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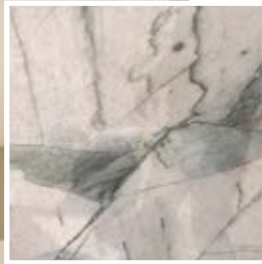
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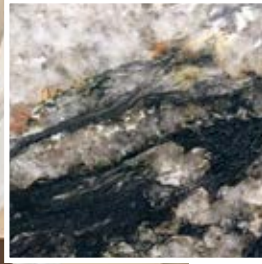
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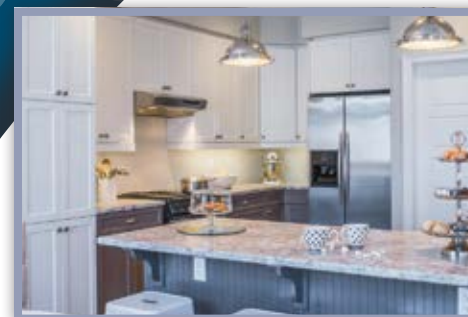


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editor's note



I'M UPDATING MY KITCHEN.

I wouldn't call it a complete renovation, it's more like a counter and cabinetry overhaul. It all started with a burst pipe behind the wall, but that's another story.

The kitchen footprint will stay the same and all of

our appliances are fairly new. But I still feel like a kid in a candy store with a firm budget.

My current kitchen was last updated in 2003, not long after we purchased the house, which came with grey-oak cupboards and black speckled Formica counters – very 1990s. We upgraded then to white cabinets and Giallo ornamental granite. I hate to say it, but I am so over those counters and I'm craving some colour in my new cabinets. I quickly narrowed my cabinet colour down to a soft grey or a beachy light blue. Oh what a tough decision. But I went for it, selecting the beachy blue cabinets, along with black matte hardware, simple white quartz counters and long white subway tiles with grey grout for the backsplash. Now I have to wait. I'll have a new kitchen by the end of the summer.

I just love meeting homeowners who aren't afraid to add personality to their homes. In this issue, I'm so pleased to take you inside three newly built homes with three very different styles – one contemporary, one I'll call coastal hip and one more traditional with a black and white theme. I guarantee you'll see something that will inspire an update in your own home or a decision to start brand new.

How many trips to the garden centre, furniture or hardware store have you made this season? Every homeowner I know has a project to start or finish and 'tis the season to get it done. I'm busy reorganizing my front gardens after making some previous planting mistakes. When I'm not digging, weeding, watering or fertilizing I'll be relaxing by the pool in the sunshine with family and friends.


Make the most of your summer!

Sincerely,

Georgette

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief
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advice



NIGHT LIGHTS

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.

First impressions matter, whether it's a single family bungalow or a condominium building. Outdoor lighting can improve curb appeal, welcome you home and make you feel safe and secure.

Because lighting choices and applications are limitless, you need a well-thought-out plan to help beautify your outdoor living space.

LIGHTING STRATEGY

What is your outdoor personality? To determine that, you'll need to ask:

What do I love most about my yard, patio or balcony?

When and how will I be using my outdoor space?

When and where is security lighting most important?

Do I need help? Can a professional help me achieve my objectives?

Lighting up your yard, garden, deck or patio is a great way to extend the square footage of your living space. It adds ambience to your home, promotes enjoyment and maximizes your entertainment space, adding to your personal style, comfort and convenience.

Strategic placement of fixtures can enhance the architecture and the use of your space. Here are some options:

Up-lighting – lights from below to create a focal point in the landscape

Wall washing – general illumination

Silhouetting – dramatizes an interesting shaped object

Step lighting – illuminates stairways and walkways

Path lighting – enhances landscaping elements such as flower beds, shrubbery and borders while safely illuminating pathways

Deck and patio lighting – provides safety and accent lighting



FEISS: Ledgend LED Outdoor Sconce

BEFORE YOU INVEST

What you need to know before purchasing and installing outdoor light fixtures:

Not all light fixtures can be used outdoors. Check the safety rating for damp or wet locations.

FEISS: Hilo 12-Light Outdoor Chandelier



Hire a qualified electrician. Outdoor lighting requires special attention and fixtures can be located in hard-to-reach places. You only want to do this once, safely and according to the Ontario Building Code.

Buy quality, long-lasting finishes. Quality housing protects the light and is more resistant to the elements, so fixtures last longer with little to no maintenance.

Colour temperature. Do you want cool or warm light? Selecting the correct lamp can dramatically change the look and feel of your outdoor space.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Be kind to the night sky and your neighbours by directing lights downward, use low glare fixtures and place motion sensors on essential outdoor lamps. Turn lights off when not in use.

NEW, NOTABLE & SOMETHING SPECIAL

Today's technology lets you have more fun outdoors both night and day, with clever and charming items such as:

Portable LED lanterns with wireless speakers. Great for condos and other areas where no electrical outlets are available. The Uma Sound Lantern by Design Within Reach (DWR) has a dimmable light with a speaker.



DWR: Uma Sound Lantern

Chandeliers for that extra bit of panache. Feiss makes an explosive orb chandelier that adds elegance to any outdoor dining area.

Mobile lighting in the form of wireless globes, cube tables and other pieces of furniture. They are cordless and rechargeable with a colour rotation to suit your mood or occasion. DWR makes a variety of globes that are waterproof and glow in a variety of colours.



DWR: Ball Portable LED Lamp

String lights in a variety of shapes and sizes and price points set a festive mood for patios and balconies.

LED candles come pretty close to the real thing.

P.S. PREPARE FOR WINTER

I know it's summer, but don't forget to prepare for winter. Check bulbs and replace them with LED bulbs, clean fixtures and adjust timers. You can still enjoy the winter landscapes while cosy inside.

Now, you have everything you need to get your exterior glowing and enjoy your fabulous soirées. **OH**



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6 SATURDAY AFTERNOONS HOME STORE

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Continued on page 22



7 NORTHERN IRON
Chandelier
This hand-forged, authentically riveted six-light drum chandelier was created for rooms with low ceilings. Seen here in black but can be finished in gun metal, gold or oil-rubbed bronze. Larger version available as well.

740 Huronia Rd., Unit 8, Barrie
705.735.4414 | northerniron.ca

8 MANTIQUES
Vintage Bottles
This huge, antique, glass milk bottle has a cow, a star and an 1890 stamp. The car buoy, used for fermenting and transporting liquids, is in great shape. Just some of the fun finds at this downtown Barrie emporium.

56 Dunlop St., Barrie
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9 FRESH BY LEANNE
Lanterns
Whitewashed lanterns can hold flower vases or candles to light your outdoor patio. Lanterns come in two sizes. The vintage-look beach-bather statue is a fun addition to your summer décor.

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STORY MELANIE REKOLA

The addition of a fabulous outdoor structure enhances a backyard garden by providing an architectural destination to enjoy with family and friends. Garden structures firmly underpin and contrast the relaxed shapes of plants, thus providing valuable focal points.

Not only do garden structures provide functional requirements such as shade, shelter and privacy, they also enhance the landscape by adding opportunity to express one's individual personality and style.

Garden structures have countless uses – anything from saunas and yoga rooms to complete outdoor kitchens with fireplaces, pizza ovens and home theatres. They also come in many different shapes, forms and combinations. Let's take a closer look.

Cabana: A cabana (sometimes called a pool house) is basically a miniature house that usually shares architectural style with the existing home. They typically hold the pool equipment and have plumbing, electrical and fixtures just like any house, and can serve a multitude of functions in the backyard. Pool houses are the epitome of luxury and can even be equipped with glass walls and pocket doors that can open up fully for the summer months. They sometimes are designed with a pavilion or pergola attached to create a unique structure that maximizes outdoor living space.

Pergola: A pergola is an outdoor structure that consists of posts or columns and an open "roofing" grid of beams and rafters. Often rustic and made of wood (though sometimes modern and metal) these offer aesthetic value and a feeling of walls and ceiling. They provide some sun protection by way of light filtration but not any real protection from rain and other adverse weather. An option is to build it with a louvered cover system that can open and shut as needed, offering maximum versatility. They can be freestanding or attached to the home, depending on the structure and rooflines with pillars added to the posts if appropriate for the space.

