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REGIONAL PUBLISHER/FRANCHISE OWNER Russell Street Media Inc.
Shannon MacPherson
shannon@ourhomesmagazine.com

REGIONAL MANAGING EDITOR Gina Makkar
gina@ourhomesmagazine.com

REGIONAL PRODUCTION MANAGER Abby Reynolds
abby@ourhomesmagazine.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING Shannon MacPherson, 289.242.5599

CONTRIBUTORS

Maria DaSilva, Rodrigo Fernandez,
Nancy Fornasiero, Jason Hartog, Scott Hunter, Gina Makkar,
Stephanie Redmond, Joyce Turner-Gionet

OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC:

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Georgette McCulloch
editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Julie Simmonds

MANAGING EDITORS Nancy Belgue,
Anna Lee Boschetto, Adrienne Brown,
Melissa Campeau, Pauline Clark,
Andrea Cox, Walter Franczyk, Mary Hatt,
Sarah Hoy, Sarah McGoldrick,
Christina Millington, Denise O'Connell,
Jennifer Schleich, Jude Wayland

ART

ART DIRECTOR Tara Chattell
tara@ourhomesmagazine.com

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTORS
Sheila Britton, Georgie Donais

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Lynn Derrick
lynn@ourhomesmagazine.com

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Laura Crossett, Julia Dempsey,
Kelly Donaldson, Loo McNulty,
Tracy Shuttleworth, Andrea Wray

OPERATIONS

PRESIDENT & CEO David Loopstra
david@ourhomesmagazine.com

VP OF FRANCHISING & FRANCHISE OPERATIONS
Suzanne Strong
franchise@ourhomesmagazine.com

ACCOUNTING Donna Duggan

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Marion Stewart

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editor's note



LIKE ANY ITALIAN-CANADIAN FAMILY I KNOW, growing up, summers were filled with weekend afternoons of gathering to stack the basement shelves with jars of homemade tomato sauce, preserves, sausages and wine.

A couple of times a month, my nonno (my grandfather) would take the bus and then walk several kilometres to till the soil in my mother's garden. He spent hours picking weeds, planting flowers and tending to our vegetables.

Stretched out like an emerald carpet, we had the nicest lawn on the block. What was hysterical to us kids was the fact that we were forbidden to walk on the grass. When nonno was around, we'd run and play and inch along the perimeter of the lawn like we were walking a tightrope. One minor slip of the foot and we were treated to a stern look or a shake of the fist.

I'd peek around corners and watch as he crouched, suspenders stretched across his sleeveless undershirt, to tend to a patch of grass or tame the roses crawling up the side of the house.

By mid-summer, seven-foot-high tomato plants were surrounded by beds of lettuce, while pears, cherries and plums swayed in the fruit trees. The backyard was a feast for the senses with the heady scent of sweet pea pods and tomatoes warmed by the sun. It was a labour of love and an art that I've come to appreciate over the years. I value what goes into creating a beautiful view.

Our Feature Home is a cottage-chic oasis with a soft and breezy vibe. In our Comfort Zone, InsideOut Home & Patio has plenty of options to help create a beautiful backyard retreat.

Our fresh summer Style Picks are perfect if you're itching to tackle a long-overdue decorating or organizing project, or if you want to lapse into the mode of easy summer entertaining.

Until next time, sit back, relax and enjoy the view.

Gina Makkar

Gina Makkar, Managing Editor
gina@ourhomemagazine.com

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Photography by
Jason Hartog.

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Designer Stephanie Redmond shares her ideas.

SUMMER ENTERTAINING *outside* DÉCOR

Every year when summer rolls around I stare out at the deck and start amassing large scale plans for vegetable beds and new furniture, sunshades and fire pits. The season closes and alas, we have usually accomplished one or two of those items. Sun kissed and relaxed, I normally care less about the surroundings and more about the summer experience – family, friends and being outdoors.

