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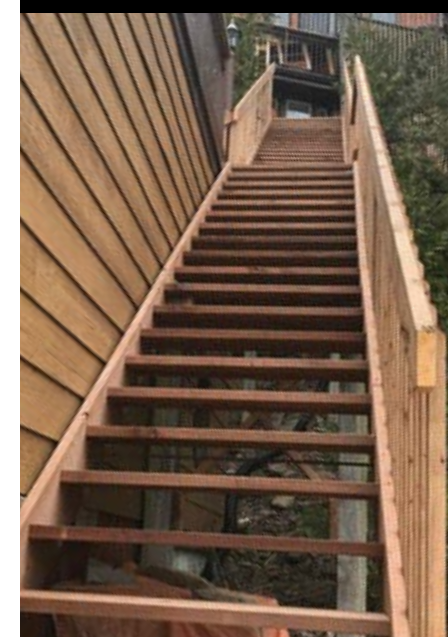
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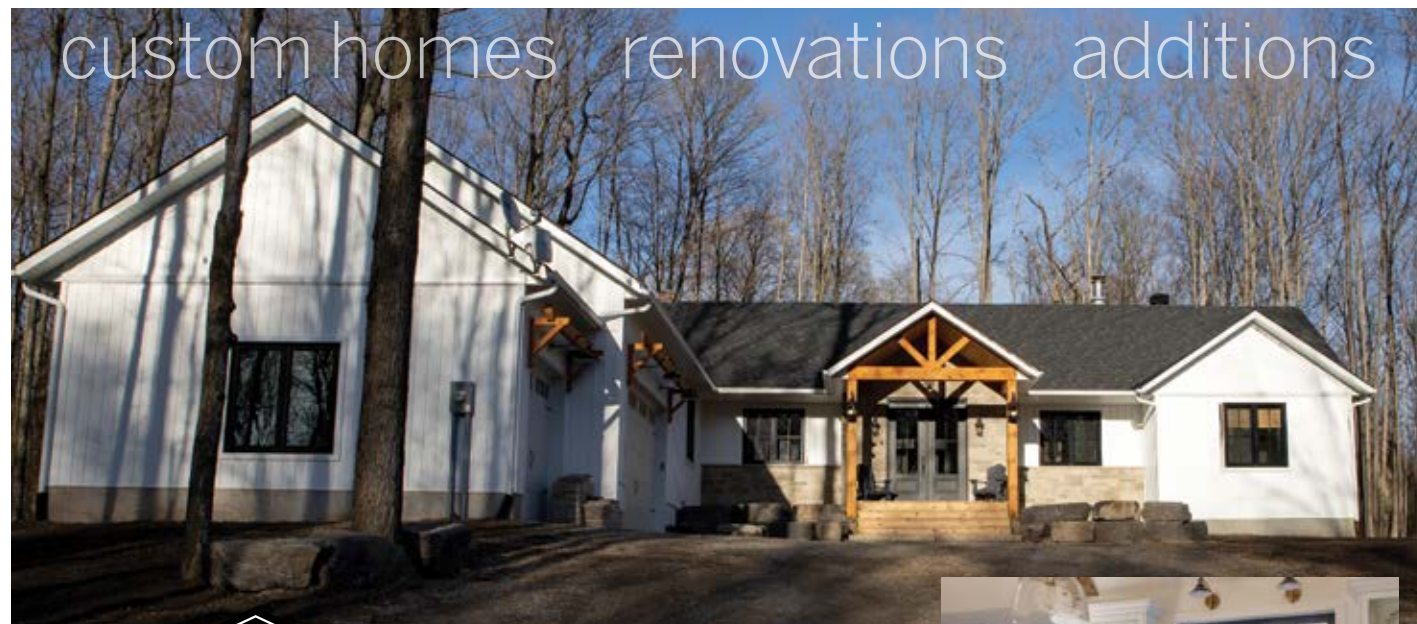
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editor's note



PHOTOGRAPHER SARAH TACOMA AND I STOPPED in Rockford recently to take photos at Country Charm Mennonite Furniture for our People & Places pages. Their impressive showroom, housed in a renovated barn, offers space, both downstairs and upstairs, to showcase their substantial inventory of beautiful solid-wood furnishings. But what caught my eye was a porch swing hanging outside under the cover of the barn.

I took a moment to sit and enjoy the view as the swing gently swayed back and forth. I wish my home had a larger porch to accommodate this nostalgic item so I could spend sultry evenings making my own breeze as I swing. Unfortunately, my porch is just big enough for two flower-filled urns that sit on each side of the front door.

I've been to dozens of homes for OUR HOMES over the years and it's surprising that I've seen only one porch swing, and that was a doozy – the size of a twin bed, with cushions galore and suspended to the covered porch by thick sisal rope. It screamed “afternoon nap” but it was also positioned to watch the comings and goings in the neighborhood.

If you are lucky enough to have a big old porch, hang a swing and enjoy those moments of pure relaxation. Of course, if your spring to-do list is overwhelming, you are holding in your hands (or reading online) a great resource that features businesses happy to help check everything off.

Savour every day of this warm weather. Goodness knows we have waited long enough for it!

Sara Martin

Sara Martin, Managing Editor
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ON THE COVER

This screened-in porch is a perfect spot to enjoy morning coffee, afternoon lemonade and evening cocktails from spring to fall. Story, page 66.
Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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FURNISH *Your First Home* SUSTAINABLY

Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** explores the principles of sustainable living.

You're a millennial who has just entered the housing market. Now that you have a place, you need to furnish the space. But how can you make it sustainable and eco-friendly?

Where to begin?

The desire to have a space that feels finished the moment you move in is understandable. However, we must move away from instant gratification and towards playing the long game. The reality is that making environmentally-conscious choices takes time and energy – and that's okay. Plus, curating a space over time will create a finished product that is much more personal and reflective of your unique style.

FURNITURE

One of the easiest and simplest ways to be more sustainable at home is to purchase fewer items.

Before buying, ask yourself: Is this a "need to have" or a "nice to have"?

You can hunt antique markets, local second-hand and vintage shops, estate sales and online e-commerce sites for furnishings. Investing in pre-loved pieces is a great way to contribute to the circular economy.

You can often find high-quality pieces in good shape and for a great price! Antique and vintage pieces provide the opportunity for you to express your style with character, charm and uniqueness that homogeneous,



MY BACK SHED:
Refurbished Furniture

run-of-the-mill, mass-produced furnishings simply cannot.

Use your creativity to reimagine a piece of furniture by giving it new life with a fresh coat of paint, learn how to refinish wood or experiment with basic reupholstery.



STYLUS: Ramos Sofa

And when you do buy new, invest in quality, locally-made pieces that will stand the test of time. The life cycle of fast furniture is often short and it will need to be replaced in five to 10 years. More product equals more resources – and there's nothing sustainable about utilizing more raw materials and consuming more energy.

Purchase goods that you can envision loving long-term and avoid trends. Buy for style and longevity.

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Reduced energy consumption is only one element to consider when purchasing appliances.

Support companies that prioritize environmental initiatives, such as

manufacturing durable products, utilizing metals that can be easily recycled, restricting hazardous materials during manufacturing and providing a recycling program at the end of the product's useful life.

You can often find second-hand appliances that function perfectly well and are in great shape. Also, peruse the scratch-and-dent section of local stores – you can find quality-made appliances with minimal aesthetic damage. You can always put a grocery list or piece of art over top of a small scratch on a

fridge. If you don't like the colour or finish, research how to paint appliances to suit your desired aesthetic.

Finally, learn how to fix things (or be willing to pay someone who can). The cost of goods has become so affordable that instead of repairing something we replace it. That mentality is simply not sustainable.



GRAHAM AND BROOKS
SALVAGE: Salvaged Lighting

ACCESSORIES

Accessorizing your home is where you can let your resourcefulness shine. There are so many second-hand accessories available for you to upcycle, recycle and reimagine. See how creative you can be!

Vintage rugs are worth the investment and no one will have the same one. They have already been around for many years and with proper care they will last for many more. Plus, they are often made of wool and other natural materials and will biodegrade more easily than carpets made from synthetic materials.

Support local artists and artisans by purchasing a unique piece of art for the walls or everyday utilitarian items, such as hand-thrown coffee mugs. Buying local isn't just sustainable, handcrafted items add a different energy to your home.

Another way to instantly accessorize your home is to introduce houseplants – it is one of the simplest and most affordable ways to add texture, interest and colour to a space. **OH**

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good taste

the Garden Gimlet

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

Enjoy a fresh take on a traditional gimlet cocktail. This gin-based drink is infused with fresh cucumber and basil.



