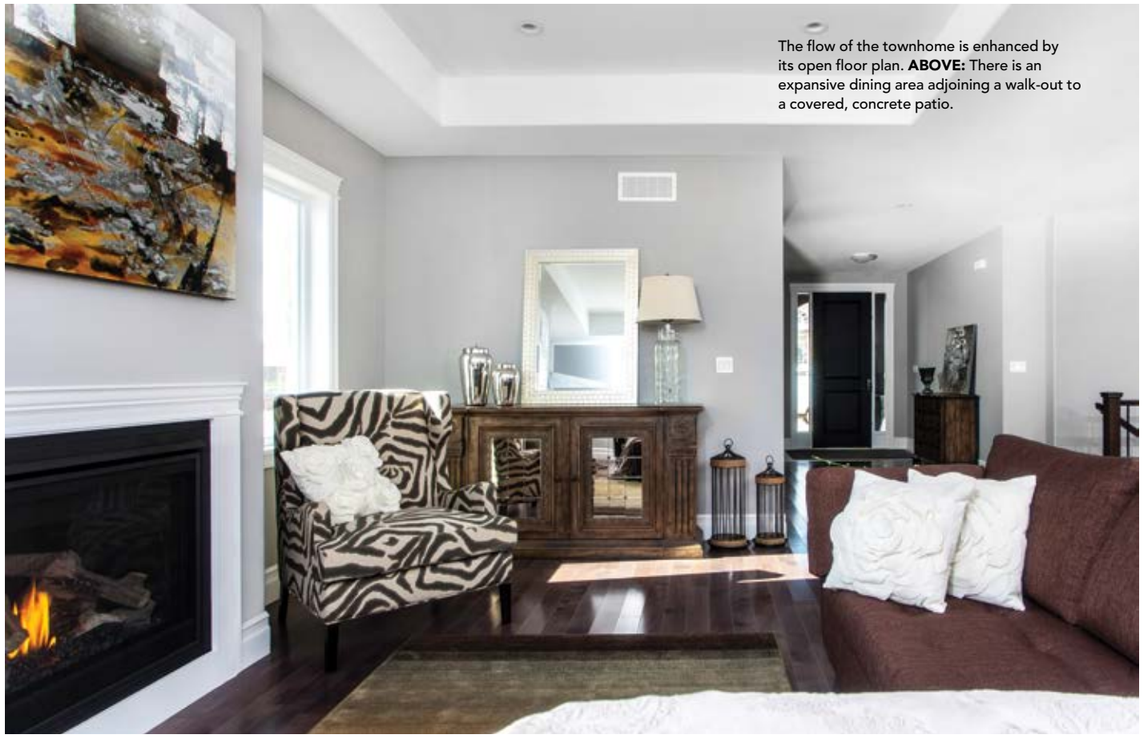
Style AND SUBSTANCE

STORY **NANCY BELGUE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

Furnishings throughout the townhome are by The Room at Coulter's Interior Design Services.

Knowing what people want is an art. Building what people want is a craft. Putting these two things together is a revelation. The result of two years of careful planning and refining, the **Townhomes of Aspen Lake** combine style and substance at a surprisingly affordable price.

Continued on page 40



The flow of the townhome is enhanced by its open floor plan. **ABOVE:** There is an expansive dining area adjoining a walk-out to a covered, concrete patio.

With the townhomes selling briskly, it is clear that **Imperial Homes** has understood the wants and needs of those who want a lock-and-leave lifestyle. Real estate agent **Kim Gazo** explains that, "these homes are perfect for people who want the luxury of a condo lifestyle but don't want to deal with things like underground parking and elevators." The development has attracted a loyal following. As Gazo tells it, "I have clients who are so pleased with their new home they bring their friends to look at the homes because they want to recreate their old neighbourhood. I can trace a chain of friends three or four long who have either purchased or referred each other to the development."

