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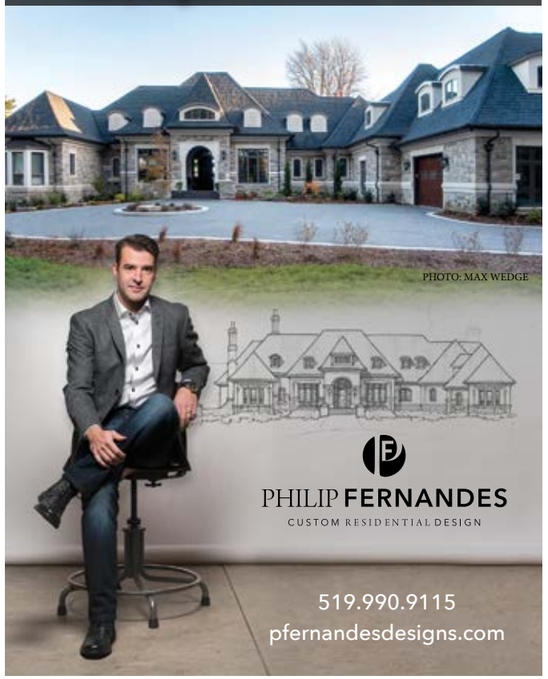

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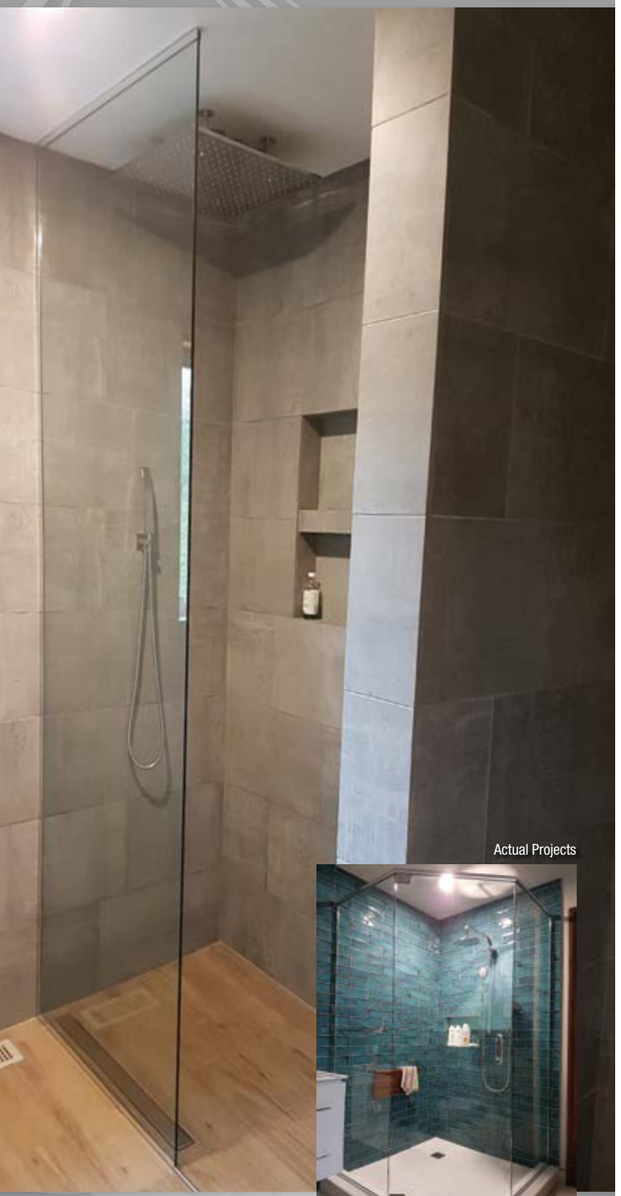

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editor's note

"Our homes nurture our spirits and give solace to our hearts."

A LONG WINTER'S NAP; even now those words have a magical appeal but I especially loved them as a child.

They conjure up Mom and Pop in nightcaps and a reindeer-pulled sleigh backlit by a winter moon. But they also evoke the glow of a bedside lamp, piles of pillows, stuffed animals arranged at the foot of the bed and a window with a slice of night sky that was all my own.

As I worked in my garden, putting it to bed, I imagined the bulbs settling in for a long sleep, gathering energy for their spring glory. My backyard raccoons disappear, going into semi-hibernation, staying in their dens for weeks at a time.

In my den, it's time to clean the closets, sort, pass on, or re-read dearly loved books. Soon, I'll pull out my mother's old recipe box and make a loaf of her famous oatmeal and molasses bread. I love to fill the house with good smells at this time of year – smells that take me back to the cold winter nights when coming in out of a snowstorm I was met with a blast of hot air and the knowledge that supper was on the stove.

There's an owl that sits in the white birch tree outside my bedroom window. I listen for its low haunting call in the early morning and wonder where it goes during the day.

Like all creatures, we hunker down in the winter, pull up the blankets and shut out the world. It's a time when our homes truly are our sanctuaries. This is a sentiment that's especially meaningful to me this year. Our homes nurture our spirits and give solace to our hearts.

I wish you all a generously self-indulgent winter and we'll speak again when those sleeping bulbs poke their noses out of the damp, spring earth.

Nancy

Nancy Belgue, *Managing Editor*
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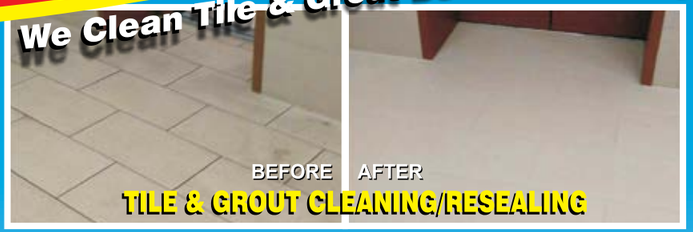

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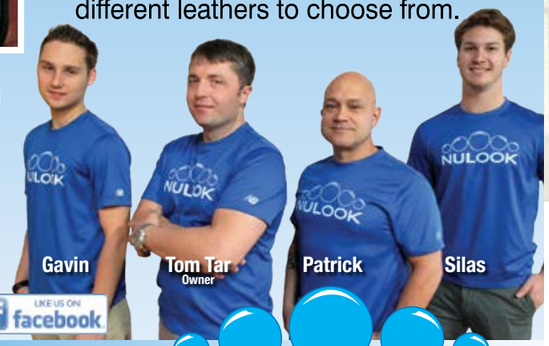

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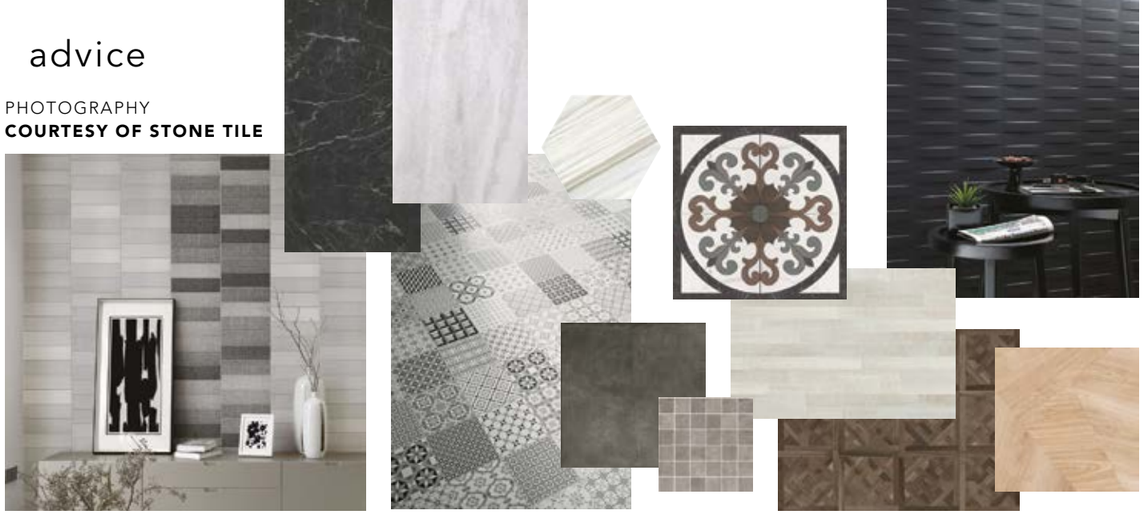