INGREDIENTS (Makes 1 cocktail)

2 oz gin
3 cucumber slices
1 - 2 basil leaves
½ oz lemon juice
½ oz simple syrup

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Shake and double strain into a coupe glass or over ice in a rocks glass. **OH**

To make a simple syrup: Combine 1 cup sugar and 1 cup water in a saucepan over medium heat. Heat until sugar is dissolved. Cool, then pour into a glass jar and refrigerate until needed.



Garnish with cucumber slices, a basil leaf and some fresh flowers (optional).



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decorating

current MOOD

It's time to liven up our living spaces after two rather tumultuous years. The major paint companies have selected their colours of the year for 2022, most picking grey-green as the colour to splash on your walls or inspire your new look. We're rolling out the top picks to help with your next decorating adventure.

Benjamin Moore selected **October Mist**, a pleasing silver-green that evokes the green stem of a flower. They say it creates a canvas for other colours to blossom and encourages creativity. Try it with Hint of Violet or Wildflower, both new from Benjamin Moore's Colour Trends Palette.

PPG selected **Olive Sprig**, a soft organic shade of green reminiscent of a soothing aloe vera plant or velvety sage leaves. It's a green-grey chosen to represent regrowth and the resiliency of nature as we adapt to new ways of living post-pandemic.

BeautiTone is sending a message with **Warm Hugs**. This Canadian brand says the vibrant red-pink-orange is the comfort we've been missing. It offers hope and solace in one exquisite hue.

Valspar couldn't pick just one colour. Their Colours of The Year include 12 trend-worthy and forward-thinking natural shades that evoke warmth, calm and comfort. We like **Blanced Thyme, Sunset Curtains** and **Subtle Peach**.

Breezeway is Behr's pick. It's "where the sea meets the sky" – a relaxed and uplifting sea-glass green. Behr says Breezeway naturally harmonizes with shades of white, grey and natural wood tones for effortless style in any room.

Sherwin Williams has unveiled **Evergreen Fog**, calling it a versatile and calming hue – a chameleon colour of gorgeous green-meets-grey, with just a bit of blue. They recommend it for spaces that crave a subtle yet stunning statement shade.

Who can say no to **Guacamole**, Glidden's Colour of The Year? Glidden says everyone's favourite dip will look great on any wall or accent piece. It's a spirited yet soothing hue.

organizing

STORAGE SOLUTIONS That Work

CUSTOM-DESIGNED IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME STORAGE NEEDS

STORY VANESSA ROGERSON | PHOTOGRAPHY VANESSA ROGERSON DESIGNS

Every homeowner has space for a bench or a creative nook to store items. All homes have additional potential for storage. An organized design by a professional can help uncover areas in your home to organize and store your stuff. Here are five key storage solutions to help homeowners with their design dilemmas.



1 Kitchens

Adding drawers in your kitchen is a functional and eye-pleasing storage solution. Drawers are easy to access and can hold dishes, pots and pans plus small appliances. Don't ignore the corners. A set of base-corner drawers adds a touch of luxury and function. Pullouts installed inside existing base cabinets function as drawers and are also an affordable option when working with existing cabinetry.

Continued on page 40



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2 Mudroom Storage

Most homes lack adequate storage for families. Adding a bench and a few coat hooks in a space off the front foyer or at the back door is a great way to utilize the space. If there's open space above or below, add a shelf and a few wicker baskets to hide footwear and scarves until needed. Toss some pillows and a throw on the bench to create a cosy nook while welcoming guests to your home.

3 Discreet Office Built-Ins

Now that more people are working and studying from home, additional workspace is a necessity. The kitchen counter is meant for prep and cooking, not laptops and paperwork. Adding a discreet built-in with a foldable desk in the kitchen or living room makes a great workstation. Simply open when needed and pull up a chair.

4 Living Room Storage Units

Add an oversize storage unit in the living room that can be used as a media centre or sideboard. You can easily stow away electronics, toys and books. Something sleek and low in height creates an open, airy feel and you can mount your television on the wall above.



5 Coffee Tables

Coffee tables can be used for more than resting your mug in the morning. Source a table with multiple layers and shelving below where you can display books, magazines and decorative items. Leave room on top for a vase of flowers and beverages as needed.

Designed storage solutions do not have to be complicated or over-the-top. It's all about working with what you already have, while adding new elements to carefully execute an organized space. **OH**

Vanessa is a designer based in Simcoe County.



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she BUILDS

Timber beams from Warton Home Hardware Building Centre and installed by Dwayne Kirk highlight the 30-foot ceiling in the great room. Furnishings and décor in the room were sourced through Home Decor and More.

STORY **LAURA BEATTIE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

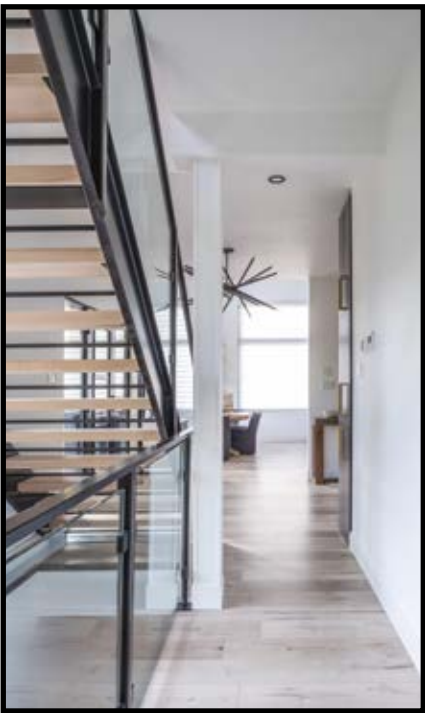


A few years ago, Alyssa Kirk took a risk. She was always interested in home décor and design – inspired by her family’s business **Home Decor and More**. But she was ready for a new challenge. “Sort of on a whim,” she tells me, she reached out online to look for a piece of land. That’s how **Boulevard1 Homes** began.

Continued on page 44

TOP RIGHT: The parged concrete coating of the fireplace surround has unique variances in the finish giving depth to this exceptional feature. The firewood display is purely decorative as the insert is electric. **RIGHT:** Excavating for the project was handled by States Contracting. The roof was installed by Just Roof It, with supplies from Warton Home Hardware Building Centre. The stonework injects another texture to the front facade and contrast to the metal siding. Ziembra Exteriors completed work on the outside of the home.





The first two of Boulevard's beautiful custom builds are nestled just north of Owen Sound. The first project, a modern, naturally-lit, open-style home, is now sold. Each home Alyssa's team has worked on is a vision of modern luxury meeting warmth and each has its own unique characteristics. "I try to pick at least three really cool features that everyone will really like and then three things that you won't see in a cookie-cutter house," Alyssa explains. In this Scandi-style farmhouse – which can be rented for a luxurious getaway or event – Alyssa has designed an open-concept modern home with functional luxuries. "I love building homes to keep and share with people from all over Canada," she says.

The large living area features 30-foot ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling concrete fireplace, shiplap ceilings, gorgeous wooden beams, a peek-through white marble island in a modern and functional kitchen and a separate sunroom with sliding glass doors. The primary bedroom is conveniently located on the main floor, with en suite, walk-in closet and main-

Continued on page 47



In the kitchen, gold hardware adds a luxe finish to the cabinets supplied by Durnin's Custom Cabinets and painted Benjamin Moore Gray 2121-10. Durnin's also supplied the granite that tops the island and perimeter counters. The faucet is by Kohler. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Luxury vinyl flooring in Modern Maple was used throughout the home. **TOP RIGHT:** Alyssa's father Dwayne Kirk made the custom stairs and railings in steel, glass and wood. **BOTTOM:** Seating around the dining table is a combination of bench and upholstered chairs. Windows in the home are from Warton Home Hardware Building Centre.



“BUILDING HOUSES ISN’T FOR THE FAINT OF HEART WHEN YOU’RE INVOLVED IN EVERY SINGLE STEP.”
- Alyssa Kirk



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: The view from the upper-level office captures every inch of the 13-foot sectional sofa. **TOP RIGHT:** The steamer trunk has been outfitted as a bar with practical storage and can be closed when not in use. **BOTTOM, LEFT:** The floating vanity in the guest bathroom has a Carrara marble counter and the mirror is back-lit with LED lights, both sourced at Home Decor and More. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The sunroom’s fireplace has a parged concrete finish, just like the fireplace in the great room, uniting the two spaces.

floor laundry. The pièce de résistance? A shower room. Dreamline supplied the shower doors, leading to a marble-lined room that is truly like living in a spa. Up the staircase of steel, glass and natural wood risers is a loft-style office that makes it easy to work from home. A glass wall overlooks the entire living room and natural light pours into the space. Upstairs also holds the second and third bedrooms, a bathroom and a second laundry room.

