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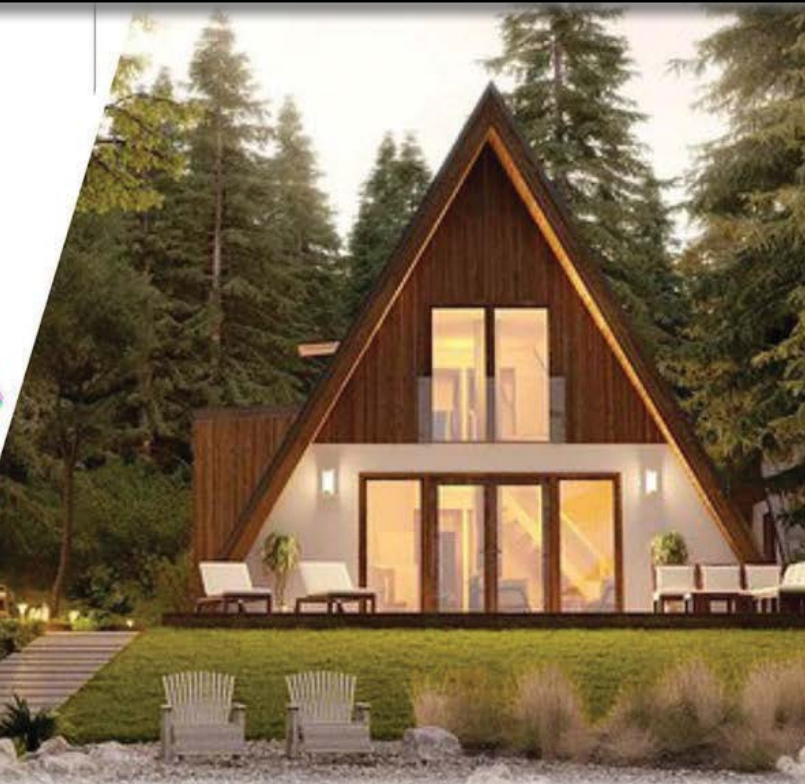
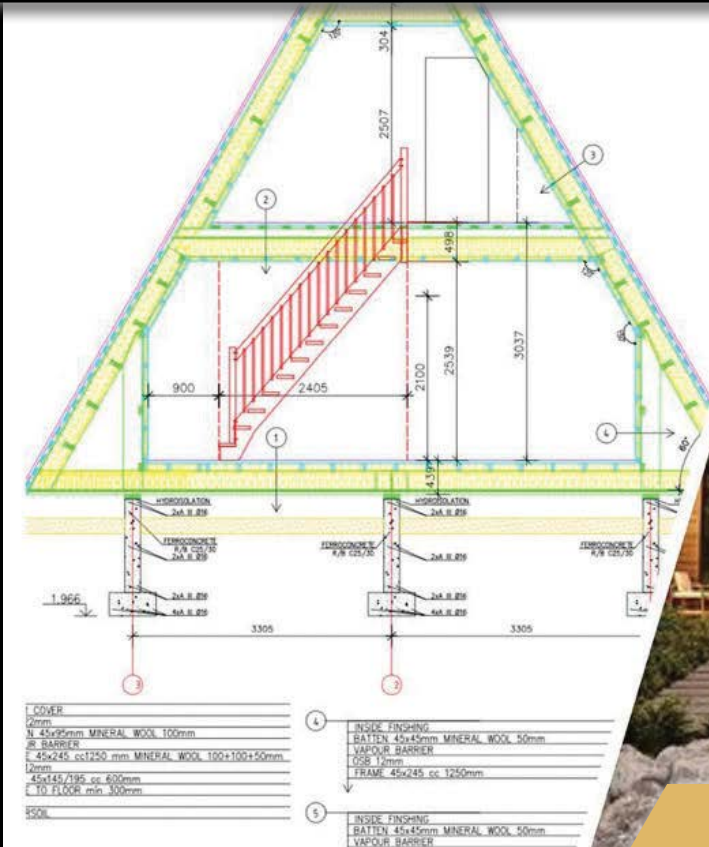
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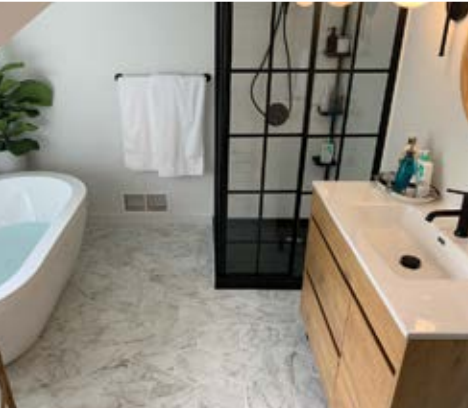
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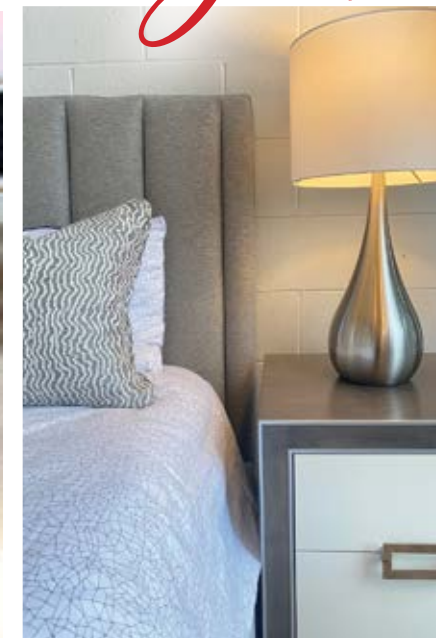


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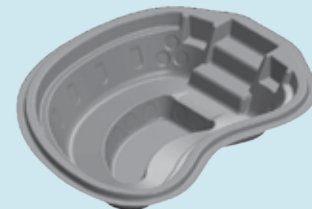
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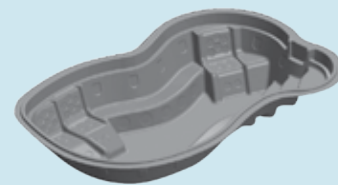
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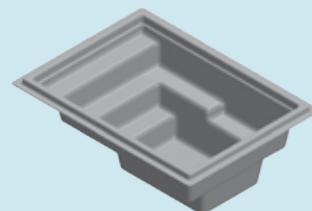
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OUR HOMES The Best of Ontario is published two times a year.

OUR HOMES is distributed to *The Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star* subscribers across the GTA. Copies of OUR HOMES are available for free pick up at high traffic locations throughout the area. OUR HOMES is distributed to select business leaders via direct mail.

Please send all letters and/or feedback to OUR HOMES Magazine,
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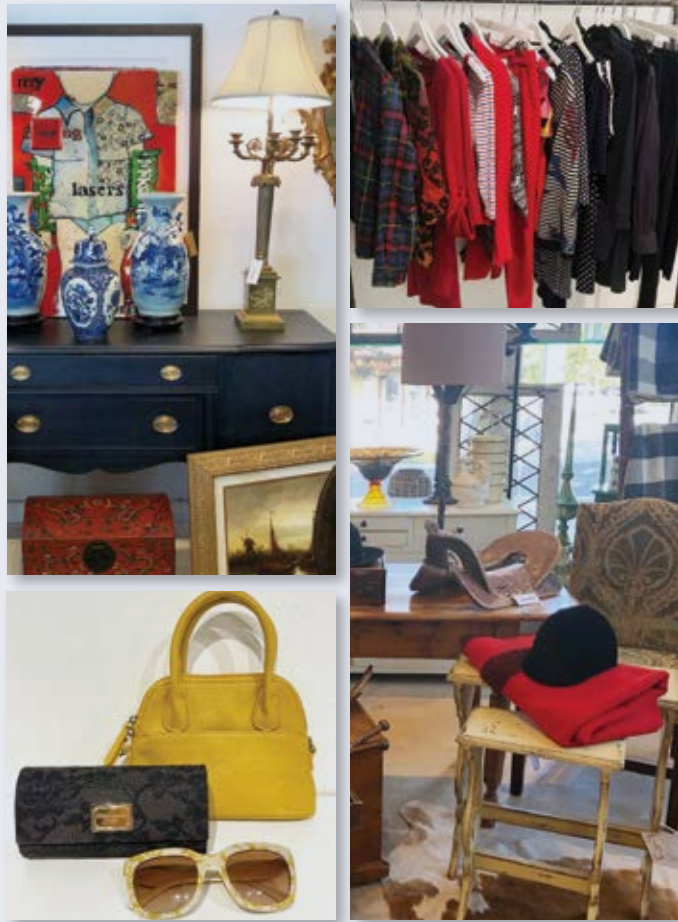
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editor's note



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'. My youngest is in Grade 12, and like many others, we're preparing to send him off to university in the fall. It's hard not to feel blindsided when the pandemic-blurred timeline makes it feel like we've rushed to the finish line.

I know we're not unique. Graduating is a rite of passage. It's a time of celebration, and a time for Matt to enjoy his hard work and accomplishments.

We've done our job and done it well, but it's bittersweet. We've prepared him for the world and he's ready for the next chapter, to move out, move toward new experiences and spread his wings. There's so much he has yet to discover. It's a magical time.

I can't help but think about how life will change when he's no longer at home. It was hard when our daughter first left. I resisted the urge to call or text, but she always found time to connect, even if it was brief. The pandemic brought her home again and in some ways, we were blessed with the extra time. Now with both flying the nest, it feels sudden and unexpected. We'll know less about their lives and what they're doing at any given moment of the day.

Matt is pragmatic, naturally even-keeled, rarely over-emotional. He's logical, and true to form, he views an impending departure as just another day. He was the kid who charged toward the kindergarten doors and scarcely looked back. When he decides he's ready for something, he's ready.

As parents, we work hard to raise dynamic, independent, confident young adults who forge a path separate from our own. It's an anxious and exciting time in equal measure, the beginning of a new stage in our relationships with our children. As they leave and create lives more fully their own, the best we can do is remind them we're still just a phone call away.

Gina Makkar, *Managing Editor*
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building BIOLOGY

Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** explores the principles of Building Biology.

The discipline of Building Biology focuses on the relationship between the natural and built environments with the goal of creating greater harmony between the two. With nature as the guiding principle, building biologists integrate a holistic approach to the design, build and/or renovation of residential dwellings to provide as little disruption to the surrounding environment as possible – while creating healthy homes.



OFFICE OU / EVOLVE BUILDERS GROUP INC:
Contemporary straw bale home

The principles of Building Biology can be grouped into five main topics:

SITE AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

The site and the placement of the dwelling should be free of health hazards (naturally occurring or human-made) and ensure occupants are not disturbed by pollution from air, soil, water, noise and electrical. The goal is to position dwellings in communities and developments that provide ample access to nature, sunshine and fresh air for families and individuals of all ages.

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION HEALTH

This is a topic that we've heard more and more about since the widespread introduction of wireless technologies.

Many sources of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exist, some human-made and others naturally occurring. Examples of sources include: electrical service, power lines, appliances, cell phone technology,



synthetic carpeting, drapery and textiles, components in building materials, steel in furnishings and currents in the earth. Building Biology attempts to integrate strategies to minimize exposure generated from inside or outside a building.

Here are some simple and easy things you can do at home to lower exposure: Use a landline and minimize cell phone usage; turn off WiFi when not in use and keep electrical devices away from your bed. Some people put their bedrooms on circuits that can easily be turned off at night.

INDOOR AIR AND WATER QUALITY

A ventilation strategy is especially important in new construction. Although airtight homes are prized for their energy efficiency, the circulation of fresh air is crucial for a healthy indoor climate. This is achieved through the design and placement of windows and doors for ample natural ventilation as well as by installing a properly sized mechanical ventilation system.