KNOW YOUR TILE

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

Tile. This all-purpose material used on floors, walls and ceilings, in wet or dry locations, as decoration or as a versatile workhorse, is available in a variety of shapes, sizes, colours and textures. Today's manufacturers have the shocking ability to mimic concrete, brick, wood, marble, carpet, wallpaper, sand – you name it – in ways that look more real than real. The options are endless.

Here's what you really need to know when choosing the right tile.

PLANNING

Research online to see the many possibilities. Know what you're looking for to make purchasing easier.

Have a floor plan. The size of the room and its intended use will dictate what's possible.

Determine your colour scheme. Bring home a sample tile to make sure it coordinates with other elements.

Explain to your contractor what size and type of tile you're using. The size and weight of the tile affects the application and labour costs.

Plan and start the tile layout from the room's centre line and work outward, balancing the pattern and minimizing odd pieces.

MINI TO MAXI

Tiles can be as tiny as ¼-by-¼-inch or super large at five-by-10-feet.

The size and condition of a floor or wall will determine what size suits your space best. Uneven surfaces and curves have different size and installation requirements than do large, flat surfaces.

TILE VOCABULARY

Application: What is the tile's intended use? High or low traffic? Floor or wall? Wet or dry? Answer these questions before making your final choice.

Ceramic: Stoneware body with a surface application of colour or texture. Highly decorative and mostly used for walls.

Porcelain: Made from fine white compressed clay, fired at a high temperature to create a dense tile, impervious to moisture. It has colour throughout the tile so that if chipped, the surface colour appears in the body of the tile.

Glass: Made of glass where colour lies behind or throughout the body of the tile.

Mosaic: Individual small tiles, purchased on mesh sheets 12-by-12-inches to 118-by-118-inches. Can be easily cut to size. Perfect for inside and outside curves.

Large Format: 14½-by-14½-inches or larger.

Specifications: Technical information including intended use, material composition, country of origin and LEED certification. Always read your specs to know what you're buying and how to maintain it.

Matte Finish: Non-shiny surface, easy to walk on, slip resistant.

Polished Finish: Shiny surface and slippery.

Stacked Pattern: Tiles are aligned to form a repeating grid pattern.

Staggered Pattern: Joints are not aligned. Each tile requires different offset spacing depending on size.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Grout: Filler used between tiles allowing for flex. The tile setter can make minor adjustments along the way.

Grout Size: The space between tiles – ⅛-inch for wall tiles, ¼-inch for floor tiles. Super large tiles require larger grout lines.

Grout Release/Sealer: Same product, different names. Matte porcelain tiles need to be sealed to avoid the cloudy effect that occurs after wiping off the edges.

Grout Colour: Use as a design element. Match grout to wall colour. Use darker grout for floors. Grout tends to darken with regular foot traffic and cleaning.

Epoxy Grout: Guards against germs. Especially for spillage of bio fluids in kitchens and bathrooms.

SPECIAL PIECES

Trim pieces are usually L or U shaped and cap off tile edges for a smooth, clean look, making it easier to clean. They come in a variety of finishes and colours. Most pros like to use the Schluter System, available in any large hardware store.

Super large tiles covering a large surface require expansion joints. All structures and materials expand and contract. Planning a strategic cut will make your super-size tile age gracefully with no cracking over time.

Now that you have the right information, you'll produce the right solution for you and your special project. **OH**

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WINTER PLEASURES

Settle in for a long winter's night with these seasonal pleasures.

PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

1 NANCY JOHNS GALLERY & FRAMING

Original Art
Winter evokes feelings of contemplation – as does this gorgeous acrylic on canvas by local artist Jennifer Charlebois. Her evolving style combines warm and cool colours and explores the connection between colour, emotion and design. Sit back with a warming drink and appreciate your original art piece.

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2 LIONHEART COLLECTION

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4 URBAN HOME FURNITURE & DESIGN STUDIO

Teak-Wood Trees
There's no trend that's more now than rustic, handmade furniture and accessories. Urban Home has a fantastic selection of unique, one-of-a-kind pieces – from coffee tables or end tables to dramatic sculpture-like accessories. These teak-wood trees are the perfect winter accessory – stark yet warm and organic.

4409 Seminole St., Windsor
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5 GABRIELE BRANDSOURCE

Reclining Chair & Pillow
This rustic, mission-style, high-leg recliner from Best Home Furnishings is the ultimate blend of style and comfort. Up the ante with a cosy faux fur accent pillow, then lie back and watch the snow pile up outside.

55 Talbot St. W., Leamington
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6 DANIELLE NICHOLSON DESIGN

Sofa & Pillows
Banish winter blues with this sleek linen sofa. It is ultra-stylish but oh-so-cosy with extra-deep, down-filled seat cushions. It's a piece from the Nicholson Home Collection and can be customized with your choice of fabric. The silver nail head details add a classic and elegant note, while the pom-pom pillows add a dash of fun and whimsy.

3055 Dougall Ave., Windsor | 519.564.9695
facebook.com/daniellenicholson.design **OH**

family HERITAGE

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

THE LAND STRETCHES DOWN TO THE RIVER, ALL 22 ACRES. IT IS LAND PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS; LAND THAT ONCE SUPPORTED A FAMILY WITH CROPS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. IT IS RICH LAND – LAND THAT HAS A HISTORY.

Now with the completion of a majestic stone French country-inspired home (**Santerra Stonecraft**), the land has taken yet another turn. The dream of Joe Bondy and his wife Melissa, the home sits commandingly on the same acreage that Joe's father farmed so many years ago. It, along with homes owned by Joe's mother and brother, is the third house on the property. Clearly, the land continues to nurture and play a large part in their family's history.

Six months in the planning, the 7,000 sq. ft. home was designed by **Allan Djordjevic** of **ADG Architects Inc.** and built by **Gino Piccioni** of **Timberland Homes**. A dream team if ever there was one, Djordjevic and Piccioni have created a home worthy of this family's heritage.

Continued on page 24

LEFT: The floor-to-ceiling-windows wow with outstanding views. The built-in bookshelves are the perfect place to display family mementos. **INSET:** Joe and Melissa Bondy enjoy a peaceful moment on the back patio during the last days of autumn. **TOP:** The French country-inspired home was built to last by Timberland Homes. **ABOVE:** The couple loves New York City. Mementos of their many visits are sprinkled throughout the home.

"MELISSA IS A FABULOUS COOK," JOE SAYS, "AND SHE DESERVES A GREAT KITCHEN."