Andrew Smith, Gazo's co-listing agent, agrees. "I worked with the builder for two years modifying the original drawings and tweaking the floor plan just so we could make these townhomes as perfect as possible," he says. "These models come fully loaded and the purchase price includes the kind of luxury finishes that are associated with custom builds." From the poured concrete driveway and the hardwood floors (**The Floor Store**), to the granite countertops (**Dimanti Stone Works**) in both the kitchen and bathrooms, the homes exude an understated elegance and luxury, rare for a beginning price point of $259,900.

Aspen Lake, for which the development is named, and the Ganatchio Trail both provide ample opportunity for outdoor recreation. **LEFT:** The townhomes are elegant, stylish, and feature a number of high-end finishes.

Kim Gazo

Andrew Smith

The development's architecturally designed exterior facade features an appealing combination of stone, stucco and brick in a soothing natural palette of grey, brown and taupe. The grace notes are plentiful. Most front doors are eight-feet high with sidelights and transom. The windows are tastefully coloured to match the facade – which boasts an extra design feature: ornamental stucco mouldings.

Inside, the open floor plan has been carefully laid out with soaring nine-foot-high ceilings and abundant, oversize windows that maximize the natural light. From the generous foyer, the eye sweeps over the kitchen (**Mylen Custom Kitchens**), dining area and family room. A gas fireplace (**Forest Glade Fireplaces**) gives the room a cosy ambience on a cold winter afternoon. The grey hardwood floors are sophisticated and on-trend. The entire home is done in a neutral palette of grey and cream.

While the proportions are generous, it is clear this is a home that has the sophisticated, luxury-oriented downsizer in mind. "It's not really downsizing," Gazo reflects, "it's smart-sizing."

The master bedroom suite comprises a walk-in closet and en suite bathroom with double vanity and expansive, glass-enclosed, walk-in shower (fixtures by **EMCO, The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom**). "We don't want anyone to feel they've sacrificed convenience, space or style when they move into a smaller home," reiterates Smith. "That's why we've designed 10-foot trey ceilings in the family room and master bedroom. It was our goal to make these townhomes the perfect option for people wanting a simpler yet sophisticated lifestyle."

Located literally one minute from the Ganatchio Trail and Aspen Lake, the development is in an ideal location. "There are ducks and even a family of swans that live on the lake," says Gazo. "Two thousand trees have been planted in the area and it is home to a variety of wildlife. The trail connects our residents with miles of walking and biking trails. It's a serene backdrop and a perfect place to enjoy the outdoors." *Continued on page 42*

TOP: The master bedroom features a trey ceiling, a large walk-in closet and hardwood floors.
ABOVE: The master bedroom en suite has a double vanity, granite countertops and an oversize shower.

In addition to the natural attractions virtually on the doorstep, the development offers homeowners close proximity to major transportation routes. The E.C. Row Expressway is only a few minutes away, as is Hwy. 401. Bus routes are nearby. And for social life and entertainment needs, the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre (WFCU), home to a highly recognized seniors' centre as well as the Windsor Spitfires hockey team, is within walking distance.

Gazo also points out that because the amenities in the general area appeal to a wide demographic, there isn't a sense of isolation that can come with being in a neighbourhood that reflects the needs of seniors. "There's a dynamic feeling that families and young people bring to a place," she says.

Gazo and Smith, both realtors with **Deerbrook Real Estate**, are both highly qualified and popular agents who have been working with Imperial Homes since the beginning. In January 2017, Gazo is poised to take up her three-year term as president of Windsor Essex County Realtors. "I always loved diggers," she laughs. "I told my mom that I wanted to work in construction. I enjoy giving people the details on their 35-year roof with under padding. And I find our customers are really informed and appreciate someone who can really get into it with them."

Smith has a passion for construction as well. His grandfather started Smith Brothers Excavating and he's built five homes of his own. "I really love the design process," he says. Smith has his own company within Deerbrook Real Estate – **Andrew J. Smith Real Estate** where he is the broker of record.

With experience like this, prospective homeowners can rest assured that they are in good hands. Both agents care deeply about their clients and want to make absolutely sure they find the best home for their needs. "These units are selling well," they say. "They truly offer a combination of price point and finishes that are hard to beat."