Supreme design elements bring this home together – natural light from surrounding windows, textured walls, seamless flooring from hardwood to tile and sliding barn doors between rooms that play with a farmhouse style. The lower level is a separate entertainment space unto itself, complete with an upcycled pool table, home workout space, a fourth bedroom, bathroom and living area with another fireplace. This is a home for living, relaxing and entertaining.

Continued on page 48



Robyn Davenport to perfect the home’s look and bring the vision together. This living room, for example, wouldn’t be complete without the dreamy 13-foot cloud-style sofa, the epitome of luxury lounging. Home Decor and More is a unique home furnishings company with four locations in the Grey Bruce and Simcoe regions – Owen Sound, Collingwood, Hanover and Alliston. This is a family that works hard and thrives

together. Alyssa is a driven and creative young woman who is putting her passion into practise with each of these dreamy, sophisticated homes. “Building houses isn’t for the faint of heart when you’re involved in every single step,” she says. She is the lead on all Boulevardl Homes projects and works with a hand-selected team of contractors to customize the homes. Nothing is too ambitious for this custom luxury builder.

Continued on page 50



Located near Cobble Beach Golf Resort, this property is designed for a lover of the Grey-Bruce landscape. The home is near the trail network, has a large garage for recreational toys and the backyard features a large fireplace for those beautiful summer nights. Dwayne Kirk, Alyssa’s father, is heavily involved in the interior construction of Boulevardl Homes and Alyssa’s grandfather, William Connell, has been designated the unofficial site supervisor. On top of the construction, the homes are completely furnished and decorated by Home Decor and More. Rhonda Kirk, Alyssa’s mother, works with the company’s Interior decorator

ABOVE: The primary bedroom’s panelled king-size bed, Boho area rug and French antique-inspired gilt mirror unite, thanks to advice from Alyssa’s mother, Rhonda Kirk and Robyn Davenport, interior decorator at Home Decor and More. **TOP RIGHT:** Large porcelain tiles line the floor of the primary bedroom’s walk-in closet. A combination of storage solutions maximize this space. **RIGHT:** When the frosted metal barn door in the primary bedroom is closed, sunlight can still move between the en suite and walk-in closet.

feature



“SHOOT FOR THE MOON AND THEN LAND SOMEWHERE FINANCIALLY SMART WHERE YOU’RE ABLE TO DO IT.”



ABOVE: The loft-style office is located on the upper level and can be seen through glass walls overlooking the main-floor living room. Point to Point Electrical Contracting Ltd. took care of the electrical installation throughout the home. **TOP RIGHT:** White furnishings and bedding in this guest bedroom on the upper level are used to create a soothing retreat. **RIGHT:** The second guest bedroom has a calming vibe, perfect for a good night’s sleep. Polaris Spray Foam & Insulation insulated the home from the outside elements.

“Shoot for the moon,” is Alyssa’s starting place “and then land somewhere financially smart where you’re able to do it.” Though she and her family do the majority of the work on these builds, she also works with **John Acres** of **John R. Acres, Residential Design** to perfect the architectural design of each home. Then, in Alyssa’s words, she becomes “obsessive” about a project until it is complete. Over the past few years, that has meant working weekends and evenings to push projects forward during the pandemic. This build was completed between March and August of 2021, an incredible turnaround for a property of this scale. *Continued on page 52*



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LEFT: The lower-level living area has a corduroy sectional sofa for comfortable movie watching. The parged concrete finish on this fireplace makes another striking appearance. **ABOVE:** The laundry room cabinets are from Durnin's Custom Cabinets. The granite-topped counter offers lots of space for sorting and folding. **BELOW:** The white pool table stands out in this large rec room with a focal wall painted Benjamin Moore Gray 2121-10.



There aren't a lot of women in the field of custom home building. However, the wealth of industry knowledge she and her family have, the unique learning curve she's faced head on with each custom build and her innate desire for high-end design have all combined to earn Alyssa the respect she deserves.

Now, Alyssa and the Boulevard Homes team are eager to push forward on their next build; an über-Scandinavian modern build in Big Bay. This is another unique luxury home. The house will be separated into two buildings, connected by a large garage in the centre. One side of the house will be for living and sleeping, the other purely for entertaining. "This next house will be my pride and joy," Alyssa beams.

We can't wait to see what's next for this ambitious and luxurious home builder in Grey Bruce. Follow on Instagram @boulevardlhomes to stay in the know. **OH**

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Water feature at Cavana Ridge.

Ponds AND WATER FEATURES

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **MELANIE REKOLA**

With staycations becoming more popular, creating a beautiful backyard to escape to is a worthy investment. No backyard paradise is quite complete without the soothing sounds of water to make you feel cool, even when temperatures are blazing.

Adding a dreamy backyard water feature can be simple, extravagant or somewhere in between. There are options for every taste and budget.

WATER BOWLS

These large, watertight bowls are an easy addition, fitting any space. They have a bubbler/small filtering system and most are deep enough to add a variety of water plants. Imagine having water bowls instead of planters on a backyard patio – you would never have to worry about watering again!

WATER FOUNTAINS

Another quick way to add a tranquil trickle of water to your backyard oasis is through a prefabricated fountain. Many styles and sizes are available in a ready-to-use kit format. Weight needs to be considered as some of the hefty ones require a concrete footing. *Continued on page 56*



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PONDS

Ponds, streams and waterfalls let you take creativity to the extreme in your landscape design. As these are custom made, you can design anything imaginable, from a cool modern vibe to something Mother Nature designed herself – as long as you have the right budget in place as these can be costly.

Shelves of different depths within a pond interior can be created for certain water plants, as each has its own specific requirements. Shallow areas also act as escape routes in the event a pet or wildlife accidentally falls in.

Ponds need to be at least four feet deep (preferably deeper) if you'd like to overwinter frogs and fish successfully. UV filters and pumps need to be carefully planned and calculated for the amount of water present and if you decide to include fish, you will need an extensive filtering system.

Pond accessories are fun and exciting! There is nothing quite like the feeling of walking on water where a cool, floating step is present. Other fun features include architecturally designed, artisan metal spout scuppers, spillways and mounted spill-bowls that replace traditional waterfall weirs. You can even include a floating island filled with plants; you'd be surprised how many traditional garden plants do well in these environments and they look quite natural once the plantings fill in and spill over the edges.



Melanie's Pond Plant Picks

The world of water gardening is extensive. Here are a few favourite, hardy, native-to-Ontario perennials to get you started.



Water Lily / *Nymphaea odorata* – Likely the first water plant that comes to mind, lovely lily is a wonderful, free-flowering plant for any pond. Perfect, glistening white flowers with yellow centres are formed throughout the summer months. It prefers still waters though, so always plant this beauty far away from waterfalls.



Pickerelweed / *Pontederia cordata* – A carefree-growth habit and lovely lavender blooms make this a colourful addition to any pond.



Marsh Marigold / *Caltha palustris* – Sunny buttercup blooms arrive in early spring, but only for a brief time. However, it's still a worthy water garden addition for its pretty leaves.



Horsetail Rush / *Equisetum hyemale* – Wonderful stiff upright stems resemble a tiny bamboo forest – perfect for pond margins. It can spread aggressively so it's best planted in a contained area.

POND MAINTENANCE

Ponds do take work and most need to be shut down in fall and opened in spring, just like a swimming pool. Most of the work happens in spring and mucking out a pond is dirty business. Hip waders help! The rest of the year is much easier, as long as you keep up a good maintenance program. An ideal healthy maintenance schedule requires an occasional filter cleaning, replacing 20 per cent of the water with fresh water weekly and adding beneficial bacteria when needed. This is even more important for smaller features as their balance gets disrupted easily. The larger the pond, the easier it is to maintain and if it's large enough, it will mostly take care of itself. Don't forget to consider the ongoing electricity and pump/filter replacement costs too.

The best part of including a water feature in your oasis is all the birds and wildlife it will attract! What outdoor retreat would be truly complete without them? **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.



