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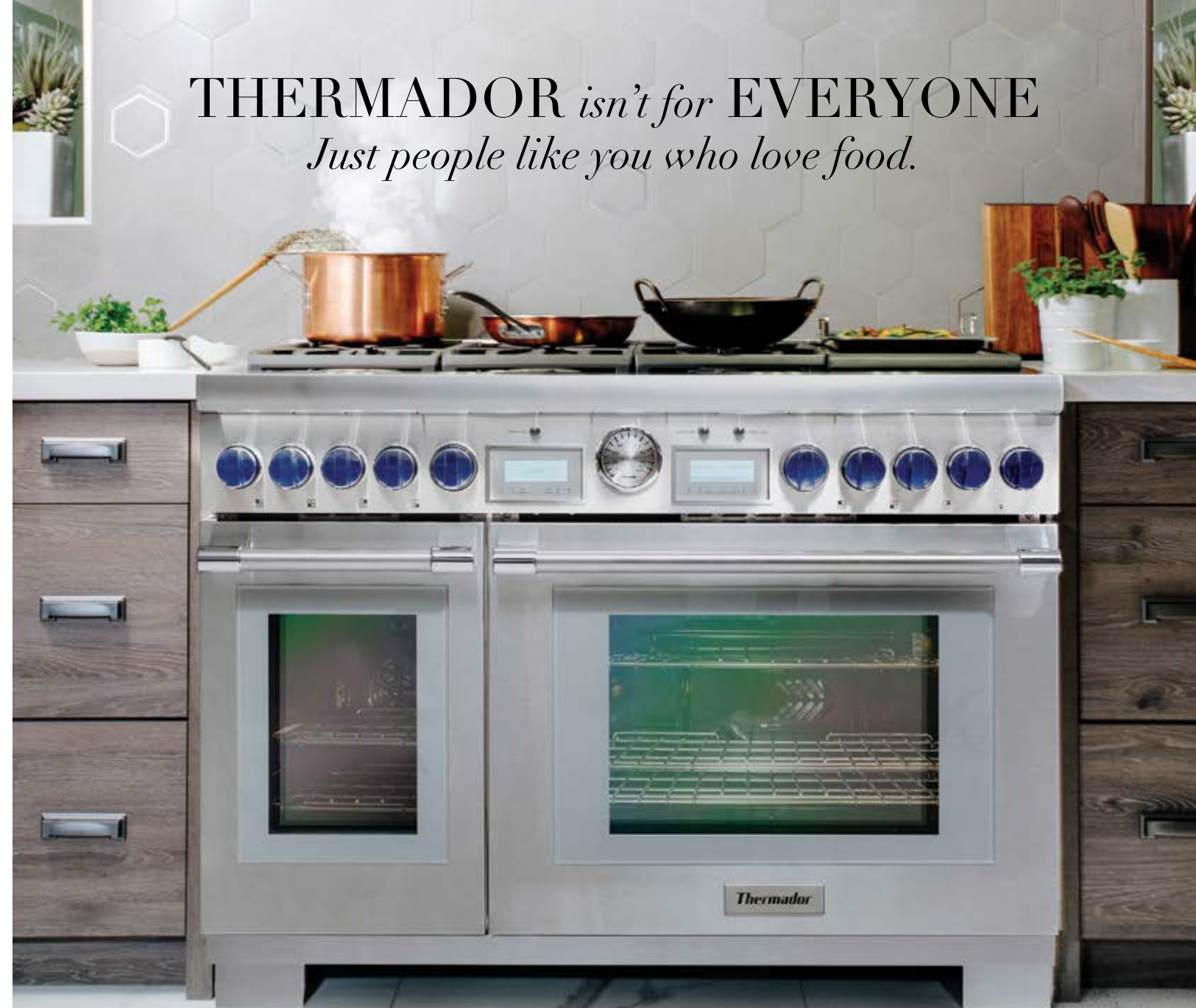


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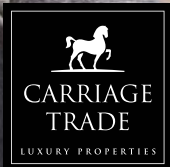




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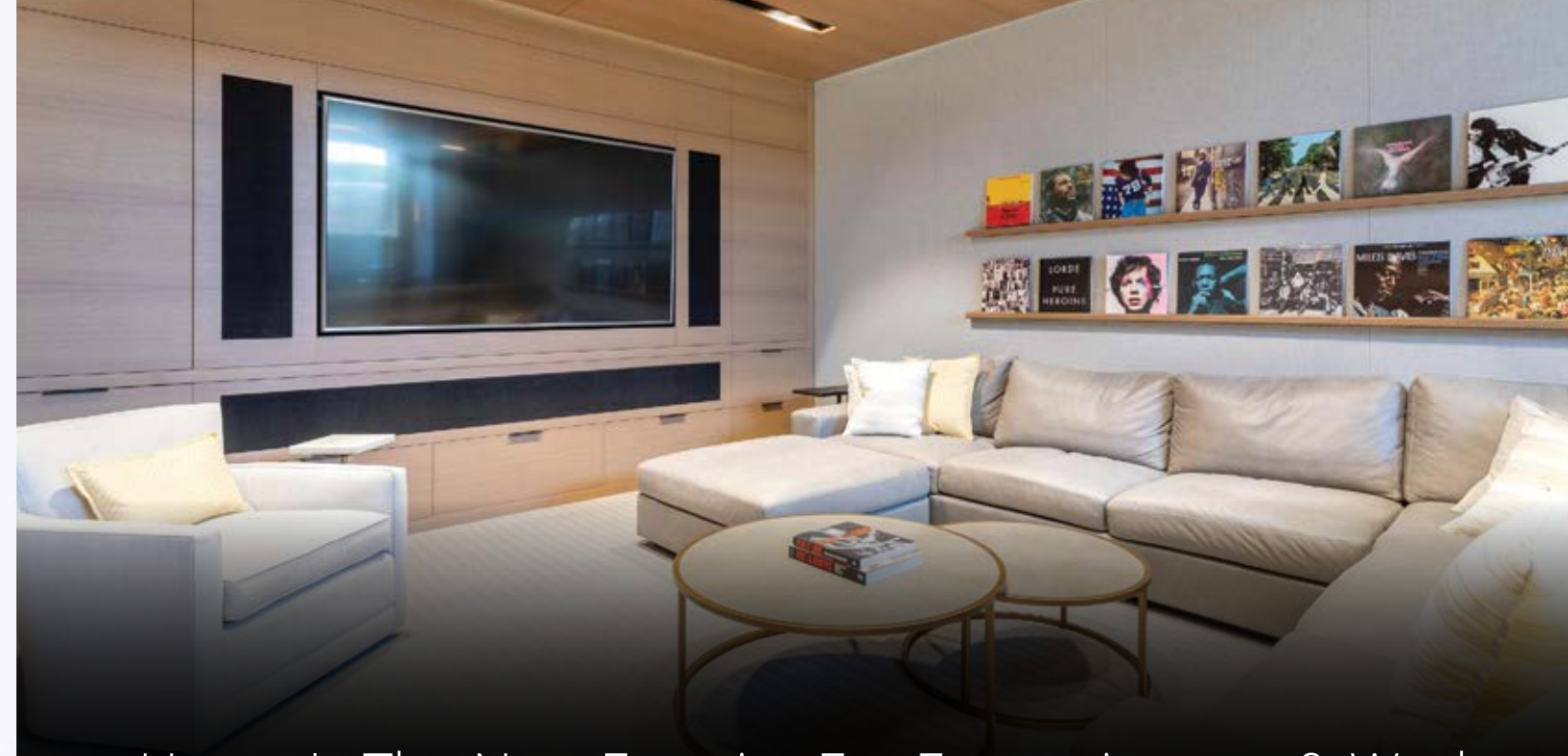
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## editor's note