The Building Biology process also aims to ensure moisture content remains low in dwellings. Building Biology strongly recommends a historically derived mass-wall construction method such as earth, clay or straw for their natural ability to allow the flow of vapour molecules through the wall assembly. These natural materials have the innate ability to buffer large amounts of moisture, and the flow-through process is very slow, so accumulation from condensation is insignificant and does not deteriorate the building envelope. Known as "breathable walls," they can provide stable temperature and humidity levels, producing a comfortable living environment. The walls themselves, finished directly with plaster or with wood over furring strips, provide insulation and eliminate the need for many synthetic materials, which can reduce exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



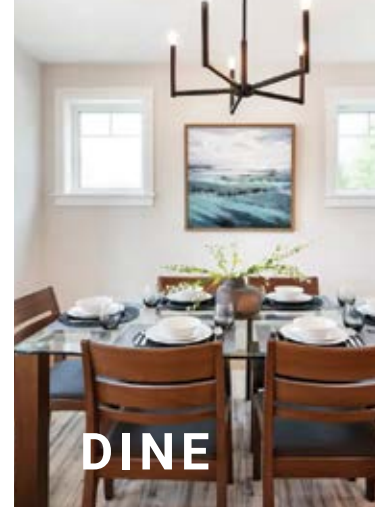
EVOLVE BUILDERS GROUP INC / HARVEST HOMES:
Straw bale home construction

OCCUPANT WELL-BEING

To improve indoor air quality, consider selecting low-toxin natural materials and finishes. Providing stable and welcoming air and surfaces can be accomplished through radiant heating methods such as passive solar techniques and the use of thermal mass (such as stone surrounding a fireplace that holds heat long after the fire has burned out). Ergonomics of the human body are also important when considering furniture selections, natural light, a colour palette inspired by the surrounding natural environment and acoustics to mitigate unwanted noise.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

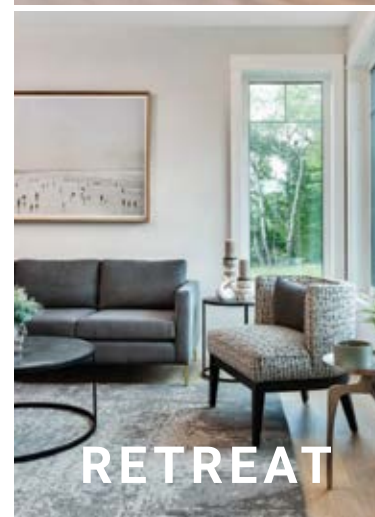
The final tenet of Building Biology is the selection of materials and construction methods that promote health and well-being from the beginning of the process to the end. Care is taken to avoid materials that deplete natural resources or permit unsustainable harvesting practices along with life cycle costs of materials from an environmental and energy perspective. Buildings are designed in an energy-efficient manner to minimize energy consumption, provide water-saving features and power with renewable energy sources when viable. **OH**



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Continued on page 32



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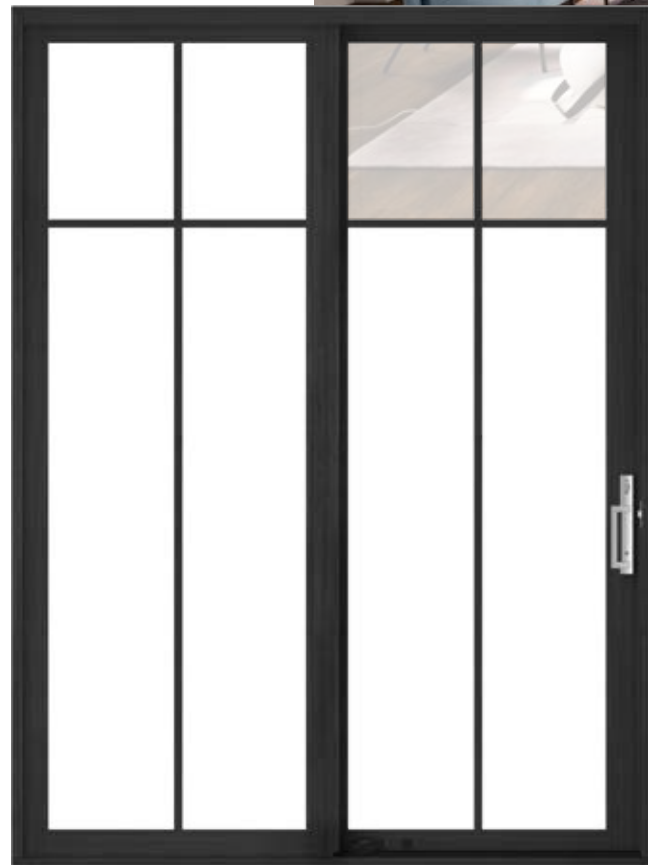


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ZERO WASTE:

Earth-friendly HOLIDAY GIFT WRAP INSPIRATION

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

We've all felt it, that uneasiness that follows a happy round of holiday gift-giving.



WRAPPR: Silk furoshiki wraps from the Wintergreen collection, featuring original artwork by Canadian artist Jenna Caswell.



WRAPPR: Silk furoshiki wraps Hot Spice, Sparkle, Celestial Dreams and Evergreen.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WRAPPR

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID WILE STYLIST: DEE CONNOLLY

Eyeing those mountains of crunched-up paper, sticky tape and jiggly ribbons, we know much of this stuff isn't recyclable. And the uncomfortable truth is, holiday waste isn't insignificant. According to Zero Waste Canada, Canadians generate 545,000 tons of waste each year from gift wrap and shopping bags. And during the holiday season alone, we motor through six million rolls of tape.

What to do? It's no surprise that more consumers today are on the hunt for sustainable gift-wrap options. Social media sites like Instagram and Etsy are seeing the proof in their search results. In April 2021 for example, Etsy noted: "Interest in reusable or recyclable wrapping paper, gift boxes and mailers is on the rise." Astonishingly, the company saw a 936 per cent year-over-year increase in searches for eco-friendly gift boxes!

Are you, too, seeking out sustainable wrapping this holiday season? We've got you. Here's our list of sustainable gift-wrap inspiration aimed at helping you deliver all the joy – without all the waste. Happy wrapping!

Wrappr (wrappr.com)

REUSABLE FUROSHIKI GIFT WRAP
DESIGNED BY ARTISTS

In Toronto, Brittany Trafford is the founder of Wrappr, a small business now in its second year of selling artist-designed furoshiki wraps. As Trafford explains, "Furoshiki is a tradition in Japan. It's been a craft there for about 1,200 years and it's the tradition of wrapping gifts and transporting books or food with fabric wrap." Wrappr's mission is first environmental, she says. The company website offers not only colourful product photos of reusable wrap designs, but also education such as tying tutorials and notes



WRAPPR: Silk furoshiki wrap Celebration

on alternate uses for furoshiki. Trafford's secondary mission is support for artists. Wrappr furoshiki come in a stunning variety of designs by artists from around the globe, making them a joy to gift and reuse. (Artists, says Trafford, are paid up-front and also earn a one-dollar royalty from every furoshiki sale.) Beyond designs by Canadian artists, Trafford says, "We're also working with artists from Argentina, Japan, Germany and all over the place!"

Continued on page 36

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joywrap (joywrap.ca)

REVERSIBLE FABRIC BAGS, FLAT WRAP AND BATH BOMB GREETING CARDS

In Dundas, Ont., Amy Ballinger's company joywrap is also prepping for its second holiday season. Signature products include reversible furoshiki-type flat wraps and gift bags with a twist – or crinkle, to be exact. Ballinger started out making products for her family: "We decided we didn't want to contribute to the waste anymore but then we were joking about how it would be a silent Christmas morning with everyone unwrapping their fabric gifts!" Thanks to a bit of innovation (via a non-toxic and BPA-free material between fabric layers), joywrap products deliver on nostalgia, offering lots of classic crinkle when they're unwrapped. With reversible fabrics – wraps and bags are festive on

JOYWRAP: Holiday bath bomb greeting card



JOYWRAP: Gift wraps and gift bags in Bear & Buffalo Plaid + Teal

one side, while the other is more generic – Ballinger says pieces are designed to be used year-round.

Joywrap's made-in-Canada offerings include an option to customize wrap with photos of family or furry friends as well as reusable gift tags and bath-bomb greeting cards, which are biodegradable and can be tossed in the tub.

DIY PROJECTS

Prefer a DIY project? If you have some basic sewing skills, making your own cloth wraps and bags is another compelling option – with the bonus of going fabric shopping! The internet is absolutely brimming with sewing tutorials, but rest assured sewing a furoshiki – essentially a hemmed square of fabric – is a fairly simple task. From there you could also try your hand at sewing simple tie bags, wine carriers or totes.



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

NO SHOPPING REQUIRED

Don't want to shop at all? No problem. There are lots of elegant ways to package gifts by reusing what you already have. For example, in place of traditional gift wrap, consider using a colourful map or your children's artwork. Vintage pieces are also great for packing gifts – and as a bonus, mason jars, tins, wooden crates, baskets, scarves and tea towels deliver lots of whimsy and visual interest.

Consider pieces of ribbon, jute or string in place of cello tape. And topping it all off, rather than non-recyclable ribbons and bows, why not head outside? Gathered bits like pinecones, branches and sprigs of greenery make for simple yet breathtaking embellishment on gifts.

EMBRACE THE FUN

Admittedly, developing more sustainable traditions takes some time and thought. Yet Ballinger likes to frame this as more about fun and creativity than guilt. Just like those holiday stockings and décor you bring out every year, reusable wrapping pieces, she says, can become part of your family's cherished traditions. "You're not losing anything here," she says of ditching the waste. "For me it's really about 'What traditions are we passing on to future generations?'" **OH**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOYWRAP

JOYWRAP: Gift wraps and gift bags in Christmas Floral + Red



Photo: Van Dale


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good taste

BLACK RASPBERRY POMEGRANATE *fizz*

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

This celebratory cocktail features tart pomegranate and sweet black raspberry liqueur – topped with some bubbly! Perfect for your holiday party.



INGREDIENTS

POMEGRANATE SYRUP

2 cups pomegranate juice

½ cup granulated sugar

COCKTAIL (FOR 1)

A spoonful of pomegranate syrup

1 ounce Chambord liqueur

Dry sparkling wine

Frozen raspberries, to garnish

Rosemary sprig, to garnish

DIRECTIONS

SYRUP

Combine pomegranate juice and sugar in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer then lower temperature to low. Simmer for 25-30 minutes or until reduced by half. Let cool completely.

MAKE COCKTAIL

Add ice and frozen raspberries to a glass of choice. Add a spoonful of syrup and 1oz of Chambord. Top with a dry sparkling wine and stir. Garnish with a rosemary sprig for a festive touch! **OH**

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STORY **CONNIE**
JESKE CRANE

KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

GIFTS HOME COOKS REALLY WANT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

From crisp tea towels to fancy Dutch ovens in the latest must-have colour, kitchen gifts have always been popular during the holidays. This year though, that trend has gone into overdrive.

Thanks to the pandemic and all those hours we are still spending rustling up meals at home, kitchen retailers are seeing demand continue to explode. And beyond sheer numbers, they're also seeing other fascinating shifts.

Alison Fletcher, owner of Toronto-based Cookery says that pre-COVID, a typical holiday kitchen gift was often "really pretty, something that is perhaps high on aesthetic value and lower on function." This year, she says weary home cooks also want pieces that last and offer practical solutions. "Things that save me time, that deliver me better results and that help me deliver that many-times-a-day cooking experience."

We talked to Alison and also to Jenny Otsuka, owner of Zest Kitchen Shop in Picton, to get some guidance on gifting for this holiday season. Here are some key considerations they shared:



ALL-CLAD: Copper Core 10-Piece Set

LONG-LASTING QUALITY

The pandemic has put our kitchen tools to the test. And we're finding our cheaper knives aren't cutting it and our bargain non-stick pans are decidedly sticky. As Alison says, "If it used to fall apart within two years, now it's falling apart within six months and people are really dissatisfied with those things. And so what we call heirloom-quality cookware is really where we're seeing a massive amount of growth."

Jenny sees a similar trend: "We are seeing people reinvesting in their kitchens." Specifically she sees demand for "good-quality knives, and buying that French or Dutch oven that people have been sort of holding out for all this time."

COSY COMFORT

With gifts, cosy comfort is a great mantra this year. Alison says, "The reason French ovens were so important last year and continue to be so important this year is because it brings your family together and it gives you that warmth and comfort when there's so much fear and illness and so much uncertainty outside of the home." Among the lovely gift ideas here are pieces like pasta pots, French and Dutch ovens and large sauté pans.



LE CREUSET: Oval French Oven in Nutmeg

LODGE: Blacklock 5.5 Quart Dutch Oven

SIZE MATTERS

If you are considering gifting a Dutch or French oven this year, Alison says the current trend is to go big, especially if you're shopping for a busy home cook. "We're definitely seeing bigger sizes in everything - sauté pans, stock pots, frying pans - with higher capacity and bigger sizes. Because then maybe you can cook for two nights or you can cook for tonight and then lunches."

