

Good Taste in ALL STYLES

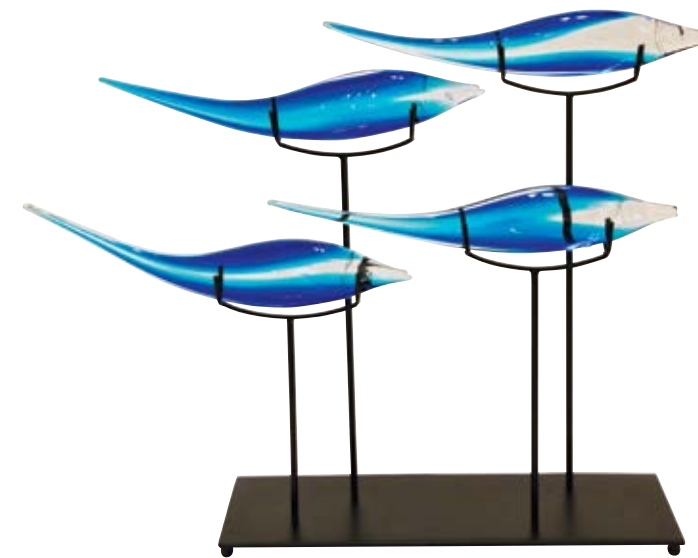
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

THE PLACE: “We’re in an old church that was built in 1873,” says **Rafters of Muskoka** owner David MacPhee. When he first bought the property, about 15 years ago, it was an art studio. “We were here for one year and our business went gangbusters so we did a lot of renovations. We lifted it up, put in a basement and added a big staircase and stairwell to join the two floors together.” The store now has eight room settings with a varied selection of furniture, home décor and accessories.

THE PRODUCTS: Rafters makes an effort to source locally, where possible. “We do buy internationally and bring in a couple of very nice lines from the United States and other parts of the world in our accessories,” David says. “This helps us keep our price points low and quality high.” Rafters carries bedding, bath accessories, living and dining room furniture, outdoor furniture, artwork and chandeliers, as well as very unique pieces, carpeting and custom work. “We do custom draperies, custom bedding, custom furniture. We’ll help with space planning and run building projects and we do construction management.”

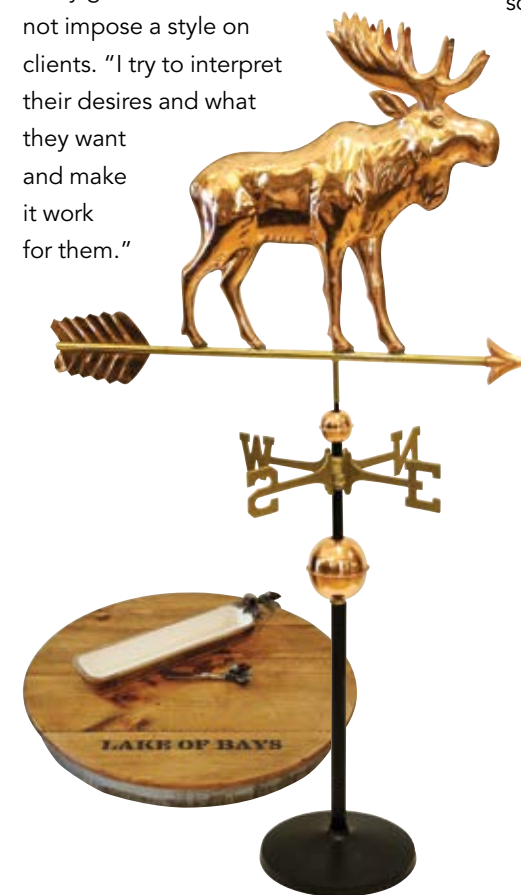


David MacPhee



THE SERVICES: “We offer complete interior design services – colour selections, furniture design, kitchen and bathroom designs, boathouse designs and full cottages,” David explains.

THE STYLE: Rafters evolves with the industry, says David. “We see good taste in all different styles – modern, traditional, contemporary. There’s good taste in every genre.” He does not impose a style on clients. “I try to interpret their desires and what they want and make it work for them.”



WHAT’S HOT: The trend has shifted to more contemporary furniture. “People aren’t bringing up the hand-me-downs from the city any more,” he says. “They want a specific look when they come up here and that bar has been raised very high. The trend has been to more clean lines, less kitschy kinds of décor and more sophistication.”