ONE OF OUR LOCAL BUILDERS TOLD ME RECENTLY

that his wee daughter asked him if Christmas will happen this year. The sweet innocence of children.

It is for our children and for our families that our holiday traditions must continue. We need the consistency of the cherished past and the repetition of these precious moments with loved ones to ground us and to celebrate our safe, warm places – at home.

For me, I'll spend Christmas with my son Jay, his beautiful partner Danielle and my granddog Zephyr. Choosing fun and thoughtful stocking stuffers is our favourite tradition and of course there's Mom's famous prime rib roast with "the best gravy in the world!"

I know you'll be charmed and inspired to amp up your own festive décor when you read about our two holiday homes. Both were photographed a year ago. One was on the Christmas JOY Home Tour 2019 featuring a winter wonderland theme and the other features a more modern take on holiday decorating and entertaining in a Cambridge condo setting.

Local design talent abounds in our region with two stories about recent renovation transformations that will stir your décor muse. A bright beachy makeover for empty nesters and a stylish family-friendly reno show how hiring a designer can transform your home into the oasis of your dreams.

In the Spotlights you'll find a mecca of flooring choices, and the season's warmest paint colours and tiles at Cover-Ups Carpet and Flooring. We also focus on N-Hance Wood Refinishing – the place to go to refresh your kitchen cabinetry without demolishing the entire kitchen.

It's been an extraordinary year. Thank you for reading OUR HOMES and for your thoughtful feedback while we were all working from a distance to showcase the beautiful homes of Wellington and Waterloo regions.

Wishing you and your families a safe and healthy transition to winter and a joyful holiday season!

*Merrilyn Patterson*

Merrilyn Patterson, Managing Editor  
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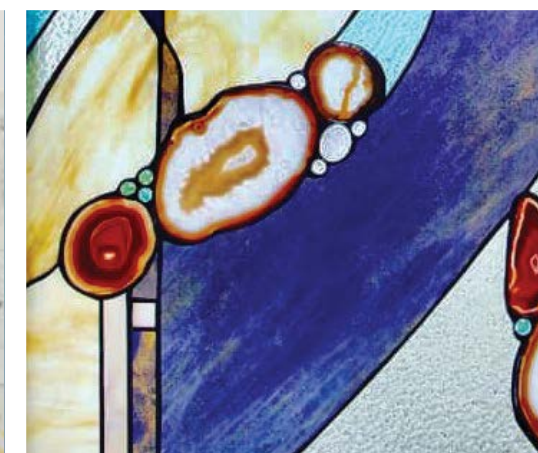
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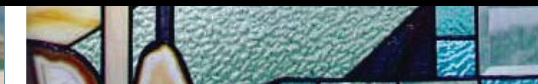
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# CONTENTS

## FALL/WINTER 2020/21



48



118



74

### ON THE COVER

Pretty pops of blue in a designer's home packed with personality. Story, page 48.  
Photography by Jason Hartog.

70



34

### LOCAL FEATURES

- 34 Style Picks** Choose your signature style for a perfect addition to every room.
- 48 Home & Designer** Designer Julia Correia shares her style at home.
- 70 Spotlight** The latest flooring, tile and decorating advice from Cover-Ups Carpet & Flooring.
- 74 Holiday Tour** Get in the spirit with two local homes dressed for the holidays.
- 90 People** Expert advice for your latest home project.
- 108 Spotlight** Transform your kitchen with makeover magic from N-Hance Wood Refinishing.
- 118 Home & Designer** Designer Suzanne Tait's signature style shines.



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# CONTENTS

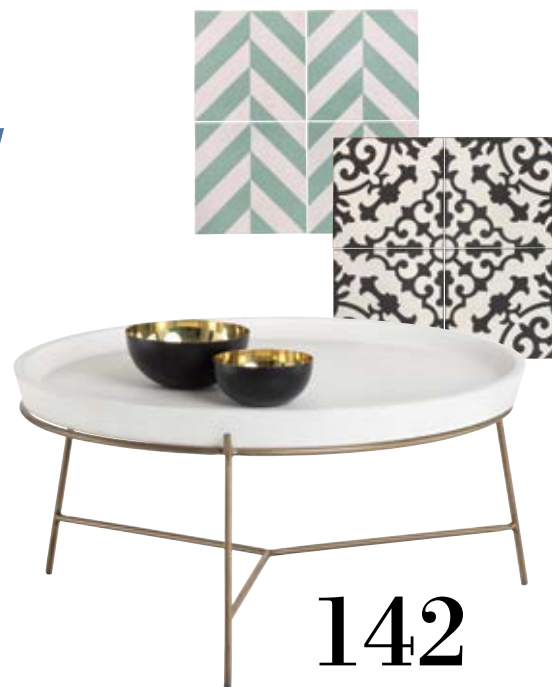
## FALL/WINTER 2020/21



44



42



142

### DEPARTMENTS

- 24 **Editor's Note**
- 32 **Advice** Where To Splurge
- 42 **Good Taste** Caesars With A Twist
- 44 **Design Ideas** Adding Character
- 60 **Decorating** Focus On Lighting
- 64 **Crafty Ideas** Pine Cone Garland
- 66 **Real Estate** COVID Impact
- 110 **Double Take** Dreamy Bedroom Style
- 130 **Rural Living** Barn Quilt Stories
- 134 **Entertaining** At-Home Entertainment
- 138 **Home Resource Directory**
- 140 **Cooking At Home** Spicy Chocolate Cookies
- 142 **Finishing Touch** Concrete Design