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BLACK-AND-WHITE

AND BEAUTIFUL ALL OVER

STORY
JENNIFER
BACKSTEIN

A black-and-white interior is probably the most versatile decorating option. This clean and classic palette is one of my favourites, both as a homeowner and as a trendspotter by trade. A black-and-white motif is a chameleon of sorts, easily adaptable to a variety of periods and styles, from vintage to contemporary and all styles in between. Black plus white is more than just a colour scheme; it’s a bold decorating category all its own. Here are some ideas on implementing a black-and-white interior successfully.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

Black and white are the ultimate neutrals and they offer a good dose of drama when the look is done correctly. This palette allows you to effortlessly transition from one look to the next, room to room, all while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic throughout. On the other hand, this look can fall flat if poorly executed.

Similar to the principles of layering texture and pattern, add variety to your whites by layering in some off-whites, too. Technically, this trick applies to black, too (picture a charcoal shade set alongside jet black) although a white colour palette is much more common. However, when doing this, be sure to stay within the same colour temperature. By this, I mean if your predominant white leans to the warm side of the spectrum (yellowish) stick with warm tones for your other whites, too. Breaking this rule can make some “cool” whites in your space appear blue.

When it comes to black, you might think you only have one choice. However, black also comes in many different shades, ranging from midnight blue-black and charcoal to warm licorice. Apply the same principles when it comes to temperature.

Dimension is also achieved through texture and finish. Different finishes absorb and reflect light to different degrees. For example, a high-gloss varnish or paint, glass and polished chrome have high reflective qualities, bringing light and shine to a room. On the other hand, matte paints, sheen-less fabrics (think velvet!) and natural materials such as wood and stone tend to pull light in, creating a cocooning effect. Layer these within your bi-colour room to create interest and depth.



“I OFTEN USE THE 60-30-10 RULE FOR COLOUR DISTRIBUTION.”

HOW TO “DO” BLACK & WHITE

As you would with any other colour scheme, choose your principal colour and in this case, you have two options. If white will be your main colour (as it is in most black-and-white interiors), you’ll be using black as your secondary colour and vice versa.

As a designer, I often use the 60-30-10 rule for colour distribution. The principal colour occupies the majority for 60 per cent of the visual area of your space. This typically includes your walls and floors (in terms of a black-and-white palette, think light versus dark hardwood). The secondary colour accounts for 30 per cent of the space, such as a feature wall, rug and sofa. The final 10 per cent is reserved for your accent colour – and remember, even a black-and-white room can benefit from some bold pops of trending green, magenta or blue.

When choosing your accent colour, execute it in your accessories. This can include art, accent pillows, throws and



even small furniture items, like an ottoman or painted side table. One of the benefits of the black-and-white aesthetic is the ability to transition between trends on a dime. Since accessories are easy and economical to replace and trends come and go, this is a great way to express yourself and push your style limits.

There’s a good reason the black-and-white look keeps resurfacing in our homes, in every room. These polar ends of the colour spectrum deliver drama and excitement, with a timeless appeal. I guess it’s true, opposites really do attract! **OH**

cooking at home

LEMON ASPARAGUS RISOTTO

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

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THIS RECIPE BRIGHTENS UP TRADITIONAL RISOTTO
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INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

1 bunch asparagus
6 cups vegetable or chicken stock
2 Tbsp olive oil
1 shallot, finely diced
2 cloves garlic, finely diced
1 tsp fresh thyme
1 ½ cups Arborio rice
½ cup dry white wine
1 cup grated parmesan, plus more for serving
Zest of one lemon

INSTRUCTIONS

Clean asparagus and steam or sauté until tender. Set aside.

In a large pot, bring stock to a simmer. Once heated, remove from heat and keep nearby.

In a large saucepan or pot, add olive oil and cook shallot until translucent. Add garlic and thyme and sauté for 1 minute before adding Arborio rice. Season with salt and pepper and toast the rice for 1-2 minutes.

Add white wine and cook until absorbed, stirring occasionally.

Add 1 cup of stock at a time, stirring continuously until each addition of broth is absorbed. Continue until rice is al dente.

Add parmesan cheese and asparagus to the risotto. Garnish with lemon zest, serve and enjoy! **OH**



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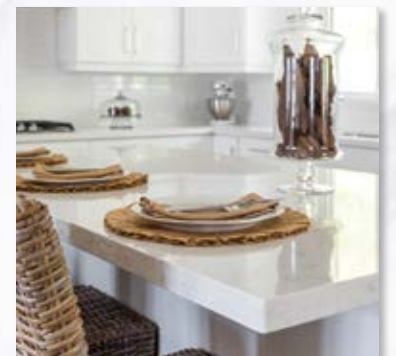
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PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA

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Andrea and Kristian know the importance of listening carefully to what a customer wants and needs. They are very happy to research all options available and always understand if a customer wants more time to make sure the item being purchased is perfect for their home. Many of their customers have commented and told friends about the “no pressure” assistance offered at the store and that’s why they return again and again.



Painting Epps from Renwil Art.



PRINCIPLES

Schuett Furniture & Appliances has seen design trends come and go along with the changing retail landscape that has altered many small town main streets. However, the principles on which the business was built have never changed – helpful service and no-pressure sales.



Painting Zoya from Renwil Art.

EXTRA HELP

Mainstays in the furniture market are represented at the store as well as trend-setting additions sourced by Andrea that appeal to younger families moving into the area. Andrea is also happy to help with design and suggestions. With her knowledge of Schuett’s suppliers, many of them Canadian manufacturers, Andrea can readily access a treasure trove of beautiful furnishings for your home.



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PEACE & quiet

STORY **LAUREN LONG**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

WHAT WAS ONCE A WEEKEND GETAWAY IS NOW A BEAUTIFUL, MODERN, COUNTRYSIDE HOME SITUATED ON A SECLUDED 50-ACRE RURAL PROPERTY IN GREY COUNTY.

Continued on page 68



ABOVE: The side entrance to the home offers a sheltered seating area. Maibec siding covers the entire envelope, uniting the new addition and the original structure. Windows for the project were sourced from Georgian Bay Window & Door. **TOP RIGHT:** Teak steamer chairs sit in a quiet location. Colourful containers are overflowing with happy plants. **RIGHT MIDDLE:** Ground Effects Landscapes used large stone steps to connect various levels in the garden. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Flagstone was laid in a circular pattern, matching the shape of the firepit.



ABOVE: The extra tall door to the kitchen has a large inset of glass by Desboro Doors. **RIGHT:** Vita Wind, Heidi Schaus and Jeff Wind enjoy a glass of white wine under the arbour covered in grape vines and built by Jeff. **BELOW:** The arched mirror in the front foyer reflects the glass panels in the front door. Steps guide guests to the living room. Stairs are from Barry Vaine Woodworking Ltd.



After 10 years of sharing time between Toronto and Markdale, Jeff and Vita Wind decided to transform their retreat into a contemporary, permanent home.

On the recommendation of two friends, the Winds hired **Bert Coffey**, of **Bert Coffey Construction Ltd.**, to reconstruct the home. Bert was able to complete the project within a tight timeline while working with a team of skilled tradespeople, including **Yake Electric Ltd.**, which completed all electrical work. The renovation and addition commenced in October 2015 and the Winds moved in in May 2016.

During the reconstruction, Jeff and Vita worked on the redesign of the interior with the help of **Heidi Schaus** from **Heidesigns**. As a furniture designer and builder, Jeff constructed many of the built-in cabinet pieces, while Vita and Heidi worked together to bring the couple's vision to life. The result is a streamlined, modern interior, decorated with a unique collection of furnishings and artwork.

Continued on page 70



“WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE HOME IS THERE IS NO SPECIFIC DESIGN INDICATIVE OF A PERIOD OR ERA. IT SIMPLY FEELS PERSONAL TO WHO THE WINDS ARE.” - Heidi Schaus

The *Tractor Quilt* metal sculpture by Jane Langstaff hangs in the living room. Leather sofas and accent chairs are arranged to enjoy the view outside. Yake Electric Ltd. installed the electrical for the home.





An example is the *Tractor Quilt* in the living room, a unique piece by local metal sculptor Jane Langstaff, which integrates the rural with the modern.

“What is different about the home is there is no specific design indicative of a period or era,” says Heidi. “It simply feels personal to who the Winds are. You feel welcomed into their space and there is a strong essence of Jeff and Vita and their life together.”

Generous 10-foot ceilings across the interior level are complemented by clean roof lines – one of the most prominent transformations from the look of the original cottage to the contemporary home.