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gardening

Arbour: An arbour is similar to a pergola, but on a smaller scale. Both arbours and pergolas can provide support for climbing plants, adding a lovely lush effect. Arbours can frame a view when placed alone or added in succession to provide a gorgeous tunnel effect.



Pavilion: A pavilion is an open-air structure with a solid roof. They generally don't have walls but are sometimes enclosed on one or two sides for privacy or wind shelter. A wonderful function of having a solid roof is that these spaces are protected from the elements so there's no need to store outdoor cushions or apply furniture coverings. These spaces are ideal as outdoor living rooms complete with plush sofas, toss pillows and, of course, a freestanding fireplace.

Gazebo: Similar to a pavilion and offering many of the same functional benefits, a gazebo has a solid roof and no walls but with one key difference – they are always octagonal in shape. These fit in well to country settings but in a modern application they often look awkward.

TIP: Sometimes prefabricated metal and cloth canopy structures (typically sold by big box stores) are also called gazebos. Though these are tempting because of their price point, they are a temporary solution and will require frequent replacement.

Greenhouse: Perhaps these buildings are self-explanatory but couldn't you just imagine a gorgeous glass greenhouse in your backyard filled with lavish plants and a swanky little seating set ready for afternoon tea or an evening glass of vino? As these are prefabricated, there is no need for architectural design, though proper placement is crucial. Buyers beware – permits may also apply!

Though a landscape designer can provide concept plan and inspirational photos as the starting point for outdoor structure design, most will require a technical draftsman to blend detailing with local building code requirements. This can be accomplished

through some combination of a Landscape Architect/Engineer/Builder/Architectural Technologist. Designing an outdoor structure is a process and a specialty field – larger structures will require building permits and zoning permissions.

As the illustrious Benjamin Franklin once said, "The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." The application of this phrase to outbuilding construction is no exception. Be forewarned – great tradespeople are in short supply and many good builders are already fully booked a whole year in advance. Take your time to find the construction company that's right for you and be prepared to wait for the perfect end result. **OH**

Melanie is a landscape designer and a certified horticulturalist.



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BALANCED LIVING

STORY KATHLEEN DUNCAN
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

With a summer soundtrack of excited gulls squawking and choppy waves splashing in the background, this two-storey lodge embraces its Cape Cod styling and offers the proximity to nature considered essential by outdoorsy homeowners **Michelle** and **Alejandro Dada**.

The addition of Craftsman details to the blue exterior hint at the couple's appreciation for creative efficiency and mindful practicality. Not surprising perhaps, given that Michelle is an entrepreneurial civil/environmental engineer and owner of **MNT Consulting Group Inc.**, which focuses on environmental building practices. Alejandro is also an entrepreneur in environmental investing and the real estate market. He also teaches eco tourism at Georgian College.

It took nearly a year of scouting before the active duo decided to put down roots in Barrie's Tollendale neighbourhood. Both had built homes before and both were looking for a location that maximized opportunities to enjoy all aspects of their lives together.

The move from their previous house in Aurora (a self-renovated century home) means a short walk carrying stand-up paddleboards will have them on the water in no time. It was the lifestyle they were searching for.

"That's important to us - to be able to get to nature very quickly," they explain. "We can hear the boats and see the lake from the front porch, so we get that built-in cottaginess, but you're still in town."

To enjoy that water view, a retired chair lift from Blue Mountain (a Special Olympics fundraiser find) provides unique front porch seating. It's also a nod to their winter passion and a reminder of the slope-side ski chalet Michelle once built for herself. *Continued on page 31*



Large hexagon tiles transition in a casual way to hardwood in the front foyer of Michelle and Alejandro Dada's home. **ABOVE:** Hearty blue Maibec siding installed by Precision Edge Contracting clads the front of the Cape Cod-style home. **OPPOSITE:** Outdoor enthusiasts Alejandro and Michelle spend as much time as possible on the water. Their paddleboard celebrates Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.



LEFT: Large windows in the master bedroom fill the room with morning light. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A metal bedside table holds an aloe plant and a modern lamp for reading. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The master en suite is light and bright with quartz-topped custom cabinets and substantial polished nickel hardware. **BELOW:** Colourful cabinets in the laundry room add a fun vibe to the home. All cabinetry by Lindsay Schultz Kitchens & Cabinetry Ltd.



ABOVE: With a walkout to the backyard, and steps from the kitchen, the living room is the place to relax in all seasons. **BELOW:** Tropical wallpaper lines a wall in the downstairs powder room. Fixtures are from Bathworks.



“Barrie combines lots of variables that we love: nature, lower prices and the proximity to Toronto,” Alejandro says. “It was a perfect combination.”

The reverse snowbird met his match several years ago when he came from Costa Rica to do a masters in Environmental Studies at York U as an international grad student. Married last year, they recently welcomed newborn son Rafael to their new home and family.

Across the threshold, modern practicality meets rustic beauty as hexagon tiles from **Flooring by Design** seamlessly transition to wide panel white oak installed by **Precision Edge Contracting**, which also installed the exterior Maibec siding. The tiling, in a variety of colours, recurs throughout the house, including the second-floor laundry and rear entrance mudroom, where they fully expect mud to visit.

“We don’t mind getting dirty,” she says with a twinkle in her eye at the prospect. The dog wash station suggests such adventures aren’t limited to the human inhabitants.

Back at the front entrance, a doorway to the right opens to a well-appointed and shared office. Twin sit/stand desks mean office work becomes another

opportunity for movement and to merge their work and leisure hours. Opposite the office, a colourful paddleboard hangs on the staircase wall. Brightly painted to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday, it functions as décor and as an invitation to play.

Growing up in his native Costa Rica, Alejandro rode the waves year-round. He has since embraced the four-season activity landscape of his adopted homeland.

“It’s a dream come true,” he reflects on the unexpected turn his life has taken. “I’m super happy here.”

In creating their new 2,550 sq. ft. home, they envisioned an eco-friendly beach/mountain hybrid to match their cross-climate union. After moving in last year, they claimed their joint stake with a sign declaring: “Casa Canarrican House – established 2017.”

Oversize windows framed by **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.** flood the great room with natural light, minimizing the barrier between inside and out.

Benjamin Moore Edgecomb Gray and Sherwin Williams Sea Salt provide neutral walls, while palm frond wallpaper from Walls Republic lend a taste of the tropics to the nearby powder room, featuring fixtures from **Bathworks**.

Continued on page 33

Thoughtful choices in the all-white kitchen stand out, including the large quartz-topped island, stainless steel appliances and the stainless backsplash and range hood behind the gas stove. The chalkboard-fronted cabinet is a fun touch.

Reinforcing the natural, knotty pine beams surround the **Snowball Hearth & Home** gas fireplace in the living area, and echo in the exposed rafters above. Matching beams and a wood stove (also from Snowball) carry the rustic theme upstairs to the “chill space” above the garage.

Enhancing the laid-back character of the home are hand-picked rustic light fixtures from Restoration Hardware, Costco and Ikea, charged by **SGB Electrical Inc.** Not so rustic is the high tech Nest thermostat that conveniently regulates the **Palm Air Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.** system via their smart phones.

Thoughtful choices were made in the kitchen as well. While wine fridges have become a standard fixture in many new homes today, the clean-living Dadas had **TA Appliances & Barbecues** include an urban cultivator within their package instead. Built into their kitchen, beautifully designed and installed by **Lindsay Schultz Kitchens & Cabinetry**, the indoor garden provides an ever-ready source of herbs and microgreens to complement the bounty expected from their newly planted summer plot and fruit trees.

Continued on page 36



ABOVE: The dishwasher is built into the ample island with marine pendants overhead. **FAR LEFT:** The home is filled with colourful touches. The vibrant chairs around the breakfast table match the art on the wall. **LEFT:** An urban cultivator grows herbs and microgreens all year long.

“WE DON’T MIND GETTING DIRTY,” MICHELLE SAYS WITH A TWINKLE IN HER EYE AT THE PROSPECT.