60

110



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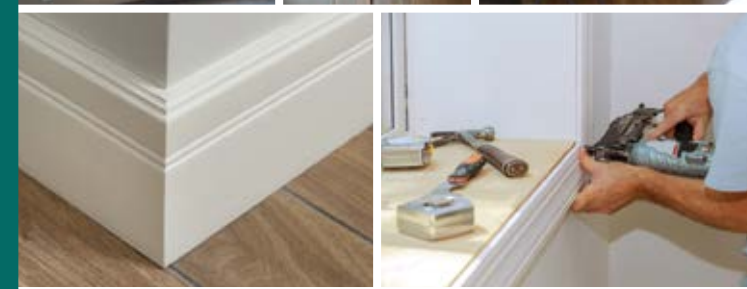
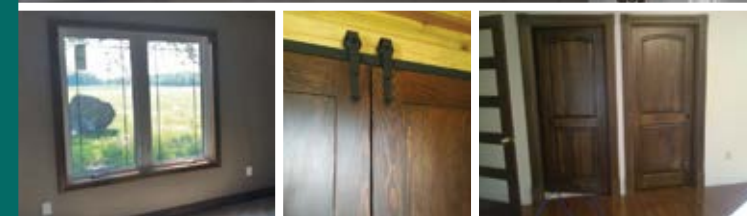
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Every renovation or new build conversation includes the phrases return on investment (ROI) and resale value. When you design to live well and beautifully, ROI and resale value are a given.

**Here are our top tips to help you put your money where it counts:**

### WHERE TO SAVE

You can find major savings in areas and on products that can give you ROI or that wow factor. Consider these:

#### TILE AND FLOORING

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#### GENERAL LIGHTING

Light fixtures such as pot lights or surface-mounted lights can be modestly priced and distributed throughout the house.

### WHERE TO SPLURGE

Now that you've saved some money – where can you splurge and have some fun?

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A quartz counter is antimicrobial, available in a wide range of styles and cleans up easily for your health and peace of mind.



#### STATEMENT LIGHTING

Whether you eat at a kitchen island or dining room table, the fixtures featured in each area should make a statement. After all, they serve as a focal point where togetherness happens.

In the bathroom, good lighting is essential to make you look good. Consider wet-rated LED chandeliers, pendants and wall sconces.

#### DIMMERS

Adding a dimmer in every room of the house helps create a signature mood in each space.

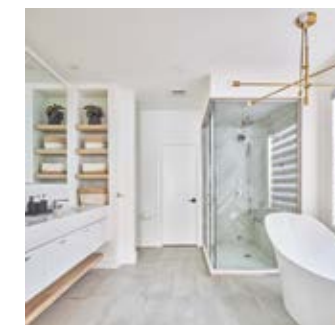


#### CUSTOM CABINETS

Quality custom cabinets that look like furniture at the entry, kitchen and bathroom add a touch of luxury. Smart storage design will buy you time as you grab and go throughout your day. Remember to add beautiful hardware – the jewelry of any cabinet.

#### FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS

Faucets and showerheads see high use throughout the day, and cheap fixtures tend to leak or loosen with finishes often flaking off over time. Splurge and buy the best you can afford.



#### LUXURY SHOWERS

The trend is to eliminate the tub and invest in a roomy walk-in shower. You can put your budget toward a frameless glass shower that cleans up easily, including a non-white grout.

#### WINDOWS IN KEY SIGHTLINES

Windows can be the soul of your home, so dress up those you see first when entering. Window treatments can soften and enhance, adding that luxurious whisper to your space.

Living well and living beautifully will not only enhance your home's resale value, it will enhance your soul. And that's worth all the money in the world. **OH**

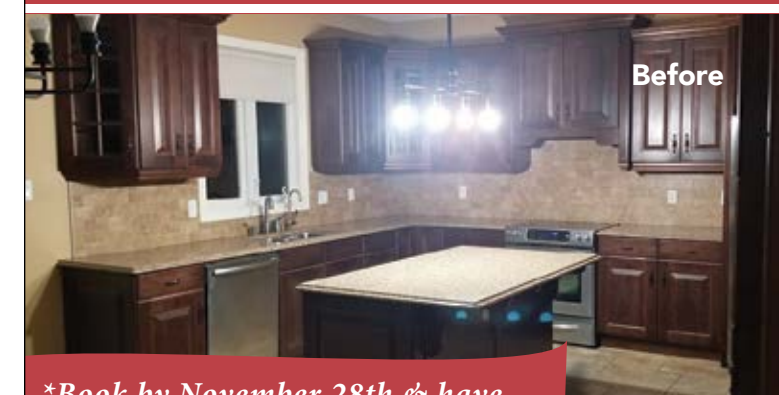


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1



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PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



2

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4 KARA'S STAINED GLASS

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519.570.7110 | [karastainedglass.ca](http://karastainedglass.ca)

5 ELORA HOME HARDWARE

**Smeg Small Appliances**  
Smeg's new retro-style small appliances take us back to the 50s. They blend today's technology with yesterday's aesthetic and add a touch of whimsy to your space.

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6 CONWAY FURNITURE

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The 9670 by Superstyle has subtle curves and makes a stylish statement in any small space. A matching loveseat is also available.

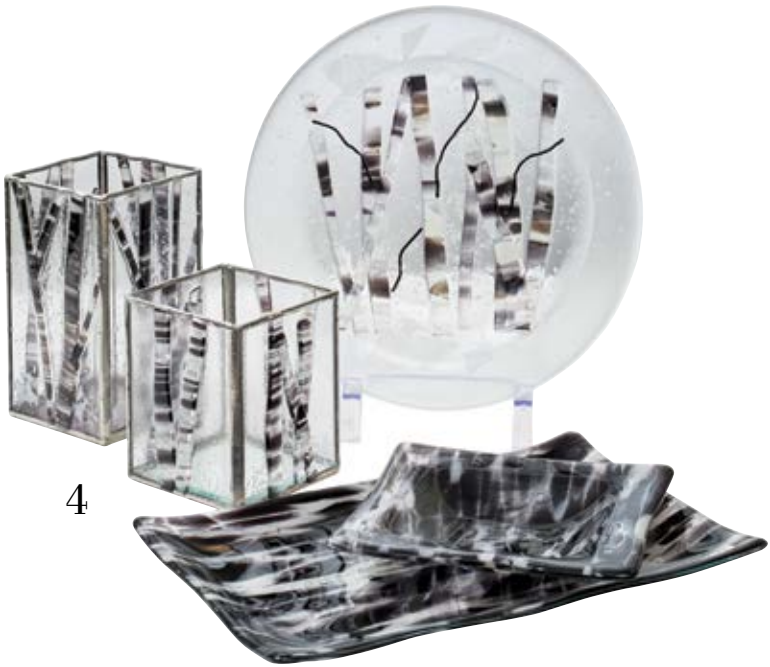
5663 Line 86, Listowel  
519.291.3820 | [conwayfurniture.com](http://conwayfurniture.com)

Continued on page 36

3



4



5



6







7



9



8

7

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##### Luxurious Showers

Glamorous showers with luxe finishes like these champagne-bronze controls from Delta are pampered choices and on-trend. Add mosaics for the shower floor, stacked tile on the walls and a frameless glass enclosure for a luxurious look.