But let's face it, as a designer, or as anyone who looks at Houzz, reads decorating magazines like OUR HOMES, goes shopping or surfs the net, we are inundated with ideas – there's always a desire for change. Here are a few ideas to modernize your outdoor entertaining space and a few others that will make life that much easier:

LIGHTING: You can't depend on candles and a still night when entertaining outdoors. Make sure you have adequate lighting. I love the pendant light by Davey Lighting. It's industrial, classic and modern all at the same time. Hang one off to the side as a subtle design feature or over your side entry.

SHADE: As an alternative to a patio umbrella or a built-in pergola, a shade sail is a fun way to stay protected from the sun. The waterproof polyester material comes in great colours, like rust or royal blue, adding a pop of colour to your space. It also protects you from UV rays. They look modern and they're budget-friendly.

FIRE PIT: Not a new concept, but this tells me that it's a good investment! No one gets tired of having a wood burning fire close by and one that's enclosed is a safe choice for a terrace. What a wonderful thing to cuddle up by on a cool summer evening.

GREENERY: Create a living wall with beautiful greenery and set up a drip irrigation system to feed it (you can even do this off of a rain barrel for the most eco-friendly approach). There are several do-it-yourself kits available on the market that can be set up on a timer for the ultimate hands-free gardening experience. The living wall becomes a lush backdrop to your outdoor space – modern, lovely and useful too.

EXTRA SEATS: If you entertain for larger groups, then be prepared. Have an extra bench or two around to cram a few little ones onto or to pull up for extra seating around a pool. I love a mix of white weave with teak for these pieces. The simple design will collaborate well with existing pieces.

PORCH SWING: You can't go wrong with Dedon. If I could break into someone else's bank account, then their new Swingrest may be my first purchase. For a more budget-friendly approach, consider a simple, classic wood swing hanging from chains on your outdoor porch. You know what makes this design decision work best? A hot day and some lemonade!



DANIEL POUZET SWINGREST, DEDON FURNITURE

SHATTERPROOF GLASSES: If you're going to entertain outside, then you may want to leave the crystal inside. There are tons of amazing plastic-type glasses on the market that look just like glass. You can find a few great ideas from Govino on the Wine Enthusiast's website. My favourites are stemless with a cute notch-out for your finger.

FABRICS: If your loungers are looking a little tired, then try reupholstering the cushions in one of the new Sunbrella fabrics. They look like interior fabrics, not something that can last through summers of outdoor use. Look at Canvas Granite for a cool linen-looking grey. With pets and kids around, it would be a clever choice for indoor use as well.

FAKE GRASS: The new faux grass is truly impressive. With an under-layer of what appears to be dried grass, you would be hard pressed to tell the difference. It no longer looks like Astroturf. And the best part? No dandelions. If you have an area that doesn't get a lot of light or you're short on time to care for your lawn, then try it! You won't be disappointed. (...and you don't have to tell!) **OH**



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INDOORS & OUT

Summer is the ideal time to get out and shop for fantastic finds. Happy hunting!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



2



1



3

1 MY BACK SHED

Mirror

A vintage-inspired treasure can add interest and dimension to a space. This teal-framed mirror with its elegant finial detailing is mounted on weathered barn board and treated with a distressed cream finish for a truly one-of-a-kind appeal.

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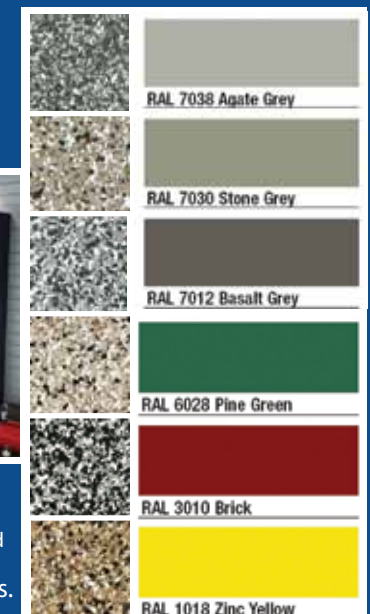
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BY JOYCE TURNER-GIONET // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

FINE-TUNED *Luxury*

Luxury homebuilder Carlos Jardino, principal of **PCM Project & Construction Management Inc.** and builder of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation Lottery Homes, calls this home Oakville's best kept secret. Typical two-storey, four bedroom homes in the area cater to the 40-something demographic with children. This one is different.