"I'd known Gino since grade school," Joe says. "Some of our friends had built with Timberland, and when it came time to hire a builder we knew we couldn't go wrong with him. In fact, Gino was so fantastic he made the process headache-free. We would build again with him in a heartbeat."

"We knew we were building only once," Melissa adds. "We knew it was going to be a generational home so we wanted it designed and built to last forever. We had to have a builder who took that as seriously as we did."

Construction started on May 1, 2016 and the couple moved in almost one year to the day on May 5, 2017. The home, however, was not their only big project in 2017. They also had a wedding to plan and were married in September. "I proposed on the top of Rockefeller Center," Joe says. "We love New York and I wanted to find the most romantic place in the city to ask Melissa to be my wife."

Melissa and Joe took on the decoration and planning of the fixtures and finishes on their own. With a clear idea of what they wanted, they selected a herringbone pattern for the floor (**Rose City Tile Inc.**) because it reminded them of a traditional pattern they loved in a heritage hotel they had stayed at in New York. The subtle and calming grey and cream palette is the perfect backdrop for the luxurious materials like the Cambria quartz countertops and marble backsplash in a striking chevron pattern. "Melissa is a fabulous cook," Joe says, "and she deserves a great kitchen." (**Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry**). The great room is a perfect place to kick back and relax. With the grand fireplace (**Marquis Fireplaces**) and comfortable sectional (**Coulter's Furniture**) it offers both ease and elegance. *Continued on page 26*

The foyer of the home opens impressively onto a 5,000 sq. ft., above grade, open-concept main floor comprising a dining room, kitchen and great room. The floor-to-ceiling windows (**Martindale Windows & Doors Inc.**) at the rear of the home offer inspiring views of the fields that lead down to the Detroit River. Deer often come to visit at twilight. The family's beautifully landscaped (**Lakeshore Landscaping**) outdoor complex, complete with a covered patio, pool and spa (**Perciballi Pools & Spas**) is where the clan gathers to enjoy the nightly visits of the deer and the privacy and serenity of the landscape.

"We planned the house for six months," Joe says. "We had files and files of pictures and ideas," agrees Melissa. "Alan took all our ideas, added his own and synthesized everything into the perfect design."

Commissioned from graffiti artist Alec Monopoly, this original is full of meaningful references, including Joe's business hashtag, his favourite business book, the NYC skyline and a woman in high heels (which is Melissa's favourite footwear).

ABOVE: The chevron pattern in the floor is repeated in the backsplash. Joe and Melissa replicated the look from a hotel in New York. **RIGHT:** The Peter Lik photograph that anchors the dining room is especially meaningful for its depiction of the New York skyline.

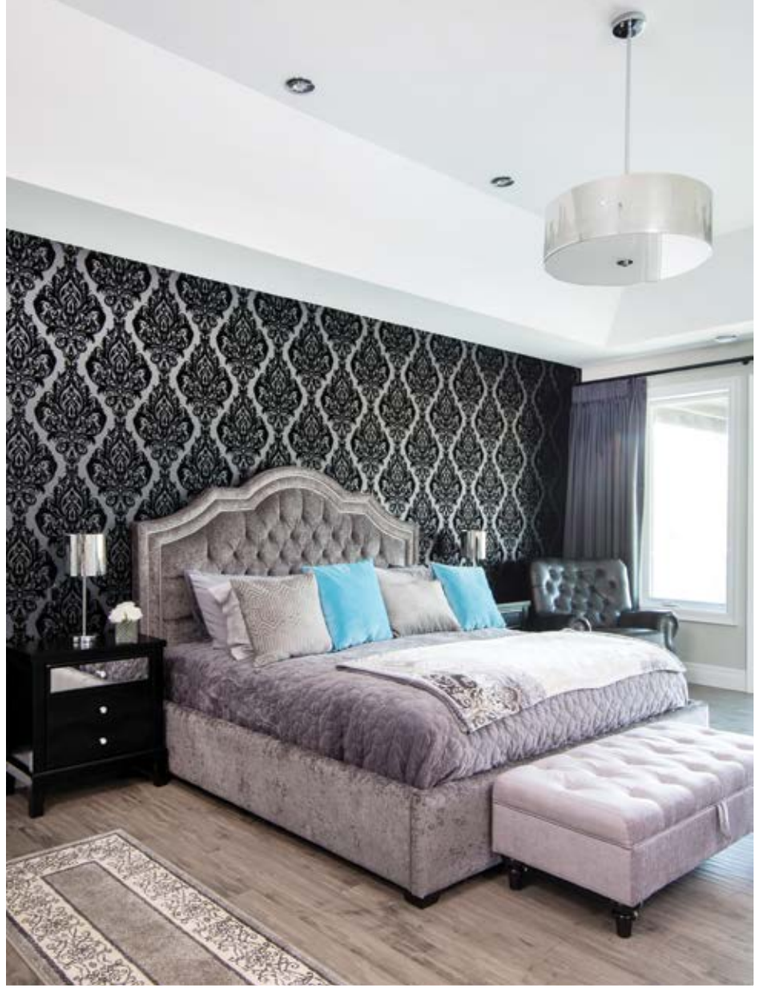
The grand staircase was one of Melissa's must-haves. It is stunningly illuminated by a pair of crystal chandeliers. The art in the foyer was commissioned from NYC artist Derek Kaplan. When Joe told him they were building a home on the water he created this piece entitled *Got My Own Sunshine* which "reflects how the rays of sun hit the water."

The grand staircase that sweeps up to the second floor (**Heritage Stair and Railing**) is something out of a Hollywood movie. Illuminated by a pair of massive crystal chandeliers, it evokes the graciousness of an earlier era and is where Joe and Melissa posed for many of their glamourous wedding photographs.

Upstairs, there are three bedrooms, two of which are charmingly furnished for Joe's two children. "They picked out their furnishings and colours," Melissa says pointing to the Tiffany-blue walls and bedding in Joe's daughter's room and the *Walking Dead* décor of his son's room.

Down the hall, the master bedroom has a large balcony overlooking the family's land. The views are serene and peaceful and the perfect place for the couple to relax on summer mornings. The master en suite has a hexagonal tile pattern, double vanities and a tub overlooking the endless sky. "The sunsets are like nothing else in this world," Joe says. "The only other sunsets that compare are the ones in New York," he laughs. In fact, there is an amazing **Peter Lik** photograph in the dining room of the New York skyline at sunset that reminds the couple of the sunsets they see from their master bedroom window. *Continued on page 28*

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: The master bedroom has a wall dramatically papered in black and white. **TOP RIGHT:** The en suite is situated to take full advantage of the stunning views – especially the sunsets. **BOTTOM LEFT**: The property is expansive and sweeps down to the Detroit River. It is private and serene. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Along with the staircase, Melissa's giant closet was another of her must-haves.

