

feature

Looking south to Lake Ontario down a valley and over Northumberland hills, there's always a breeze wafting around the three-storey custom country retreat.

BELOW LEFT: Facing east, the side entry boasts a Golden Labrador brass door knocker announcing the family's love of dogs.

BELOW RIGHT: Four horses have pride of place at Momentum Farm. They come to greet visitors, expecting an apple from the adjacent orchard.



Grand GEORGIAN

A COUNTRY RETREAT CELEBRATES HERITAGE
DESIGN AND MODERN CONVENIENCE

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS // PHOTOS BY SANDY MACKAY

*“God’s in His Heaven –
All’s right with the world!”*

The words of the poet Robert Browning spring unbidden to mind, borne on the breeze of a glorious day to the spacious veranda at Momentum Farm, set high atop the rolling hills for which Northumberland County is famous.

Take in the view: All visible trees (and they number in the thousands) belong to the property. In the near distance, the young fruit in the apple- and-pear orchard is soaking up the last sweet heat of the season, fulfilling the promise offered by the blossoms of May. In the garden, the drowsy bees gather the last of the nectar. In the middle distance, the roofline and dormers of the two-storey custom horse barn are just visible, and all around the deep greens and browns of the old-growth forest sweep down, down, down and away to the blue line of Lake Ontario on the southern horizon.

The fortunate owners of this three-storey house, barn and 144 acres prefer to put the “focus on the property, not on us.”

The couple found this “one-of-a-kind location,” complete with creek and spring-fed pond, four years ago when they were seeking a country property for raising and riding horses. Ironically, they “were looking for a place with a great barn and not much of a house.” What they found was a farm with a wonderful, recently constructed custom Georgian-inspired house, orchards and garden – but no existing barn. Still, it was love at first sight. “This is beautiful countryside and an easy commute” to Toronto where the couple has another home and business interests.

The house, built in 1999 by **Kieffer Homes** of Grafton combines the charm and quality of yesteryear with the conveniences of the 21st century. Kieffer also built the separate three-car garage with loft space above. In the 1970s, Canadian architects and their clients moved away from modernism toward appreciation, conservation and eventual replication of heritage architecture, the beautiful lines and natural practicality of Victorian and pre-Victorian – postmodern – buildings. *Continued on page 39*



Natural light glows through the windows. In the kitchen, two-inch thick marble imported from Asia covers the island and countertops.

LEFT: The summer drapes hang in the dining room off the kitchen. The pear painting evokes the orchards on the property.

BELOW LEFT: On the north end of the home, access from the rear entry opens to a welcoming den with wood-burning fireplace.

BELOW: In the great room at the front of the home, the winter drapes of imported silk hang in preparation of upcoming cooler weather. Casual elegance invites warm moments of conversation and entertaining.



This 7,200 sq. ft. home is typical of the Georgian style, with centre hall and symmetrical rooms on each side, corresponding rooms on the second storey and a "tail" or "ell," at the rear. Window and door openings are horizontally aligned to create a pleasingly balanced visual impression both inside and out, taking advantage of cross-breezes for ventilation. This house is not air-conditioned, but it is not missed. The house is well-insulated, and the reproduction six-over-six wooden sash windows (and a couple of French doors) are placed to catch every breeze. The airy feel is enhanced by ceilings at least 10 feet high and, in the four upstairs bedrooms, cathedral ceilings that are built right up to the roofline with beams exposed.

The exterior siding is of pre-finished wood imported from Vermont. The roof has wooden shingles with solid copper eavestroughs and flashing.

The solid, wood-panelled front door and half-height moulded wooden side panels topped by side lights are all surmounted by an extra-wide transom. Transoms are echoed above the interior doors, creating a flow of light and space. The wraparound veranda on two sides of the house is accessed by French doors from the living room and the main front door.

In the large farm kitchen there is nothing farm-like about the décor, with its two-inch-thick marble counters imported from Hong Kong, radiant heat, built-in appliances, high-end cabinets and central utility island. In this rural location there are no natural gas lines, but propane serves the same purpose, offering rapid responsiveness for the chef.

Designer Tracey McCarthy, of McCarthy Interiors of Toronto achieved an ambience that transports the restful beauty of the outdoors to the interior, "a place to kick back and appreciate your surroundings." *Continued on page 42*

feature



TOP: The new 8,000 sq. ft. horse barn and tack room was carefully positioned so the views from the house were not impeded.

ABOVE: Harnesses, saddles and caps line the walls, ready when someone wants to go for a ride.

RIGHT: The interior of the stables is constructed of strong hemlock wood that horses do not like to nibble and withstands kicking.