Hexagon tiles in the mudroom behind the kitchen add a lively yet durable touch to the room that holds all the gear.



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RIGHT: A handy dog shower in the mudroom can also be used for a myriad of muddy chores. **BELOW:** Out back, identical sheds store tools and include a workshop for Alejandro.



Michelle brought her professional expertise to planning the property with Alejandro. Her firm MNT Consulting Group Inc. is a multidisciplinary engineering company working with land development clients across central Ontario to create practical and sustainable solutions to environmental, design and planning issues. Although their new home offered a smaller canvas than the subdivisions she works on, they were determined to incorporate low-impact building practices in line with their nature-loving values. Alejandro and Michelle had a house plan in mind that was refined and made permit-ready by **Bailey Designs**.

To complete the exterior, they enlisted the help of **Bobcat of Barrie** for grading and **Bradford Greenhouses** for foliage – with a shout out from Michelle for Alejandro’s green thumb. The **NorthSheds** workshop shed out back also plays host to his handiwork.

With the right blend of cultures, activities and amenities, the Dadas have custom built the perfect home to fit their balanced lifestyle. **OH**



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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

The grilled cheese sandwich has been around since the inventions of processed cheese and sliced bread. For your next party or luncheon, here are three elevated takes on everyone's favourite sandwich. After all, it's what's inside that counts.

TO ASSEMBLE

- 1 baguette, sliced
- Butter

Choice of filling

Slice baguette into an even number of pieces. Butter one side of each piece.

Place slices butter side down in a frying pan over medium heat.

Fill each sandwich with toppings outlined in the recipes to follow. Top with a second slice of baguette, butter-side up.

Cook until bottom slice is golden brown, flip and repeat.



1. Peach & Candied Bacon Filling

- Gouda cheese, sliced

1 or 2 fresh peaches, thinly sliced

Candied bacon (see below)

Dijon marmalade (see below)

Arugula

Fresh sage, lightly fried

CANDIED BACON

¼ cup brown sugar

⅓ cup maple syrup

Black pepper

1 pound thick sliced bacon

Preheat oven to 400°F, line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and top with a wire rack.

In a small bowl combine brown sugar, maple syrup and pepper.

Lay bacon slices on wire rack, brush with sugar mixture, flip and brush other side.

Bake for 10-15 minutes, flip slices over and continue to bake until crisp and caramelized.

DIJON MARMALADE

1 Tbsp Dijon mustard

1 Tbsp marmalade

Black pepper

Combine Dijon mustard and marmalade. Season with black pepper.

2. Fig & Onion Filling

- Brie cheese, sliced

Fig caramelized onions (see below)

Arugula

FIG CARAMELIZED ONIONS

1 Tbsp olive oil

1 cup white onion, thinly sliced

2 figs, diced

Splash of balsamic vinegar

Salt & pepper

In a pan over medium heat, add olive oil and onions. Slowly cook onions until golden brown, about 20 minutes.

Once caramelized, add diced figs and a splash of balsamic vinegar. Allow the vinegar to deglaze the bottom of the pan and scrape up all of the bits on the pan.

Season with salt and pepper and set aside to cool.

3. Spinach Walnut Pesto Filling

Gorgonzola cheese, sliced

Spinach pesto (see below)

Dried cranberries

SPINACH PESTO

Heaping handful of fresh spinach

Handful of fresh basil

½ cup walnuts

¼ cup parmesan cheese, grated

2 cloves garlic

2 Tbsp olive oil

Salt and pepper

In a food processor, add spinach, basil, walnuts, parmesan and garlic.

Turn processor on and slowly add olive oil. Process until smooth

Season with salt and pepper to taste. **OH**

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STORY **YANIC SIMARD**

We know some things we shop for will be a passing fancy – like a “millennial pink” pillow or a glitzy brass bauble. However, some pieces in your home should absolutely be approached as an investment, and if chosen well can become a true heirloom, weathering decades of use and shifts in style.

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A ROOM-MAKING RUG

While too often rugs end up being an afterthought, if chosen properly they will and should anchor and elevate the look of an entire room. Rugs can also last for generations, if selected in a quality material, tight weave and a timeless style. Traditionally, patterned rugs can feel very hip and trendy when mixed with contrasting styles of furnishings, but you also know they'll stand the test of time, as these styles have already endured for centuries. Just expect to pay as much for a long-lasting rug as you would a good sofa, and in some cases, depending on size, even more.

LOOK FOR: Wool in a tight weave.

TIP: Bend the rug on a diagonal to make sure there isn't excess empty space between the rows of fibres for soil to gather.



THE RUG COMPANY: Amritsar 403

A STATEMENT CHANDELIER

Individual pendant lights may not be worth moving from home to home, but a grand chandelier is forever. Plus, it can be enjoyed from all angles and makes a natural focal point, so it's worth investing a bit to get something that stands up to all the extra attention. For the best long-term investment, choose a handcrafted one-of-a-kind piece, or look for a style that has lasted for at least 15 years (such as a French mid-century period crystal chandelier), to avoid passing fads.

LOOK FOR: Honest finishes like smoked glass or bronze, rather than faux finishes like gold-plate.

TIP: Choose one with an adjustable cord or chain, so it can be rehung in a taller or lower space later. *Continued on page 42*




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A STRONG BUT SOFT LEATHER SOFA

A good sofa needs to do a lot: be comfortable, look good, survive spills and indulge naps. This is definitely not a place to cut corners in any home. A quality leather sofa in a natural, supple material, will only grow more beautiful with age as the material develops a patina over decades of use. The best thing about a comfortable sofa? It can start as the central feature of your first home, and eventually move to a den or study in a future space – but you'll always have that one place you love to lounge.

LOOK FOR: Timeless natural shades like tan or soft grey.

TIP: Choose a simple and understated style that's truly comfortable, and then customize with beautiful one-of-a-kind vintage pillows. Think Hermès scarves turned into pillows.



LIGNE ROSET: Nils Sofa



TRIBUTE GOODS: "Fleur de Montagne" Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Galop Chromatique" Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Marcelina" Gray Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

TRIBUTE GOODS: "Marcelina" Plum Hermès Silk Scarf Pillow

AN ORNATE MIRROR

Like Modern? New Traditionalist? Art Deco? No matter your preference, you can find a beautiful mirror that adds style to your walls, while also being functional and doubling the visual size of a room. Ultimately while the frame will add flair, it's a quality piece of glass that will make a true heirloom, so look for one without the subtle ripples and warps that you often find in flimsier mirrors.

LOOK FOR: Clear, flawless glass.

TIP: A traditional mirrored frame with bevels and facets will be the most timeless.



RESTORATION HARDWARE: Louis Philippe Gilt Lener Mirror

THE ART SHOPPE: Nero Mirror

A PAIR OF CHAIRS

Whether you host massive family gatherings or intimate dinners, every home probably needs at least two great one-of-a-kind vintage chairs. While mixing and contrasting your furniture gives great creative results, having at least one matching pair gives lots of options: they can be part of a living room set, serve as end chairs anchoring a dining table, or be broken up to give differing rooms a sense of continuity.

LOOK FOR: Sturdy construction – good bones can be reupholstered later.

TIP: Seek out reputable manufacturers that have perfected just a few classic models over years, as these are proven to stand the test of time. **OH**



THE ART SHOPPE: Velvet Bergère Chair

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good taste

watermelon FROSÉ

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



The frosé (rhymes with okay) is the hottest drink of summer. This wine-based frozen slushie gets its flavour from watermelon, the season's most popular fruit. Perfect for the patio or around the pool.

INGREDIENTS

Makes 4 to 6 servings

5 cups watermelon,
cubed and frozen

½ cup
granulated sugar

½ cup water

1 750ml bottle
of rosé wine

½ cup vodka

Fresh mint

DIRECTIONS

Core and cube a large watermelon. Place cubes on a baking sheet and freeze.

Meanwhile, combine sugar and water in a saucepan. Simmer until sugar is dissolved, creating a simple syrup.

Just before serving, add all ingredients to a blender, adding ½ cup of wine at a time. Pulse until smooth. Garnish with mint and serve.