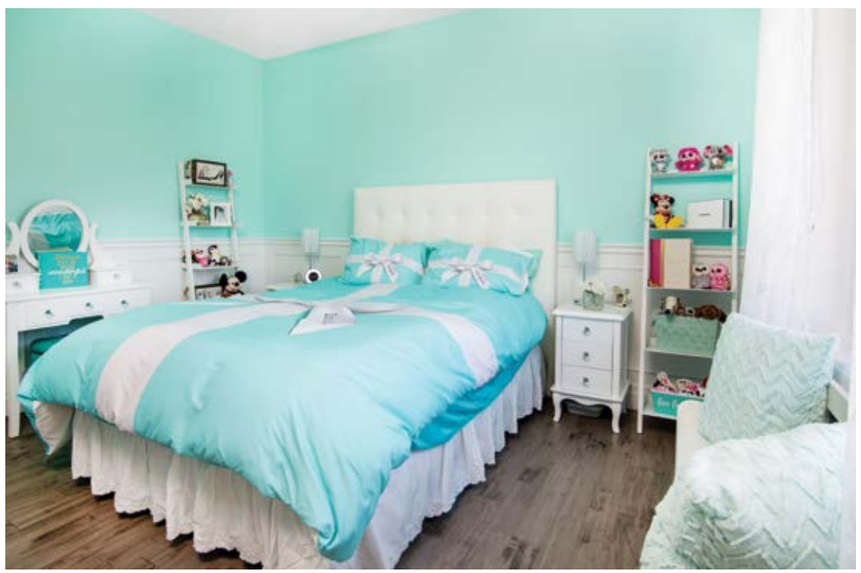


"THE SUNSETS ARE LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD," JOE SAYS. "THE ONLY OTHER SUNSETS THAT COMPARE ARE THE ONES IN NEW YORK," HE LAUGHS.

The children's bathroom pays homage to the family's love of Dachshunds. **LEFT:** The guest bedroom is relaxed and inviting. **BELOW:** Modeled on a Tiffany jewelry box, this bedroom is a little girl's dream.

Melissa's walk-in closet, custom built by Frank Cremasco, has the appearance of an elegant boutique. Her wedding dress hangs in pride of place – a romantic reminder of the couple's new life together. A large part of their life together includes many weekend gatherings with family and friends – whether around the pool or the expansive island in the kitchen. On the lower level there is a bar, an entertainment room and a fully equipped gym.

The excitement that accompanies the beginning of a life to be built and shared together is everywhere in this home that is both generous in space and spirit. It is very inspiring to imagine that the couple's new home has been constructed on the solid foundation provided by the constancy and history of the land itself. **OH**



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Paul Pittao, Brandon Pierce, Ray Pittao, Greg Bensette, Barb Wright and Elliott Duda

PHOTO: MAX WEDGE

GOING STRONG

THE PLACE: **The Appliance Shoppe** along with its sister company, **The Lighting Boutique**, are celebrating five decades in business this year. Although known for specializing in luxury, high-end product lines, both of these local institutions provide a full range of lighting and appliances with an unparalleled commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction. There is literally something for everyone. If you need advice on what appliances will actually work with your lifestyle and specific cooking needs, forget the big box stores and come to The Appliance Shoppe. Their mission is to educate customers about appliances – not just make a sale. The highly trained staff can help you evaluate all your options and the expansive showroom features a live kitchen that hosts cooking demos and you can actually "test drive" a range of cooking methods – from a Thermador steam oven (that will cook everything from a pizza to a roast efficiently and delectably) to an induction cooktop or a gas rangetop. And while you're in the showroom be sure to check out the Deal Zone – where the scratched, dented and discounted go to find a good home – at markdowns of up to 70 per cent.

WHAT'S HOT: Professional level gas stoves and wall ovens are in big demand. And, because technology has become more affordable, energy-efficient induction cooktops are gaining ground with serious cooks.

WHAT'S NEW: WiFi connectivity makes everything smarter – from tablets in fridges to washers, dryers and cooktops – you can control everything from your smart phone.

FAVOURITES: Black stainless steel is hugely popular and trend-forward. Black and white kitchens are in the forefront of design. Black stainless with its sleek, modern look is not only a great fashion choice, it is fingerprint resistant and smudge-proof – a bonus for anyone, but especially for families with small children.

Black stainless is not only fashionble but also functional.

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The next generation refrigerators have built-in tablets you can control from your smart phone.

SEASONAL: If winter brings a serious nostalgia for grilling out on the patio, get yourself a fantastic indoor barbecue from Blue Star. This is a legitimate barbecue, not a pale imitation. The burner grate sits on top of your stove and allows you to get that barbecue flavour and summer vibe. And be sure to come and check out all the great winter bargains! Watch for dishwasher sales in January, a Bosch rebate program and other great promotions throughout January and February.

GET THERE: 4072 Walker Rd., Windsor 519.969.0152 | theapplianceshoppe.com **OH**

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liveable COLOUR

Whether you're looking to bring a leafy green to your home for warm, year-round vibes, or you prefer a different accent hue, these tips for adding liveable colour can help you have fun with your palette – inspired by this cheerful Toronto Interior Design Group project.

STORY
YANIC SIMARD
PHOTOGRAPHY
VALERIE WILCOX

GET COMFORTABLE WITH COLOUR

For this project, we wanted to create a look that respected the heritage details of the home, but didn't feel too safe. This meant adding some colour and taking a few strategic design risks, one of which was a cool sectional sofa. The modular style meant being able to use a contrasting upholstery for a few sections, and a neutral fabric for the rest. It also leaves the option open for switching up the look later by rearranging the pieces or changing just a few covers.

Pro Tip: Green is near-neutral enough to withstand changing trends and mix with new accent colours in the future. This colour family in particular is a smart choice for accents you can live with for years to come.

USE A NEW NEUTRAL

Enriching your colour scheme doesn't always have to mean tossing in a new bold hue: adding a new neutral to your scheme will make the palette feel more diverse in a subtle way. Here, a cool mid-tone grey for the fireplace brick plays against the warm wood floors. This stone shade also helps soften the appearance of the black fireplace surround, plus, it's repeated in a cosy blanket, tying the entire palette further together.

Continued on page 36

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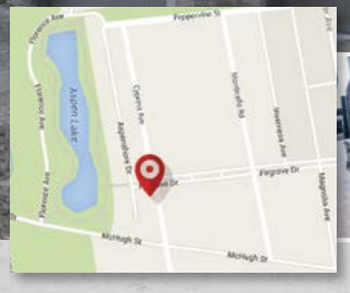

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THROW YOUR PALETTE TOGETHER

Does the unique sofa seem like too much commitment? This is where accent pillows and throws come in. Not only are these changeable pieces a smart way to add colour without a big investment, but they can also tame a bold palette and connect non-matching areas. By piling the sofa with multi-tonal green and neutral pillows, the colours of the sofa sections become repeated and tied together. A striped blanket is then used to bring this accent hue to a neighbouring seating area for a sense of harmony.

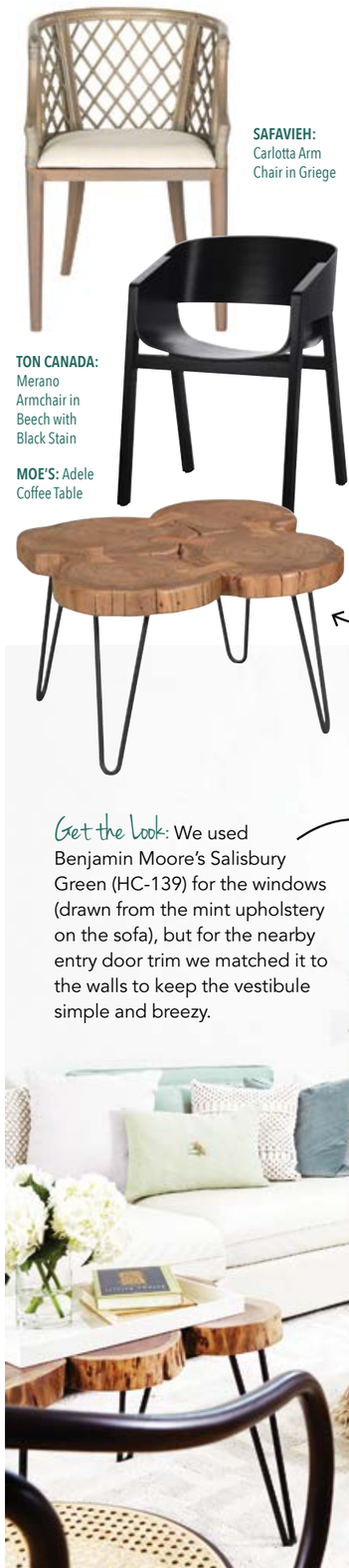
Get the Look: Use pillows and throws in related but subtly differing shades, and in a rich array of fabrics and textures, to integrate your accent hues throughout the space in a sophisticated way.