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Continued on page 38



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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH



## CAESAR PRE-MIX

- 1 5.5 oz. can tomato paste
- ½ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- ½ tsp oregano
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp hot sauce, or to taste

Mix all ingredients together.

Add 1 or 2 ounces of this spicy pre-mix to a glass with 1 ½ ounces of vodka, then fill the glass with purchased Caesar mix. Or skip the vodka for a virgin Caesar.

Garnish with a deviled egg or fried pickle and chunk of blue cheese.



## CAESAR GARNISH

### DEEP-FRIED PICKLES + BLUE CHEESE

- 6 baby dill pickles
- 1 egg
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup almond flour
- ½ tsp paprika
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- Chunks of blue cheese

In three separate bowls prepare the breading assembly. In the first, whisk an egg. Place flour in a second and mix together almond flour and spices in the third.

Dip pickles in the plain flour first, then egg mixture and finally coat with almond flour mixture.

Heat deep-frying oil in a pan or deep fryer to 375°F. Fry pickles until golden.

Place on paper napkin to cool.

Serve on a skewer with a chunk of blue cheese.

### DEVILED EGGS

- 6 eggs
- 1 Tbsp mayonnaise
- ½ tsp prepared mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika, to garnish

Place eggs in a pot filled with water. Bring water to a boil over medium heat, then remove from heat and cover with lid for 11 minutes.

Remove eggs from pot and place in a bowl of ice water to halt cooking.

Once cool, break the shells and peel each egg.

Cut eggs in half and remove yolks into a bowl.

Add mayonnaise, mustard, salt and pepper and mix until combined.

Add a scoop of yolk mixture to each egg white and sprinkle with paprika.

Serve on a skewer. **OH**



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# YOUR HOME, YOUR CASTLE

## HOW TO BRING YOURSELF INTO YOUR INTERIORS



STORY **EUGENIA TRIANDOS** AND **KORINA KHAMIS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **DREW HADLEY**

What makes a house feel like home? Every great interior begins with its inhabitant. We believe the personality needs to live within the home's overall design and aesthetic. Make your house feel like home, inspired by you!

### THE BIG PURGE

If you feel like your home doesn't represent you, it's time to purge. Discard everything that does not bring you happiness. It's so easy to hold onto items you don't like, simply because you're used to having them around. This act alone will eliminate everything in your home that does not represent you. Once you've removed all the hollow stuff you can start to fill your home with meaningful mementos and things that inspire you.

### SHOW YOURSELF

You have likely accumulated a highly personal collection or two that says a lot about what brings you happiness. Putting these items on display will not only make your home feel more like you, but will provide comfort and exude your personality into the space. Added bonus: These are great conversation-starters.



**PRO TIP:** Avoid clutter by only displaying selections from your collections, instead of the entire set. Display books on shelves as you would showcase art. Books fill gaps nicely, and their artistic covers can be featured in place of artwork. *Continued on page 46*



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CREATE COMFORT

Home is about achieving a heightened level of efficiency, comfort and pleasure. These days, we are experiencing our homes in a new way – as a refuge from the world. Regardless of what’s happening outside, our interiors should always be the greatest escape of all, filled with things we love and tailored to the way we live. This may mean investing in that really beautiful but equally expensive sofa if you enjoy lounging in front of the television every evening, or finally getting around to setting up that dedicated home office that inspires you, instead of working from the kitchen table.

Comfort can be created with some simple considerations like lighting and ambience. Adding candles, fresh florals and throws draped over the sofa and chairs are some of the easiest and most impactful ways to boost your home’s comfort level.



BE ADAPTIVE

The world is changing, and our homes have to keep up. Adaptation starts with being open to change and may take place as a slow build (think technology through the decades) or suddenly. We grow, and as our circumstances change, our personal style, collectables and lifestyles follow suit. Your home may have represented your past self, but it’s possible and very normal to change over time. When you feel like your current

décor has run its course, it’s time to restart the decorating process and find new ways to bring the new you into your home.

There’s a good reason that custom continues to be the biggest interior trend, year in and year out. Cookie-cutter fads come and go. Look within for inspiration that stands the test of time. An open mind and a good design team can make your home truly yours – and isn’t that what great design is all about? **OH**

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# PERSONAL style

STARTING A NEW CHAPTER IN HER LIFE, JULIA CORREIA, OWNER AND PRINCIPAL DESIGNER OF **JULIA CORREIA DESIGN**, BOUGHT AND RENOVATED A THREE-BEDROOM, TWO-STOREY HOME IN ELMIRA. *Continued on page 50*

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



Designer Julia Correia wanted her living space to suit her style, express her personality, engage her senses and make her happy to be home. **LEFT:** Julia in her pretty and personalized home office. **OPPOSITE:** Details like pattern, colour and texture are repeated to create a cohesive flow in the great room.





**B**BORN IN PORTUGAL, JULIA'S LOVE OF DESIGN was influenced by elaborate churches, magnificent castles, aged cobblestone paths and blue-and-white tiled facades. In her new home, her goal was to create a space where she could be herself with no compromises. Her home is unabashedly pretty and feminine.

Blue-and-white is a common element in Portuguese facades and blue is, not surprisingly, Julia's favourite colour. Blended with a love of chinoiserie, these themes are repeated throughout her home.

Bold, whimsical nature scenes with pavilions, birds and rambling floral motifs are popular in the chinoiserie style. Birds

**BELOW:** A marble backsplash in a brick pattern is a timeless and luxe backdrop for this stylish kitchen. **RIGHT:** Julia's living room gallery wall is a curated collection of her favourite art. The room's furnishings include pieces with gold accents, textural fabrics and a cowhide rug. A collection of blue-and-white ceramics adds sophistication to the room.



“NO ROOM IS EVER  
FINISHED WITHOUT  
WINDOW TREATMENTS.”

and lush florals ramble and play on cherry blossom wallpaper in Julia's powder room and in accent pieces elsewhere. Fretwork – carved ornamental designs – show up in furniture and on the custom-designed back panels of the kitchen island. Graphic and geometric patterns make a show in mirrors and artwork. Many of the décor pieces in the home are

vintage and you can find Julia shopping for unique pieces at antique markets, secondhand stores and just about anywhere that looks like they may have interesting pieces.