Continued on page 42

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holiday hints

BETTER TOOLS

From chef's knives to tea towels, quality kitchen tools of all kinds are a great gift option right now. Jenny says, "Updating a few of those things just makes life so much better."

As for those chef's knives that are on many wishlists, Jenny recommends taking time to consider what the recipient already has and talking to a retailer. Often, she says, "I like to recommend starting off with a nice forged eight-inch chef's knife, and then which brand would depend on what you think would be suitable for the person."

In this category, other popular gift ideas include quality salt and pepper mills, splatter-proof aprons and quality linen tea towels that can stand the test of time.

MICROPLANE: EcoGrate Series Zester Grater in Grey



CUISIPRO: Frosted Silicone Flat Whisk & Silicone Balloon Whisk



WÜSTHOF: Amici & Classic 8" Chef Knives



LINEN WAY: Bilbao Linen Tea Towel in Blue/Natural

NOW DESIGNS: Heirloom Stonewash Aprons in Wine, Midnight & Ochre

LE CREUSET: 20 cm Salt & Pepper Mills in Artichaut

LITTLEDEER: The Sprongs, The Pan Paddle & The Wok Paddle

CHOOSE PIECES IN ON-TREND COLOURS

Before you buy, it's always good to get a sense of colour trends. For this holiday season, the most popular colours for kitchenware continue to be warm and earthy shades, says Alison – navy blues, deep golds, burgundies, browns and olive green. "So we're not seeing jewel tones, we're seeing warmth."



LE CREUSET: Grand Teapot & Classic Mug in Meringue

RESTAURANT-AT-HOME EXPERIENCES

As we're still having so many meals at home, gifts that make those experiences special are also wonderful. "We're seeing people improve the quality of their wine glasses because they're having wine at home more than at restaurants," says Alison. Other options include specialty cocktail glasses, shakers and beautiful coffee and tea pieces. Think Le Creuset teapots and mug sets and good-quality moka pots.



GROSCHE MILANO: Espresso Maker in Mountain Blue

SHOP SMART

Finally, a little extra planning is recommended this year as pandemic-related supply issues will be a factor. "So if you see something that you think might be suitable for somebody, I would recommend picking it up," says Jenny.

And because home cooks have such practical needs this year, trying to get some hints is a great strategy. As Jenny says, "If you can check out the person's kitchen that would be ideal – scope it out and see what they could use. And I think if the person is able to give you a hint, that would be great!" **OH**



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STORY **JOYCE GIONET**
PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG

EVERY HOME MAHZAD HOMES BUILDS GETS A GRAND ENTRANCE – IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! THIS HOME’S NOD TO FRENCH LUXURY IS UNMISTAKABLE. TORONTO HOME DESIGNER **GIORGIO LOLOS OF GIORGIO LOLOS DESIGNS GETS KUDOS FOR ITS PERFECT PETIT CHÂTEAU APPEAL. ALTHOUGH THE LOT IS 60 BY 120 FEET, THIS IS A HOUSE ON A GRAND SCALE.** *Continued on page 46*



LEFT: The dramatic open riser staircase sits under a spectacular skylight.
OPPOSITE: The formal living room is layered with details, from the intricate mouldings to the gold accents. It's the perfect backdrop for a pirouette.





ABOVE: Buff limestone on the home's exterior holds traditional and timeless appeal. **BELOW LEFT:** Visitors are wowed from the moment they step through the front door. **BELOW RIGHT:** A deep, moody hue adds an air of masculinity to the home office.

Limestone has been used in building French châteaux for hundreds of years. So perhaps it's no surprise that in a variation on a theme, buff limestone was also the choice for this exterior. The gold-tone lamp lighting looks fabulous against the smooth stone panels. The front garden recalls a formal *jardin à la française* on a petite scale. Symmetry and order rule over clipped boxwood hedges, small trees and leafy greenery. Elements like concrete, natural stone, wrought iron, stone pots and terraced parterres make up the hardscaping – a perfect walk-up to the grand entrance.

Interviewing Mahzad, you realize that she's a seasoned pro in visualizing the big picture, but she truly lives for the details, many inspired by her travels. Ultra-modern elements neighbour the traditional throughout the house and neither looks out of place. The windows were an element inspired by the St. Regis Hotel in New York.

The rotunda's dome is breathtaking, but small details like millwork and moulding have also been given exquisite attention: appliques over doors, leaves and scrolls on wall panels and the unexpected, like the carved orb over the living room's arch. There isn't a corner of the house that hasn't been treated to detail. There isn't a dark corner either – window size and placement (**Sunrise Window and Door Systems Inc.**) have maximized natural light. In the kitchen (**Arthaus Millwork**), 10-foot antique mirrored doors were mounted to look like furniture. Panelling matches that in the living and dining rooms. The four-inch solid-walnut floating staircase with open risers is eye-catching. The solid island is topped with thick slabs of snow white Calacatta marble. "I like to use walnut. I love everything about it, the grain, the softness, the colour. Stained or not, it always looks rich," Mahzad says. *Continued on page 49*



ABOVE: The dining room is sleek and chic with integrated wine cabinets and glimmers of gold. **LEFT:** Graphic details are everywhere, like the shape of the chairs and the decorative trim on the drapes. **RIGHT:** Mahzad chose furnishings and fixtures that tie the details throughout together.

“VARYING TONES AND LAYERING HELP BALANCE THINGS OUT AND IS EASIER ON THE EYE.”



Sourced at **Marble Granite Depot**, custom-cut Thassos and Crema Marfil marble were paired with Imperial Brown marble on the floors; the veining a nice complement to the walnut floors throughout by **Chestnut Flooring**. Brass inlay on floors delivers added luxe. Statuettes play a role in the old-world luxury vibe, all from **Lladró**. Mahzad is fond of gold tones and she says it turns individual spaces into “little pieces of heaven.” There are at least 10 shades throughout the house. “Why so many?” we asked. “Too much of a single tone would be tacky, we’re not trying to replicate Versailles. Varying tones and layering help balance things out and is easier on the eye.”

She talks about her use of blue and purple, the dominant accent colours. “They break up the black and white and are a great complement to gold.” Blue is universally loved, so that was an easy choice for accent chairs, the dining room, the sassy little chair in the rotunda and accent cushions. Purple is a royal colour and while it suits this house, Mahzad admits “it can be a dangerous colour for a designer to use because not everyone likes it.” She’s used it sparingly.

Continued on page 50



TOP: With rooms that open into each other, the repetition of curves in the island, over the sink and in the window inlays unify the space. **ABOVE:** The gold pendant over the island is an elegant touch. **RIGHT:** Mirrored doors reflect the beauty in the details of the space. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** In this kitchen, gold and brass details are used to add drama and personality. **MIDDLE:** Curved mullions add architectural detail. **RIGHT:** The iridescent mosaic-tiled backsplash shimmers in the light.





The late **Christopher Guy** remains one of her favourite designers and except for the **Caracole** diamond-shaped table in the living room and the primary bedroom furniture, the rest of the furniture is all Guy. He grew up on the French Riviera, home to artists and writers and a playground for the uber-rich. His classic-meets-quirky-contemporary French vibe works well here. The feminine “Chris-Cross” chair leg is his signature. Once you’ve seen it, you’ll recognize it anywhere.

His furniture is often used on movie sets. In the living room, the mod gold chairs have sleek Lamborghini-style lines. In the office, look up! That waffle ceiling is mirrored, a detail that makes the space appear lighter and larger. The chic finish used in the panelling could be mistaken for stucco, but it’s textured wallpaper with a hint of glitz. When it comes to design, many of us are afraid to leave our comfort zones, but occasionally we should. It makes the process and the outcome more fun.

Continued on page 52

ABOVE: Flooring set in a herringbone design and trimmed with a contrasting border creates old-world charm. **TOP RIGHT:** A rotunda on the second floor is topped with a stained glass skylight. It’s a beautiful architectural feature. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A barrel vaulted ceiling adds height to the sitting area.

“I LOVE DESIGN. I WANT MY HOMES TO BE AS TIMELESS AS POSSIBLE.”



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Yes, that's the classic **Benjamin Moore** Cloud White on walls. "It's a colour I've been using for many years – lots of beige and cream in it, which makes it dreamy, like a big bowl of whipped cream," Mahzad laughs. Lighting is bold and mostly gold

tone, much of it sourced at **Fine Art Handcrafted Lighting**. In the rotunda, the Allegri Crystal chandelier is 12 feet of rod and 10 feet of fixtures. Mahzad met the designer in Las Vegas and commissioned a smaller replica for the living room. *Continued on page 54*

TOP LEFT: The use of purple is a hint of old Hollywood in the walk-in closet. **ABOVE:** The home's details carry into the primary bedroom. **BELOW:** A butterfly inlay is an unexpected, whimsical touch in the en suite's tilework.




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"I love design," Mahzad says. "I want my homes to be as timeless as possible. In all my years of building, most of my work comes from referrals and almost every client remains a friend. I've been to their weddings, baby showers and parties at their house. I've even had a client text me in the middle of the night just to say, 'Hey, I walked into the living room tonight and wanted to tell you I still think it's gorgeous.'" To Mahzad, these are likely the most satisfying details of all. **OH**



TOP LEFT: The recreation room and bar are jazz lounge chic and ready for entertaining. **ABOVE:** Deep jewel tones and backlighting help set the mood. **LEFT:** Entertaining at home is easy with a theatre room.

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Cottagecore Style

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

HOW TO PLAY WITH THIS ENCHANTING INSTAGRAM TREND IN YOUR HOME

It's buzzy, romantic and a little over the top. But by most accounts, the cottagecore trend is set to stick around for a while.

So what is it exactly? Aesthetically, it's a nod to the traditional English countryside style – romantic and nostalgic. Essentially, it celebrates an idealized rural life.

It's youth-based and started as a fashion trend on TikTok and Instagram around 2019 before setting its sights on home décor. Whether or not we're aware of it, the pandemic has seen many of us starting to embrace cottagecore elements at home.

If cottagecore fashion means flowing floral frocks and a nice straw bag, in home décor it's a more tactile, low-tech sensibility. Think hands-on activities like gardening, baking or needlepoint, and cosying up a room with nubby crocheted throws and squashy velvet cushions.

A similar story has emerged among Ontario designers and retailers. Call it what you will – cottagecore, farmcore, granny chic, during the pandemic homeowners have been dabbling. What does the rise of cottagecore say about our lives right now? And how can we play with this trend at home? Here are thoughts from local professionals:

Layered spaces + natural materials + whimsy

In Toronto, Emily Griffin, principal at Emily Griffin Design says to be sure, people still love their modern conveniences, their tech and good WiFi. Yet the pandemic has encouraged an aesthetic shift to something warmer and softer: "People want layered spaces. They don't want to live in stark places anymore. They want places that feel cosy, that feel welcoming because they're spending so much time at home." *Continued on page 58*



PHOTO: VIRGINIA MACDONALD

EMILY GRIFFIN DESIGN: Kawartha Lakes Barn

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Wool and sisal rugs go hand-in-hand, Emily says, as do vintage pieces and more colour and playfulness. In bedrooms for example, she says, "I think people are tiring of the standard white hotel duvet cover and are looking for colour and pattern and a bit of whimsy." Emily, who launched her own line of hand-blocked Indian cotton bedding in 2020 called ImlI, says linens are one easy way to explore the cottagecore aesthetic at home.



PHOTOS: DIANA SOKKDEO



A CHANGING NEST: Vintage Items

Embellishment + vintage pieces

In Toronto's west end, A Changing Nest carries a mix of new home furnishings plus vintage pieces like ginger jars and furniture. Here, shop owner Diana Ross has noticed a similar shift among her clientele, younger customers included. There's more nostalgia and interest in vintage pieces, she says. "We are seeing an absolute little uptick in people who are wanting something unique and different and are tired of the same old things they're seeing in shops. They'll buy themselves a beautiful tea cup and return to say: 'You know what? I just sat and had a cup of tea in that tea cup I bought from you. Oh my gosh, it was so beautiful!'"