FAR RIGHT: Builder Scott Russell also manages the stable at Momentum Farm.



Taking Care of ALL your Residential & Commercial Roofing Needs

"10 Year Guarantee on all workmanship"

Northumberland
ROOFING & CONTRACTING

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
905.269.ROOF (7663)

northumberlandroofing@yahoo.ca
www.northumberlandroofing.ca

Northumberland, Keep it Beautiful
- call for year-round repairs -

SOLID WOOD.
SOLID SERVICE.
SOLID QUALITY.

THE NEW
OAK
T·R·E·E

WWW.THENEWOAKTREE.COM

905.885.7792 1.877.885.7792
4041 County Road 28, Port Hope - Minutes from Oshawa & Cobourg

T.R.
Design Centre Ltd

Imagine.....

"WE'LL MAKE YOUR IDEAS REALITY"

- Kitchen Cabinets • Bathroom Vanities • Counter Tops
- Free Estimates • Full Design Service

In Business Since 1972

54 LINDSAY ST. S., LINDSAY

878-0611
1-800-446-4603

SHADE-O-MATIC
Lighting Control Solutions

Come and see
Heike Kwok!
2009
Readers' Choice
Award Winner
Best Interior
Decorator
In Your Space
Design
www.iysdesign.com

urban LOFT

29 King Street West
Cobourg, Ontario
905.373.4845

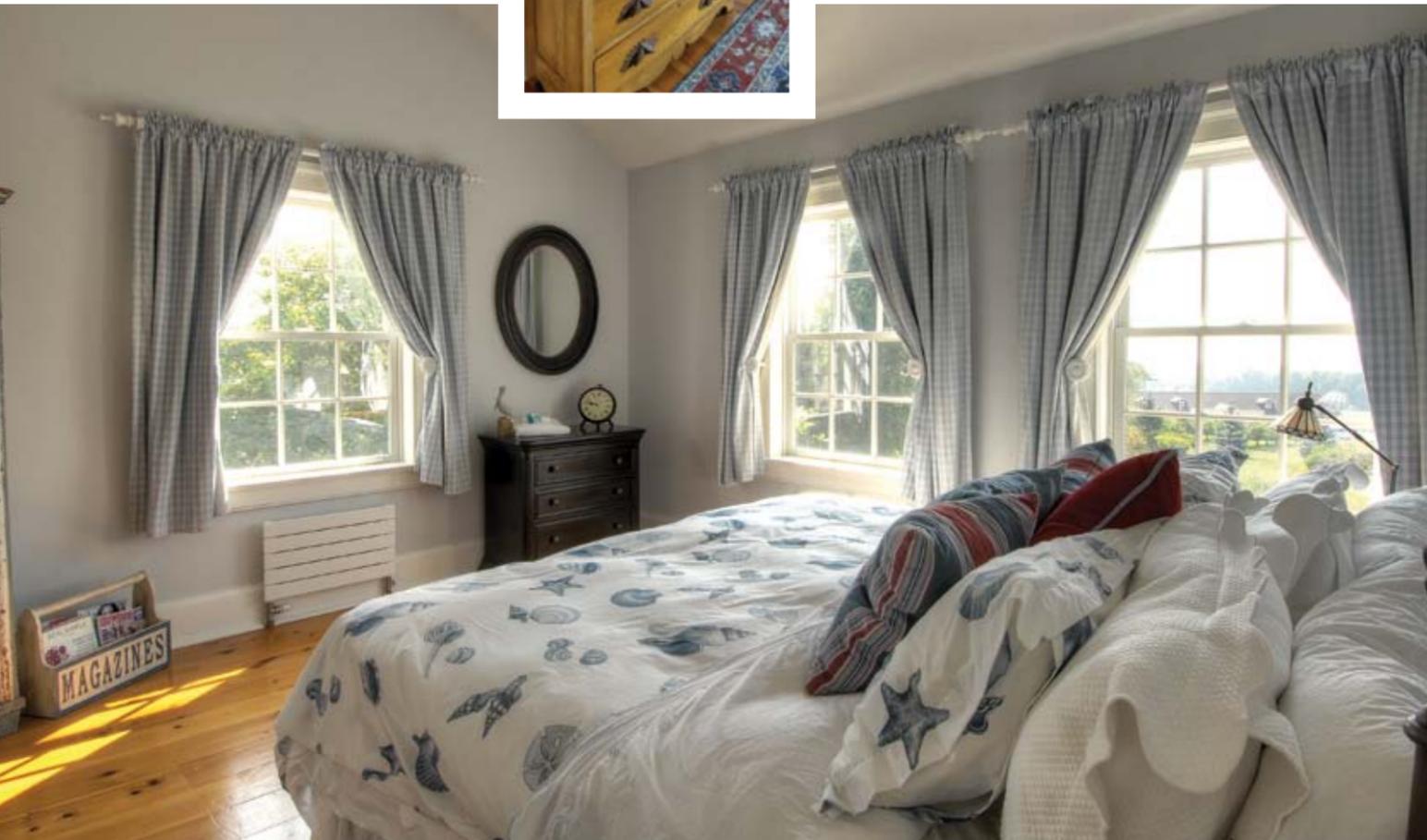
www.urbanloft.com

For all the right pieces

feature

BELOW: In a front guest room, visitors have serene dreams beneath the vaulted ceiling.

RIGHT: Colourful accents in another guest bedroom exude optimism and comfort.



Wood-burning fireplaces in the living room, master bedroom and great room normally throw enough heat to keep hosts and guests comfy. But, when the mercury really plummets, there is a Viessmann boiler for radiant heating throughout the home. Imported from Germany, it is fuelled by propane in the partially finished walkout basement, which also boasts a home gym and in-law suite. **March Floor Coverings** of Cobourg installed the tile floors accented with Berber carpeting.

These folks have added their own touches to a home already brimming with custom features, notably the wrought-iron antique-style thumb latches on many of the interior doors, hand-crafted by Adi and Joanne Bulsara, of **Anvil Artistry**, Cobourg, who also created the massive yet graceful wrought-iron gates at the main entrances to the grounds and horse paddocks. **Leonard Fence Co.** of Grafton constructed the double fences – made of oak – to ensure the four powerful Clydesdale-cross horses, over 18 hands high, stay inside and safe. Kieffer crafted the antique-style square picket fences around the house and gardens.