When Julia bought the house, the kitchen was blocked off from the rest of the house and not at all functional. She took down the walls and opened the space. A central island

was installed to allow better flow and sight lines. She chose a durable quartz countertop that mimics marble from **Chervin Kitchen & Bath**. Curated vignettes of chinoiserie porcelain vases, ginger jars and blue-and-white tableware, accented with sparkling crystal and natural floral displays add Julia's warm personality to the space. *Continued on page 52*



“I LIKE TO HAVE UNIQUE  
PIECES THAT YOU WON’T  
FIND ANYWHERE ELSE.”



**ABOVE:** Stacks of books and fresh flowers decorate the coffee table in the living room. **LEFT:** Every detail in this pretty powder room captures Julia’s signature style – from the pale blue vanity and mosaic floor tiles to the cherry blossom wallpaper and gold-framed diamond-shaped mirror and sidelights.

Julia’s design aesthetic dictates that “No room is ever finished without window treatments.” She advises addressing the functionality of a room first, then adding personality and softness with fabric. In the open-concept kitchen/living space, she softened the space with cream linen curtains by **It’s Curtains For You**, splurging on a blue geometric trim by **Mary MacDonald**, featuring the Greek key motif.

The furniture and décor in Julia’s home are mainly vintage or custom. “I like to have unique pieces that you won’t find anywhere else,” she says. In some cases she has furniture professionally painted and sometimes she refreshes them herself. She painted a set of vintage chairs using Annie Sloan chalk paint from **Kathie Jordan Design**. Accent chairs were reupholstered by **Acadian Upholstery** and case goods were professionally sprayed by **Riley Painting Corp.** Julia says she gravitates to “timeless designs and craftsmanship from years gone by.” She’s at home and in her element now with all of the things she loves surrounding her. **OH**

Continued on page 54



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Here are her tips on how you can make this bright, relaxed style your own:

**THE LOOK:** Bright, breezy and carefree.

**THE HOMEOWNERS:** Empty nesters with grandchildren.

**THE FEEL:** Comfortable, relaxed and practical.

**JULIA'S TIPS:**

1. Function first.
2. Add personality.
3. Make it pretty!

**FUNCTION FIRST**

- Kitchens and bathrooms must be functional with great storage and ample work surfaces.
- An unobstructed kitchen island gives space to spread out and also allows for attractive displays.
- Forego the kitchen table – casual meals can be taken at the island.
- Use natural materials for countertops – quartzite can imitate marble.
- A well-appointed dining room can accommodate large gatherings and more formal meals.
- Slipcovered sofas provide comfort and are easy to launder.
- Repurpose an unnecessary bedroom as a home office.
- Outfit a double closet to house office clutter.
- Install vinyl wallcoverings to mimic grasscloth for an easy-care alternative to the real thing.

*Continued on page 56*

# DESIGN *process*

The owners of this bright and airy bungalow have a new beginning too, thanks to designer Julia Correia. Although this home is about the same size as the home they moved from, they wanted a more relaxed, less traditional space. They wanted this home to feel more like their oceanside property in Florida – relaxed and bright. Says Julia, "We share similar tastes, style and thought process."





### ADD PERSONALITY

- White cabinets are a perennial favourite and have lasting appeal.
- Install marble backsplash tile with a curved silhouette to soften the hard lines in a kitchen.
- Indulge your favourite colour and repeat it throughout the home in various tints and shades.
- Surround yourself with the things you love and take the time to find them.
- Layer classic décor items from your favourite local shops.
- Hang amazing large-scale art that speaks to you. *Continued on page 58*





MAKE IT PRETTY

- Add wainscotting for architectural interest.
- Use wallpaper to inject colour and drama and to stand in as artwork.
- Use plumbing and cabinet hardware with style and classic details.
- Add jute area rugs and textured baskets to create a casual warmth.
- Hang unique artwork that reinforces the room's theme.
- Display fresh flowers, branches and indoor plants for an organic touch.



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The homeowners love their bright, pretty and relaxing home and tell Julia, "We wouldn't work with anyone else!" **OH**



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### Layers of Light

Because night arrives more quickly in winter, your home's lighting plan is more important than ever. Set the stage for an elegant evening by illuminating the exterior walkway and your front door, and by highlighting all-season gardens and landscape features. There's nothing prettier than a winter-bare tree dressed in tiny glimmering lights.

Your interiors should include a balanced mix of ambient, task and accent lighting, which will add function and comfort to your space. Ambient lighting is the overall lighting in the room, and typically comes in the form of overhead lighting. Task lighting, as its name implies, is meant to illuminate tasks. At your party, this could be lamps lighting the hors d'oeuvres table or pendants above an improvised bar. Last but not least, accent lighting will illuminate special features, such as artwork or a great piece of furniture.

**TIP:** Illuminating key living areas in your home can subconsciously usher your guests to the party. Light up the refreshments area, bar, kitchen (if your guests are welcome there), guest bathroom and front entrance.

*Continued on page 62*



# SPARKLING LIGHTING TIPS for a Festive Holiday Season

STORY **JENNIFER BACKSTEIN**

The secret to every successful soiree is ambience, and designers know lighting is absolutely everything. This holiday season, most families are planning more intimate, smaller gatherings. Here are my favourite tips for hosting a simply sparkling and festive fête.



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# decorating



For instant evening glow, pick up a variety of jar candles, tea light candles and battery-operated mini lights to nestle in among tablescapes.

Light bulbs come in different colours and temperatures. Neutral bulbs are also called “bright white,” which lands somewhere between warm yellow and cool blue, and is the preferred choice in living areas. You can instantly warm up your home by swapping out your bright whites with the slightly warmer “soft white” option.

Above all, invest in dimmers throughout the key areas of your home to control the level of light and mood within the space.



PHOTO: STEPHANI BUCHMAN

## Fire It Up!

There’s nothing quite like a flickering fireplace on a blustery day. The hearth is a natural gathering place. Historically, the fireplace was a hub for cooking, warmth and light. As its functional applications have waned over the years it’s still a hot spot for entertaining. If you’re having a small gathering, the fireplace should be the focal point. Style the fireplace mantel for

the event with fresh greenery and a simple string of twinkling white lights and your favourite festive accessories. Or keep it simple and let the flame speak for itself. If you don’t have a fireplace and are considering installing one, consult a professional for advice on the best type of fireplace for your space. Wood-burning, gas, electric – each has its own unique benefits.