FAR LEFT: The backyard oasis is the perfect place to slip away for a quick escape from everyday living. **LEFT:** Elegant gold and crystal accents create sparkle in the stately dining room. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Side lights flank the heavy wood door and flood the spacious entry way with light. **BELOW:** The rustic stone, peaked roof line and shutters on the exterior façade are reminiscent of a European retreat.



Homeowners Carmen and Jorge were living in a 9,500 sq. ft. home, but wanted a more manageable layout that would also meet their needs down the road. A bungalow – a bungalow-style home with a partial second storey – held great appeal. “Think of this house as a compact top-of-the-line Mercedes. Scaled down in size, it’s still fun to drive and includes all the bells and whistles,” says Carlos. As he reels off construction details, it’s an apt analogy. This is a house built to hug the road of life.

“The things you don’t see are important here,” says Carlos. Jorge nods, comparing the build to Noah’s Ark. Triple sump pumps, (“should we ever experience a biblical-scale flood,” Jorge chuckles), dedicated gas and water lines for each living area, a back-up generator, volcanic clay footings rather than the more porous concrete and a six-millimetre layer of poly beneath the foundation, protection against ground moisture and radon gas. “Building is not an art, it’s a process,” says Carlos. Despite his statement,

the art is evident in his attention to the smallest luxurious detail.

Once plans were finalized, Carlos commissioned a watercolour rendering of the house which was posted on-site. Sketches in each room detailed minor aspects such as the position of wall switches. “This ensures that even in the smallest details, there is never a difference between what my clients expect and what occurs,” says Carlos. Although on average, PCM’s volume matches other luxury builders, Carlos builds only one house at a time. This way, he can be on site daily, his attention is focused on one client and his trades are working in sync.

Unlike many custom builds, this one wasn’t designed with an eye to resale. Architect **Michael Pettes** of **Michael Pettes Architect Inc.** perfectly tailored it to the couple’s current lifestyle, anticipating future needs. The loft – equipped with two bedrooms and adjoining en suites – is reserved for visiting family and friends, and is accessible via the staircase or elevator.

Continued on page 20

Carmen wanted an exterior reminiscent of the couple's time in Europe. The creamy stone façade, timber detailing, copper elements and peaked roofline are unmistakably French Country. Buff Indiana limestone was brought from the quarry in boulders and hand-cut on site by **JPS Masonry**. "Just like the ancient Egyptians did it," quips Carlos.

Despite his "compact" analogy, at 6,500 square-feet, it's not a small home. It remains intimate, in large part due to Carmen's exquisite, eclectic taste. Relaxed, understated elegance was the goal. Undisputed boss of the house, Rocco, a salt-and-pepper Schnauzer, settles onto a cinnamon sectional and crosses his paws. He seems to agree.

"I've inherited and collected many beautiful things over the years. Each piece reminds me of someone or something. Although we were downsizing, I couldn't part with them," says Carmen. Late-century antiques, vintage European Lucite pieces, and art deco accents like the entry's wrought-iron banister and pendant light from **Concept Lighting** blend harmoniously. Neutral walls allow artwork from Canadian artists Bobbie Burgers, Brent McIntosh and Elene Gamache to deliver visual drama.