If you're strapped for time, make frosé ahead of time and store in the freezer until ready to serve. **OH**



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SIMPLY POLISHED



Ashley and Alex Wagenaar

PHOTOGRAPHY
BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: Ashley and Alex Wagenaar are celebrating a successful two-year anniversary at **Simply Home Furnishings**. The evolution of the Midland store has been incredible. Every new client or customer who walks into the massive showroom openly expresses the same thought, "What a beautiful store." Regulars just keep coming back. The showroom is polished, inspirational and features a huge range of styles and products, all at a fair price. "If we've learned anything since opening," says Alex, "it's furniture customization and the importance of customer service."

PRODUCTS: The focus here is on Canadian-made furniture for your bedroom, living and dining room. They carry top brands like Palliser, Brentwood, Trend-line, Simmons and Superstyle, plus Ashley Furniture. Upholstery choices with their Canadian lines are endless. "Everything is customizable," says Ashley. "We continuously update our product assortments based on our customers' requests."

PRICING: Simply Home offers "no-haggle pricing." Customers get the best price from the start with no major markdowns or price matching. The team actually encourages clients to shop around, knowing they'll be back to get a quality piece of furniture at the very best price with excellent customer service.

DOWNTOWN STORE: Ashley grew up learning the business at Simply Country, the long-established downtown Midland store owned by her parents, which just celebrated 25 years in business. Ashley purchases for both stores now and they refer clients back and forth. It's a win-win for customers who have more options with two established Midland stores to shop at.

WHAT'S HOT: Sectional sofas in a range of sizes for small and large rooms are more popular than ever. Families love sectionals. Home-theatre rooms are becoming standard in most new homes. You'll find fun and relaxing theatre seating at Simply Home Furnishings. Slipcovered sofas are also on-trend. A linen slipcovered Brentwood sofa is a current customer favourite.



ACCESSORIES GALORE: Furnish and decorate your entire home or cottage at Simply Home. Mirrors, lamps, coffee and end tables, baskets, throw cushions, art, large wall clocks, vases and even book ends will help complete the look. Ashley shops all over Canada and the United States for the latest looks and styles to fit every home and every budget.

GET THERE: 900 King St., Unit B, Midland
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PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**



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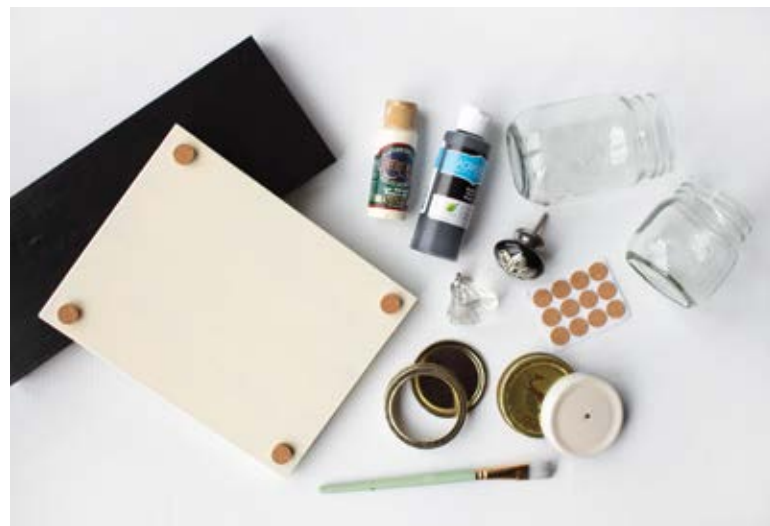
MATERIALS

- Jars with lids (mason jars or recycled jars)
- Cabinet knobs or drawer pulls
- Paint for metal and wood surfaces
- Paintbrush
- Large nail
- Hammer
- 1 piece of wood in desired tray size
- Cork pads for bottom of tray

HOW-TO

- Remove lids from jars. Mark the centre of the lids.
- Using the nail and hammer, punch a hole in the lid.
- Paint lids and wooden tray with the same colour of paint.
- When dry, fasten knobs to lids and cork pads to tray.
- TIP:** You may have to cut or replace the knob screws if they are too long. **OH**

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A rebate cheque will be sent to the client once the work has been completed and proof of purchase has been submitted.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, starting at the beginning of the year. More information is available at greenon.ca.

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Homeowners can use an online tool at ohecip.ca to find a participating energy advisor to help complete the application and project.

ONTARIO RENOVATES PROGRAM

This program offers seniors and others funding for urgent repairs, such as roofing, structural plumbing, septic systems and fire safety. Money is



also available for accessibility modifications, such as ramps, handrails and chair and bath lifts for persons with disabilities and seniors to allow them to "age in place."

Counties and municipalities that participate in the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario program deliver the funding to its residents. Funding comes from the federal and provincial governments.

Check with your municipality for the status of the program in your area.

HOME AND VEHICLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Established by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and offered through the March of Dimes Canada, this program provides funding for basic home and/or vehicle modifications for Ontarians with impairment, enabling them to continue living in their homes, avoid job loss and participate in their communities.

Applicants must be permanent Ontario residents and have an impairment caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness that is ongoing and/or recurring and is expected to last one year or more. Applicants must demonstrate that the impairment impedes mobility and results in substantial restriction in activities of daily living.

The program provides up to \$15,000 lifetime maximum for home modifications, and/or up to \$15,000 every 10 years for vehicle modifications.

Other eligibility criteria are available on March of Dimes' website at marchofdimes.ca.

HOME ADAPTATIONS FOR SENIORS' INDEPENDENCE (HASI) PROGRAM ON-RESERVE

Aboriginal Peoples living on-reserve can apply to receive a loan of up to \$10,000, which can be forgiven if the occupant continues to live in the residence for six months after the modifications.

On-reserve seniors in northern or remote areas may receive an additional 25 per cent in funding. Eligibility states that on-reserve applicants must be 65 or older, be experiencing difficulty with daily activities due to aging, and have a total household income at or below a specified limit.

The loan money should be directed toward adaptations, such as handrails, easy-to-reach work and storage areas in the kitchen, and walk-in showers with grab bars.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Many municipalities offer grants and incentives for first-time homebuyers and for homeowners who are improving their secondary (granny) suites.

Contact your municipality for information. **OH**



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Cambria quartz counters top custom black-and-white cabinetry by Perkinsfield Kitchen and Bath. A passthrough to the dining room makes entertaining a little easier.

BLACK *and* WHITE

STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



“NO BEIGE AND NO BROWN.” BOTH BRENDA BAZINET AND HER CUSTOM BUILDER **JOEL LAURIN OF JVL HOME IMPROVEMENTS LTD. LAUGH WHEN THEY AGREE THAT THIS COLOUR REQUEST FROM BAZINET WAS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE CHALLENGES FOR THE DESIGN OF HER NEWLY BUILT HOME IN TINY TOWNSHIP, FROM THE EXTERIOR BRICK TO THE FLOORING – EVEN THE KITCHEN.**

Continued on page 54



Dessert is served on the huge quartz-topped island in the kitchen.

RIGHT: Black subway tiles add texture on the backsplash and there's a fun tile focal point above the cooktop. **BELOW:** The kitchen nook has a beautiful view of the pool and landscaping in the backyard.



"It's not that I don't like those colours," Bazinet says. "My cottage is all wood and browns, beiges and rust colours, but this time I just wanted black and white." She was originally thinking she'd like an all-black floor but was warned that black shows everything, so she settled for a burned oak floor from **Majestic North Floors Inc.** with distinct rivers of black grain instead.

Joel, who was recommended to Bazinet's family by **Mike Desroches** of **Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc.**, says, "One of the big challenges we faced from the start was building on wetlands within an environmentally protected zone so it took a lot of planning, but everything came together quite nicely. We did a really big drainage plan to make sure that everything was dry." The property is comprised of seven acres of mostly forest, which abuts a popular multi-use trail and guarantees backyard privacy during all seasons since no one can build on it.

Joel says he likes working on new builds. "There's always new, innovative stuff and in a custom design you're responsible for everything from the ground up," he says. The living space in the Bazinet home is 6,000 square feet, including the finished basement, which has luxurious heated floors, high ceilings and big windows.