As for those décor staples like cushions, she's seeing more taste for embellishment – texture, lovely fringe, pompoms, even floral patterns. "Which is interesting, because 10 years ago no one wanted to see that," says Diana. "They wanted a clean knife edge. No piping. Nothing."

Statement cushions as well as vintage pieces are two more ways to bring the cottagecore look home.

Repurposed furniture + quilts + linen

In Dundas, Lorna Parcher owns Graham & Brooks, a shop that carries both new and vintage furnishings. While she saw interest in a cottagecore-style aesthetic before the pandemic, Lorna says COVID seemed to ramp that up across all demographics. "With COVID we want to kind of come and centre ourselves in our home and have things around us that give us comfort."

Among the popular cottage-core type pieces she carries, Lorna lists antique furniture – medium wood tones and painted pieces work well, she says. "The quality is there and it has stood the test of time." She also stocks quilts from Montreal, plus lots of cosy cushions, pillows and throws. As for how to introduce this aesthetic successfully, Lorna suggests neutrals with splashes of colour. "It's a lot more about texture than lots of colours, so a neutral palette is something we really embrace in our store."



GRAHAM & BROOKS: Painted Furniture & Brunelli Quilted Bedding

Nature + texture + neutral palette

Interior designer Jenny Pink of Back 40 Designs PTBO in Peterborough, also feels that a neutral colour scheme can work to ground this trend. And finally, beyond some of the other hallmarks – vintage, texture and natural materials – Jenny says nature can provide wonderful cottagecore accents. "Honestly just taking a walk down a trail or through a forest and collecting some natural pieces, or making your own flower bouquets. It's just simple pieces like that. People are appreciating that more because we've had the time to kind of stop and look and reflect on the things that matter to us." **OH**



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RECIPE & PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

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Continued on page 62



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cooking at home

Ingredients

MACARONI

454 g elbow macaroni noodles

3 Tbsp butter

¼ cup all-purpose flour

2 cups milk

1 cup heavy cream

2 cups shredded cheese
(a mix of cheddar and Gruyère
is recommended)

Salt and pepper, to taste

PANKO TOPPING

1 cup panko breadcrumbs

2 Tbsp melted butter

¼ cup parmesan cheese,
finely shredded

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a large pot of boiling water, cook macaroni noodles according to package directions.

In a medium-size pot over medium-high heat, melt butter, then whisk in flour. Cook for 1 minute, whisking constantly.

Slowly add milk and cream while continuing to whisk. You'll want to add the liquid gradually so it doesn't begin to clump. Continue to whisk until mixture begins to thicken.

Remove from heat and add shredded cheese. Stir until cheese is melted.

Prepare the panko crumble topping by mixing all ingredients together.

In a 9 by 11-inch oven-safe dish (or several smaller dishes), combine the sauce with the noodles.

Cover with panko crumble and bake for 15-20 minutes until golden and bubbly. **OH**



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SELLING? YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO STAGE YOUR HOME

When Allison Ross of Across Ottawa Home Staging started her business a decade ago, staging for resale was a hard sell.

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**
ILLUSTRATIONS **SHEILA BRITTON**

“CLIENTS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND why they would possibly spend money when they were selling, not staying,” she says. “Now, everyone clearly sees the value in home staging and we have been busier than ever.”

It's no secret that most buyers want a move-in-ready home – a home that looks like reveal day after a major renovation on an HGTV show. Homebuyers are smart. They have a list of must-haves and if a seller hasn't bothered to clean, declutter and paint the walls the latest colour, they will move on to the next listing on realtor.ca.

Leasa Wright, staging course instructor at Sheridan College, agrees. “Buyers want to purchase a home turnkey and do as little work as possible to move in,” she says. “If they see a home that looks like it needs any type of work, all they see is money, effort and time spent getting the home the way they want it.”

There's more in it for sellers than just making their homes look good. Home staging also helps to increase the final sale price of a property and reduces the length of time on the market.

Nicole Schenk is the Ottawa chapter president of the Real Estate Staging Association (RESA). She says statistics prove staged homes sell faster and sell over asking price. “In a 2020 study completed by RESA, they found 85 per cent of homes staged sold between five and 23 per cent over list,” says Nicole. “On an average investment of one per cent, 75 per cent of sellers saw a return on investment of between five and 15 per cent over ask.”

Staging today is big business and Leasa has seen an increase in the number of people interested in learning the trade. “Student numbers have substantially increased over this past year,” she says. “The market for buying and selling has been booming and home staging plays a big part of that. There is a much higher emphasis on design and function of space trending in the home market. The fact remains, only a small percentage of us can envision the potential of a home, leaving most unable to imagine what a home could look like if it was cleaned and decluttered.”

The pandemic has changed the way buyers look at homes for sale. Buyers cruise the internet looking for homes that tick all their boxes. First impressions matter and if a home isn't beautiful inside and out, it's not worth an on-site visit.

“COVID has affected the market in unprecedented ways,” says Nicole. “While it has been a sellers' market with homes selling just as soon as they hit the market, staging has had a remarkable effect on the price. Earlier this year a home I staged sold for \$130,000 more than a comparable unstaged listing. Both homes were in the same area, with similar features and same asking price.”

So what exactly does a stager do? Leasa teaches six essential principles of home staging:

- Depersonalize so people can envision themselves in the space
- Highlight the home's features and architectural details
- Enhance curb appeal to get people in the door
- Complete home improvements and repairs, update fixtures
- Declutter to create space
- Neutralize colour palettes and generalize décor to appeal to more viewers

“We cover so much in our curriculum from what an ideal floor plan would look like, to what colour palettes work best, how to partner with a trusted team (including trades and real estate agents) and how to budget and build your staging inventory from the ground up,” Leasa explains. **OH**

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LAURA
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Enjoy spending time with family and friends and outdoor activities such as hockey, golf and water sports.



ASHLEY
Gervais

519.374.9341

I live in Colpoy's Bay with my partner and local business owner and our Bernese Mountain Retriever, Ralph. I always love sharing with people what makes the Peninsula so special! In the summer I spend my time boating, paddle boarding and wakeboarding. In the winter you can find me on the many beautiful cross country ski trails in the area, or taking the drive to Blue Mountain to fit in some snowboarding!

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- Elsa, Kemble ON (Seller)



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WHAT'S CHANGED

Homeowners have begun renovating their homes with a focus on updating to enhance their lifestyle and living space, especially with more people working from home. Bathrooms set the tone of the interior of a home. It's a place to decompress and enjoy. Homeowners who are remodelling want style and good lighting, but they also want to enhance resale value. **OH**



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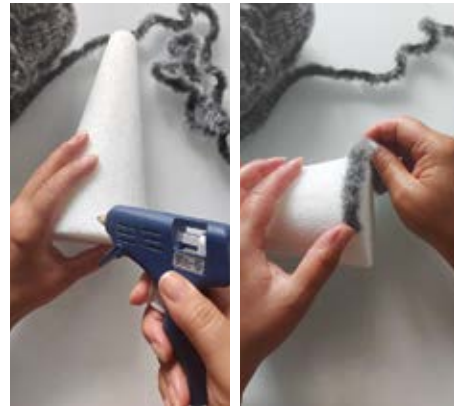
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- 3 foam cone forms in various sizes
- glue gun



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Add a small amount of glue to the bottom of a cone, place end of yarn on glue and hold in place.

Tightly wrap the yarn around the cone, applying a dab of glue as needed, until reaching the top of the cone. Make sure there are no gaps.

Coil a small amount of yarn at the top to give it a point and glue in place.

Make a statement by creating a group of 3 or 5 trees of different sizes. Mix colours and materials for more visual impact. Place on a tray and add greenery and accessories.

Find a great spot on a console or mantel to display your gorgeous DIY! **OH**



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STORY **DENISE O'CONNELL**
 PHOTOGRAPHY **LARRY ARNAL**



REJUVENATED AND *Rustic*

ASHLEY AND HER HUSBAND PATRICK GREW UP JUST SOUTH OF NEWMARKET AND EARLY IN THEIR MARRIAGE LIVED IN A DOWNTOWN TORONTO CONDO. "AFTER STEPPING ON EACH OTHER'S TOES, WE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO MOVE CLOSER TO OUR FAMILIES WHERE WE HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF HAVING MORE SPACE," RECALLS ASHLEY.

It's a move that became increasingly common when working remotely took flight. The couple made the move before it was *de rigueur*. Two years ago, they found their forever home in a century-old farmhouse that sits just off Newmarket's old Main Street, nestled in a historic neighbourhood.

"The home was built in 1875," Ashley says. "We wanted a historic home, but it was hard to

find one that had enough of the original elements in it. We didn't want something completely renovated and modernized that had lost its character. We wanted to restore a home and rejuvenate it to respect its original history."

Ashley is also community-minded. They wanted the home to retain its original splendour, fit in with the neighbourhood, but make it functional for their lifestyle and family. *Continued on page 75*

ABOVE: Layering earthy hues and textures creates warmth and an elegant, rustic, inviting space. **OPPOSITE:** Black and white in the entry is timeless and makes a statement.



“ONE OF THE MYTHS OUT THERE IS THAT YOU CAN’T MIX CLEAN MINIMALIST ASPECTS OF A SPACE WITH MORE CLASSIC OR ORNATE PIECES.”
–Michelle Berwick



TOP LEFT: Shelving instead of cabinetry in the kitchen creates openness and a pretty focal point. **LEFT:** A farmhouse table and chairs stay true to the home’s heritage. **ABOVE:** Black stands out in the kitchen. Pendants, hardware, the faucet and gas range all match the windows and doors. **RIGHT:** A restored post office door to the pantry is a little like stepping back in time.



The home had been renovated over the years. The kitchen was a holdover from the 90s with dark wood and mosaic tile and the baths had been renovated in the 70s. As soon as the purchase closed, Ashley brought in **Michelle Berwick of Michelle Berwick Design** to help her bring her ideas to life.

“It was a big project,” says Michelle, “and unique in its mix of old and new. We also added an addition to the home and revamped the outside. This being a heritage home meant that we had to work with the local heritage committee to ensure that some aspects were preserved and that can add another layer of complexity.” Michelle worked with contractor **Hartley Built** and architect **KBK**

Architects Inc. to bring the vision to reality.

The key to Michelle’s success is really getting to know her clients on a personal level. “We start the process by getting into the nitty-gritty of the clients’ lives,” says Michelle. “I ask questions like ‘Where have you travelled? What do you do in your spare time? Tell me what a night of entertaining looks like for you.’ If I know those things, I can help create a space that they love and feel inspired by.”

Michelle walked through the property with Ashley to decide what elements to retain. One of the stars of the home is the pantry door, a refinished original from a Newmarket post office with a built-in wicket. *Continued on page 77*



Unexpected elements that really reflect a homeowner are what make the ordinary, extraordinary, like the feature wall in the primary bedroom. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A wood vanity adds warmth to the primary en suite. **BOTTOM:** The en suite is spacious with a black-framed glass shower and a vessel tub with black accents.