Quarter-sawn white-oak hardwood stained cinnamon runs throughout. Millwork by **Paul Oliveira** of **European Custom Trim** provides richness and dimension. The casually elegant great room, with its modified cathedral ceiling, comprises the kitchen and family room. Full-length Pella windows overlook the leafy backyard. Cabinets and built-ins were crafted by **Perola Kitchens**. "Perola made the design process easy and enjoyable. We actually went into their shop and sat with them over drawings until we had exactly what we wanted," says Carmen. Maple kitchen cabinets stained antique white are accentuated with oil-rubbed bronze hardware. Bianco Venus marble, installed by Marbles of Portugal, tops the island. Espresso-stained walnut built-ins surround the gas fireplace in the family room. From coffee to cocktails, the outdoor Muskoka room is just steps from the great room and provides the perfect haven for warm-weather relaxing. *Continued on page 22*



ABOVE: The dark built-ins provide depth and dimension in contrast to the soothing colour palette in the great room.

LEFT: The Muskoka room extends the home's living space and brings the indoors out.

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: Designed to hold 700 bottles, the wine cellar was constructed with plaster. No chemicals were used to maintain the authenticity of the wine. The antique Mexican table is an ideal spot for wine tastings. **TOP RIGHT:** The oversize island is a nice place to settle in with a treat from The Canadian Cake Factory in Burlington. **RIGHT:** The couple worked with Perola Kitchens & Interiors Ltd. for a truly custom culinary kitchen.





The dining and living rooms are more formal affairs. Centred under a 12-foot coffered ceiling, the gleaming Cuban mahogany dining table from **Rumi Galleries** was a rare find. Paired with late 18th century British chairs, it was a setting from which the room evolved. Marbles of Portugal matched the adjoining butler pantry's work-top to the Rojo Alicante marble on the antique Spanish sideboard. The living room is a restful blend of classic beige, cream, soft green and a scattering of turquoise. The one-of-a-kind tapestry-painting, *Antiquity*, is a conversation piece.

The master's romantic muted tones were chosen to highlight *Girl with the Pink Letter*, an oil by Quebec painter Amy-Claire Huestis. The 15-foot ceiling with its strip of cove lighting spills gentle ambience at night. The spa-like en suite is blissful simplicity, from the heated white Calcutta floors to the vintage European-style fixtures by Kohler. A white stand-alone tub is a dramatic focal point. Events like the couple's overnight trip to Kohler's Wisconsin showroom are part of the PCM experience. "It gave Carmen an opportunity to test drive the fixtures," says Carlos.

On the road of life, if you are looking for a homebuilder who makes sure the experience is inclusive, the outcome luxurious and arrives on budget, it's wise to have a company like PCM at the wheel. **OH**

LEFT: Though the tub is the gem of the master en suite, fresh whites and greys create a soothing backdrop. **BELOW LEFT:** In the master bedroom, an elegant fabric headboard is complemented with soft blue and taupe accents. **BELOW:** The wall above the fireplace in the living room was reinforced to allow for the weight of the stunning Richard Rumi gold leaf mirror.



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Know you and your home's style. Your home's architectural style is important in designing your outdoor space and you want to be sure to carry the style inside your home to the outdoors. Determine what look and feel you are trying to achieve. Are you sleek and minimal, love traditional curves or enjoy rustic charm?



Measure your space: Arriving equipped with your outdoor space measurements will fine tune your search, allowing you to focus on dining and living options that will fit and complement your area. Consider all the entrances and exits to your space as well as windows and views you don't wish to obstruct.

How will you use the space? How many people do you wish to accommodate at your dining table or outdoor living space? Is it formal or will you need space for lounging?