Scott Russell of **Barnum Creek Builders Timberworks and Managers** of Grafton custom-built the newly completed 8,000 sq. ft. horse barn and tack room. It's a hybrid structure, partly stick and partly timber frame – with living and storage space for animals, people and large machinery, with geothermal heating and cooling installed by **Northumberland Refrigeration** of Grafton.

Russell also designed and built a 16-by-20-foot, post-and-beam “bunky” for picnics at the north end of a five-kilometre riding trail through the woods on the property, as well as two solid oak-decked bridges, strong enough for horses, over Barnum Creek, which meanders through the woods and offers splendid trout and salmon fishing in season.

Grounds and gardens around the house and barn were graded by **Kelly's Excavating & Utilities Services** of Roseneath and landscaped by Gord deVries of **Naturescape** of Cobourg.

Even a poet like Browning would be hard-pressed to find enough adjectives and superlatives to describe this idyllic property. **OH**

BUILDING GREEN

ENERGY EFFICIENT >> ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
SOUND RESISTANT >> FIRE RESISTANT >> SUPERIOR STRENGTH

ONTARIO ICF SUPPLY INC.

8 Thompson Rd, Sunderland ON
>> 1.888.333.9963 <<
www.ontarioicfsupply.com

STARTS WITH US

SUPPLIER OF INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS, EPS FOAM SHEETS & ACCESSORIES

NUDURA
INTEGRATED BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
Building Value

Great Floors Start With Us!

You've found the store where shopping for flooring is a relaxing and enjoyable experience. Your project will be handled by expert flooring specialists and your new flooring is backed by our complete Buyer's Edge Satisfaction Guarantee!

Red Oak Savannah
mirage
The Unique Reflection of Quality

M·A·R·C·H
floor coverings

FloorsFirst
Beautiful flooring begins with us

8013 County Rd 2, Cobourg, ON • 905-372-5656 • marchflr@eagle.ca

HARDWOOD • VINYL • AREA RUGS • CARPET • CORK • LAMINATE
CERAMIC AND STONE TILE • FLOORING ACCESSORIES

ROBINSON CONTRACTING
(LINDSAY) LTD.

Residential Commercial & Industrial

Open the Door to Energy Efficiency

Established in 1986, Robinson Contracting (Lindsay) Ltd. is a family-owned General Contracting Company providing quality residential, commercial & industrial construction & renovations. We specialize in energy-efficient custom homes, cottages and additions. We offer professional workmanship, excellent customer service & a high level of product knowledge.

1-705-328-1092 Office
1-888-328-1092 Toll Free
www.robinsoncontracting.ca

R-2000

NUDURA
INTEGRATED BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
Building Value

IBCF
INTEGRATED BUILDING CONCRETE FORM ASSOCIATION

IBCF
INTEGRATED BUILDING CONCRETE FORM ASSOCIATION