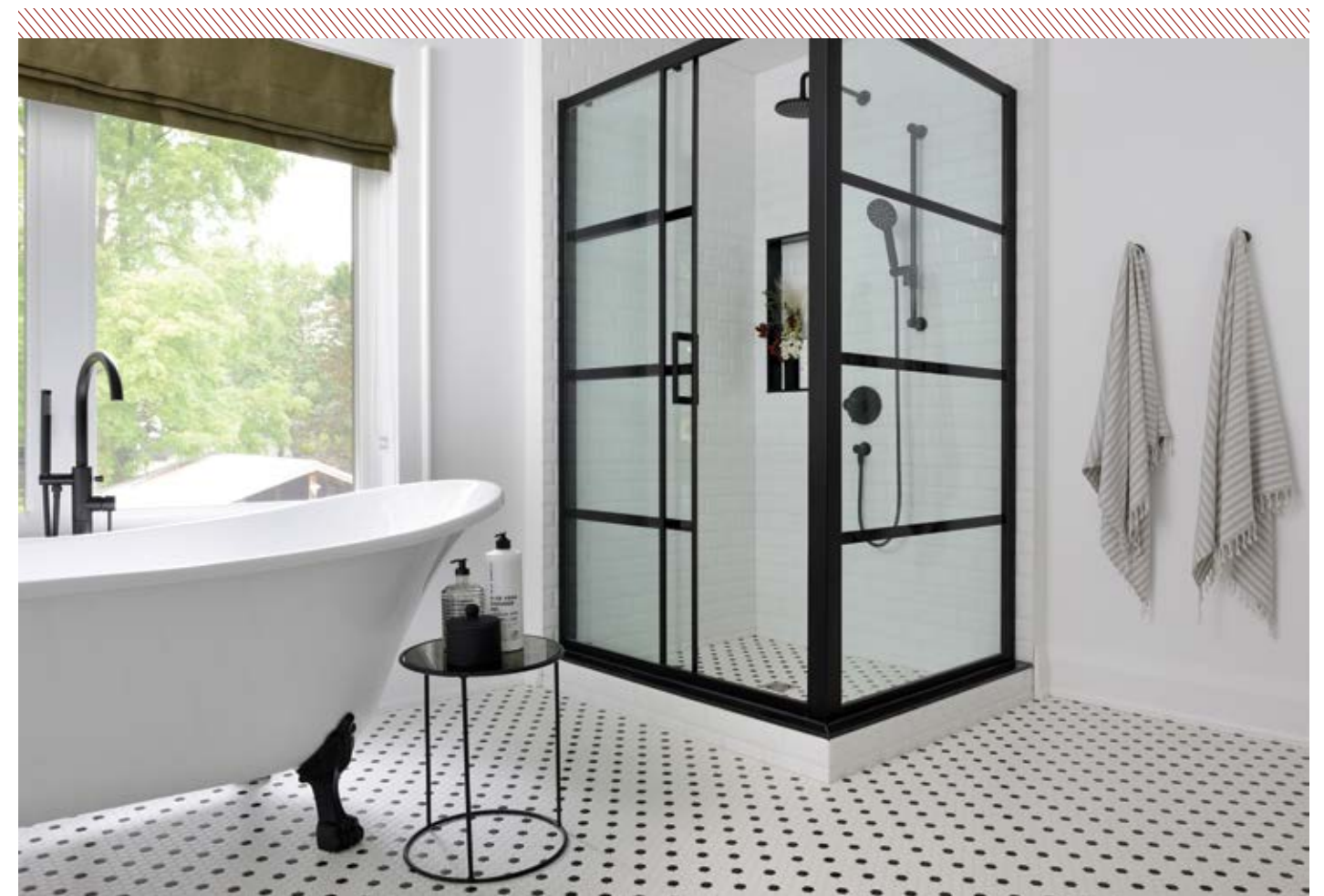
The couple has travelled extensively and love elements of French country design. “We had recently travelled with family to Provence, France and there we fell in love with everything European,” says Ashley. “We loved the way the old meshes with the new and the focus on history and craftsmanship and reclaiming old pieces.”

“One of the myths out there is that you can’t mix clean minimalist aspects of a space with more classic or ornate pieces,” relays Michelle. “That’s not true at all and how we approached it was keeping the bones of the home clean, such as the fixtures and main pieces and sprinkled in nods to the home’s heritage with accent pieces that were more vintage or classic.”

The couple knew that they wanted a warm and cosy space but also love light, airy and bright

interiors. Their home mixes these styles perfectly with white walls, black metal and black accents on focal points, and warm woods and natural elements like the stone hearth in the living room from **The Art of Stone**. Michelle added terra cotta and mossy green to the palette to help bring in a natural feeling. A plethora of greenery is Ashley’s personal touch.

The kitchen was an addition by previous owners, but the couple decided to increase the living space by adding a second storey with something that century-old farmhouses don’t usually have – a luxurious and spacious primary suite with an en suite and walk-in closet. They also dug out the basement to create a playroom for the kids. The stairs, railings, doors and trim were supplied by **The Royal Wood Shop**. *Continued on page 78*



feature



Sustainability is paramount to the family. Ashley admits they were open to paying a slight premium for items if it meant it was more durable and wouldn't end up in a landfill before it's time. For example, they chose a metal roof over asphalt shingles, concrete tile and countertops from **Creative Concrete Industries**, refurbished old pieces and chose appliances from **Tasco** with fewer bells and whistles that might cause problems down the road. Many of the wood furnishings, including the mantel, dining room table and coffee table, were created by a local craftsman who works with reclaimed wood. *Continued on page 80*

LEFT: A mudroom accessed from a separate door helps keep messes contained. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The laundry-mudroom combo is warm and stylish. **BELOW:** Warm wood and a fun black-and-white mosaic tile floor combine to create this charming bathroom.



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“MICHELLE WAS SO CAPABLE OF PULLING OUR IDEAS TOGETHER.”
–Ashley

Ashley laughs that even with two kids, Michelle taught her that a good quality white paint can still work with messy little hands and markers. “Michelle was so capable of pulling our ideas together and gently nudging us in another way when she knew our ideas weren’t going to work,” says Ashley. “She was also able to adopt to our sense of style, rather than pushing hers on us.” This is their forever home and with the classic but updated design, it’s timeless. **OH**

TOP LEFT: A floral wall feature in pastel hues is perfect for a princess or a pre-teen. **LEFT:** Two separate vanities are a perfect compromise in the shared bathroom. **BELOW:** Mission-style furnishings honour the home’s period details.



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INVASION PREPARATION

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

Formerly known as the culturally offensive European gypsy moth, the *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moth caterpillars devastated forests, backyard trees and even outdoor enjoyment for many this past year. So many times, at a client's outdoor space, we'd be picking fallen caterpillars off each other with caterpillar feces raining down on us from the tree canopy above. Some people even avoided their outdoor spaces completely for fear of an encounter! Next summer may shape up to be another heavy LDD caterpillar year. Read on for facts, history and support.



WHAT ARE LDD MOTHS?

LDD moths are an invasive species from Europe and Asia introduced to the U.S. near Boston in the 1860s and reaching southern Canada by 1969. Outbreaks hit every decade or so, lasting one to three years. Our current record-breaking eruption began in 2019.

LDD moths need specific weather conditions to thrive and this makes sense considering our present outbreak. They cannot survive below -20 degrees Celsius for long, and they're susceptible to certain fungal infections during wet weather. In recent years we've had warmer winters

followed by dry springs, creating the ideal natural conditions for them to flourish – and flourish they have! The continuing warmer temperature trends are favourable for future LDD moth populations.

Most other moth and butterfly caterpillar species are picky eaters and can only use one or two plants as hosts for their larva, but not LDD moth caterpillars. They have voracious appetites and can eat a wide variety of tree leaves including oak, maple, birch, poplar, willow and more.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

LDD caterpillars are hairy, about six centimetres long with five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of red dots on their backs. The adult male moths are brown and fly around erratically in summer, whereas the females are larger, white and flightless. Their light-brown egg masses resemble the skin of a tennis ball and can be found on tree trunks, under branches and in tree crevices.



WILL MY TREES DIE?

Many people think that once a tree has been defoliated it's dead. Luckily this isn't true. Trees often have latent buds as a defence mechanism, allowing them to regrow their leaves. But it does take a lot of energy to do this and some trees, like oaks, take longer to regenerate, leaving them weak and more susceptible to pathogens. Add the extra stresses of drought and being defoliated by LDD caterpillars in successive years and this will be too much for some trees to handle. Unfortunately we will see more tree death in upcoming years as a result of this epidemic.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Some municipalities are spraying *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) to control LDD outbreaks, target-spraying "high-value" trees, but many others are just letting nature take its course. Btk has the potential to kill many of our beneficial native caterpillars, so it's not a responsible long-term option. Unfortunately, LDD moths and caterpillars are likely here to stay.

Here's what you can do to mitigate their damage at home.

In fall, inspect all your trees and vertical surfaces around your home as best you can for their light-brown egg masses. Remove them with a paint scraper or butter knife and put them into a bucket of soapy water. This last step must be done or the eggs will still hatch into caterpillars.

In spring, tie a band of burlap at chest height around your trees so that it folds over in half. The LDD caterpillars will be present until the middle of July and they often hide in the shade of the burlap fold. Check the burlap daily and dump any found LDD caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water. They can also be squished, but it's pretty ghastly and the soapy water solution often ensures a quicker, more sanitary and more guaranteed death.

Some birds and other wildlife will eat LDD caterpillars and moths, but not enough to make much of a dent in their population.

Native species balance overpopulation together – if one is doing particularly well, its predators will also do well taking care of the issue. This is why invasive species are so problematic! **OH**

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A-LIST

These homemakers can help with your new home, renovation or redecorating project.



Renée Frostick, Andi Wheelband & Maggie Burley

PHOTOS: JO-ANNE HALEY



CURRENT PROJECTS

We are working on large renovation projects, making older homes more energy efficient. Installing alternative heat sources and green insulation solutions are two ways we are approaching these renovations. They are not typical builds.



CONSIDERATIONS

We encourage our clients to consider if the current design trends they are drawn to are practical within their own homes. For example, a stark white sofa or walls look stunning but are not the best fit for a young family, and marble counters or backsplashes require much more maintenance than quartz or porcelain.

TWO BIRDS DESIGN

We specialize in creating unique and livable spaces while providing dedicated and personalized service unrivalled by larger design firms. With a focus on exceptional quality, creative thinking and attention to detail, we ensure each project is handled with integrity and precision, from the initial planning stages through to construction.



"Let us help you connect with your style!"

Continued on page 88

Alan Bloch



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

TAPS

One of the longest-standing bath and kitchen showrooms in the GTA, TAPS has been a trusted design destination for more than 35 years. Known for our exceptional customer service, from expert advice and design tips to after-sale service, we're with you every step of the way to help you achieve the home of your dreams.

WHAT'S NEW

We're always evolving with new trends, finishes and textures. From local, Canadian-made fixtures to imported products, we put the latest styles right at your fingertips to help you find the perfect fit with quality that lasts.

STANDOUT SERVICE

We know when shopping for your kitchen or bathroom, you're looking for both beautiful design and functional pieces that suit your lifestyle. With decades of home renovation experience, you can rely on TAPS's seasoned and knowledgeable consultants for design advice and the technical skills and expertise you need.



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

"At TAPS, we transform your design ideas into reality with knowledge, expertise and service that makes you feel at home."



RINALDI HOMES

Since 1987, Rinaldi Homes has provided a hands-on approach and a high level of personal involvement during each step of the building process. Integrity, perseverance and work ethic are a few of the values that have led this third-generation family business to success.



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

CUSTOMER SERVICE

When you build with Rinaldi Homes, you become part of the family, starting from the moment you walk into our model to meet our extremely knowledgeable sales team. Our team of creative experts take you through designing your dream home and the excellent customer service does not end once the home closes.

"Our mission is to make you feel comfortable and confident in what may seem like an intimidating process."

Danielle Girhiny, Sandra Crowder & Selena Fabi



PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF

NEW PROJECTS

We have a few new projects in the Niagara region launching next year, including newly designed three-storey terrace towns. These upscale condos will bring luxury to a whole new level and are loaded with stunning features and the convenience of an elevator.

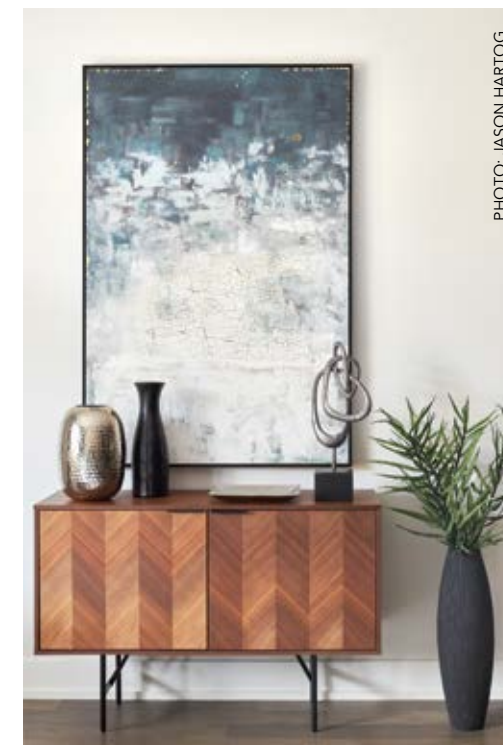


PHOTO: JASON HARTOG



Michal J. Cerny

PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

ABOUT MICHAL

Michal J. Cerny is the founder, president and CEO of Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc. and has two professional designations in construction. He has designed and built all aspects of homes – from floor plans and elevations to interior design. Some 65 per cent of the homes Ambassador builds have been designed by Michal. He has a wealth of knowledge in building science, excels at building structure and personally oversees the entire construction process.