The 88 units on Cypress will be completed by late 2017. After that, two more streets are on the plans with 90-95 units each. Phase one sold out quickly and phase two is already 50 per cent sold. "We can barely keep up with the demand," say Gazo and Smith.

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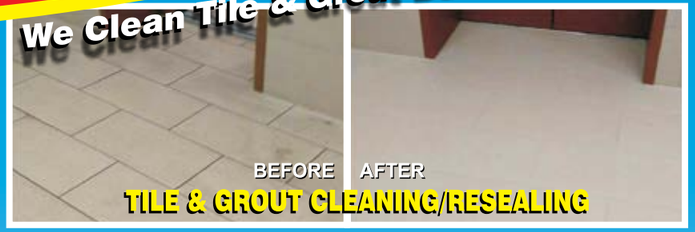

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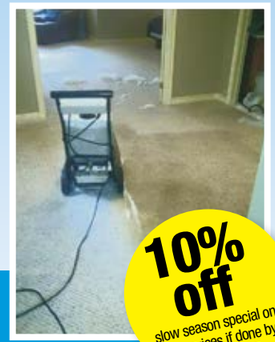

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double take

TEXTURAL *healing*

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PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

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
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12. WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME: Woven Leather Hide Pillow Cover in Tan **OH**

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- 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 to18 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.

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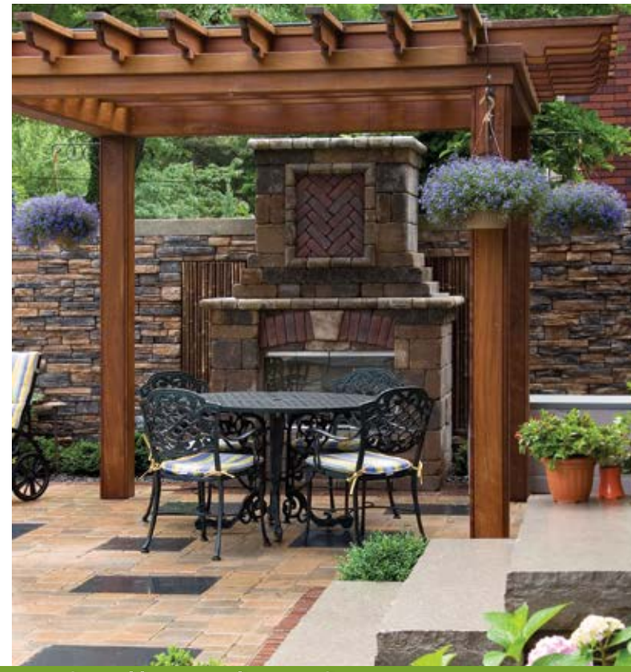

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DIVERSE DESIGN

STORY **NANCY BELGUE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

Drew Coulson stands in front of the window of the home he is building on River Road in Amherstburg, his back to the floor-to-ceiling wall of glass that frames the moving panorama of the Detroit River. "I started my company to challenge myself," he says. "I love contemporary design but my guiding principle has been to take on projects that allow me to be as diverse as possible."

Coulson Design Build, the company Coulson started in 2002 has thrived on exactly that kind of challenge. Coulson's work is eclectic, smart and designforward. "I encourage my clients to exceed the building codes' energy and environmental targets," he says. "I pride myself in taking all the latest technology and building houses that are as green as possible while at the same time pushing the design envelope. Right now we are building a house with a live roof," Coulson continues. He is clearly ignited with energy at the idea. "It will be the first of its kind in Windsor or Essex County."

An avid skier and bit of a "snow bum" Coulson has spent many vacations on the west coast. While he enjoys the sport aspect of his vacations, he also enjoys soaking up the west coast styles of architecture. Several of his homes reflect a decidedly west coast vibe.