1. BARCLAY BUTERA: Greer Linen Insert with Grommets
2. CELERIE KEMBLE: Sail Celadon with Ball Trim

BRUNELLI: 3. Dorothy in Aqua
4. Fred in Cream **5.** Pompon
6. Gwyneth in Blue Duck
7. SURYA: Troy Throw in Mint, Cream and Teal

FRESHEN UP YOUR WINDOW TRIM

Using a fresh minty accent hue for your window trim truly brings the outdoors in. First, it adds a pop of greenery in an unexpected way, but in a small enough dose that it's not overwhelming, or hard to repaint if you want a new look down the road. Second, it beautifully frames the view outside. We finished the look with elegant in-window shades rather than draperies, to suit the architectural appeal and leave the elegant trim exposed.



SAFAVIEH: Carlotta Arm Chair in Griege

TON CANADA: Merano Armchair in Beech with Black Stain

MOE'S: Adele Coffee Table

Get the Look: We used Benjamin Moore's Salisbury Green (HC-139) for the windows (drawn from the mint upholstery on the sofa), but for the nearby entry door trim we matched it to the walls to keep the vestibule simple and breezy.

MIX WOODS LIKE A NATURAL

Think all of the woods in one room have to match? Mixing wood tones is like mixing other neutrals – the subtle differences can actually enhance each other and your palette. However, there are rules that will help avoid clashes. In general, it's safe to stick to just cool (ashy/grey) woods, or warm (yellow/red/brown) tones, so they don't conflict. It also helps to use somewhat similar grains. In this room, all of the woods have small subtle grains rather than bold exotic ones.

Get the Look: Mix a pale rattan accent chair, rich-stained or lacquered bentwood side chairs and a natural-edge coffee table for a perfectly eclectic trio that extends from light to dark. **OH**

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NEW LEASE ON LIFE

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

It's been a long three years for John and Karen King. Three years of treatments and hospital stays, setbacks and progress, bad news and good. After a hard-fought battle with multiple myeloma that included a successful stem cell transplant, the well-respected builder got the news that things were looking up and he knew he was going to make some major life changes.

First on the agenda was downsizing. Midway through his cancer fight, John and Karen knew they wanted to simplify. They sold their 25-acre country property and purchased two lots backing onto the Belle River. And, because for the Kings, family is everything, John assisted both of his children in building homes nearby – one for their daughter Jillian next door to their own brand new house and another for their son Joshua in the town of Tecumseh. *Continued on page 40*

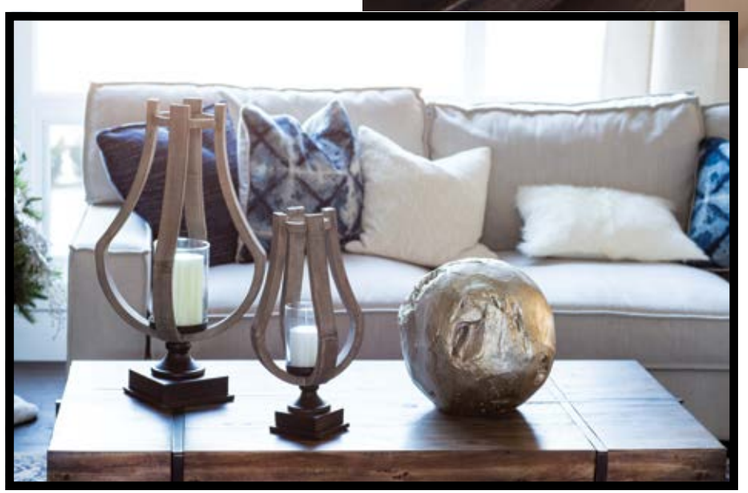
The oversize armchair with ottoman is designed to seat more than one. A sliding door adds an industrial touch. The art at the top of the stairs perpetuates the sparkle element that is a theme throughout the home. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** John King and his granddaughter Charlotte enjoy story time together. **BOTTOM:** The home's exterior is modern contemporary with a nod to prairie-style elements.

Their ducks in a row, so to speak, the family then concentrated on getting John well enough to walk Jillian down the aisle in October 2015. With the determination and strength of character he's well known for, he did just that, albeit in a back brace. "It was great motivation," John says. "There was no way I was going to miss one of the biggest moments in my daughter's life."

"Cancer has a way of putting everything in perspective," agrees Karen. "And when in Christmas 2015, Jillian and Ryan gave us an empty picture frame and told us our present wouldn't be arriving until June, we knew we had another milestone to look forward to."

That present arrived right on schedule when the couple's first grandchild, Charlotte, made her debut in June 2016. It's clear she has a special bond with her Papa. The minute she toddles into the house she heads straight for her grandfather and demands to be picked up. They cuddle into the sofa with a book, oblivious to the activity around them. "There's nothing better than this," John says, smiling over Charlotte's head. "Nothing at all."

Their new home has allowed the couple the freedom to relax and enjoy being with their children and grandchild. Working with **Jodi Mason** of **Urban Home Furniture & Design Studio** made the transition from their former home as seamless as possible. "With everything that was going on with John I knew I wouldn't have time to get our new place furnished," Karen says. "I wanted all new furniture because our old home was a completely different style. I absolutely love everything Jodi did. I couldn't have done it without her and I can't praise her enough. Everyone who comes here says 'Oh my goodness!' They can't believe how lovely it is."



"I ABSOLUTELY LOVE EVERYTHING JODI DID. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT HER AND I CAN'T PRAISE HER ENOUGH."

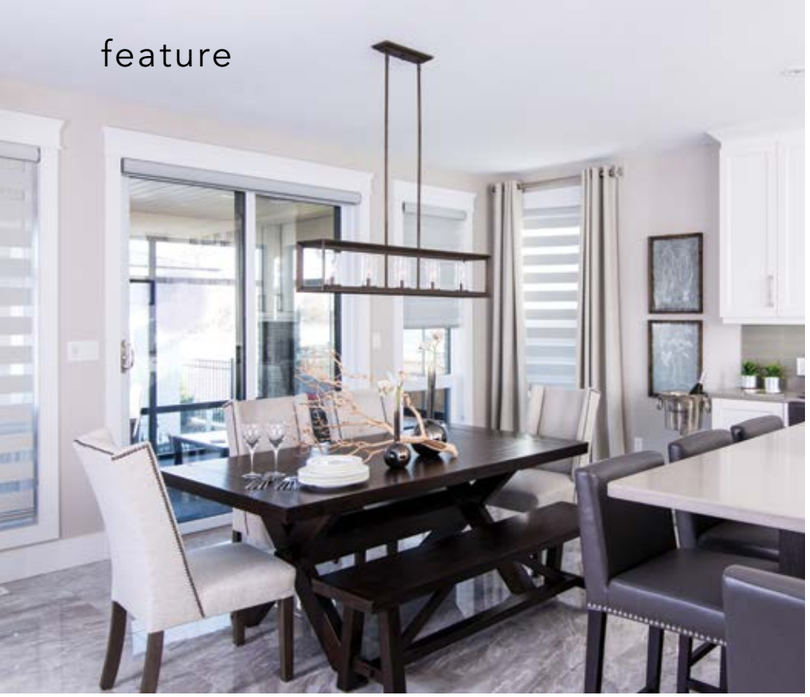
The easy-maintenance furnishings and finishes allow the couple more time to relax and enjoy each other's company. "I chose a trans-contemporary style for the home," Mason says of her design ideas. "They wanted it to be elegant yet warm and casual."