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG



PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

**TIP:** If you don’t have a fireplace or just want to mimic this look for a party, the warm glow of a flickering flame can be achieved with candles and dimmer switches. Strategically placed mirrors will amplify the amount of light and visual warmth in the room.

While wintertime and holiday parties may look a little different this year, why not embrace them as they come and be thankful for what they are? Time spent with your near and dear ones, under the right light, is the most wonderful way to spend the festive season ahead. **OH**



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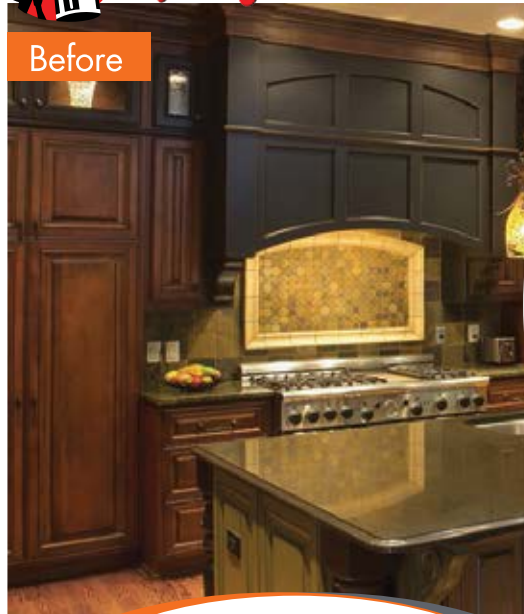


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PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
TARA CHATTELL

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## TOOLS & MATERIALS

Dry Pine Cones  
Long Rubber Gloves  
Safety Glasses  
Old Clothing  
Bleach  
Water  
Bucket  
Large Plate (no longer used for food)  
Scissors  
Jute Twine

## BLEACH PINE CONES

**1** In a well-ventilated space, preferably outside, don your old clothing, rubber gloves and safety glasses.

**2** Add dry pine cones to a bucket. Fill the bucket, one third from the top, with one part water and two parts bleach.



**3** Carefully place a plate over the pine cones, pushing down gently, to keep them submerged in the solution. Put the bucket in a safe place, out of reach of children and pets, for 24-72 hours. Check your pine cones every 24 hours and leave longer if needed, up to 72 hours. Pine cones will appear lighter in colour when they are ready to remove from the bleach solution.



**4** Carefully remove the pine cones from the bleach solution and place them outdoors to dry, on a surface that won't be damaged by the bleach. The pine cones will close while sitting in the bleach solution; once they have fully dried and reopened, they're ready to use for crafting.



## ASSEMBLE GARLAND

**5** Cut a long piece of jute twine, a few inches longer than you'd like your final garland to be.

**6** Begin by tying a loop at one end of your twine.



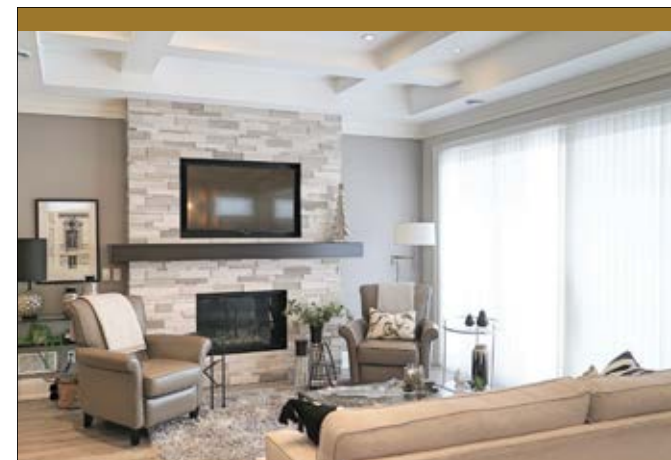
**7** A few inches down from the loop, attach the first pine cone by wrapping the twine around the top of the pine cone and knotting.



**8** Continue attaching pine cones, evenly spaced along the twine, until you near the other end.

**9** Finish the end by tying another loop. The loops can be used for hanging your finished garland.

*Use your finished garland to decorate your tree, mantel, buffet or stair railing. Happy holidays!* OH



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## How COVID-19 is

# IMPACTING HOME DESIGN

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

When COVID-19 hit, our homes, essentially overnight, were asked to function in ways they'd never had to before. On a purely practical level, for homeowners, all those hours we've spent at home – in Zoom meetings, coaxing sourdough starter, agonizing over math homework, gathering for family movie nights – have given us an unprecedented chance to take stock. What works well here? What room drives me crazy? What's tired or just not working?

After speaking with Ontario homeowners, it's clear many of us have moved beyond the "thinking about it" stage to making it happen. "I have never been this busy!" says Rob Abbott of Great Lakes Custom Homes. Based in Craileith, Abbott says he's seeing brisk demand and a flurry of pandemic-inspired requests from homeowners for quotes on renovations and builds.

In the Ottawa area, Ryan Blackwell of Blackwell Renovations has experienced a similar rush. "It's kind of crazy. This year the amount of estimates that I'm doing has spiked."

From a real estate perspective, whether you plan to buy or sell in the near future, or simply want to enjoy your home while building equity, it's important to understand how much homeowner priorities have shifted during the pandemic.

With that thought in mind, we asked Rob Abbott (whose client projects are rural) and Blackwell (whose work is more urban-focused) how this great period of global unease is impacting home design. Here are several trends they noted:

### ENHANCED HOME OFFICES

Not surprisingly, with many workers today still mandated to work from home, builders see big and likely lasting impact here. Ryan Blackwell says he's had multiple quote requests recently for home offices in and around Ottawa, adding, "That's not usually a focal point."

In Craileith, Rob Abbott is also fielding quotes for home offices. He says the all-important twist today is that clients want such spaces designed for much more dedicated use. "People now don't just want just a flex space for their office, they want somewhere where, when they shut the door, they don't hear anybody."

### GENERAL UPDATING

Offices aside, Ryan Blackwell says the pandemic isn't fuelling one particular type of job request. What he sees instead is an overall reprioritization. "I think the common trend is that people are living in it and they realize now that they're sick of it. They see their space all the time. Their kitchen is drab and they've been wanting to do it for a while. It's just they're taking the opportunity now."

### OUTDOOR STRUCTURES

Beyond their so-familiar four walls, Rob Abbott also sees clients casting a critical gaze to their outdoor spaces. From screened-in porches and sunrooms, to decks, pavilions, cabanas and gazebos, he says clients are keen to expand their outdoor entertainment areas, nudge their kids away from screens and encourage fresh-air family fun. "People are building outdoors like crazy."