Bazinet says Joel is great to work with, especially for those who may not have any experience in homebuilding. "I feel really comfortable with Joel," she says. "He gets you involved in the process and he makes you feel comfortable asking questions."

She adds that during the building process she felt like part of the team, her opinion was sought and valued when needed and the trades, like Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc. and **Georgian Landscape**, were friendly and accommodating. **Eric Desroches** of Georgian Landscape designed the backyard pool area, complete with a pool waterfall

Continued on page 56



Burned oak wide planks cover the entire main floor, including the lounge off the kitchen.

home & builder

and stone decking. Bazinet says Eric accommodated her desire for little outdoor work by selecting very low-maintenance plantings, like tall perennial grasses, for the backyard pool and deck area. A wood-burning fire pit and several seating areas beckon visitors to relax and enjoy the quiet forest scenery.

When entertaining, Bazinet enjoys the Sonos sound system installed by **Dan Laurin of Electrical Layout Design** who also completed all the electrical work in the home.

“Whenever anyone sees our utilities room they are always amazed at how meticulous Dan was with labelling so you know exactly what everything is for,” says Bazinet.

Prior to breaking ground, Bazinet and Joel spent about a year

tweaking the design with **Dupuis & Ouellet Inc.** in Penetanguishene. “Our better jobs have about a year of planning, when we can sit down and look at the design and really build the whole house before the actual building happens,” Joel explains. “It’s a smoother process from start to finish, not just for me but from the homeowner’s side.”

Bazinet’s parents and grandparents are from the Penetanguishene area and she moved here when she was 14 years old. “I like this part of Tiny Beaches because we’re remote, so you get that out-of-town feeling and a little more privacy but it’s still close enough to town for convenience,” she says. Her son lives up the street and her sister is building a new home close by. “We’re taking



TOP LEFT: Grey stone covers the exterior of the expansive home. **TOP RIGHT:** Builder Joel Laurin of JVL Home Improvements Ltd. says the construction of the entire home came together nicely. **ABOVE LEFT:** The hot tub and sauna room is located inside just off the raised patio. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Shiplap

adds a nice touch to the mudroom, where custom built-ins keep things contained and organized. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The pool house stores the mechanics and doubles as a bar. **BOTTOM:** Georgian Landscape designed the backyard pool area.

over the neighbourhood,” she laughs. The area is perfect for both summer boating and winter snowmobiling, plus it has easy access to Barrie and the family cottage in Muskoka.

Bazinet has a few favourite spots in her new home, including the sunroom with indoor hot tub and sauna plus her sanctuary upstairs. But she is especially fond of her expansive kitchen. The kitchen, by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc., is exactly what she envisioned, with lots of counter and storage space and a large island so guests can visit in the kitchen while Bazinet is prepping food. “It never fails – you can have all the space in the world and everybody congregates in the kitchen,” Bazinet says. If there is an overflow of guests, the open concept means they can sit in the adjoining family room and still feel a part of the fun.

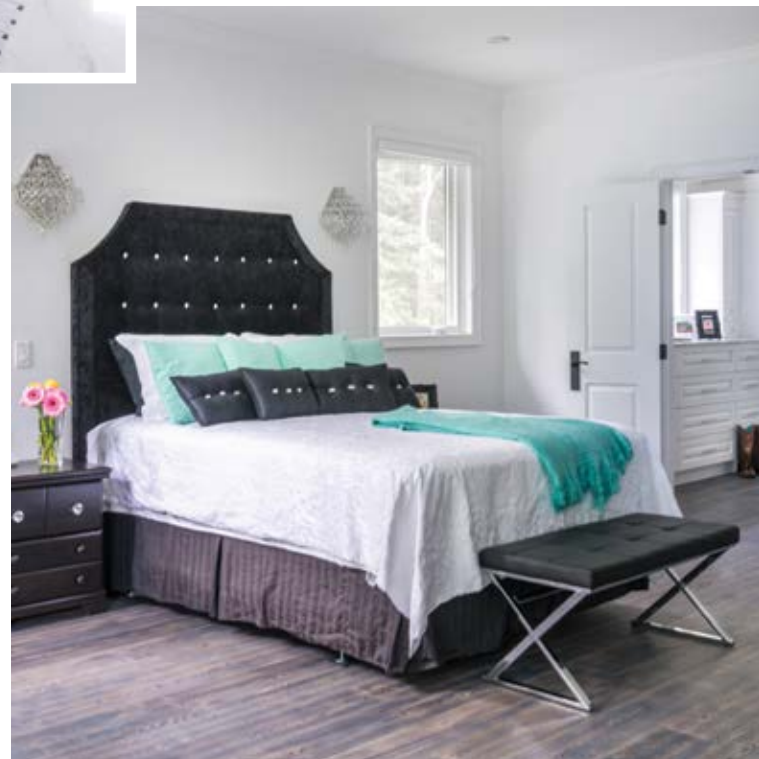
She did encounter an issue with picking a black and white kitchen. “I didn’t realize there were quite so many shades of white,” Bazinet says. The kitchen cupboards are white with white trim and white ceilings. The plan was to also have white appliances. But none of the whites matched each other exactly. “We worked with Mike and we figured out if we broke up the white we wouldn’t notice it quite so much.” She replaced the white appliances with black, and black paint on the crown moulding atop the cupboards provides a bold contrast between the walls and the ceiling. *Continued on page 58*

home & builder

In the master en suite, custom his-and-hers vanities are separated by a sit-down grooming area. All cabinets are by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** A vessel tub and glassed-in shower complete the master en suite. **BELOW RIGHT:** Bazinet adds a hint of Tiffany's blue to the black and white décor in the master.



← The walk-in closet in the master suite is perfectly designed with drawers and closets galore.



The stovetop backsplash was chosen by **Natalie Hutton** of **Natalie Hutton Designs** to provide a whimsical focal point for the black and white theme. "Natalie is a lifesaver," Bazinet says. Daunted by the many design decisions facing her, Bazinet was grateful for Hutton's guidance when choosing lighting, bathroom fixtures and tiles plus accessories for her new home. Bazinet wanted to stay with a black and white theme throughout the home so she could add splashes of colour with throw pillows and décor as the seasons change.

Bazinet's sanctuary is her bedroom, en suite with heated floors and walk-in closet. A double-sided fireplace in the bedroom and en suite adds cosiness, and the dressing room is on every woman's wish list. Designed by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc., Bazinet says, "I told Mike, I want a walk-in closet but I don't want to see my clothes so I want doors and drawers and they came up with this design."

From a no-beiges-and-browns directive to a stunning black and white masterpiece, Bazinet is very happy that her new home reflects her design dreams. **OH**



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AT HOME
Neighbourhood: I'm currently getting settled in my new home in Horseshoe Valley.
Favourite Room: My bedroom, hands down. It's so calming and cosy. Bet you thought it would have been the kitchen, lol, (although that's great too!).
Next Project: It's a never-ending list at home for me, being a designer, but I think it's going to be the outside gardens as I love gardening.

AT WORK
Latest Project: An awesome kitchen installation for a newly retired, fun and outgoing woman and her still working husband. We got adventurous with the shape of the island top as it will resemble the shape of a sail, giving a nod to the Georgian Bay waterfront lifestyle they enjoy.
Most Exciting Trend: Incorporating metal accents and details.
Design Secret: Listening to my clients. Understanding who they are and how they move in their home sparks my creativity.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY:
Form and function first! You can make anything look pretty but if it doesn't function the beauty fades.

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VOLUNTEERS
Georgian Bay Garden Tour

For 24 years, on the second Saturday in July, our garden tour has been a summer highlight in the region, raising funds for worthwhile projects and organizations like the local libraries, the Cancer Support Centre, and now Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe. All ticket proceeds are donated and all of our fundraising efforts are by community volunteers.



THE TOUR
Date: July 14, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Number of Homes:** 12-15.
Where are the Homes? The towns of Midland, Penetanguishene and the townships of Tiny and Tay. **Types of Gardens on Tour:** Urban and rural, private home properties and farm operations. **Ticket Price:** \$25. **Volunteers:** Maureen Johnstone, Anne Brownell, Germaine Lesperance, Deborah Allain-Michaud, Patricia Belfry, Edith English, Mary Moreau, Kate Hawkins, Anita Laramey, Laura Cascagnette

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MATTHEW AT WORK

Best Part of the Job: Satisfying our customers' expectations.