The porcelain high-gloss tiles and hand-scraped floors (**Hi! Neighbor Floor Covering Company**) in a matte finish make cleaning easy-peasy says Mason. "I kept the furnishings neutral, yet big and comfy."

"We wanted to see the light," Karen adds. "Our old home was a lot darker and coming here to the water was a fantastic change. Light and airy was what I wanted. At first I was skeptical about the blue accents," she continues. "But being on the water it turned out to be the perfect choice."

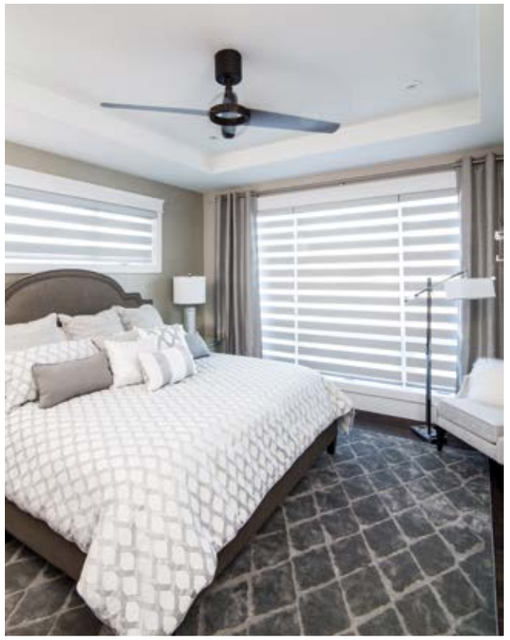
The barn board accent wall adds an earthy natural feel that grounds the room and gives it an appealing rustic element. "The wall with the fireplace (**Fireplaces by Mario Inc.**) has a big presence in the room," Mason concludes, "and so it was important how we dressed it. We thought tile would be too cold and wood was just so warm." *Continued on page 42*

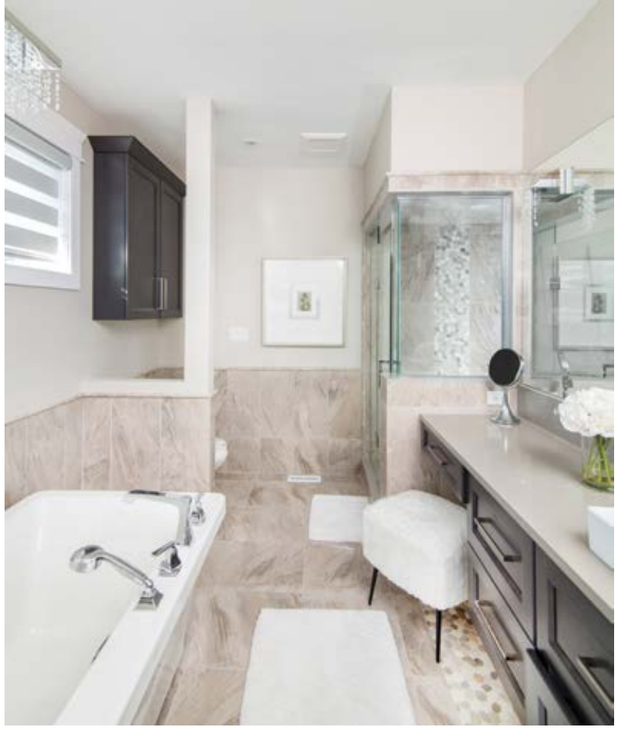
ABOVE: The barn board fireplace accent wall gives the home an earthy natural feel. The fireplace surround is by Dekko Concrete. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Backing onto the Belle River, the exterior back of the home has an infinity pool and a lanai. It's where the Kings spend the bulk of their time in the summer months. **MIDDLE:** Jodi Mason of Urban Home Furniture & Design Studio was invaluable in helping the Kings transition from their large country property to their new, light and airy space. **BOTTOM:** Distressed wood lanterns and a globe-shaped wooden ball coated in metallic finish are both elegant and rustic.



The sleek, white kitchen (**Windmill Cabinet Shop Ltd.**) with its expansive granite island (**Universal Marble & Granite**) is the perfect place for the family to gather, as is the outdoor recreation area complete with lanai (**Seaton Sunrooms**) and the pool (**The Great Outdoors**) that John used as a key part of his rehabilitation right up until mid-November. "With the back operations and spinal fusion surgeries, I was unable to walk," John says. "I went from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane in two-and-a-half years. With the help of my doctors, physiotherapists, and swimming every morning and every night I was able to get my strength back." *Continued on page 44*

TOP LEFT: The harvest table and upholstered chairs are all from Urban Home Furniture & Design Studio. Window coverings throughout the home are by Made to Shade Window Coverings Ltd. **TOP RIGHT:** John, Karen and Charlotte enjoy some quality time together. **RIGHT:** The kitchen is a great place for family gatherings.





The cabinet in the master bedroom is a "German Silver" buffet. It is functional yet beautiful. Metallic touches are everywhere and give the home a special elegance.

ABOVE: The bedroom has a water view. It is neutral and serene yet understatedly glamourous. The wallpaper has a shimmer element that is consistent with Jodi Mason's design plan. **TOP RIGHT:** The en suite is pared down – with the exception of a faux fur bench.

The couple knows how lucky they are. With their new home, their children and grandchild settled and nearby, John is making a concerted effort to step back and enjoy their good fortune. A self-confessed workaholic, John, whose company **King Homes & Developments**, has "built a great many of the new homes on the water from Lakeshore to Tecumseh," realizes that "the future is now."

"I try to slow him down," Karen says. "Our experience of these last three years has brought us all closer. With everything he went through – good friends and family were our absolute saviours. And we cherish every moment together. Even during the long days of treatments and uncertainty, we would go to the cancer clinic then pick up lunch and go to the water and sit in the car because it was winter and have a picnic. And now here we are living on the water."