Growing up in Windsor, Coulson was always interested in design and architecture. He put himself through the architectural program at St. Clair College by working in construction. It was a useful way to get to know the business from the ground up and has proven invaluable in giving him a hands-on perspective when it comes to design. After graduating from college, Coulson worked with Windsor architect Joe Passa focusing primarily on the commercial side of the business. It was following that, while working with a high-end design firm in Detroit, that Coulson honed his design skills. During this six-year period he also branched into freelance residential design work and found he not only thrived on the independence, he enjoyed building relationships with his own clients. Once he started his own business he hasn't looked back. His small crew consisting mostly of family, make, as he says, "a company of seven very dedicated, very reliable, very motivated workers."

Coulson has completed over 200 projects since he's been in business and has garnered numerous local awards and has been a 3X finalist at national level for the CHBA's Awards of Housing Excellence. He's justifiably proud of that achievement and stresses that his company is as happy to take on renovation projects as it is to build from the ground up. "I think that communication is one of the most important parts of what we do, and I enjoy renos and custom homes because they really make me think creatively. It's all about honesty," he continues. "When I create your design, from the beginning, we work to achieve the vision you want. While we are happy to work with architects, more often than not we do the design work. We consult with people in their own homes. We encourage them to come out to the site and see what we're doing. It's their house and a big investment. It's a partnership that requires collaboration and patience in order to achieve your dreams."

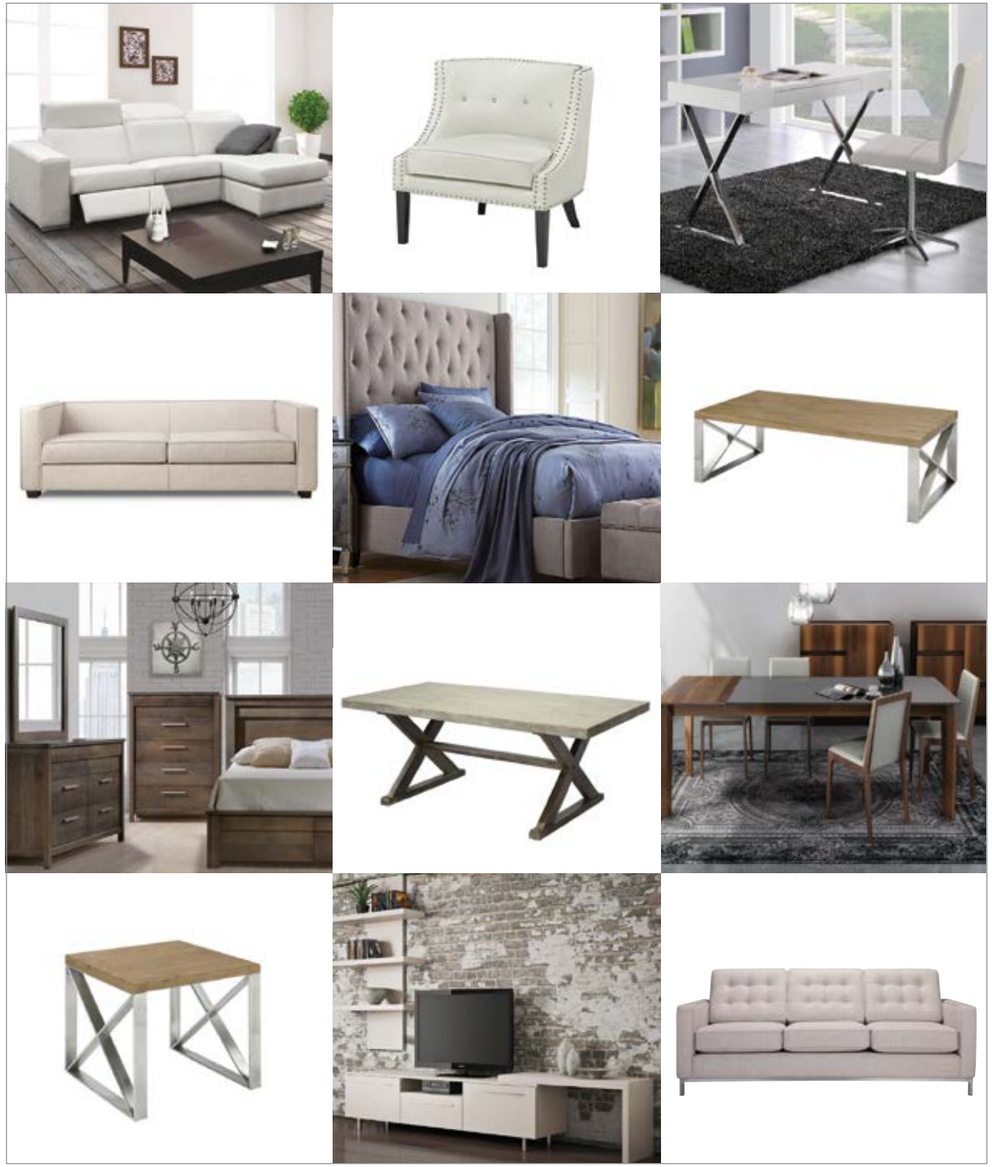
Coulson has been an Amherstburg resident since 1984. Married to Kary, his high school sweetheart, Coulson graduated from General Amherst High School where his wife now teaches. The Coulsons have two daughters Halle (13) and Hanna (10).