Trades Admired Most: All trades. It is a collaborative team that creates a quality product allowing us to pay attention to the finest details. **Prycon Signature:** Our guiding principles – Caring Collaboration, Passionate and Unparalleled. **It's a Good Day**

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WHAT EVERY HOMEOWNER WANTS: A comfortable environment to relax in and enjoy family and friends.

STEPHEN AT WORK

Current Project: Prycon has several projects on the go at any one time. **Next Project:** Building more award-winning homes on the lake and becoming a major contributor to the revitalization of the shores of Lake Simcoe. **Most Exciting Trend:** The glitz and glamour bathrooms and kitchens but we've seen a huge interest in energy efficiency and new technologies. **Joys of the Job:** Being challenged every day with human relationships, technology and the passion to create beautiful spaces for clients.

MELANIE HICK

RETAIL MANAGER

Breezewood Floors Bass Lake Sawmill

All BreezeWood hardwood flooring products are made with sustainably-sourced local hardwoods and are manufactured and finished in Southwestern Ontario, resulting in an extremely low carbon footprint. BreezeWood Floors is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Rainforest Alliance. With a wide selection of colours and industry-leading finishes, backed by strong warranties and excellent customer service, you can be sure that these truly Canadian floors will stand the test of time.



WHAT'S TRENDING: Rustics and natural wood products in mid-tone browns, grey-browns, naturals and neutrals that pair nicely with greys.

AT WORK

Why Ontario Hardwood?

Choosing Ontario hardwoods means a lower carbon footprint and supporting the local economy. **Customer Favourites:** Our XL Rustic hardwood flooring line, a true rustic grade hardwood in wide lengths and long board lengths up to 12-feet long. **Top Recommendation:** White Ash hardwood flooring is durable, beautiful, stable and attractively priced. **Custom Stains:** We match most existing floors and floor samples.

AT HOME

Neighbourhood: Rural property in Severn Township. **Favourite Room:** A sunroom that overlooks my vegetable garden. **Favourite Recipe:** Hungarian goulash, a family recipe that has been passed down through the generations. **Outside Activity:** Hiking in the Simcoe County forests. **Summer Vacation Plans:** Cottaging on the Severn River.

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Aboda Decor is Simcoe County's premiere decorator furniture store. We represent over 50 major suppliers of household furnishings for every room in the home. Eighty per cent of our 10,000 sq. ft. showroom is quality Canadian-made merchandise. We are celebrating our 18th anniversary in Barrie.



AT WORK
Styles: Fashion forward styles with choices in fabric, leather, metal, glass and wood.
Furniture Lines: Top Canadian brands include Palliser, Bermex, Amisco, Handstone, Trica Furniture, Ekornes, Decor-Rest, Pinnacle Studio, EQ3, Verbois and Mobican. **Best Sellers:** Upholstery is the driving force for Canadians to buy furniture. Ekornes and Palliser are top brands in the world and North America.
Special Services: We service what we sell and offer in-house, full-service, white-glove delivery. Custom order is our motto.

AT HOME
Neighbourhood: Wildwood in Barrie's south end. **Favourite Room:** Our very cosy living room with three focal points – the television, fireplace and a window to the backyard. We have Stressless seating, the most comfortable seating in the world. **Design Style:** A variation of mid-century modern. Scandinavian influenced. **Family Heirloom:** An 18th century Anderson Scottish oak hall chair with the emblem carved with "Stand Sure."

TRENDS:
There is a mood to shop Canadian for its quality and its benefit for Canadians.

PICTURED HERE: Owners Colin Springgay & Susan Springgay, with designer Michael Miller and associate Ryan Wilson.

Continued on page 66

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SANDI AT WORK
Local Vendors: Oh Beehive, Judianne Handbags, Two Sisters Naturals, Sweets & Lo and Willowsbark Tea. **Summer Favourite:** Having the front door open welcoming customers while listening to the patrons on the patios and enjoying the downtown vibe. **Best Seller:** Gurgle Pots.



WENDY AT WORK
Top Gift Recommendation: Sophie Conran tableware. **Coollest Product:** Memobottle – a premium, reusable flat bottle founded in Australia. Designed with the environment in mind. Partnered with water.org, every Memobottle sold provides one person with two months' access to clean water. (So cool it was included in this year's Oscar gift bags!)

WENDY AT HOME
Neighbourhood: Tollendale area on the south side of Kempenfelt Bay. **Favourite Room:** My bedroom. It's soft, white and very relaxing. **Summer Activity:** Enjoying coffee on the patio in my Adirondack chairs.

SANDI AT HOME
Neighbourhood: The charming East End – Old Barrie per se! **Best Room:** Our living room. That's where my family gathers when they are home, enjoying each other's company and sharing their stories. There is nothing better! **Favourite Summer Meal:** Anything on the barbecue. My husband does a great job with that.

Continued on page 68

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AT WORK

Lighting Trends: Fixtures that have exposed Edison-style bulbs and fixtures that fall in the modern/rustic style, with multiple finishes. **Popular Lighting Finish:** Two-tone finishes, mixing copper and brown or black finishes or mixing satin nickel and chrome. **Most Popular White Paint:** A nice crisp clean white: Chantilly Lace OC-65. **Best Deck Stain:** Benjamin Moore's Arborcoat line, a dual resin system combining the best of oil and latex properties. Excellent penetration and UV protection.

HOT PAINT COLOUR: Benjamin Moore's 2018 colour of the year, Caliente AF-290, a nice rich red! OH

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STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

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Street parties are deeply embedded in Canadian culture. In Toronto's Annex neighbourhood, for example, Walmer Road residents recently toasted their 30th annual party, complete with dancing and tug of war.

Similarly, in the east end, many streets, mine included, have long-standing party traditions. With side benefits like increased safety and community spirit, these parties also tend to be keenly envied by everyone else. I can't count how often I've heard, "Wow, I wish we had a street party!"

So does your street want in on the party action? It's actually surprisingly doable – and so worthwhile. We consulted several successful party organizers in Toronto's east end and got recommendations for would-be planners.

Continued on page 72

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outdoor living

Define your goals

Are you aiming to build community and inclusivity, or make memories for the neighbourhood kids? A clear vision helps guide planning decisions and also adds a sense of purpose to your event. Katharine Harrison, who launched a hugely successful event on her street 20 years ago, says she sought to build a safe and caring community after her son, now 21, was born with a disability. Over the years, she says, "The street became so social and so safe."

A few streets over, Rob Torr, Steph Graham and Theresa Bailie dreamed of an alternative car-free Halloween celebration. Now in its 10th year, their spooky-safe street event draws 300-plus kids.

Do lots of consultation and communication

Will we have a small potluck or line cooks? Activities? Do we block off the street or gather in a backyard? What's the best date? When starting up, Harrison recommends consulting neighbours on key aspects: "If you want the most people and participation, that's what you need to do."

Then, keep everyone in the loop with a Save the Date. The week before, send specifics about food, parking, kids' activities, etc.



Arrange permits

If you want to block off traffic, check in early with your municipality about permit fees, barricades or other requirements. For her street's October event, Bailie says, "I begin permit applications in January or February so that there is a placeholder date for Transportation Services each year... I also need to reach out to other city divisions for approval with the waste collection plan, safety plan, fire plan, sound amplification (if applicable). We also need to provide general liability insurance as part of the road closure permit application process."

With these extras, Torr warns, "It is not a cheap endeavour."