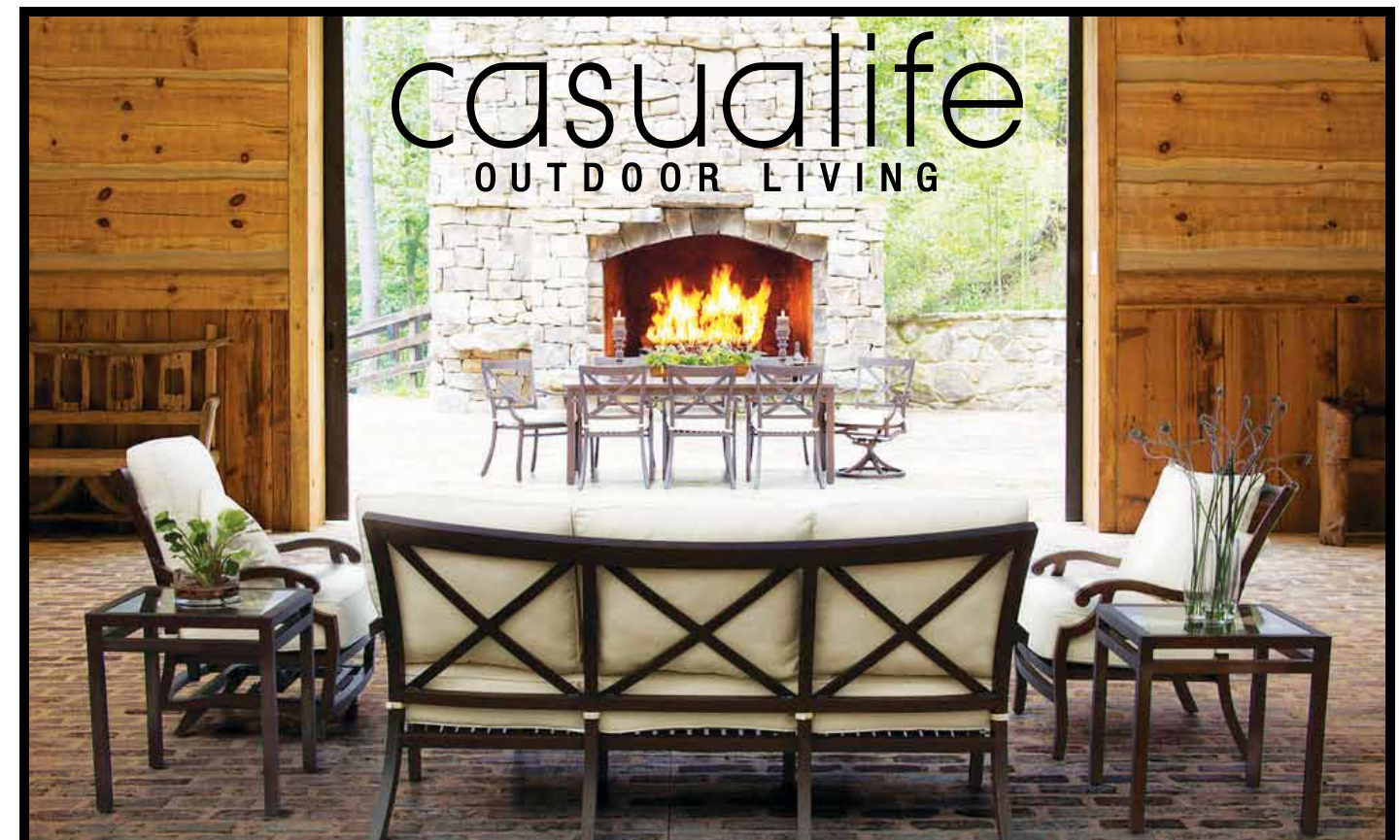
Consider your finishes. Bring in pictures of your home and exterior finishing. Keep in mind the colour of your brick, your stone patio or stained deck. Do you have existing furniture cushions or umbrellas that you need to tie into your new design? The more pictures and references the better!

This little bit of homework goes a long way and ensures your investment will be enjoyed for many years to come.