“With the intention to repurpose materials from the original house, at Heidi’s suggestion, we used some of the original beams for furniture pieces, such as benches and the bar in the games room,” explains Jeff.



TOP: Jeff crafted the red buffet in the dining room. It represents Jeff’s start as a cabinetmaker. Niches are perfect for displaying artwork and pottery by Roger Kerslake. **RIGHT:** Once the kitchen footprint was established, Vita worked with Courtney Mahon of Blended Interiors to design a space that encourages guests to sit and chat with their host as they cook a meal. Bianco Antico granite tops the island. **ABOVE:** An earthenware jug on a red tray holds cooking utensils. Artwork featuring eggplants hangs on the backsplash.



“I LOVE ALL THE MANY PLACES TO RELAX AND ENJOY MORNING COFFEE.”
– Vita

LEFT: The redesign of the home converted an existing open patio into a screened porch with a dining table and seating area. Branches were stripped of their bark and used for the handrail on the stairs and for the door handle to the gardens. **BELOW:** The bench was crafted using repurposed wood from the renovation. Edison string lights add ambience as dusk falls. The large fan keeps the space cool in the summer months.

One of the most unique features to work on, according to Heidi, was the lighting plan, which works in conjunction with the natural light provided by the expansive windows, creating a gallery-like feeling to showcase the Winds’ art collection.

Neutral colours for the walls and flooring were selected to balance the eclectic colours of the décor. Interior painter **Robert Mayerhofer** used a Venetian plaster finish on the fireplace wall to suggest the look of birch trees, creating a pleasing texture with an artful finish.

Heidi’s furniture plan was to maximize the spaciousness of the living areas. A glass partition half-wall was built to separate the sunken living room from the dining area, which enhances the open feel of the home. *Continued on page 72*





ABOVE: A separate walk-through closet leads to the primary en suite. Carpet was sourced through Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home. **LEFT:** The neutral wall colour in the primary bedroom is Skipping Stone by Benjamin Moore. The vibrant duvet cover is a delightful pop of colour. **BELOW:** Jeff built the vanity in the primary en suite. A vintage ladder holds extra towels. Plumbing for the project was completed by Coffey Plumbing. Faucets were sourced from The Plumber's Wife.



“One of my favourite features is the approach through the layers of levels when you enter the home,” Heidi says. “The surprise of a large, open great room filled with natural light is showy, yet functional, and brings a unique energy to the middle of the house. Then the mood transitions to calm and serene as you move through the neutral palette and enjoy the scenery out the expansive windows.”

Vita and Jeff envisioned a home that was inviting and a pleasure for entertaining. Above the nine-foot table, the custom frosted glass chandelier is a focal piece of the dining area. The “social kitchen,” as Vita calls it, encourages guests to sit at the granite island

with a drink, and chat as the hosts prepare the meal. Designed by **Courtney Mahon** of **Blended Interiors**, with Van Dolder’s Kitchen and Bath supplying the cabinetry, the design is unobtrusive, yet highly functional.

Separating the two bedroom corridors is a partition wall on which sits the beautiful buffet, crafted by Jeff, in a deep mission red. On one side is the guest wing, with two bedrooms that share access to a balcony. The other wing accommodates Jeff and Vita’s primary bedroom, which was designed with walk-through closets to access the en suite. Two additional rooms are enjoyed as Jeff and Vita’s own personal office spaces.

Continued on page 74

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TOP LEFT: Artwork hangs at the end of one of the bedroom corridors. Directional spotlights illuminate the art and this end of the corridor at night. **TOP MIDDLE:** The 1940s Art Deco bed in a guest bedroom is covered with a hand-stitched quilt. Sunlight fills the room from the sliding doors to a private balcony. **TOP RIGHT:** The shower in this guest bathroom is lined with textural tile evoking waves. The green Chinese garden stool sits on black porcelain floor tiles. **LEFT:** The Winds' artwork collection is featured in every room, including this guest bedroom, which showcases a piece by Heather Driver on the chest of drawers by the sliding doors to the garden.


As part of the redesign, the existing cottage's open patio area was transformed into a covered screened porch to be enjoyed from spring until fall, as the weather permits.

"I love all the many places to relax and enjoy morning coffee," says Vita.

"Our property offers spectacular sunrises, as well as clear views of the sky for stargazing at night," adds Jeff.




With challenging grade level changes, **Ground Effects Landscapes** artfully designed the rockery using Tobermory stone. The property offers many spots to sit out and bask in nature, including balconies, patios, a firepit and a covered pergola for dining al fresco.

"Jeff and Vita were a pleasure to work with," says Heidi. I love what they brought to their project – Jeff's skill set and Vita's vision." **OH**



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WAIVING CONDITIONS

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

*IT REMAINS A SELLER'S MARKET ACROSS
ONTARIO WHERE HOME PRICES CONTINUE TO
RISE AND INVENTORY REMAINS LOW.*

RE/MAX Canada expects a 9.2 per cent increase in average residential sale prices across Canada this year. In Ontario, relocating from one region to another continues to drive housing activity. City dwellers are cashing in and moving to more scenic areas, where their purchasing power gets them a house that suits their preferred lifestyle. With mortgage rates expected to creep up, demand for homes far outstrips supply, leaving house hunters facing multiple offers for the home they want.

So, what's a buyer to do? They could do what home sellers find irresistible – waive all conditions and warranties.

Laura and Chris Walker weren't fooling around when they finally found their ideal condo in Collingwood.

"We had been looking on and off but when the pandemic hit we got serious," says Laura. "When this three-bedroom at Lighthouse Point came up we jumped on it." The couple had lost out on other properties and vowed not to let this one slip away. They went in with a clear offer with no conditions or warranties and a two-week closing. "They were not taking offers until the following Monday and we didn't want to wait and lose it," she says. "So we put in a bully offer over asking. They came back once and that was it – bought and sold." The condo was fully renovated and they've had no issues.

Waiving conditions and warranties in residential real estate transactions is the new winning strategy for many homebuyers. But

it's not for the faint of heart or those without the means to cover costs if there's an issue with the property or home.

Typical conditions in a purchase and sale agreement include financing, property inspections, state of title, legal review and appraisal. Buyers can add their own conditions and condo owners generally add a request and review of the status certificate, which ensures the condo corporation and its board are stable.

But the current housing market is anything but typical and buyers are increasingly willing to take risks to win the home they covet.

Dr. Parham Davoudpour, an attending emergency physician in Toronto, is suffering from buyer fatigue after waiving conditions and still losing two bids on homes in the Collingwood area.

"Both homes were sold substantially higher than asking price – over 50 per cent higher than asking," he says. "One of my offers was 45 per cent over asking and I still lost. 'I call these high-risk transactions because you're pressured to make a decision that involves a lot of money and you don't have enough time for due diligence. It's literally like working in a hospital emergency department where you are always under pressure and you make decisions on the limited amount of information that you have.'"

Parham is still looking but his experience has left him less motivated.

David Oikle, president of The Ontario

Real Estate Association, blames supply and demand for the current state of housing in the province. "We're in this pickle that buyers are competing in such a way because we don't have enough homes to buy," David explains. "OREA's been spending a ton of time advocating for increasing supply at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. There isn't enough product to buy and we need to address that."

Janine (she didn't want us to use her full name) and her husband looked at eight homes in The Blue Mountains last year. "We lost out on two because our bids just weren't high enough," she says. They waived conditions in both bids, but it didn't help. "It was just a crap shoot," she says. "For one of them, there were about 13 offers. The vendors came back to us, told us they wanted to look at the top three bids 'so give us your very best offer.' We did and we lost out by \$1,000." They finally found and won a home they moved into last May, again waiving conditions and warranties. In hindsight, Janine says she wishes she had more time to investigate the planned developments on wetlands around them. "We love the neighbourhood, we love the house but the main issue now is the development that is supposed to go in beside us. I knew about the potential development, but I honestly thought our government would protect the environment, safety of citizens and our homes. I was wrong."

David says the key to a happy purchase is education, risk management and knowing your limits. He says a local realtor can help buyers mitigate risks. **OH**



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8



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Palm Warbler

wonderful world of WARBLERS

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

HIDDEN GEMS

Spring is in the air. Literally. Birds, those welcome harbingers of spring, are on the wing in the skies above us on their annual migration mission to Canadian breeding grounds. Hundreds of species are returning and tucked among them are a lesser-known family of birds that are most coveted by birders. They're a range of brightly coloured species often referred to as the "jewels" of the bird world – the fabulous family of warblers.

