

feature

# TIMELESS *Elegance*

BY KIM ARNOTT // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

Over 100 years ago, cottagers flocked to the shores of Lake Ontario to an area in southeast Oakville, then known as Orchard Beach, to enjoy the cool lake breezes and open vistas. Today, homeowners are still captivated by this quiet, leafy green enclave steps from the lake and close to the town's amenities.

Like many others, Ross and Lisa Hurst were attracted to the area. After three years of searching for the right family home, a new house designed by Gren Weis of Gren Weis Architect & Associates and built by Terry

Smith of Smith and Company Timeless Homes sparked their interest. With the help of real estate agent Adam Campbell of Advantage Plus Realty Corp., they sold their home, closed the deal, and their dream became a reality.

When Smith, a local builder, explained his vision for the finished home, they fell in love. "I was really trying to think in terms of a gracious 1920s summer home," explains Terry. "I was trying to make it feel casual, yet refined." *Continued on page 30*



**OPPOSITE:** A soaring coffered ceiling creates a little drama, and well-positioned seating creates a warm and comfortable atmosphere in the family room. **LEFT:** With access to a vast collection of exclusive pieces from their 32,000 sq. foot showroom on Brant Street in Burlington, the design team at Elizabeth Interiors helped choose an eclectic collection of furniture in the kitchen to create a cosy sunlit breakfast nook. **BELOW:** The elegance of the kitchen extends to the butler's pantry and creates the perfect transitional space to store items or prepare to serve a meal in the dining room. **BOTTOM:** Glass cabinets highlight treasured possessions in the bright, open-concept culinary kitchen. Lantern-style fixtures over the island provide contrast to the white cabinetry and create a unique focal point.





**LEFT:** Well-placed custom built-ins in the formal living room blend beautifully with the mantel and crown mouldings. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Graphic custom draperies in the formal living room tie the elements together with a vibrant pop of colour and texture. **BELOW:** The intimate dining room is the perfect place to relax and celebrate special moments. Treasured pieces of furniture from the Hursts' previous home blend seamlessly into the new home's design.

With a background in historical restoration and years of experience as a member of Oakville's Heritage Committee, Terry built his reputation by designing and constructing homes that capture the architectural details of years gone by. Ross and Lisa's home is no exception. "He had such a passion for all his decisions," recalls Lisa. "That was really what sold us on the house."

From the first glimpse of the charming porch to the Garaga garage doors installed by **Door Design** and further customized by Terry, the home harkens back to an era when well-to-do families moved lakeside to enjoy a summer of leisure. In designing the gardens, **Christopher Campbell of Christopher Campbell Landscape Architects** says the backyard retreat creates the perfect space to lounge, dine, and enjoy the outdoors.

**Ryszard Marciniak of R&R Professional Painting** painted the front hallway in Revere Pewter by Benjamin Moore. The classic shade trails toward the back of the home and unifies the spaces on the main floor. In the kitchen, Cloud White cabinetry creates a fresh tranquility.

A well-proportioned family room at the rear of the house urges one to lounge with a book in hand. The fireplace by **CF+D Custom Fireplace Design** provides a focal point and anchors the room with fine moulding details. Panelled walls, an elegant coffered ceiling, and oversized windows by **Kolbe Gallery and Infusion Windows** create an atmosphere of calm and relaxation. It's a room that even the family dog can get comfortable in.

Lisa admits to a special fondness for the room, which faces the open-concept kitchen and breakfast area and walks out to the backyard patio. The design allows her to chat with her two teenagers while working in the kitchen.

While the 4,400 sq. ft. home has generously-sized rooms throughout, the spacious kitchen and breakfast nook is home to comfortable chairs and seating for family and friends. A Calacatta marble countertop maintains the timeless style of the home, while banks of cabinets by **JD Medland Cabinet Makers Inc.** provide plenty of space for dishes that had been confined to the pantry in Lisa's previous home. "The cabinets are built the old-fashioned way, so they'll last forever," says Lisa, as she admiringly demonstrates the smooth solid glide of a drawer. *Continued on page 32*



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**TOP LEFT:** Soft grey walls mixed with rich dark wood create a comfortable and tranquil master retreat. **TOP RIGHT:** The bright and spacious master bath boasts his-and-hers sinks and a vessel tub. Chrome accents and beautiful panelling enhance the space. **LEFT:** Homeowner Lisa Hurst (centre) worked with Elizabeth Law (left) and Karen Dunn (right) to add finishing touches throughout the home. **ABOVE:** The heritage inspired home with its rambling porch blends flawlessly into the existing streetscape.