John thinks for a moment then adds, "The most important part of it all was Karen," he says looking at his wife of 29 years. "Thank God for her." **OH**

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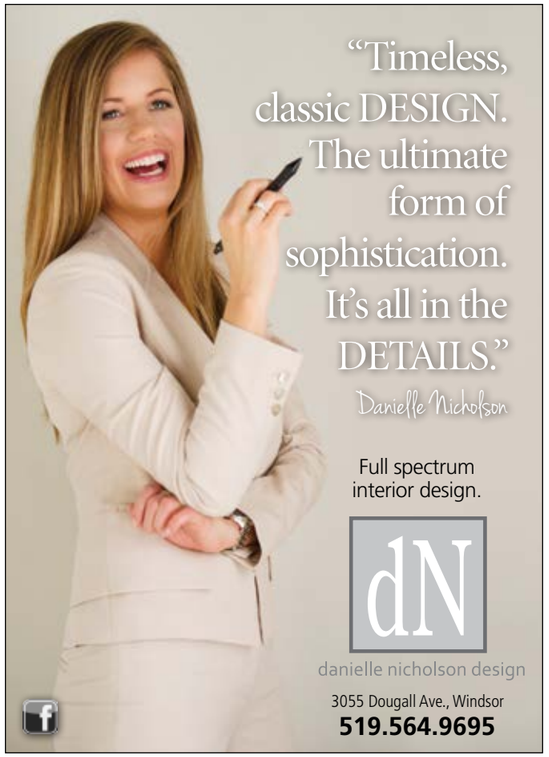

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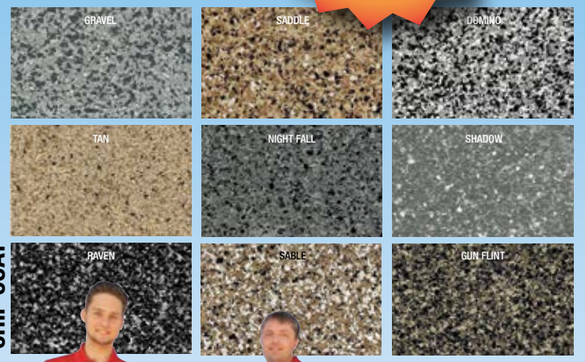

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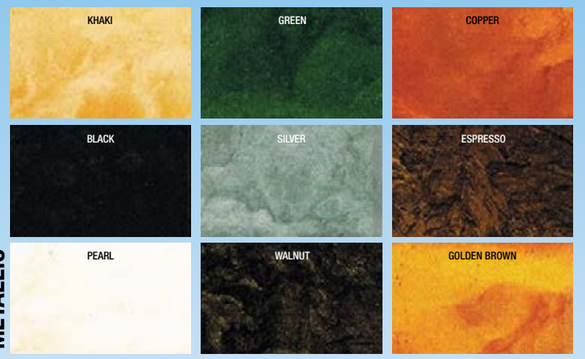

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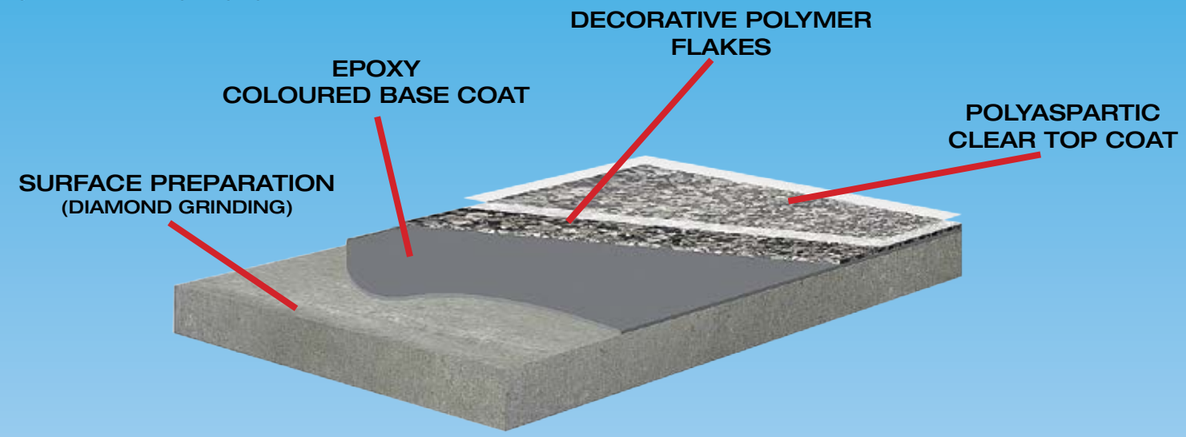

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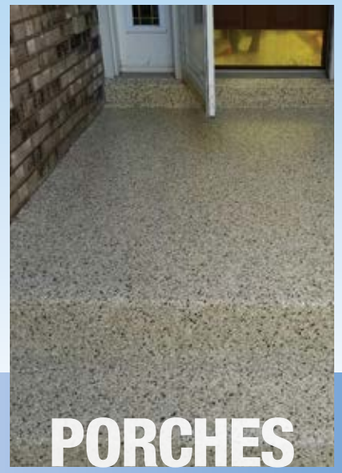

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CONTINUING A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP

2018 marks the 10th anniversary of OUR HOMES! It's hard to believe how fast time has gone by and we wanted to mark our 10th year by checking in with some of the wonderful businesses that have been with our magazine from the beginning.

PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**

NANCY JOHNS
Nancy Johns Gallery & Framing

10-year milestones: I've had the honour of representing hundreds of local artists throughout the gallery's lifespan. I currently host a roster of 35. Giving back has always been an important mandate and during our 10th anniversary celebration we raised over $3,500 for Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario, which allocated the funds directly to the University of Windsor's Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience Program. Framing has developed into a service that I am proud to offer my clients. I've been in the business for 30 years and believe it's a combination of technical know-how, my artistic sensibilities and extreme care for each piece that has truly elevated my craft.

Success secrets: Customer service is my number one priority. Offering a welcoming atmosphere to all of my clients is of the utmost importance. Each piece of framing we work on is treated like a Kandinsky and offering a variety in fine art and framing keeps us gratefully busy.

What's in store for 2018? I'm looking forward to continuing promoting and inspiring artists and to help fulfill artistic endeavours and passions. I am beyond excited to see what the next 10 years has in store, to take on new framing challenges and do what I love, every single day.

RICHARD PURSEL
Lionheart Collection

10-year milestones: 10 years with OUR HOMES marks 20 years in the Interiors business for me, 15 years for my associates Melissa Woodrow and Cathy Chimienti, and eight years for Megan Cooper. And we have recently added talented retail staff Katie Gibb and Sue Houde. All of us at Lionheart are proud that we continue to build lasting relationships with our awesome customers and clients.

Success secrets: Be genuine and act with integrity! My staff, retail customers and design clients recognize and appreciate this about the Lionheart experience. We have ongoing and repeat clients for whom we are extremely grateful. Also, we have the best product mix featured in our amazing showroom. Building relationships with suppliers, sales reps, shippers, customs brokers, delivery people, builders and tradespeople is of utmost importance. It's all about the people!

What's in store for 2018? Our design team prides itself on staying current, cutting edge and fearless! Stay tuned to our advertising and social media feeds to see what's up and coming at Lionheart.

Continued on page 52

RYAN PAWLUK
Lakeshore Landscaping

10-year milestones: We have had so many: year after year sales increases, huge growth and the achievement of many things we thought were out of reach. But for me, it's the way we've handled all the unexpected curve balls that have been thrown at us. No matter what, we've stayed the course and proven we're an industry leader in our craft. I'm proud of that milestone.

Success secrets: Staying grounded and remembering what got us here in the first place while at the same time having an eye for innovation. Being willing to get a little uncomfortable and grow while always maintaining a real connection to our clients and staff by remembering to put them first. Lastly, maintaining balance in life – which is hard, especially during the start-up phase of a company when things are crazy. But I firmly believe that balance in life leads to a balanced company, a committed staff and success for everyone.

What's in store for 2018? More of the good stuff across the board – investment in our people, equipment and company structure. We are committed to ensuring the best possible experience with Lakeshore Landscaping.