TURN-KEY SERVICE

As a full-service design/build company, their combined expertise, commitment and integrity in the building process ensures that each Ambassador Fine Custom Home is designed to capture and express your lifestyle and personal values. Whether contemporary, traditional or transitional, homes are built to exceed the highest industrial standards with the confidence of working within strict budgets. It's a family investment to be passed on to generations to come.



Continued on page 92

AMBASSADOR FINE CUSTOM HOMES INC.

Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc. is a multi-award-winning design/build firm with 35 years of experience in multi-site project management and operations across North America. They have in-house engineers, architectural technicians, are PMP and PGSC certified and members of the Canadian Construction Association. Their fine custom homes and boutique custom renovations have been featured in magazines, newspapers and on television.

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INTERIORS BY BETTER SHADE

Interiors by Better Shade is celebrating 66 years of adding the finishing touch to your home with custom window treatments made on-site, quality Canadian furniture and now kitchens. Our two-storey showroom keeps expanding and features the latest trends in furniture with the recent addition of sofas, chairs, sectionals and accent pieces from Italy.



John Fiorino, Dave Cecchi, Janice Baker, Melissa Rey, Scott Somerville, Jordan Cecchi & Dorothy Hallett

VERSATILE CUSTOMER SERVICE

Our experienced team of interior decorators are available for in-home and in-store consultations for window coverings as well as furniture. In-home consultations help you design every element of your home to achieve the look you've always wanted.

DELIVERY WITHOUT DELAYS

It is all about getting your furniture and window coverings without delays. We have sourced beautiful furniture from new suppliers in Canada and Italy who have quicker timeframes without compromising on quality and style. We have a selection of popular items in stock and have a full range of home furnishings that are available quickly. Our window coverings are affordable and made to measure with expedited install dates and prompt production times. **OH**



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POM-POM WREATH

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY ERIN ROCHON

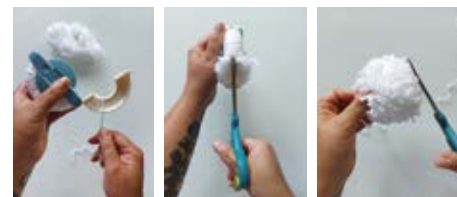
ADD SOME CHEER TO YOUR DOOR WITH THIS POM-POM WREATH YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF. GET COSY BY THE FIRE WHILE YOU WIND THE WOOL.

MATERIALS

- Approximately 4 or 5 skeins of size 4 white yarn
- 12-inch wire wreath frame
- Large pom-pom maker
- Fabric scissors
- Winter accessories for centre. (We used miniature trees and a toy house.)
- Glue gun

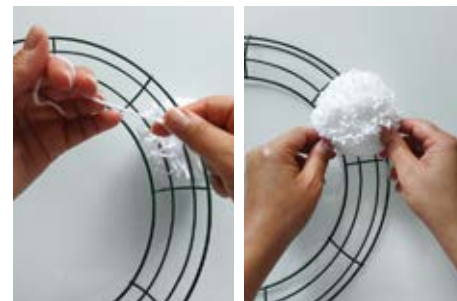
STEP 1

Using a pom-pom maker, create approximately 35 identical pom-poms to fill the wreath frame. Trim pom-poms with scissors if needed.



STEP 2

Starting at the centre of the frame, begin tying pom-poms, moving around and to the outside until the ring is full. Don't leave gaps between pom-poms. If needed, add a small drop of glue to keep pom-poms in place.



STEP 3

- Glue your accessories to the centre of the wreath.
- Hang your wreath on your front door (inside or outside on a covered porch) or onto a mirror for your family and friends to swoon over throughout the season. **OH**



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double take

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PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF



1. **GENERATION LIGHTING:** Southold Medium Lantern in Burnished Brass
 2. **OLYMPIA TILE:** White Marble/Grey Diamond Tile
 3. **OLYMPIA TILE:** Calacatta Manhattan Tile
 4. **VICTORIA + ALBERT:** Tombolo 10 Bathtub Rack in Oak
 5. **BOUCLAIR:** Artificial Floor Plant in Wooden Pot
 6. **ELK HOME:** Natural Teak Slab Bar Table
 7. **VICTORIA + ALBERT:** Toulouse 1500 Freestanding Soaking Bathtub in Gloss White
 8. **ROHL:** Eclissi Single Hole Floor Mount Tub Filler in Matte Black
 9. **BERNHARDT:** Silhouette 307-549 Side Chair **OH**



DN

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STORY **WALTER FRANCYK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**

MIRACLE ON BUCKHORN

ERIC NGUYEN CALLS HIS FAMILY'S BUCKHORN LAKE COTTAGE A MIRACLE. "I STILL PINCH MYSELF," HE SAYS.



His cottage narrative begins with a story about his father's car. Eric's father, That Nguyen, came to Canada 40 years ago, a Vietnamese refugee. That and his wife Lan, who followed him to Canada four years later, bought a house in Toronto and raised four children who all graduated from university.

"He worked hard all his life," says Eric. "He worked incredibly hard for us four children and he's never had a new car in his life but for his last car, a RAV4 that's now 12 years old."

With his father retired, Eric decided to do something nice for his dad and buy him a new car. "An outstanding car that I knew he would love but would never buy for himself." Eric and his wife Trinh picked up the new Lexus on April 7, drove it to his parents' home and surprised them with the gift.

"Their jaws dropped when they saw this Lexus and I'm through the moon, I am so happy I am able to do this for my dad," Eric recalls. His mother insisted they couldn't accept the car and urged Eric to return it and save the money. "I said, 'No, mom and dad, this is for you and I'm very happy I can do this.'" They all returned to Eric and Trinh's home for dinner. Eric's brother came over with his four children and they test drove the Lexus around the cul-de-sac. "It was euphoria for me. The family was so happy."

Continued on page 100



TOP: Designed by Linwood Custom Homes vice-president Craig McFarlane, this five-bedroom, post-and-beam cottage was built by Brad McFarlane Construction. **ABOVE:** Cottage owners Trinh and Eric Nguyen, with daughter Brooke and son Connor, relax at their new summer home. **OPPOSITE:** The Nguyen family looks forward to exploring Buckhorn Lake where Young's Point Marina installed their dock system.



Eric was so excited that he couldn't sleep that night and was a little cranky when the phone rang at 7:30 the next morning. The Princess Margaret Home Lottery was calling. Eric had won a \$1.7 million furnished cottage and \$50,000. "I screamed and I called and woke up my wife," Eric says. It was hard to believe, but the clincher, a \$50,000 cheque arrived by courier within hours. That evening, his parents came over in their new car for dinner and another exciting family celebration ensued. "My mom is accepting of the gift now," Eric says.



LEFT: The comfortably furnished ground-floor Kawartha room looks out on Buckhorn Lake through retractable screen windows by Sunspace. **BELOW:** Trinh says the cottage kitchen, designed by Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre, is the nicest kitchen she's had. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Board-and-batten wall finishes lend the new cottage a rustic appeal. **TOP RIGHT:** An expansive lake view, framed by a towering arched ceiling, is the first thing visitors see when stepping into the cottage. **BOTTOM:** Lakeshore Designs furnished the great room with tufted leather sofas and a matching coffee table. Brad McFarlane installed the Fusion Stone fireplace veneer.



He's convinced that his gift for his dad has everything to do with this gift given to him. "God gives me this back in-kind. I can't believe it," Eric says. "It really is a miracle. God didn't wait two days. He didn't wait a week. It was the next morning."

Eric has been contributing to the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation annually. "I'm a cancer survivor. In 2009 I went through a year-long battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma," he says. "It was a month of daily radiation and then a year of chemotherapy and I made it through

it. I survived it. I've been contributing to Princess Margaret because I believe it's a worthy cause, because I want to help find a cure for cancer in my lifetime, plus the obscure chance of perhaps winning a prize."

"It's a dream come true," says Trinh. The couple had been looking for a cottage for a few years and had submitted some offers to purchase but hadn't been successful. "We were at a time in our life, in our careers, where our finances were good enough that we could start looking for a vacation property," Eric says. *Continued on page 102*



“It took hundreds of people to make this happen for us and we couldn’t be more grateful.”

LEFT: Shaped like an old wooden boat, this bed is anchored in a stylized trapper’s cabin, complete with its own lake view. **BOTTOM:** The large downstairs family room offers plenty of room for cottaging families and guests.

Their new fully-furnished lakehouse is a two-hour drive from their Brampton home. Designed by **Craig McFarlane**, vice-president of **Linwood Custom Homes**, the five-bedroom cottage was furnished and decorated by **Lakeshore Designs** owner and principal designer **Angela Jones**. It sits atop a slope, facing west over Buckhorn Lake, where it catches stunning sunsets. **Brad**

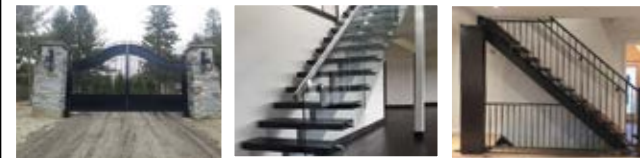
McFarlane Construction Inc., a company led by Craig’s son **Brad McFarlane**, built the post-and-beam style cottage. Nearly 40 different trades and suppliers worked on the project. Trinh says they’re thankful to the Princess Margaret Home Lottery and everyone involved. “It took hundreds of people to make this happen for us and we couldn’t be more grateful,” she says.

The great room, with its high vaulted ceiling and two-storey windows overlooking the lake, is their favourite space. “It really relaxes me when I come here,” says Eric. “You walk in and it’s like a five-star resort.” Trinh also likes the open-concept kitchen, designed by **Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre**. “So far this kitchen is the best kitchen I’ve had. It’s bigger and it has more cabinet space,” she says.

Continued on page 104



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A glass door in the primary bedroom slides open to an outdoor deck that extends across the front of the cottage. **BOTTOM:** The primary bedroom's en suite has a freestanding tub as well as matching his-and-her mirrors and rectangular undermount sinks.

When the sun sets directly across the lake, it renders a brilliant panorama of forest, water and sky. "The sunset here is just amazing," Eric says. "Evenings are incredible."

With fibre optic internet, Eric has been able to work remotely at the cottage. He and Trinh are looking forward to doing more on the water,

getting a boat and seeing more of the lake.

"Collectively, as a family, we've agreed that we're still going to live in our beautiful home in Brampton and this will be our vacation getaway for our family to enjoy. My dad and mom will get a chance to come here with their friends and make this their vacation home." **OH**

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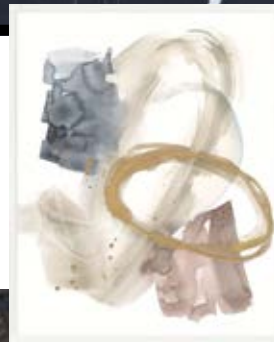
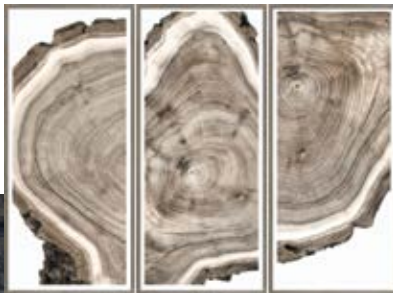


Andrea McMullen, Lee Brown, Carla Andrews, Sharon Cornwall, Chelsea Brilhante, Amy Ciampa & Shirin Salamat



DESIGNING Women

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



THE PLACE

With a love of art and design, Andrea McMullen started **ADM Design & Décor** 30 years ago and became inspired when her mom opened an art gallery. Though the company initially focused on design and renovation, Andrea has expanded to include two successful

retail locations, one on the boardwalk at Friday Harbour Resort in Innisfil and the other in downtown Newmarket. "Our strong card is still design and build," says Andrea. "Clients come into our design centre and are wowed by our team of expert designers and our array of offerings from lighting, furniture, wall and floor coverings and of course, all types of art for any budget." Director of design Lee Brown brings more than 25 years of experience to ADM and has a keen eye for space planning and design.