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PERFECT PATIOS

BY GINA MAKKAR // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

THE PLACE: The warm weather is here! It's time to get outside and start beautifying our outdoor spaces. When you walk into **InsideOut Home & Patio**, you're greeted with an array of outdoor seating and dining options sure to meet the needs of any backyard or outdoor living space. They also cater to commercial clients, such as restaurants, hotels, and golf courses. "We offer personal consultations and we have experienced consultants who can come to your home and help you plan the perfect space for your needs," says owner Gregory Rymaszewski.

THE STYLE: With a focus on cast aluminum and resin wicker furnishings, and well-constructed pieces that don't fade, rust or wobble, InsideOut delivers quality furniture backed by a three, five, or 10-year warranty. Furniture can be tailored at the factory to match existing furniture or sized to fit a specific space. Outdoor cushions and Sunbrella fabrics are available in a vibrant rainbow of colours. Designed for outdoor climates, they won't fade, mildew, or stain and can be customized for a one-of-a-kind, tailored look.

Continued on page 30



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WHAT'S HOT: Cast aluminum is a popular choice because of its zero maintenance. "It's an investment that you make once in a lifetime," says Greg. A variety of traditional and non-traditional options are available in both dining and deep seating collections. Resin wicker has also become more fashionable in the last 10 years. It's a popular option for its comfort and its clean, contemporary look. Modular sectionals allow clients to mix and match shapes and sizes for a truly custom solution that fits any space.

FAVOURITES: Greg says that pieces like cast aluminum are timeless and easily updated by changing cushions to create a new look. "We have a wide range of choices and options when it comes to patio furniture. We have deep seating collections small enough to fit comfortably on a balcony and large enough to furnish a roof-top terrace," says Greg.

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people

HOUSE *beautiful*

BY GINA MAKKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

It takes a lot to make your house a home. This season's people have everything you need to make your dreams a reality, from the ground up to the finishing details.



▲ Frank Vanbetlehem Vanbetlehem Architect Inc.

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◀ Peter Raimondi Colour Land Paint & Decor

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cooking at home

SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



TTo me, ribs are the ultimate summer food. I mean, we're already eating outdoors – why not make it messy? On rib nights at my house, I cover the picnic table with paper, throw down a heaping platter of these ribs, a pile of napkins, a bowl of coleslaw, some fluffy dinner buns and we dig in! And if this scene doesn't evoke summer, I don't know what does!

Ribs do take a while to become tender, but so many steps along the way can be done in advance. The day before you plan to serve them, rub the ribs with the spices and marinate, and make the sauce. In fact, the sauce can be made up to five days ahead. The sauce is equally delicious on chicken, steaks, burgers, chops – you name it!

While you may want to experiment with other sauce/rub flavours through the summer, perhaps even the meat (beef ribs are a treat too!), this one is a total classic – saucy, smoky, a little sweet and may truly be the only rib recipe you'll need all summer!

CAN'T STAND THE HEAT? GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN...

- Too hot to bake the ribs first? Grill the ribs over indirect heat instead. The timing will be approximately the same, but your kitchen won't overheat. For indirect grilling, place the ribs over a portion of the grill that is not lit or heated. In a gas grill, achieve this by lighting only a few of the burners – in a charcoal grill, by piling the coals to one side of the grill. Be sure to place a drip tray below the ribs to catch the fat and prevent flare-ups.

RIB DONENESS

- The phrase “falling off the bone” often comes to mind when we think of cooked ribs. However, technically, if the meat is actually falling from the bone the ribs are likely over cooked. A perfectly cooked rack of ribs is very, very tender but should still be clinging to the bone. The best way to test doneness is to insert a toothpick into the thickest part of the meat. If it pokes in and removes with ease, the meat ribs are done. Be sure to check each rack individually as each one is a little different.

CHIP APPEAL

- If using a gas grill, consider adding wood chips to achieve the natural smoky flavour that's inherent in a charcoal grill. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the wood chips, as each gas grill will have different specifications.

SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS

Serves 6 to 8

4 lbs pork back racks (about 2 racks)

1 tbsp packed brown sugar

2 tsp smoked or regular paprika

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp salt

½ tsp each dry mustard

½ tsp pepper

SMOKY BBQ SAUCE:

1 tsp vegetable oil

1 onion, finely diced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup passata (strained bottled tomatoes)

¼ cup molasses

¼ cup cider vinegar

2 tbsp packed brown sugar

1 tbsp chili powder

1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp smoked or plain paprika

¼ tsp salt

- **Trim fat from ribs:** Remove membrane from underside of ribs, if attached. Mix together brown sugar, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, mustard powder and pepper. Rub all over ribs. Cover and refrigerate for one hour or for up to 24 hours.
- **Smoky BBQ sauce:** In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion and garlic until softened and lightly golden, about six minutes. Stir in tomato passata, molasses, vinegar, brown sugar, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, paprika and salt. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened and reduced to about one cup, 20 to 25 minutes.
- **Place ribs in shallow roasting pan.** Bake, covered with foil, in 350°F oven until very tender, 1½ to 2 hours.
- **For a charcoal grill, place ribs on grill directly over the coals.** Cover and grill, turning once halfway through grilling and brushing occasionally with sauce, until ribs are browned, about 10 minutes. For gas grill, place ribs on grill over medium-high heat. Cover and grill as directed. Serve with any remaining sauce. **OH**

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UPSCALE *cottage* IN ORCHARD BEACH

BY NANCY FORNASIERO // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

When Lisa and Brad Ebel purchased their spacious, heritage-inspired home, they knew it needed help to reach its full potential. Gabriele Pizzale of **Gabriele Pizzale Design Inc.** had worked her magic on their last home, and they were confident she would deliver a repeat performance on this Oakville diamond-in-the-rough.

“Gaby has a real gift for understanding you and your lifestyle,” says Lisa, “but she also knows how to factor in the location and character of your house so it all adds up to fabulous results.” Attention to detail was important to the couple. They wanted their space to feel chic yet relaxed enough for their two sons. The home is nestled on a charming lane in Orchard Beach, an area that was once a summer holiday enclave for city folk to get away from it all. Despite 4,000 sq. ft. of living space, the home has a cottage feel, thanks to its proximity to Lake Ontario, its multitude of windows and its welcoming old-fashioned veranda.

Gabriele’s design theme – upscale cottage – takes cues from the location, the architectural style of the home and the lady of the house who appreciates all things pretty, sparkly, and stylish.

Awash in natural light and visible from the foyer, the centrally located living room sets the tone for the home. As Gabriele points out, “the living room is pivotal since you can see it from almost everywhere.” The cool, neutral palette is enhanced with metallic accents like mercury-glass lamps from **Interior Design House**, silver-leaf accent tables from **House Warmings Inc.**, and a stunning three-piece silver mirror that serves as a work of art and reflects every detail in the room.

The serene scheme is complemented by well-chosen fabrics on club chairs and sofas custom-made by **Gresham House Furniture MFG Inc.** and pillows in soft grey-green and beachy sea mist. Anchoring it all is a custom-made wool rug from Kravet Canada that incorporates the room’s hues. Round tables and curvy lines in accent pieces soften the angular architecture of the house. Finally, distressed wood tables and carefully arranged topiaries bring in organic elements, a must in any cottage.

The breath-of-fresh-air living room includes French doors that lead out to a breezy, screened-in porch. “On a nice spring day, I open them all up and all that lovely fresh air comes in,” says Lisa. A bronze chandelier hangs from the vaulted ceiling and draws the eye to another original detail: interior mullioned windows open out from the second-floor corridor onto the living room, allowing natural light to illuminate the upper level. *Continued on page 38*

The breezy colour scheme in the living room is complemented by the soaring ceilings and the interesting architectural elements. **TOP LEFT:** Board and batten trim work on the staircase and hints of glimmer in the mercury lamp create a bright and welcoming entry way. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The rambling porch and lush gardens lend to the relaxed, cottage ambience.