Cover costs

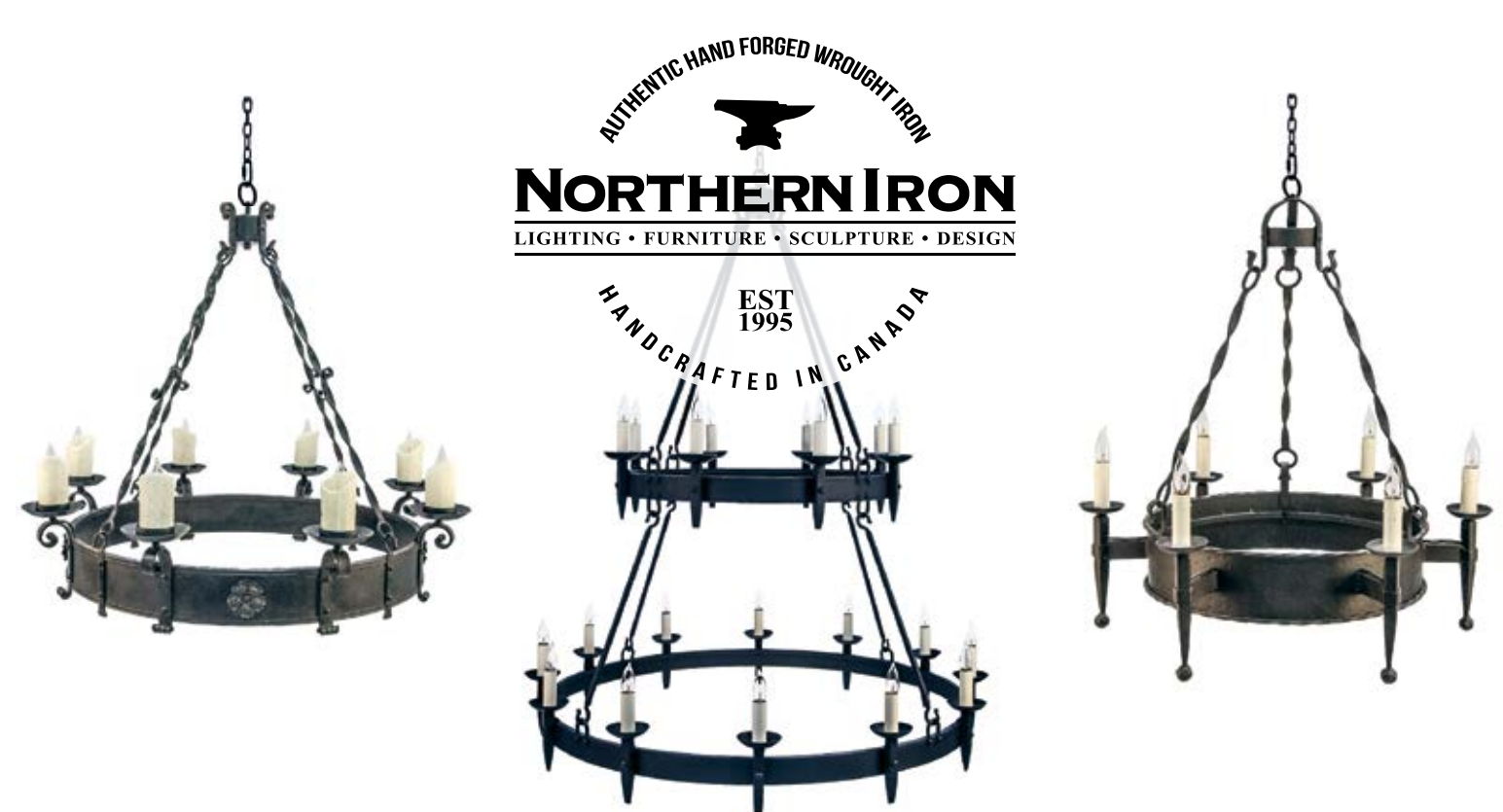
After designing your event, Harrison suggests agreeing on a per-household donation to cover agreed-upon items. And don't forget to check with your municipality – some have funding available. Burlington for example, waives street closure fees and offers funding up to \$300 for block events like hockey and movie nights.

Share the workload

Having a fearless leader is great, Harrison says, "But you also need people to recognize that not everything can be done by one person." She suggests a steering committee and planning meetings. Then, for the actual party, delegate. With her day-long extravaganza, Harrison says, "Every family had to participate" with tasks ranging from running kids' activities to clean-up crew.

Pass on knowledge

Harrison says she's now backed away from a leadership role. "My kid is 21. I might be there on the evening to eat but chances are I'm doing something else later," she says. But not before she wrote up a project plan. Ultimately, while events may ebb and flow, passing on your knowledge makes it much more likely that the event you started might just live on for decades. **OH**



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GOING MODERN

STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

STUNNING, IF SURPRISING, RESULTS ARE POSSIBLE WHEN YEARS OF EXPERTISE, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND THE WORLD'S FINEST MATERIALS ARE INCLUDED IN THE CREATION OF A TRUE CUSTOM HOME. Continued on page 76



Chris and Mitsy Nitsopoulos's new home is a contemporary showstopper. The huge open living space is where Chris says they spend all of their time.

RIGHT: Dreamwood Homes co-owner Chris Nitsopoulos relaxes in his leather chair in the living room of his new home. **BELOW:** The solid wood, custom entrance sets the stage for the interior design. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A steel roof tops the spacious home. CC Landscaping begins work on the landscaping, front and back, this summer.



That's the take-away inspiration **Chris Nitsopoulos**, co-owner of **Dreamwood Homes**, wants his clients to ponder after visiting his new 3,200 sq. ft. rustic modern residence in Midhurst's estate development **The Ravines of Matheson Creek**.

"They give us basic wants and needs, and we recommend their options and identify upcoming trends," he says of the process that begins in the early planning stages and ends with him handing over the keys to satisfied customers. "My partner **Tino Zarcone** has been in flooring, stone and

cabinetry all his life, so we're able to maximize quality and budgets."

With endless opportunities for originality, he encourages creative thinking and pushing the boundaries of expectation.

"We don't just build a home, we build a custom home," he states, referring to his team of 15 years as dream builders who stand for quality. "A lot of people don't have the imagination to see what's possible. It's our job to show them. In the end, they're thrilled."

That reaction is his favourite moment.

In designing his own new home with wife

Mitsy, their goal was to combine beauty and function in a new way.

The departure from a more traditional approach is evident from the road. The three-bay garage is fronted with frosted glass in an aluminum frame from **Advance Door Systems Ltd**. The contemporary style is matched in the solid wood custom-built entrance by The Doorland Group that required specialized hardware to stabilize its enormous proportions. Brampton Brick and **Tarpin Lumber & Truss** completed the facade. *Continued on page 78*

TOP LEFT: In the master en suite, a vessel tub is placed on an angle with a crystal chandelier above. **TOP MIDDLE:** A wave of stone covers the wall in the dramatic shower where the water rains down onto a black, penny-tile floor. **TOP RIGHT:** Three-quarter-inch granite frames the mirror. **LEFT:** Raw white oak floors run throughout the main floor. This hallway off the entrance leads downstairs and to the laundry room off the kitchen. **ABOVE:** Chris's office sits in a nook with a huge window with a view out front.



During the year-long build, he recalls seeing raised eyebrows when he shared seeing kitchen plans that included ultramodern black cabinetry (from **Innovative Wood Worx**) and unique 36-by-36-inch travertine tiles from **Barrie Flooring Design Centre** to complement stainless steel **TA Appliances**. After moving in last September and presenting the finished product, their innovative approach received rave reviews.

"I think when you pick different things, people are hesitant," he considers. "But the result shows what we can do."

He says the key to success is the time and care put into each detail.

Chris and Mitsy took their design to their go-to architectural firm **Cornerstones Residential Design** to draw up the plans, and hired **Aldo Santiago Contracting** to manage the project.

"Every trade rose to the challenge," praises Chris, who points out the skill required to line up the oak wood grain across the kitchen accent walls. "All the boards come from the same tree."

Similarly, the granite island (Barrie Flooring Design Centre) with built-in sink (**Lefroy Plumbing**) features a single slab with grain that flows uninterrupted over the eight-inch waterfall apron.

Mitsy, who worked closely with interior designer **Samantha Thomas of Inhabit Interiors & Design**, says the deliberate addition of wood helped warm things up.

So does the duo of blown-glass pendant lights above the island that give the room's straight lines a curvy counterpoint. Measuring three-by-four-feet each with glass one-inch thick, the massive fixtures hang by airplane cable from the 17-foot peak of the vaulted ceiling.