The sky darkens in the window behind him. One of the trades comes in to ask a question. Coulson handles it deftly and decisively. "The trades I work with are fantastic," he comments as he rolls up a blueprint and heads out to the front yard. He jumps into his truck, on his way to look over the project that will push the envelope with its forward-thinking environmental design. As he pulls out of the driveway he adds one last thought.

"I'm going to make you happy no matter what it takes," he says. **OH**

PHOTO: DAN REAUME

PHOTO: DAN REAUME



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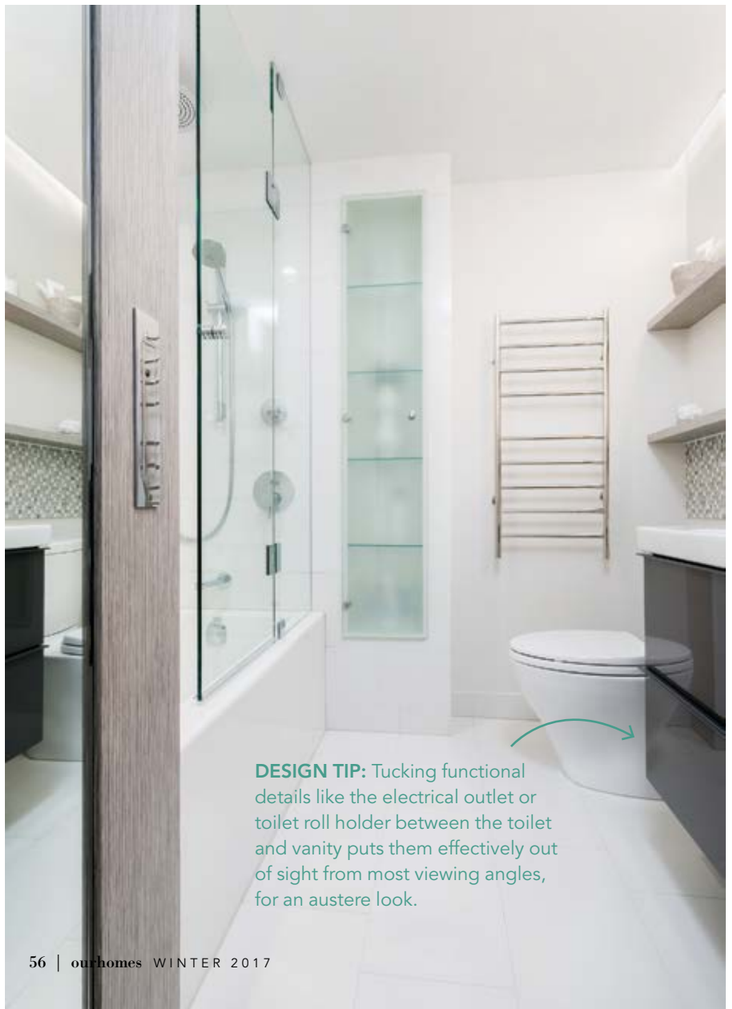
INDOOR escape

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.

PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE



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.

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.

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.

1. WARMLYYOURS: Infinity Towel Warmer, Hardwired with Programmable Timer **2. NOVATTO:** Waterfall Lav Faucet with Clear Glass **3. LUNADA BAY TILE:** Tommy Bahama 1 x 1 Offset Mosaic in Kangaroo Island **4. CUTLER KITCHEN & BATH:** 36-inch, Four-Drawer Boardwalk Vanity

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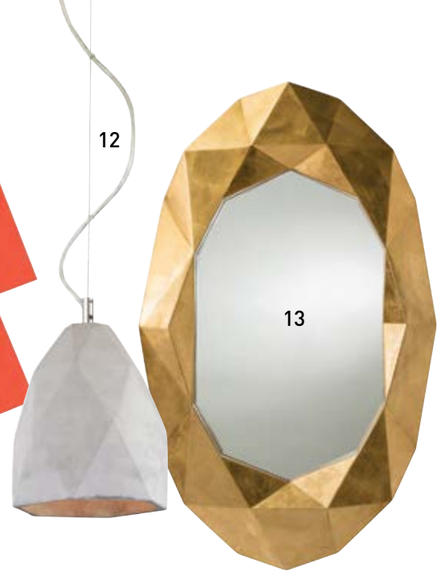
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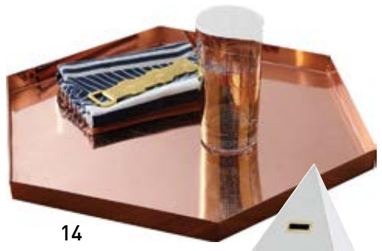
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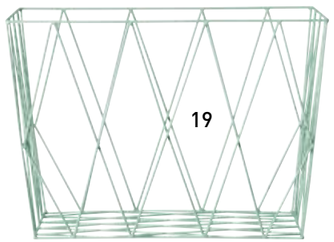
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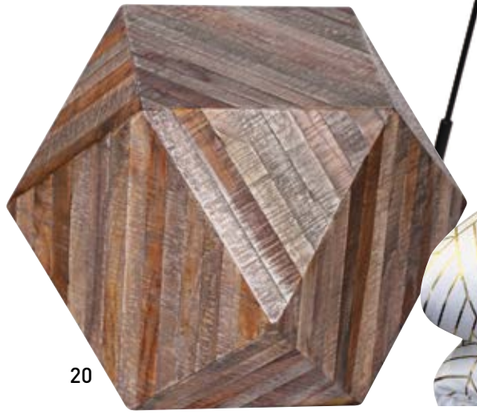
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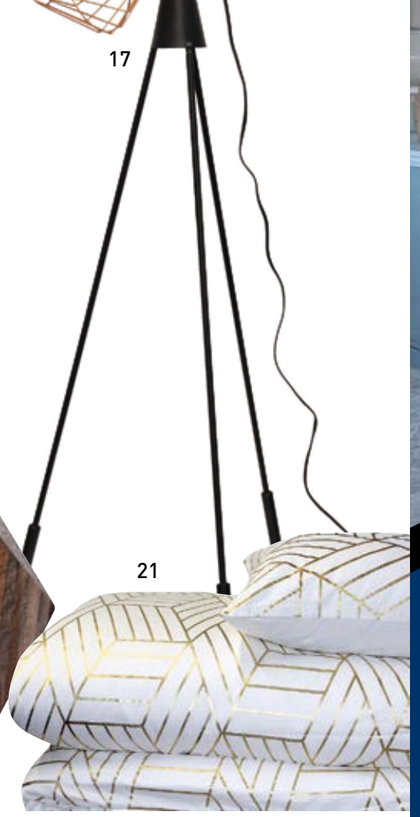
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