### SEPARATE LIVING QUARTERS

In his urban setting, Ryan Blackwell says he's also seen more homeowners make sizable investments to carve out apartments either in their home's basement or attic space, generally to provide a source of supplementary income. "Our market has stayed pretty strong, and people have noticed that, so they're not as scared to pull the equity or reinvest," he says.

### UPGRADING RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

By contrast, in the country, Rob Abbott says since the pandemic he's noticed far more city dwellers on the hunt for rural properties. As for those who already own recreational properties outside the city, he says many are renovating big time. "Some are now at the precipice of deciding, 'Do I ever go back to the office or do I just stay at my 4,000 square-foot chalet and never go back to Toronto?'" With families hunkering down in their chalets and cottages, Rob Abbott says he's gotten requests for everything from enclosing kids' loft spaces and redoing bedrooms and basements to adding bathrooms and building pricey multi-storey additions. "People are spending so much time up here, they're now wanting to update or finish spaces in the home that they never bothered to do before." **OH**

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Carolyn Paquet

# Happy Feet

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

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## TRENDS

Here's Caroline's take on what's new and on trend this season:

- Extra-large porcelain tiles for shower walls – for a grand effect and ease of cleaning.
- Handmade-style tiles with irregular shapes and textures or worn-looking edges.
- Curbless showers: Almost every new bathroom we do has one.
- Natural wood colours – light to medium tones. It's more European.
- Sisal and wool rugs make a comeback.
- Geometric patterns on everything.
- Greys are out. Light, warm tones are in – beige, peach, aqua and green.



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Stockings are hung by the reclaimed wooden mantel. Natural pine boughs, a roaring wood fire and soft white decorations echo the snowy woodland setting outdoors. **OPPOSITE, LEFT:** The timberframe accent and rough-hewn log supports at the entryway display Josh Bellamy's passion for working with reclaimed wood. **RIGHT:** A natural woven rug and a simple evergreen wreath at the front door welcome guests to the family's wonderland.

# Woodland WONDERLAND

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

It's Christmas at the Bellamy house. **Josh Bellamy** of **Bellamy Homes** opened his home to the Lakeside HOPE House Christmas JOY Home Tour in Guelph. When tour co-chair **Jenny Hilborn**, Owner and Principal Designer of **Centre Staged Designs**, saw the home, she instantly chose to decorate it herself. The home was a huge hit on last year's tour.

*Continued on page 77*







**ABOVE:** Table settings softly echo the neutral palette and raw and natural elements of the woodland theme. **LEFT:** Josh designed the range hood and custom cabinetry with wood reclaimed from demolished buildings and barns in the area. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Spare use of ornaments and raw elements highlight the warm natural-wood beams and furniture – including the dining table, lovingly crafted by Josh. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Fur hides atop benches warm the holiday tablescape.

**T**HE WOODLAND SETTING and aesthetics of the Bellamy's family home complemented Jenny's own decorating style. "You use what you have and highlight it and let the raw textures shine through."

In designing his open-plan family home, Josh repurposed reclaimed wooden beams to create accent pieces, adding warmth and texture to the contemporary space. A rustic wood fireplace, tables and sliding barn doors bring the woodland story happening outside, inside.

*Woodland Wonderland* was the obvious choice for Jenny's holiday decorating theme.

Jenny used the home's raw, natural elements to let the natural setting speak for itself. Jenny says the most elegant way to decorate the space was "with woods, greenery, candles and soft neutral fabrics." In the open-concept great room she tailored neutral colours to original pieces. In the master bedroom she selected white accents,

*Continued on page 78*



holiday tour



white linens and a white tree to create a whimsical vignette set in a carved wooden mirror. White and rose-coloured ornaments complement the bedding. In the master en suite, Jenna Bellamy's favourite room, a simple vase of magnolias was placed on the vanity – the green and brown tones representative of the whole theme.

Wispy, natural pine garlands were hung in

*Continued on page 80*



**“THE MOST ELEGANT WAY TO DECORATE THE SPACE WAS WITH WOODS, GREENERY, CANDLES AND SOFT NEUTRAL FABRICS.”**



**TOP LEFT:** The colourful, practical and functional main-floor laundry keeps this young family organized. **ABOVE:** Josh's crafted wooden benches in the mudroom make it easy to don and doff winter boots. **LEFT:** On the back porch, a fire warms the space and a tree adds a festive touch. **OPPOSITE TOP:** A simple pine garland and a sparkling soft pink accent pillow are all this rustic master bedroom needs to draw the outdoor wonderland inside. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Jenny set a snowy white tree in front of a carved wooden mirror to create a simple holiday vignette. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A vase of magnolia in the master en suite echoes the rustic theme.





# holiday tour



**LEFT:** Jenna Bellamy's home spa retreat. Natural, calm and serene.  
**BELOW LEFT:** Josh built a bed frame in the shape of a house, at his wee daughter's request.  
**BELOW:** In their other daughter's bedroom, a tepee is adorned with a touch of greenery.



windows with spare ornaments to frame the snowy wonderland outside. The ornaments, which include tarnished metals, were hand-picked to echo existing accents, adding a time-worn element to the design.  
 The dining table is decorated with greenery, garlands and magnolia in rattan vases, lanterns and finished with a sprig of cedar added to each plate. White-washed birch chargers and fur-topped benches complete the cosy, rustic look.  
 The tree in the great room is a showstopper. Jenny and her team spent hours decorating it to perfection. All of the elements used in decorating the home are represented on the tree.

Continued on page 82



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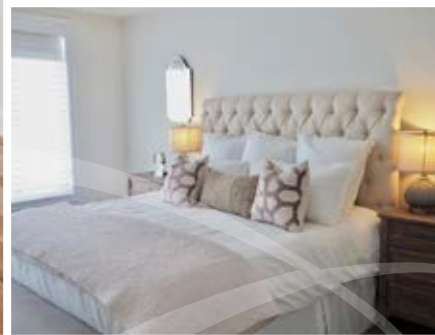
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Jenny shares her tips on how to decorate the perfect tree.

1. Set the theme.
2. Hang lights.
3. Add sprays or garlands, sprigs or pine cones.
4. Fill holes or gaps in real trees.
5. Place the largest ornaments first.
6. Hang the rest moving from medium to small ornaments.
7. Step back after every five ornaments you place to make sure the look is right.
8. Rearrange as needed. **OH**



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# Ode to Christmas

STORY **CHERYL LONG** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



This holiday home theme is *Classic Christmas*, but Gary adds a twist on traditional red accents with a touch of purple. **OPPOSITE:** A sparkling chandelier swagged with red berries and an artful evergreen centerpiece in the dining area set the stage for Gary's holiday cocktail party.