A WARBLER PRIMER

Warblers, or Wood-Warblers according to their official taxonomic classification, are colourful songbirds unique to the Americas. Over 30 species occur or breed in Ontario. Some of them are among the most abundant species of birds in our vast forests. They tend to come in waves as they migrate together in tight mixed flocks. But for all their numbers, they are not commonly seen. There are good reasons why not. Despite their bright colours, warblers are tiny (smaller than a chickadee). They're easily

camouflaged by branches and leaves. They often forage tucked up high in the treetops. They don't stay still long enough for a good, identification-worthy look. They keep moving ever onwards in a quest to reach their nesting territories. And finally, by the end of May, the warbler show is over. The waves of warblers have now dispersed widely across the province, each pair ensconced in their own specific nesting-niche territories. With all this, it can very much be a case of "if you blink you will miss them."

A BOUQUET OF WARBLERS

Warblers, like most birds, migrate at night under the protection and cover of darkness. Come morning, they seek rest and food wherever they may be in their journey north. While the backyards of our homes are not their preferred habitat, they just may drop by after a long night on the wing, to fuel up for the next leg of their migration. So, as we look out the windows of our homes to enjoy the emerging signs of spring, we may be lucky enough to see our backyard trees and shrubs adorned with a "bouquet of warblers" – the collective noun for a group of these birds. Grab your binoculars and check them out for a morning of discovering these little gems.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

So how do you sort out one wee warbler from another? There are so many species, and they don't stop and pose for you! It can be challenging, but that's where the fun is. Thankfully, each species does have its own distinctive field marks that distinguish it



PHOTO: ROBIN JOWETT

Black-throated Blue Warbler



Magnolia Warbler

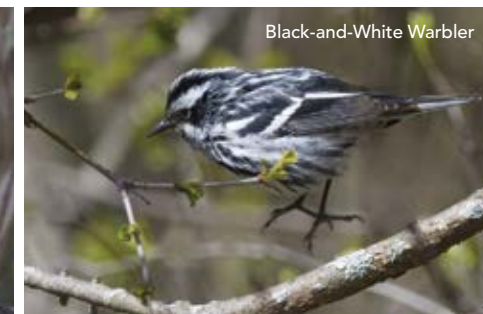
from its warbler cousins. A number of species even provide clues by virtue of their descriptive names. Notice a black-and-white striped warbler? Well, it's a Black-and-White Warbler. Completely yellow? It's a Yellow Warbler. Black throat and blue back? Black-throated Blue Warbler. Gold wing patches? Golden-winged Warbler. The names alone evoke visions of brightness and beauty. But wait until you actually spot one!

And their songs! There is such a range that birders often use mnemonics to sort them out. For instance, the mnemonics for the Yellow Warbler are, "sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet." Don't you agree?

On the other hand, there's a group of warblers with decidedly unhelpful names. Tennessee, Cape May and Nashville Warblers, for instance, are denizens of the northern boreal forests, not their namesake



Golden-winged Warbler



Black-and-White Warbler



Yellow Warbler

locations. Magnolia and Palm Warblers were simply named after the plants they were first discovered in. So don't rely on those names for identification hints, and don't think you won't see them in your backyard.



PHOTO: CAROL HAMILTON

American Redstart

WARBLER NECK

With a little patience and practice, discerning one warbler from another eventually gets easier, not to mention very rewarding. It is rightly a bit of a personal achievement to positively identify your first Blackburnian Warbler, your first American Redstart – the list goes on and on. Take up the challenge! But be prepared to wind up with a bout of what seasoned birders refer to as "warbler neck." It's that tight kink in your neck resulting from scanning high into the treetops for lengths of time, hoping to discover a few hidden bejeweled treasures. At the end of the day, the kink is just a reminder of time well spent in a quest for your new favourite warbler. A few gentle stretches and you're good to go again the next day.

SPARK BIRD

It is not uncommon for birders to have what is referred to as a "spark bird" – a sighting of a particular species that sparked or triggered their interest in birds and birding. For many, this spark is often a warbler (mine was the oh-so-handsome Bay-breasted Warbler). A good, crisp look through your binoculars at any one of these bright little beauties is often enough to give you that spark and awaken your senses to the wonderful world of warblers. Enjoy! **OH**

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PHOTOS: SARAH TACOMA



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Continued on page 84

**Anna
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Kate Robinson

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TRENDS

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Continued on page 86



*Sitting: Courtney Mahon & Donna Hall
Standing: Leah Ernst*

TRENDS

Natural finishes and nature-inspired décor are trending, especially light wood flooring, cabinetry and furnishings and accenting with real plants and raw materials. Shades of green are in demand as are accent walls with bold wallpaper, a simple paint colour and mouldings or wainscoting in various patterns or textures.



PROJECTS

We have many exciting projects on the go for 2022, including a 100-year-old farmhouse renovation, completing an eclectic new build and many kitchen renovations.

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Cathy Rahn & Jason McClement

PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA



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Continued on page 90



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TRENDS

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"McDonald Crilly is committed to helping our clients reduce their environmental impact, creating green spaces naturally."

Continued on page 92



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Reay & Courtney Hunter

PHOTOS: SARAH TACOMA

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Continued on page 94



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PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA

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ALPHABET FLOWERS

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY **ERIN ROCHON**

ADD SOME FLOWER POWER AND A POP OF COLOUR WITH THIS FLORAL LETTER DIY AND LET SPRING BLOOM INSIDE YOUR HOME.

MATERIALS

White foam board

Artificial flowers of various sizes, in pink, white, red and blush

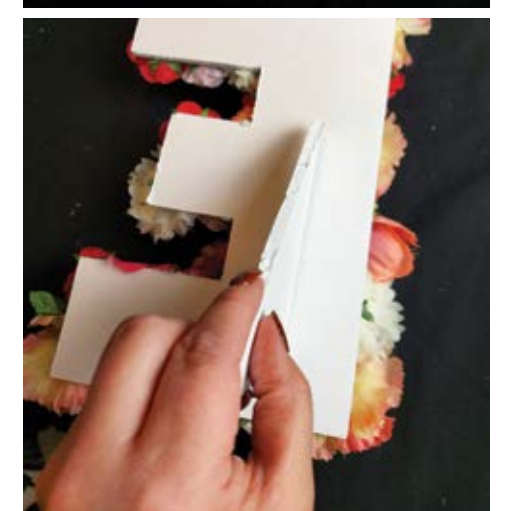
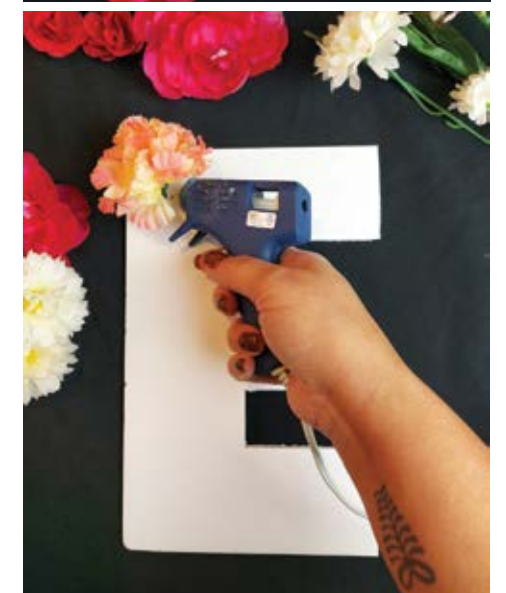
Glue gun

X-Acto knife

Ruler

Pencil

Wooden board



HOW-TO

Place the foam board onto a wooden board to avoid damage to your work surface. Using a pencil and ruler, outline your chosen letter onto a piece of white foam board. Carefully score then cut the outline of the letter with an X-Acto knife.

Start placing the larger flowers onto each letter until you like your design. Glue flowers in place.

Once the larger flowers are attached, fill in gaps with smaller flowers. Continue to add more flowers until the letter is full.

Create a stand for your letter by cutting a right angle triangle out of a piece of foam board. Glue the longest side of the right angle to the back of the letter. This will keep your letter upright and on display!

Find a spot in your home to add a touch of spring. **OH**

STORY **NICOLE EGAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The fireplace insert was purchased and installed by Curtis Matches Heating & Cooling. Built-ins on both sides are used for storage and display. Family members love to curl up on the sofas and read in this relaxing space. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A nook with a rustic bench and hooks overhead for raincoats and hats is conveniently located by the door that leads to the rear of the property. **BOTTOM:** Adam, Kolby, Arkelle, Jessica and Nash are very happy in their new home.