THE STYLE

On the retail side, discover a variety of original artwork and furnishings from around the world. Director of retail Carla Andrews operates both locations and ensures a unique mix of offerings, like two-foot acrylic sculptures and large-scale lighting. Friday Harbour stocks décor, furnishings and one-of-a-kind gifts. The dedicated team is on hand to help clients find the perfect pieces. "We always have the latest and greatest items to offer," says Carla. During the pandemic, home décor became more important as clients updated and created comfortable, multi-purpose spaces.



WHAT'S HOT

Wall murals and large-scale wallpaper add visual interest. Rattan and wicker are making a comeback and add texture with furniture and accents. Black, earth-tones and blue hues are still popular. Families are investing in more functional and decorative pieces.

WHAT'S NEXT

ADM plans to open a northern location to service the Muskoka and Collingwood areas. They continue to work on large-scale and full-scale design/build projects. The pandemic created problems with supply and demand, so ADM plans to warehouse stock, an avenue to ensure timely delivery to clients. An e-commerce platform is launching for online shoppers. The future looks bright for the home fashion industry and ADM is at the top of its game. **OH**

Where

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THE Winter Wonderland OF BIRDING



Snow buntings

STORY **LYNNE RICHARDSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NIGEL EVES**

Looking for something to do on a cold winter day? Go birding! Wait, what? Birding in winter? Will you see anything interesting? Well, yes! You'll be surprised by what is out there in our seemingly barren backyards and snow-covered countrysides.

Feeder watch

Once winter sets in with a vengeance, you may not necessarily want to venture out. No problem! From the comfort of home, we can do a good bit of birding through our windows. Watching birds at your feeder is a great way to brighten a dreary winter's day. Set up a feeding station in your yard, fill it with quality seed (black-oil sunflower seed, peanuts, nyjer or suet) and cosy up by the window.



Blue jays

Top ten

So, what will you see? Project FeederWatch – a citizen science project that records birds at feeders throughout the winter – has the answer. That friendly little ball of feathered fluff, the chickadee, is the number-one bird, followed by downy and hairy woodpeckers, the always gorgeous cardinal, the upside-down nuthatch, the dopey mourning dove, the bossy blue jay, the jaunty junco, and last but not least, the goldfinch, somewhat incognito without its summer golden cloak. Once you've identified these species, your winter bird list is off to a good start.

Getting to know these common, top-10 visitors will also make it easier for you to recognize a new species should one appear at your feeders. That's when it gets exciting. What could it be? Get that field guide off your shelf and crack it open. Flip through, discovering the possibilities and narrow it down by the distinctive identification points – size, shape, colour and markings. Give it your best shot!



Cardinal



Female pine grosbeak



Male pine grosbeak



Evening grosbeak



Redpolls



Snowy owl



Rough-legged hawk



Bohemian waxwings

Expect the unexpected

Knowing what unexpected birds to expect, or at least hope for, in the dead of winter also helps. Some years we are treated to an invasion of what ornithologists refer to as winter finches. When the pine and spruce cone crops are low in the north, this family of boreal-forest birds comes south to central and southern Ontario in search of food. They travel in gangs and descend upon our feeders with much enthusiasm. Last year was an irruption year (a sudden surge of birds), and often there is a rebound irruption year of visits, so keep your eyes to the skies and on your feeders for big, beautiful evening and pine grosbeaks, frosty redpolls, squabbling pine siskins, and maybe even colourful, parrot-like red-winged and white-winged crossbills.

Winter wonderland

There will be days in the midst of winter when the sun is sparkling on the snowbound land, the air is crisp and clear, and you'll feel the call of the great outdoors. Such a day is perfect for a drive, on the lookout for open-country winter birds. If you're lucky you may come across snow buntings flying across fields flashing their white feathers, sprinkling the sky like snowflakes.

You might also notice the bouncing flight pattern of a bunch of beautiful bohemian waxwings flying across the landscape or in your neighbourhood, searching for berry-bearing trees. Living up to their name, they are true nomads and never stay long in one place, so consider yourself lucky if you catch a flock in action.

Or your winter drive may be rewarded with a sighting of one of the big arctic raptors. The rough-legged hawk occasionally comes south in search of small rodents when their arctic supply dwindles. Look for this big bird perched on a branch of a leafless tree out in the open or hovering like a giant hummingbird, surveying the snow for mice.

This same tundra-like habitat just might yield that most coveted of arctic visitors – the snowy owl. A sighting of this bird alone makes the outing worthwhile.

As always, relish the discovery of each new bird, keep your distance and take photos without disturbing their never-ending fight for survival in the depths of winter. **OH**

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(Please see ad on pg 17)



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(Please see ad on pg 25)



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Located in the heart of downtown Meaford, Ontario at 90 Sykes Street North, **Maggie + Dix** is destination shopping if you are in the Georgian Bay area.

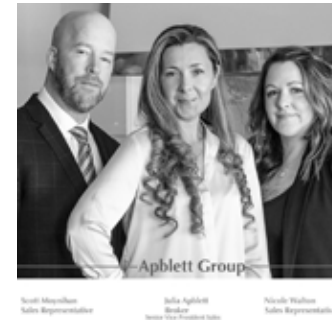
Maggie + Dix launched their online shop March of 2020 and their quaint bricks and mortar store opened its doors in the Spring of 2021.

Owned by Oakville transplant Christine Bourne, the store is fondly named after her Grandmothers, Margaret and Dorothy, and offers a beautiful, curated collection of home and garden décor. Discover what the locals already know – unique sourced items for every room in your home.

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Shop online at maggieanddix.com We ship across Canada
(Please see ad on pg 81)



SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY – APBLETT GROUP

While the **Apblett Group** are experts in their trading area, what happens when you need trusted advice outside of Southern Georgian Bay? Thankfully the Apblett Group's connections within the Sotheby's network is expansive. They have worked with various Sotheby's partners all over the world. The Apblett Group have successfully connected clients with top tier agents in Costa Rica, Turks and Caicos, the Cayman Islands, France, England, Arizona, Seattle and Florida. If you're looking closer to home, they work with various Sotheby's partners throughout the GTA and Oakville as well. Trusted partnership is the key to a successful transaction and a lasting business relationship.

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(Please see ad on pg 65)



DOUG TARRY HOMES

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Phase One lots of Doug Tarry's Eagle Ridge are now available. Located at the south-west edge of St. Thomas, this unique community is close to a walking trail leading to Pinafore Park, schools, and amenities, while maintaining a country living feel. Eagle Ridge will feature single family homes, like the Danbridge Model home pictured above, with natural surroundings.

For more information about Eagle Ridge, speak to Sales Consultant Cathy Fox at 519.226.4561 or email contact@dougtrarryhomes.com or visit us online at dougtrarryhomes.com
(Please see ad on pg 95)



THE ROYAL WOOD SHOP HOW DO MOULDINGS ADD DISTINCTION?

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ADVICE TO CLIENTS:

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2. Adding crown moulding is a good way to transform a room without affecting other areas of the room and other aspects of the existing trimwork.
3. Use a backband on your casing when upgrading the size of your baseboard.
4. Don't forget to trim your Christmas tree.

royalwoodshop.com
(Please see ad on pg 81)



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If you're tired of urban living, **Watercolour Westport** is a better place to call home.

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(Please see ad on pg 27)



MARVIN CANADA

Marvin Canada is a fourth-generation family-owned and operated business, offering unparalleled value with craftsman-quality construction, energy-efficient technology, and the industry's most extensive selection of shapes, styles, sizes, and options.

Our main offices are in Mississauga, Halifax, Montreal, Burnaby, and Kelowna. Marvin products are also distributed nationally through a network of independent dealers in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

As people spend more time indoors, we recognize that our work isn't just about building better windows and doors – it's about opening new possibilities for how people live, work, think and feel inside a Marvin space.

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(Please see ad on pg 66&67)

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(Please see ad on pg 8)



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NORTH STAR HOME VISION

Working out of Bracebridge, Ontario, **North Star Home Vision** is a well-established, family run general contracting company specializing in custom builds and renovations. Providing a turnkey service within the Barrie, Orillia and Muskoka areas, North Star Home Vision's main priority is customer satisfaction; offering consistently open lines of communication and building long-lasting relationships with their clients. From your initial vision to its stunning realization, these building contractors are with you throughout the journey and can help with design, engineering plans, permit applications and decorating with one point of contact.

Equally at home with private homeowners or trade partnerships, North Star Home Vision's objective is to become one of the largest general contractors in the area by building relationships with local trades and homeowners. They offer a standardized warranty package on all their workmanship, so you can be confident of any jobs undertaken, and remain true to the same principles on which the company was founded over 15 years ago: providing a superior service to clients, putting safety first and creating opportunities for people in their local area. If you're looking to build your dream home or transform your current space, our advice would be to follow the star.

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info@northstarhomevision.ca
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(Please see ad on pg 14)



LAKESIDE ARCHITECTURE INC.

Lakeside Architecture Inc. is an architecture firm exclusively dedicated to the design of luxury lakeside homes, cottages and boathouses.

Lakeside Architecture Inc. (formerly Smith Architect Inc.) was founded in 1963 in the Muskoka Region. During its long history in the North, the firm has designed and overseen the construction of multiple residential and resort projects. James Pitropov, Principal Architect, prefers to take a hands-on studio approach to architecture. At Lakeside Architecture Inc., James is the architect on all the designs, providing an intimate and detailed service of custom designed drawings, ongoing cost analysis, and materials selection.

Through Lakeside's sister company, **Lakeside Construction Management Inc.**, James provides construction management services.

Lakeside will enrich your experience by committing the time to work throughout the design process to truly create your dream project. When you build on a challenging site with a sparkling lake or steep leafy ravine, there is no room for mistakes. Trust the lakeside design experts at Lakeside Architecture Inc. to bring your dream design to reality. Buy our guide "Design your Dream – How to Prepare for your Design Project" at our website or contact us for a free online consultation today. You will love the extraordinary service of Lakeside Architecture Inc.

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(Please see ad on pg 103)



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If you have furniture that needs a new look, we offer custom painting services at reasonable prices. We also like to encourage your creativity by offering various workshops and consultations.

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(Please see ad on pg 57)



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(Please see ad on pg 16)

SWEET Sanctuary

STORY DENISE WILLSON
PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



NEATLY TUCKED INTO A MATURE NORTH-END NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ST. CATHARINES IS A NEW STREET OF TOWNHOMES.

The street name, Peach Street Common, spins visions of casual living with a dash of sweet nostalgia. These modern farmhouse-style townhomes fit the bill. With a precise balance of classic comfort and contemporary flair, these bungalow townhomes boast style to the core. *Continued on page 116*

Designed with entertaining in mind, the open-concept main floor encourages the flow of conversation from kitchen to living room. **LEFT:** A quartz waterfall counter and backsplash make an impressive statement in the powder room.



All 28 units were planned and built by **Rinaldi Homes**, a local home builder known for quality workmanship and award-winning designs. “Peach Street Common took a year-and-a-half to bring to life, in the midst of a pandemic,” says **Danielle Rinaldi**. Danielle is one of a team of family members and professional trades who contribute to the fine reputation of Rinaldi Homes. Rinaldi includes a talented in-house design team recognized by the **Niagara Home Builders’ Association**. “This model home won several awards,” Danielle says, “including *Best Townhouse Over 1500 Square Feet*, *Best Kitchen Design & Build* and *Most Outstanding Bathroom*.” The design team also works with homebuyers to pick interior selections that meet their personal needs and lifestyle.

While each unit was designed to be unique, the model end unit (shown here) has 3,234 square feet of living space, including a fully-finished lower level and covered backyard deck with privacy screens. The contemporary floorplan appeals to both young families and couples looking to downsize from large family homes. “We’ve built several of these homes before,” Danielle says. “We used our existing plans and added elements to suit the sought-after Lake Street and Simpson Road neighbourhood.” Bump-outs and large, black-framed windows, for example, were used to draw lots of natural light into every room. Double-car garages by **Yarnell Overhead Door Ltd.** solve parking and storage dilemmas. Covered front porches create spots to lounge and

greet neighbours. Front doors, supplied by **Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd.**, make a bold statement and exterior brick, wood-grain siding by **Royal Building Products** and iron details were used to create a cohesive community. The front-porch columns and chimney tops were designed and forged by **Ironworks Niagara**. Windows were supplied by Dashwood Windows & Doors and the low-pitch roof was provided by **Stark Lumber** and installed by **Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd.** Masonry products were supplied by **Burnstein Brick/St. Catharine’s Building Supplies**. Because these are condo units, the property is maintained by **DeKorte’s Landscaping**, a bonus for those who prefer the outdoors for leisure. *Continued on page 118*

ABOVE: Striking coffered ceilings frame the modern kitchen and island eatery. **TOP LEFT:** Pop-up outlets are hidden inside the wet bar for discreet convenience. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Natural light illuminates the bright white Caesarstone and Cambria countertops. **TOP RIGHT:** The walk-in pantry and wet bar expand prep and cooking surfaces. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The walk-in pantry’s custom cabinetry and built-in wine fridge supply ample food, appliance and dish storage. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A modern take on the traditional chandelier by Don’s Light House adds grandeur to the quaint dining area.