Unique touches are found everywhere, from the stunning backsplash to the custom paint colour for a truly one-of-a-kind feel. **LEFT:** The synergy between homeowner Lisa Ebel and designer Gabriele Pizzale created stunning results. **BELOW LEFT:** A lovely mix of fresh fabrics and a farmhouse-style table lend to the easy yet elegant vibe that is found throughout the home.

Adjacent to the living room is the newly updated kitchen. Out went the crimson walls, worn countertops and dated cabinets. In came sleek stainless steel appliances from **Goeman's Appliances** and gleaming knobs, handles and cabinetry from **Oakville Kitchen & Bath Centre**.

Gabriele chose a combination of Benjamin Moore's White Down and Fairview Taupe for a custom paint finish that blends perfectly with Cambria quartz countertops in New Quay. Besides choosing this surface for its beauty, Gabriele loves working it into her designs because it's indestructible. "You could spill red wine on this, not notice for two days, and it will not stain!"

The hand-pressed porcelain tile backsplash and crackled glass border are from Sonoma Tile Makers in California sourced through **Into Interiors**. "Each tile is handmade so they're all slightly different," says Gabriele.

Mercury glass pendants suspended over the island offer a touch of glamour. Lighting throughout the home comes from **Gerrie Lighting Studio**, one of Gabriele's favourite sources for the exquisite fixtures that are a trademark of her design.

Lisa's favourite space is the kitchen. "When I'm there I can enjoy almost the entire main floor. I can see my dining room, my living room and family room. I can see into the sunroom and out into my yard. That's really nice."

Continued on page 40

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A servery links the kitchen to the updated dining room. Here, much of the Ebels' furnishings are repurposed, but they reach new heights when juxtaposed with a glamorous, graphic, gold-toned chandelier and luxurious silk draperies embellished with a unique Barbara Barry iridescent-shell trim that Gabriele calls "beachy but elegant."

The talented designer spiced up several other spaces on the main floor, including Lisa's home office, the mudroom, powder room, and Brad's favourite, the family room. This casual space was given new life with contemporary paint colours, softer window treatments and a revamped bar. The blue sparkles in the Cambria quartz countertop picks up the sublime glass mosaic tile on the wall. A favourite product of Gabriele's, this tile is only available to the trades and "is very special since it has so much depth to it... it's not that flat, glass-tile look." *Continued on page 42*

LEFT: Dramatic millwork is a hint of the beauty to come in the dining room. Entertaining is easy with a servery that connects to the kitchen. **BELOW LEFT:** A simple round mirror reflects the intimate dining room. **BELOW:** The blue glass backsplash of the bar carries the beach-chic feel into the family room.



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feature

Upstairs in the master suite, neutral hues once again dominate, as does an overall casual and calm sensibility. Lisa's mandate – to make everything comfortable but elegant – is definitely followed here. The luxurious cream-coloured bedding belies its practical durability. Gabriele proudly describes the fabrics in the bedroom as “cat-friendly and washable” and assured the Ebels that this, along with most everything she's designed, will withstand years of wear-and-tear from their three beloved cats. Ivory cotton draperies with a leaf motif are the finishing touch in this suite which also boasts a sumptuous five-piece bath.

“One of the best compliments I get from my clients is that their house doesn't look like me, it looks like them,” says Gabriele. “At the end of the day, my job was to make this the most fantastic Ebel house that it could be.” Judging by Brad and Lisa's over-the-top level of satisfaction, it seems safe to say... mission accomplished! **OH**

RIGHT: The window apron moulding and painted white bead board create a Muskoka-in-the-city retreat. **BELOW LEFT:** Luxurious custom bedding adorns the fabulous four-poster bed. **BELOW RIGHT:** The bathroom was completely renovated with the help of Oakville Kitchen & Bath Centre.



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