"They come from the Czech Republic," Mitsy recalls. "We had to wait four months for a matching pair. For every 100 they blow, only one makes it to market." *Continued on page 80*

TOP: The kitchen is the star of this home. The substantial stainless-steel appliances shine in the dramatic space. **FAR LEFT:** White dishes and accessories add a clean, fresh balance in this kitchen. **LEFT:** The beverage bar is surrounded by built-ins, black drawers on the bottom and modern, glass lift-ups with steel frames up top. The pantry is hidden behind the blonde cabinets to the left. **OPPOSITE:** The dramatic, sophisticated kitchen is also beautifully designed. The granite on the island hangs eight inches over the edge. The concrete-look floor tiles are three-feet square. Two massive blown-glass pendant lights hang from airplane cable.

"WE DON'T JUST BUILD A HOME, WE BUILD A CUSTOM HOME."



There are two guest bedrooms on the main floor with access to a shared bathroom located between the two rooms.



The concrete floor transitions to oiled, white-oak wide planks from Barrie Flooring Design Centre for the remainder of the great room and main floor. White walls by **Ontario Paintworks** provide high contrast to the black frames of the Casabella Windows that extend across the back wall. The expanse reveals a forest setting and 1.4 acres of outdoor living space sculpted by **CC Landscaping**, which is working on completing the hardscapes, softscapes and tree planting.

"I kind of feel I live outside," smiles Mitsy, who says the natural light and serenity remind her of a yoga studio. She also appreciates the light show of stormy weather

that is accompanied by sound effects as rain splashes down onto their **Classic Roofing Systems** steel topper. "What's not to like?"

Chris agrees the great room is his preference as well. Although spacious at 50-by-40-feet, it's comfortable and they spend most of their time there together.

With a **Napoleon Home Comfort** fireplace warming up the living room area on cool evenings, and an open-concept office tucked off the front entrance, they make use of every inch.

"When the kids were away in our last home, we weren't using the whole house," she says. There is no such wasted space here. *Continued on page 82*



Artists Concept



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Downstairs, accessed by custom Royal Oak Railing and Stair Ltd. installed by **Hamhawk Fine Carpentry**, a rec room, office, gym and guest room complete the tour. The guest bath features fixtures from **Bathworks** and a vanity customized by **Barn to Table** furniture makers.

Chris is just as proud of the home's infrastructure as he is its finishes, so the utility room doesn't get missed. While **Airlogix Mechanical** installed the heating and air conditioning, Icynene spray foam insulation ensures it stays in place.

As a land developer, Chris had his choice of properties, and helps his clients find their perfect location as well. It could be on one of the few remaining lots in The Ravines subdivision or on a Dreamwood Homes Lovers Harbour estate, which offers marine docking amenities. Or it could be somewhere completely different. With Zarcone – who has a passion for all things construction – and the rest of the Dreamwood team, Chris has completed custom homes and renovations from Oakville to Uxbridge and up into Muskoka.

But the Midhurst home and showpiece he and Mitsy built together will remain his favourite for a long time to come. **OH**

The glass-and-steel railing leads to the basement filled with a recreation room, bar and additional bedrooms. The guest bath has fixtures from Bathworks.



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(Please see ad on pg 71)



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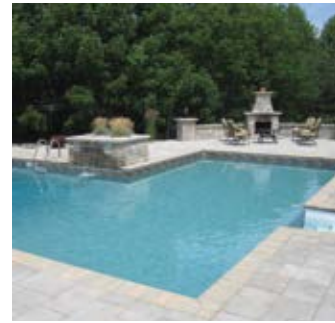
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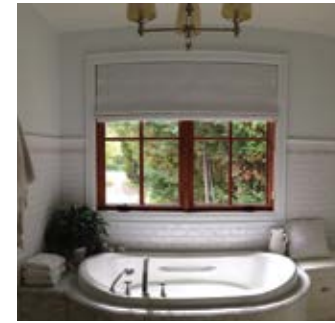
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Play Pieces

- 10 small flat stones
- Acrylic paint (in colours noted below)
- Fine paintbrush
- Mod Podge
- Black marker

NATURAL

Using white paint, mark five stones with an X and five with an O. When dry, coat with Mod Podge to seal.

BUGS

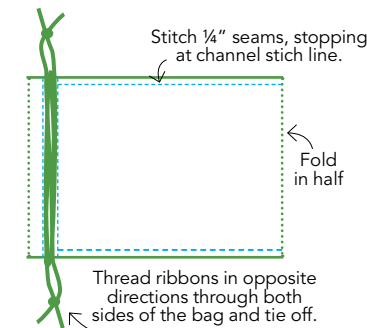
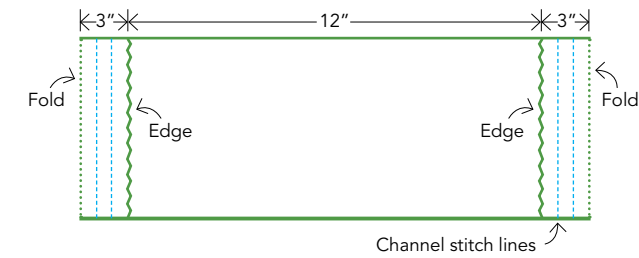
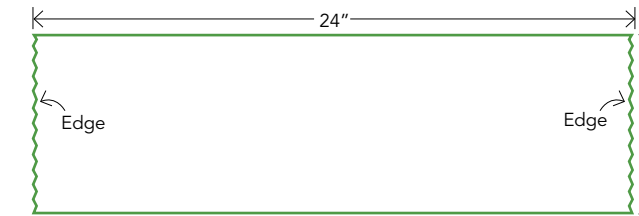
Paint five stones red and five yellow.

When dry, on red stones using black, paint each end, and a stripe down the middle and add spots.

On yellow stones using black, paint stripes around the stone and a wider stripe at one end for a head.

When dry, add two white dots for eyes on all stones.

Coat with Mod Podge to seal.



Drawstring Bag

- Material, six-inches wide by 24-inches long (we used burlap ribbon and fabric)
- Ribbon, 2 lengths, 18-inches each
- Thread (we matched our material)
- Scissors
- Safety pin or bobby pin

To stitch a channel for the drawstring, fold 3-inches in from each end of the material. Stitch two seams at each end, at 1-inch and 2-inches from the folds.

Fold material in half, right side in. Stitch each edge with a 1/4-inch seam, stop 2 inches from the top of the bag to leave the stitched channels open. Turn right side out.

Attach the first ribbon to a safety pin or bobby pin and thread it between the stitched channel on the front of the bag and out, then thread back through the channel on the back. Knot the ends of the ribbon together to make a loop. Repeat with second ribbon, starting from the opposite channel opening. You should be able to pull the knotted ribbons and draw in both sides of your bag.

Using a black marker, draw a grid on the drawstring bag with two vertical lines and two horizontal lines as your game board. **OH**

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PEACH & COCONUT *caramel* POPSICLES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

This yummy frozen treat is full of sweet, fresh peaches and coconut. These home-made popsicles make a healthy and wholesome dessert.



PEACH MIXTURE

- 2 large or 3 medium peaches
- 1 Tbsp honey
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Dice peaches and add to saucepan with honey and cinnamon. Heat until soft, then set aside to cool.

COCONUT CARAMEL

- 1 can (14 oz) full fat coconut milk
- ½ cup coconut sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 Tbsp coconut oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Sea salt

Combine coconut milk, coconut sugar and honey in a saucepan and heat over medium.

Cook for 10-15 minutes or until thickened.

Remove from heat and add coconut oil, vanilla and a pinch of sea salt.

Set aside to cool.

COCONUT MILK MIXTURE

- 1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
- 1 Tbsp honey

Mix together coconut milk and 1 tablespoon of honey, set aside.

TO ASSEMBLE

Using popsicle moulds, spoon in peach mixture then coconut caramel until each mould is half full.

Top up each mould with coconut milk mixture.

Place popsicle sticks in the middle of each mould.

Release any air bubbles in the moulds by gently moving the popsicle sticks.

Freeze until firm. **OH**

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