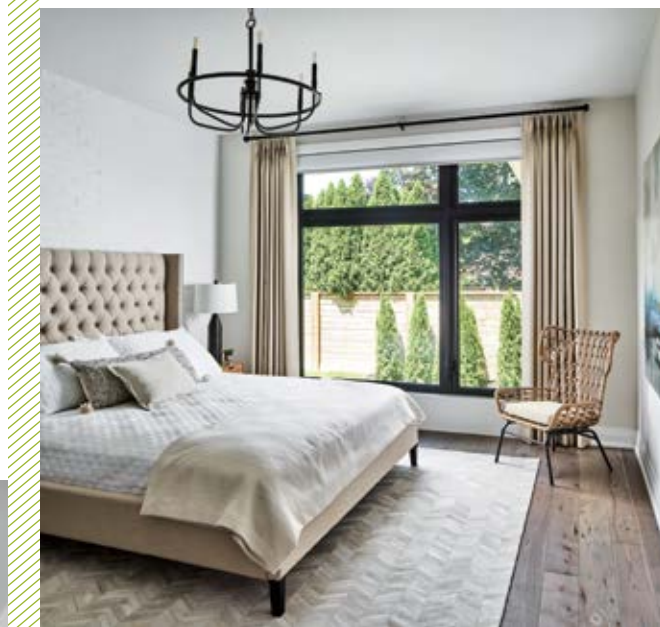


home & builder

The interiors are a play on contrasts with crisp white walls offering a clean yet contemporary backdrop to bursts of black and wood-grain accents. Wall panelling painted white creates texture without deviating from the simple setting, honouring the classic lines of the home's design. Hardwood floors from **Aristocrat Floors** run throughout, imbuing the space with warmth. Aristocrat Floors also supplied the floor tiles and backsplashes for wet areas such as the kitchen, laundry room and bathrooms. All window coverings by **The Drapery Workroom** are discreet and offer shade options from blackout to subtle natural light. Nine-foot ceilings add depth and bouncing light while the open-concept floor plan allows for multi-use areas. The kitchen is defined by a striking coffered ceiling.

With only one set of stairs (by **Amber Stairs & Railings**) leading to the basement, these townhomes celebrate all the best features of bungalow living. The main floor has an open-concept kitchen and living area where guests can relax or gather around the large kitchen island. The island was completed in rich wood tones to stand out from the kitchen cabinetry and match the custom range hood.

TOP RIGHT: A multipurpose front den provides space for a work-from-home office or additional lounging. **RIGHT:** The primary bedroom has a view of the private green space behind the home. **BELOW:** A beautiful en suite has heated floors leading to the floating tub and shower combo.



"We design homes that are great for entertaining," Danielle says, noting how areas were created as conversation hubs. Crisscross details in the kitchen cabinetry mimic the coffered ceiling designs, which draw the eye up and exquisite quartz countertops add a pop of elegance. **Artcraft Kitchens** did the home's cabinetry, vanities and built-ins. The Caesarstone and Cambria countertops throughout were supplied by **Kirkpatrick Stoneworks**. **Don's Light House** supplied the modern farmhouse iron light fixtures. Doors and trim are from **Turkstra Lumber**.

"The walk-in pantry is one of my favourite features," Danielle says. "It's a mix between a butler's pantry and walk-in pantry, with lots of storage and spots for hiding appliances." The built-in Miele appliances were also sourced locally from **Nickerson Home Appliances**.

Continued on page 120



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LEFT: The only set of stairs leads to a spacious and bright finished lower level. RIGHT: The modern farmhouse look continues in the lower level with a gas fireplace from One Stop Fireplace Shop surrounded by chevron tiling.

The main-floor living doesn't end there. A front den provides work-from-home space or additional lounging and the laundry room is only steps from the stunning primary bedroom retreat. Stone plays double-duty as a focal point to showcase the floating tub while making good use of shower space and the brick wall in the primary bedroom adds depth and texture. The walk-in closet with built-in cabinetry is swoon-worthy. **The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom** supplied the bathroom fixtures and plumbing was done by **Plumbtech Services Inc.** The model townhouse includes a finished basement for additional entertainment space. Chevron tiling

and a gas fireplace from the **One Stop Fireplace Shop** carry the modern farmhouse look to the lower level. Every townhouse, wired by **H Electric**, is EnergyStar certified, Holmes Approved and smart-wired by **Dell Smart Home Solutions** for quality, comfort and peace of mind.

Although the street name, Peach Street Common is befitting, Rinaldi Homes dedicated this new community to the land; and the stone feature flanking the entrance says it all.

"We call it *The Orchard*," Danielle says. "It's a nod to the acres of peach and cherry trees that once dotted this area." What could be sweeter than that? **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Amber Stairs & Railings • Aristocrat Floors • Artcraft Kitchens • Burnstein Brick/St. Catharine's Building Supplies • Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd. • Dashwood Windows & Doors • DeKorte's Landscaping • Dell Smart Home Solutions • Don's Light House • H Electric • Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd. • Ironworks Niagara • Kirkpatrick Stoneworks • Nickerson Home Appliances • One Stop Fireplace Shop • Plumbtech Services • Rinaldi Homes • Royal Building Products • Stark Lumber • The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom • The Drapery Workroom • Turkstra Lumber • Yarnell Overhead Door Ltd.



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Attention to detail, excellent customer service, and a passion for award-winning homebuilding are the cornerstones of Rinaldi Homes' success.



All landscaping is taken care of by Dekorte's Landscaping, a pleasant extra for those who prefer to relax outdoors. **LEFT:** While all 28 units of The Orchard are sold, those looking to downsize or start a family in modern comfort can turn to Rinaldi Homes – currently building in Black Creek and Fort Erie, with their Fonthill Abbey townhomes set to be available this fall.



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RECIPE & PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH

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Continued on page 124



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INGREDIENTS

CAKE

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 ½ tsp ground ginger
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp allspice
- ¾ cup butter, at room temperature
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs, at room temperature
- ½ cup molasses
- 1 cup coffee, cooled

ICING

- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¼ cup milk



Finish with a drizzle of sweet creamy icing.



DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease Bundt pan if necessary.
- Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices in a bowl and set aside.
- In a stand mixer, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, followed by the molasses.
- Add one third of the flour mixture to the wet ingredients, followed by half of the coffee, rotating between the two and ending with the remaining flour mixture.
- Pour batter into Bundt pan, smoothing the top.
- Bake for 50-55 minutes. Allow cake to cool completely and invert the pan onto your cake stand or plate.
- Prepare the icing by combining icing sugar, vanilla and milk until smooth. For a thinner glaze, add more milk. Pour icing over cake. **OH**

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OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email jamie.jefferson@ourhomes.ca or lisa.ormsby@ourhomes.ca. To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 705.730.3827 or T: 705.445.5065 x200 or 1.877.600.4840 x1.

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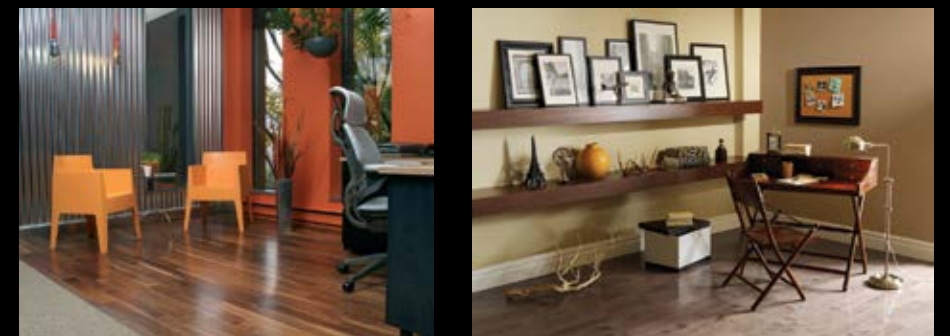
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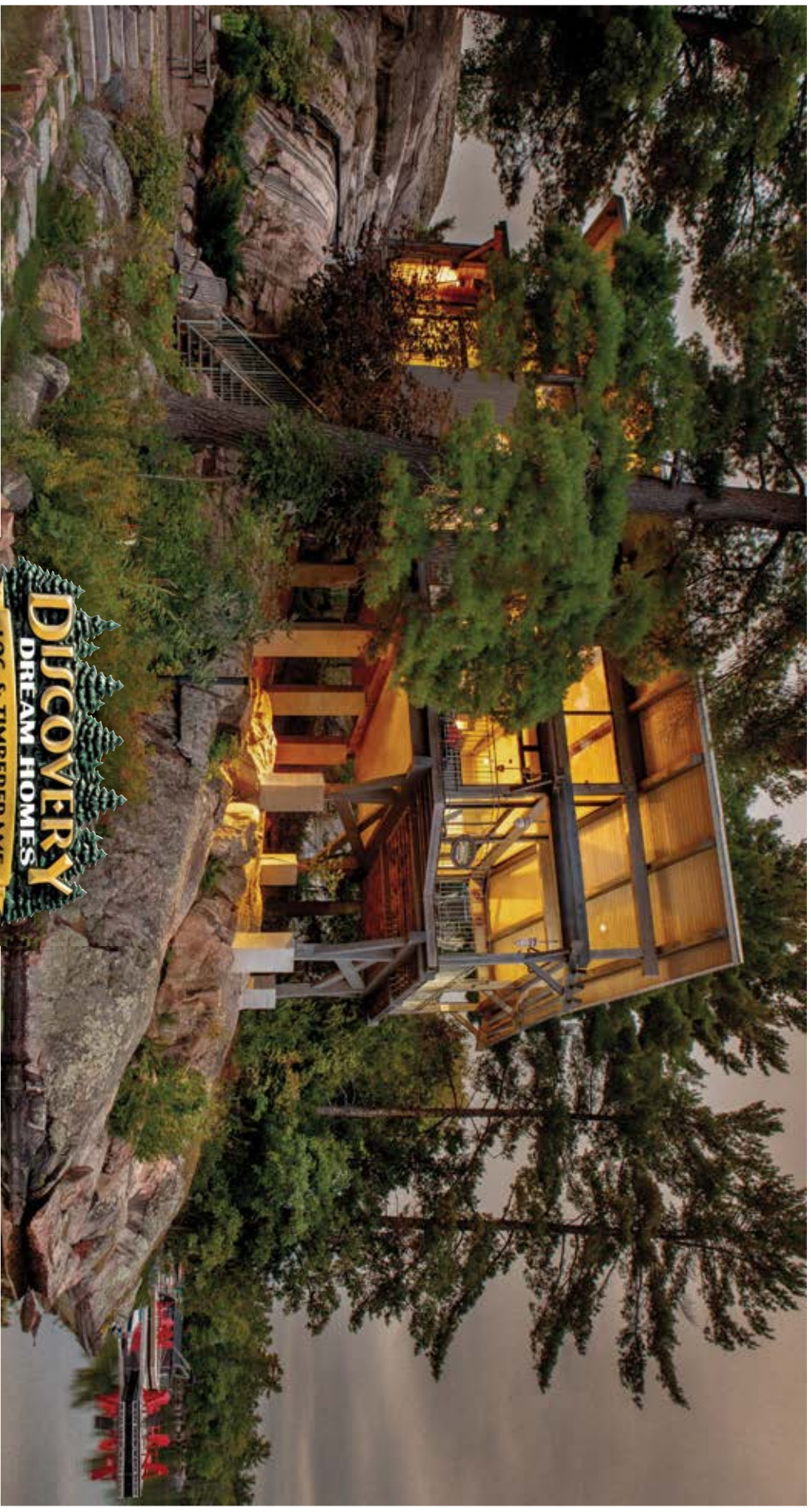
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