Mindfulness aptly describes the approach Jessica and Adam Lesperance took during the process of designing and building their new home in Georgian Bluffs.

Jessica is a fitness instructor and wellness advocate while Adam is a real estate agent with **Keller Williams Realty Centres**. Jessica is also taking her real estate exams. They have three children, Nash, 3, Arkelle, 6 and 11-year-old Kolby.

They started the new-build process when Nash was eight months old. They were living in Park Head and had outgrown the space and wanted privacy and respite from the busyness of the highway outside their door. They envisioned wide-open spaces for their children to run and play safely at the new family homestead nestled amongst cedar trees on 50 acres with winding trails throughout.

Continued on page 104

Mindful DESIGN



feature



ABOVE: The kitchen features a subway tile backsplash and counters by Unique Epoxy. Cabinets were purchased at Snider's Sydenham Auctions & Appraisal Services Inc. and installed by Terry Kirkland. Luxury vinyl plank flooring was used throughout the main floor. **TOP RIGHT:** Colourful peppers sit on a live-edge cutting board next to white tulips on the kitchen island. **RIGHT:** An antique cabinet in the dining area displays handmade pottery and fine china. Trim and walls are painted Benjamin Moore Decorator's White.



Jessica credits **Kelly Tost**, of local antique and country boutique **Wish I May**, and contractor **Terry Kirkland** for helping bring their vision to life.

"Nash was eight months old when we were going over house plans," remembers Jessica. "Kelly would take our ideas and just make them happen. From sourcing to creating, she did it all. Hiring Kelly was the best thing for us."

The property includes Jessica's **Cedar Wellness Studio**, offering yoga, reiki, spin classes and personal care services.

As business owners, Jessica and Adam believe strongly in supporting local, as demonstrated throughout their home. They purchased building supplies from **Warton Home Hardware Building Centre**, appliances from **Square Deal Neil's TV & Appliances**, doors and kitchen cabinets from **Snider's Sydenham Auction & Appraisal**

Continued on page 106



Rebar was used for the spindles on the loft railings. The column is Black Walnut and came from a tree on the property. Stairs and railings were purchased from Jim Matches.



The island base in the kitchen is painted Benjamin Moore Hale Navy. Appliances were sourced at Square Deal Neil's TV & Appliances. The clear globe pendants over the island accentuate the double-height ceiling. The door to the right of the refrigerator leads to a well-stocked and organized pantry.



ABOVE: Rattan poufs sit by the electric fireplace on the lower level. Pine shiplap adds a natural element behind the television. **TOP RIGHT:** The cabinet in the lower-level bathroom was a family gift refinished by Kelly Tost of Wish I May. Plumbing for the home was completed by Tyson Schnurr Plumbing. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A daybed with storage underneath sits by a window with backyard views.

Services Inc., tiles from Van Dolder's, custom countertops from **Unique Epoxy** and one-of-a-kind pieces throughout from Wish I May.

The ground floor is home to Jessica's favourite spaces, the light airy kitchen with white cabinetry and the family room where they cuddle up in front of the fireplace and read. Both Adam and Jessica are avid readers.

Adam's favourite feature is a custom railing made of rebar with a column cut from a black walnut tree on the property. The wood

throughout the home is also custom. From the flooring to the integrated block on the fireplace, their natural choices are intentional and impactful.

The primary bedroom provides serenity, with a patio door walkout and space for the couple to enjoy quiet time. The feeling extends to the en suite, where black and grey shades provide a minimalist spa-like feel and a small Buddha brings mindfulness back to the forefront.

Continued on page 108



BELOW LEFT: The boys' bedroom features rustic wood beds, furniture inset with records, music-inspired bedding and Star Wars memorabilia. Electrical for the home was completed by Nickason Electric. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A floating shelf in the boys' room displays mementoes and a piggy bank. **RIGHT TOP:** Arkelle's room is a pink paradise with the addition of the jewel swag chandelier. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The lower-level playroom is full of art supplies to inspire young minds and keep everyone busy on rainy days. The cupboard is painted in the same Hale Navy as the kitchen island.

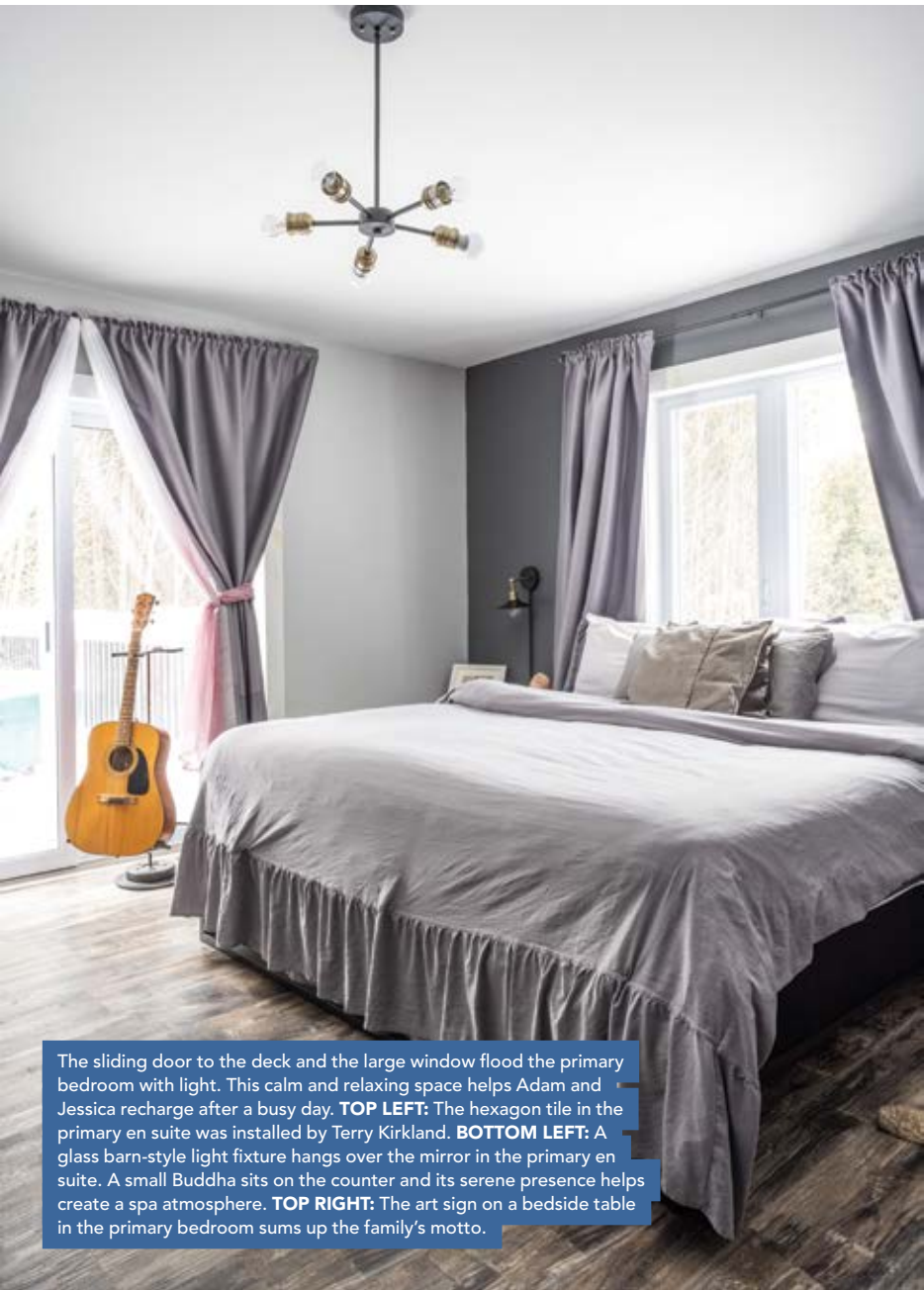




The children's rooms provide a glimpse into their personalities. The boys' room – created with music in mind – features custom pieces from Wish I May that include furniture inset with vinyl records, while sports pictures and treasures top shelves. Arkelle's room features a beautiful canopy bed and chandelier.

A secondary family space in the loft has a reading nook with a daybed and beachy accents throughout curated and created by Kelly.