The cabinets are face-framed and feature glass knobs and detailed beading around the doors to keep with the 1920s character.

Dark hardwood flooring by **EC Hardwood Flooring Inc.** runs throughout the main floor, connecting the family room and kitchen area with the dining room and a more formal living room at the front of the house. In the entrance, the floor has been set in a classic herringbone pattern popular in decades past. Upstairs, the master bedroom retreat is a comfortable sanctuary that extends from the bedroom to the marbled bath. Coverings by Hunter Douglas soften the windows.

While the comfortable style of the home suits the family, Lisa admits she found it a challenge to integrate her existing furniture into the home. "Our other house was quite formal," she says. "We had to make our formal pieces fit into the more casual feel of this house."

She turned to Burlington-based **Elizabeth Interiors** for help, and discovered that changing some accessories from beige to grey tones helped make her otherwise classic furniture look as if it had been designed for the new house. Designers **Elizabeth Law** and **Karen Dunn** helped her

build on her existing furnishings and personal style by suggesting some strategic new pieces that would fit into the home's unique spaces.

Elizabeth Law, owner of Elizabeth Interiors, says bringing out the home's finer details gave it interest and personality. "We gave it some real life by reflecting the character of the client. They went from a traditional-style home to a space with a more relaxed lifestyle. We gave each room a little zing with some eye candy, and really transformed the house into a home."

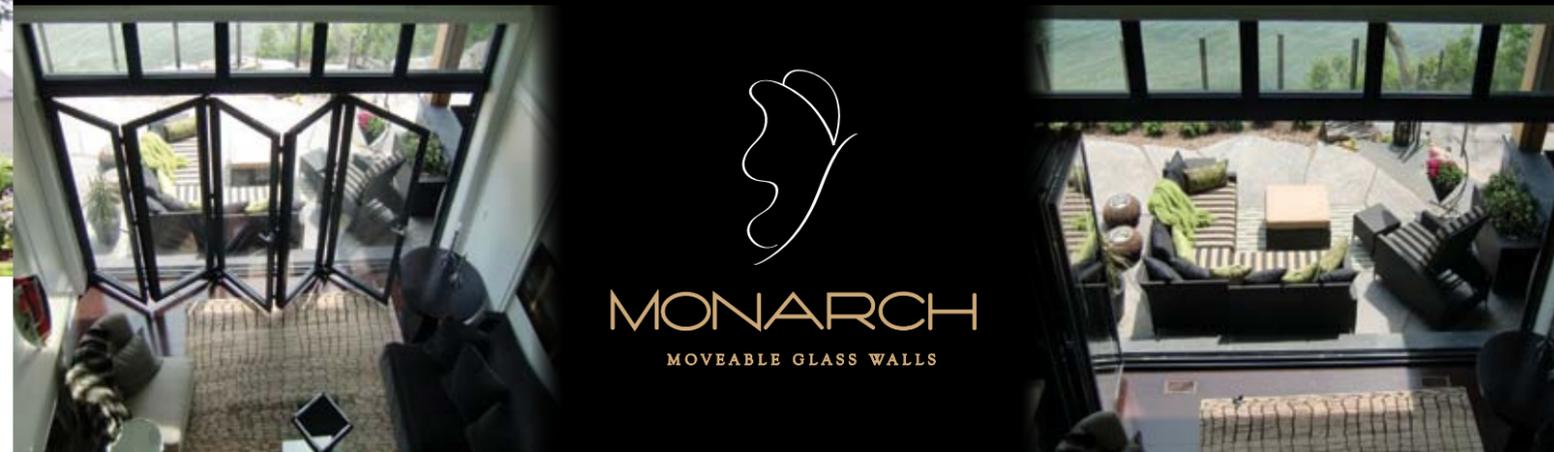
While searching for a home, Ross and Lisa looked at a number of older houses that would have required extensive renovations to meet the family's needs. Lisa is thrilled that they finally found a truly modern home that offers the conveniences of a brand-new house but respects the character of the surrounding area.

As the family basks in the late afternoon sunshine on the front porch, Lisa says neighbours that pass by often tell them how much they like the house. "Terry really wanted to show people that you could build a house that fits the neighbourhood." **OH**

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