LINDA BERTONI LIBURDI, ORNELLA BERTONI LIBURDI & REBECCA COLAUTTI
Bertoni Chairs & Things

10-year milestones: Ornella: Over the past 10 years we've changed with the times and kept up with the latest technology. We can provide our customers with the most effective tools to create their perfect home environment. 3D modelling allows us to display furnishings to scale in a computer model of our customer's room. From a new-build to the basement rec room, you can be assured that your furniture purchase is perfect in colour and size.

Success secrets: Customer service is our founding principle and one that we adhere to every day. Our customers are the most important people in our business and their questions and concerns are of utmost priority. Our great staff suggests furniture you can live with, not just look at. We pay attention to the fact that we are designing homes that families are living in.

What's in store for 2018? We keep up with what is new and exciting in furniture as colours, patterns and wood grains are constantly changing. This ensures that our customers are happy with their purchases and is the reason we have been successful for the past 32 years! **OH**

PINE CONE FIRE STARTERS

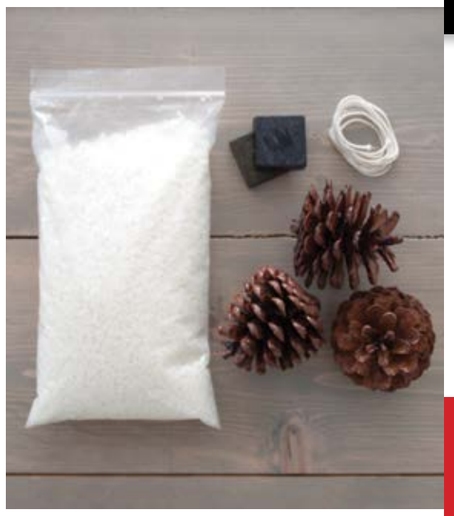
PROJECT AND PHOTOS **TARA CHATTELL**

Pine cones dipped in clean-burning soy wax are an eco-friendly option to get your home fires burning. Leave them white or colour the wax and they become seasonal décor.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

Soy wax flakes, 2 lbs.
Pine cones, 10-13
Candle dye blocks, colours of your choice (optional)
Wired candle wicking
Wooden spoon
Small double boiler
Wax paper
Tinfoil
Knife
Scissors

NOTE: *Any materials used in this project should not be used again for food preparation.* *Continued on page 56*



The Legal Edge Team

"Mark, Tina, Donna and The Legal Edge Team are true professionals. They provided me with excellent service and great advice. I would recommend them to anyone looking to buy or sell a home."

Anthony Como, Morgan & Nicholas

Mark, Tina, Donna and the entire "Legal Edge Team" worked very hard during this challenging market to help our family find our new home. There were some difficult negotiations and disappointments along the way; however Mark and his Team provided the utmost professionalism, preparedness and knowledge. Mark was so patient with us and was always available, not once did we ever feel pressured to buy just any house. The level of customer service & understanding they provide is amazing!

Thank you for all your hard work from selling our first home to the purchase of our new home ...our family is very appreciative!

If you or anyone you know is looking to sell or buy a home don't settle for just any realtor. Choose The Legal Edge Team and they will go above and beyond for you. You won't be disappointed!

Ken & Adriana Hebert, Alycia & Isabella

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** Sales Representative*

HOW-TO

1 PREPARE WORKSPACE

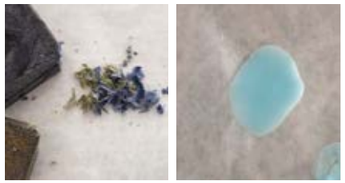
Cover your workspace with tinfoil to protect the surface from dripping wax – dipping will get messy!

Use wax paper to cover an area for pine cones to cool between dips.

2 MELT WAX

Add water to the bottom of a double boiler and fill the top pot with wax flakes. Place on stove burner and gently heat until wax is fully melted, stirring occasionally.

Using a knife, shave off small bits from wax dye blocks, add to your hot wax and stir until completely melted and blended.



The colour will look much lighter once cool. Test your colour by dripping wax onto wax paper and allow to cool. It doesn't take much dye to colour the wax, so add small amounts at a time until reaching the desired colour.

Once satisfied with the colour, remove from heat and allow your wax to cool for 15-20 minutes before starting to dip.

While wax is cooling, wrap pine cones with wicking.

3 WICK PINE CONES

Cut wicking into 12-inch lengths. You may want them longer, depending on the size of your pine cones.

Fold each piece of wicking in half. Tie a small loop at the fold to use both as a wick and to hold the cones while dipping.

Place the loop on the tip of a pine cone and begin wrapping each length in opposite directions around and between the scales. Finish by tucking in the ends (use scissors to push ends in).

4 DIP PINE CONES

Hold each pine cone by the wick loop and dip completely into the wax. If the pine cone is tall, turn on its side and use a wooden spoon to help fully coat the pine cone with wax. Remove the pine cone from the wax and allow excess wax to drip into the pot. Set on wax paper to cool for 10 to 15 minutes between each dip.

Repeat the dipping process three or four times until you're happy with the amount of wax on each pine cone.

After they dry, break off any excess wax from the bottom of your pine cone before dipping again. Recycle these pieces when you reheat your wax, which you will need to do once or twice during the process as the wax cools.

TIP: *If the wax looks lumpy on the pine cone, fix it by heating the wax to a higher temperature and re-dipping the pine cone. You may need to give the pine cone an extra dip to rebuild the wax.*

Once you're happy with the amount of wax on your pine cones, hold each pine cone upside-down and dip the tops to finish them off.

Allow pine cones to fully cool before transferring to a display container.

FIRE AWAY

When ready to use the fire starters, build a base of paper and dry kindling, then simply light the wick and place the pine cone under the kindling. Using two or three will start a roaring fire. Stay warm!

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ESPRESSO MARTINI

The perfect pick-me-up evening drink, this classic is straight to the point, made with brewed espresso and a hint of chocolate.

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ounces espresso, cooled
- 1 ounce vodka
- ½ ounce crème de cacao liquor
- 2-3 dashes chocolate Aztec bitters

DIRECTIONS

- Chill martini glass with ice, removing the ice before adding cocktail.
- Fill a cocktail shaker with ice and add ingredients.
- Shake until chilled and strain into chilled martini glass. OH

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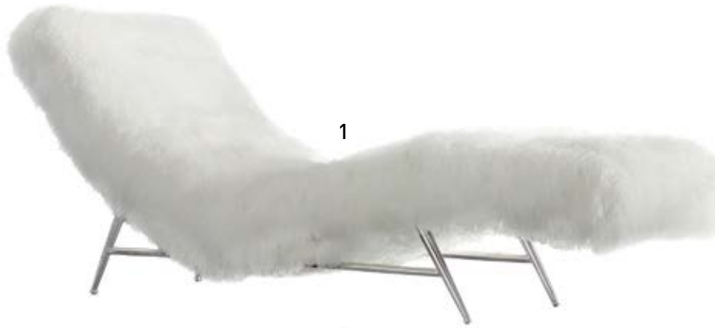

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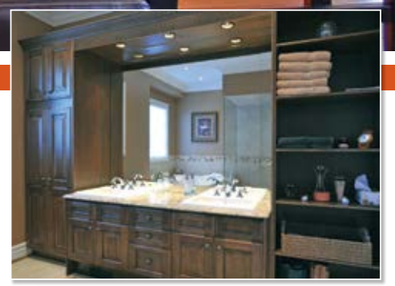

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