Continued on page 110



The sliding door to the deck and the large window flood the primary bedroom with light. This calm and relaxing space helps Adam and Jessica recharge after a busy day. **TOP LEFT:** The hexagon tile in the primary en suite was installed by Terry Kirkland. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A glass barn-style light fixture hangs over the mirror in the primary en suite. A small Buddha sits on the counter and its serene presence helps create a spa atmosphere. **TOP RIGHT:** The art sign on a bedside table in the primary bedroom sums up the family's motto.



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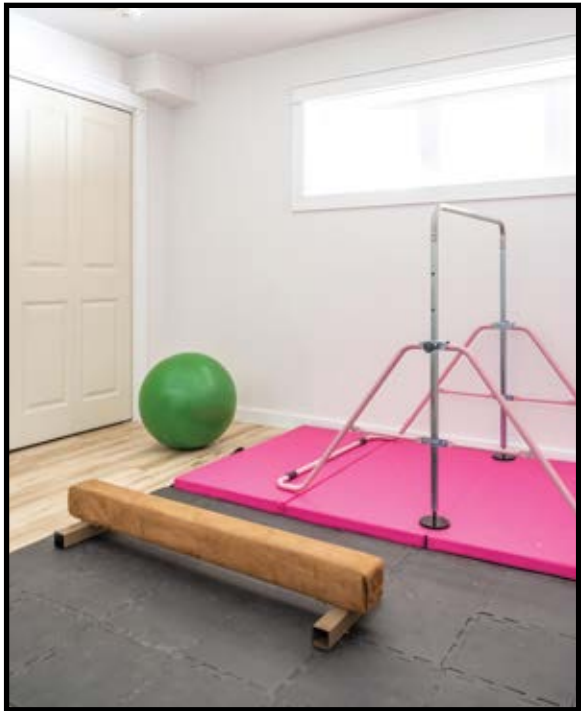
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feature

More family friendly spaces abound in the lower level with a walkout. The space boasts a bar with a live-edge counter and plenty of seating. The bathroom features a vanity made from a cabinet gifted by family that dates to the 1930s and provides plenty of storage. The children's playroom is a space with custom built-ins where the kids are encouraged to create and enjoy.

Both inside and out, it's clear Jessica and Adam have created conscientious spaces that suit their family's individual and collective styles. **OH**



TOP LEFT: Wise words greet clients in the foyer of the on-site studio. TOP RIGHT: Spin bikes offer a more vigorous form of exercise for clients. BOTTOM LEFT: A live-edge piece of wood is an impressive bar top in the lower-level entertainment area. A sink, bar refrigerator and lots of storage make this a practical space for entertaining. BOTTOM RIGHT: A room on the lower level has been transformed for Arkelle, a budding gymnast.

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PROJECT AND
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ERIN ROCHON

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MATERIALS

Sand texture
Plastic container
Plant pot
White and brown acrylic paint
Paintbrush
Dowel
Glue gun
Moss
Styrofoam ball
Small knife
Foam block
Jute twine

STEP 1

First, pour some sand texture into a container – this will add a rustic feel to the plant pot. Next, pour a small amount of paint into the sand texture and mix to a peanut butter consistency. Paint the whole pot and let it dry for approximately 45 minutes. Once dry, apply another coat of paint.

STEP 2

Use a small paintbrush and paint the dowel brown. Set aside and let dry.



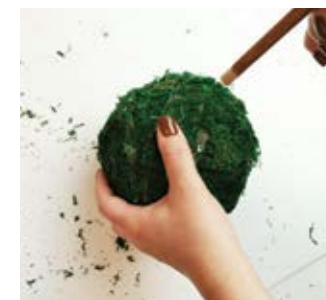
STEP 3

With a glue gun, glue moss to the styrofoam ball. Continue this step until the ball is completely covered in moss.



STEP 4

Make a hole in the bottom of the moss ball. Add glue to the end of the dowel and poke it into the moss ball.



STEP 5

Use a knife to cut the edges of the foam block to fit in the pot. Then take the bottom of the dowel and place it into the foam in the centre of the pot.



STEP 6

Add some moss to cover the foam block and tie some jute twine around the pot.



Find a spot in your home or create a second spring topiary to place near a mirror or artwork on a mantel and bring that spring feeling into your home! **OH**

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STORY LAURA HAY
PHOTOGRAPHY JILLIAN JACKSON

Cottage Style BY DESIGN

A cottage isn't just a property style. For many, it's a lifestyle and a frame of mind. Think about how one feels in a traditional cottage setting: relaxed, rested and at peace in the surroundings. It's not surprising that many people strive to achieve this feeling within their everyday home.



Whether your retreat is an urban dwelling or in a lakeside setting, you can echo the cottage style by design. Here are some tips for decorating enthusiasts and weekend warriors who want to live the laid-back lifestyle, every day.

Let's renovate your cottage... ahem, I mean house.

If you're building new or renovating a space, here's your opportunity to incorporate timeless, cabin-inspired elements into the very bones of the home. Materials are an effective way to convey this distinctive style and the reason why people are drawn to this look. The goal is to achieve a connection to nature. The vehicle? Nature itself.

When designing cottages, use a nature-inspired colour palette with organic and natural textiles such as linen, cotton and wool. Use a mixture of wood finishes that celebrate everything nature has to offer.

Floors in cottage-style homes are often informal and even imperfect. Consider oiled hardwood floors over urethane finishes when buying new or use reclaimed hardwood for heavier distressing and character. If renovating, consider painting an existing hardwood floor. As always, hardwood floors look best with area rugs to define spaces. For a relaxed aesthetic, a vintage second-life, fun braided style or flat-weave rug work best. However, even very traditional rugs repurposed in casual settings look new and on trend again.

Continued on page 118



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design ideas



Painted beadboard or shiplap wood panelling are a common cottage look for walls and ceilings. Whitewashed wood can also be incorporated to create a cosy, cabin-inspired look and feel.

Focus on natural materials like hardwood and stone and architectural features such as exposed wood beams, fireplaces and expansive windows for natural views and light.

Decorate your way to a lakeside home.

If you're styling your space to achieve a cottage aesthetic, many of the same principles apply in terms of nature-inspired colour palettes and materials, just on a different scale. A coat of paint can go a long way to creating this ambience.

Whites, off-whites and soft creams are typical of the beloved cottage colour palette. The move towards green tones is exciting. One of the hottest hues for 2022 is a fresh, misty green perfect for creating a space that connects you to nature and achieves a relaxed vibe. Soften this colour palette with natural wood furniture and accessories evocative of the earth (think terracotta).

Of course, wood furniture is a must. As with the floors, dents and dings are not just accepted but welcomed, contributing to a

more casual, welcoming, relaxed aesthetic that invites you to kick your feet up and breathe deeply.

In the kitchen, open shelving is a favourite addition. Modern cottage style is humble and relaxed, an aesthetic that is well-complemented by open shelving with a few thoughtfully chosen items on display, such as handmade pottery and live plants.

To offset these organic influences, incorporate some fun, light-hearted elements into the space. Unique details, such as a pair of antique skis or a vintage oil painting mounted above the fireplace provide a great touch – and even more so

when they're authentic artefacts. These amusements can also come in the form of a vibrant throw blanket, classic old baskets or an unusual found object. Use these to highlight the focal point of the space, such as a great view, the fireplace or entertaining area.

Whether you're decorating, renovating or building your home from the ground up, a cottage-chic style can be achieved. Engage a designer to help navigate and select the key elements to help you bring this look home. You can enjoy life by the lake, regardless of your physical geography. **OH**



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BERRY COBBLER

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

This cobbler is reminiscent of a sweet, soft southern-style drop biscuit. You can use whatever summer fruit you have on hand. We used blueberries and blackberries.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 6)

FILLING

- 4 cups blueberries and blackberries*
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp granulated sugar

COBBLER TOPPING

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp baking powder
- 3 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 stick butter, cold
- ¼ - ½ cup boiling water

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- In a baking dish, combine all filling ingredients and set aside.
- For the topping, combine flour, sugars, baking powder and cinnamon in a bowl. With a pastry cutter or two knives, cut butter into dry ingredients until the mixture resembles wet sand. Stir in ¼ cup of boiling water and stir until combined (add in more water – 1 Tbsp at a time, if needed, to achieve a drop biscuit texture).
- Spoon the topping over the berries. Don't worry about the topping covering the whole dish, it will spread as it bakes!
- Bake for 30-45 minutes* until golden brown.
- Notes:**
- *Feel free to substitute any berries or fruit.
 - *Adjust baking time depending on size of the pan. If using a smaller pan and the topping is thicker add 5-10 minutes to baking time. **OH**



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Boho CHIC

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HOUSE RULES

interior design from concept to completion

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