The open-concept living room exudes quiet elegance with neutral colour choices for furniture and blends with Gary's panache for mixing modern styles with traditional. **BELOW:** Always a masterpiece, the tree sparkles with red, gold and purple ornaments. Wee golden birds perch cheerfully on evergreen branches.



The addition of the island, storage and coffee nook give Gary a sleek, functional space to prepare nibbles and drinks for holiday guests. **BELOW LEFT:** Gary's curio cabinet is filled with treasures collected over a lifetime. **BELOW:** Gary plans projects in his light-filled home office.



**SINCE HE WAS A YOUNG MAN IN HIS 20s**, Gary Bennett has been setting aside the first Sunday in December to transform his living space into a carefully crafted ode to Christmas. Once the décor was in place and the tree was up – themed a little differently each year – the season would officially kick off that day with the first of his well-attended cocktail parties. These days the parties are a little more subdued, but the holiday decorating is just as ambitious as Gary thoughtfully displays the collectibles he's amassed over the years in his recently renovated townhouse condominium in Cambridge. After a move

from Peterborough in March 2018 and a lengthy search, Gary found the property and immediately envisioned the changes that would make it feel like home. “The first time I walked in I said, ‘I love this space, I can hardly wait to renovate it because it’s so dark and dreary,’ ” he says, smiling. Though it checked off much of his wishlist, including a two-car garage, three full bathrooms and a private deck backing on to conservation space, the wallpaper and dark oak kitchen weren't to his taste. “It was ready for a little bit of a kick,” he explains. “I kicked it into the 21st century.”

*Continued on page 88*



holiday tour



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As a retired IT project manager with previous home renovations under his belt, Gary was comfortable acting as designer and then hiring and managing the trades who would update his new home. That included a kitchen redesign by **Renown Cabinet Systems Inc.**, who also did the remaining installations in each room. They added an island, additional storage space and a coffee nook in the kitchen and updated the bathrooms with selections from **EVON Bathroom & Kitchen Gallery**. New carpets from **Sarmazian Brothers Flooring**, upgraded light fixtures from **The Lighting Shoppe** and fresh paint helped to brighten the interior.

“I call myself quietly elegant. I mix traditional furniture with modern,” Gary explains, pointing out the curio cabinet filled with a treasure trove of pieces he’s gathered over the years. “I just like being surrounded by beautiful things.”

The artfully decorated tree, shimmering with white lights and glass ornaments in shades of red and purple, is the focal point in his favourite space. The living room has been intentionally arranged to encourage conversation with cushion-strewn sofas facing each other alongside the gas fireplace. Garland adorns the mantel and festive planters peek inside from the back patio.

Once the day-long transformation is complete, it’s time to kick off another Christmas season. Though his new home, like his gatherings, is a little smaller in size, Gary is enjoying the open-concept space that allows him to play host and join the conversation at the same time.

“This is the right size for this time of my life,” Gary says. “It’s cosy and it’s comfortable and I feel at home.” **OH**



**ABOVE:** A quiet reading nook in the bedroom. **TOP LEFT:** The master bedroom is simple, tailored and serene. **TOP RIGHT:** Earthy shower tiles warm the white palette in the bathroom. Cabinetry echoes the kitchen style, tying the newly designed rooms together.



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AT HOME

**Favourite Chill Zone:** Basement home theatre, watching movies with the kids.  
**Favourite Hockey Team:** I bleed blue for the Toronto Maple Leafs.  
**Winter Bevvv:** I never say no to a glass of red wine.

AT WORK

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PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG AND NESO BASARA

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AT WORK

**Recent Project:** We recently developed a unique basement design that included an entertainment room, laundry room, bedroom, kitchen, mechanical room as well as a home gym.



AT HOME

**Favourite Art Piece:** Framed 100-year-old mercantile receipts from an ancestor, found at an antique market. **Favourite Room:** The kitchen. A resting place for my family and friends. **Fall/Winter Accents:** Candles and fresh greenery.

Continued on page 92



AT HOME

Favourite Pastime:

Being with family and friends, hosting barbecues and going on drives with my wife.



AT WORK

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**AT WORK**  
**Kitchen Trends:** The focus of interior design has been driven by the need for comfort, relaxation and nostalgia. Showcasing personal treasures on open shelving, and use of natural materials such as wood or stone and warm colour tones are increasing trends.

**AT HOME**  
**Your Comfort Zone:**  
**Lauren:** Family room, a relaxing, comfortable space to entertain and cosy up with our dogs to watch movies or read a good book.  
**Melanie:** My coastal master bedroom featuring soft aquas and weathered wood tones. **Marie-Josée:** Cooking, baking and creating in the kitchen for family and friends.

Continued on page 96



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## AT HOME

**Children:** Harry: Two great kids in their 20s.  
**Hassan:** I'm a proud father of two children. **Favourite Past-time:** Harry: Barbecuing and golf. Hassan: Travel enthusiast – can't wait to get back to it!

## AT WORK

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**AT WORK**  
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**AT WORK**  
**Your Comfort Zone:** Kim: Cows and the garden. Nidhi: Music and painting. **Fav Winter Beverage:** Kim: Coffee or red wine by the fire. Nidhi: Still iced capp.

**KIM BROAD & NIDHI SHAH**

United Lumber  
Home Hardware Building Centre

Our store, open since 1974, has almost 20,000 sq. ft. of retail space and a five-acre lumber yard offering everything you need for building projects to household products and Beauti-Tone Paint. We're proud to offer you the best customer service, helpful advice and product selection you have come to expect from your local Home Hardware.

**AT HOME**  
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Continued on page 102

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people

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We sell and install retractable awnings, canopies, patio covers and railings from leading Canadian manufacturers. All products are custom-made to suit your home and are available in a variety of colours and options. We strive to provide great customer service and we warranty our installations.



AT HOME

Favourite Chill Zone:

**Nancy:** Around our kitchen island. **Brian:** Anywhere with my family. **Pets:** Colt, a German Shepherd, and a cat named Wilson. **Fav Winter Beverage:** **Nancy:** Caramel cappuccino. **Brian:** Coffee.

AT WORK

**This Project:** A patio cover we have enclosed to make it a three-season room with vinyl windows and a motorized screen.

Continued on page 104

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Our experienced group of sales representatives with design and installation training can assist with everything from design advice to installation instructions for the do-it-yourselfer. In-person DIY seminars are scheduled every other Saturday from October through December. Visit [cermicdecor.com](http://cermicdecor.com) for details.

### AT HOME

**Comfort Food:** Kim: Ramen noodles. Tom: Pasta. Janna: Chili. Tara: Homemade mac and cheese.

### AT WORK

**Trending Now:** Large-format tile is hot. Designs using 24 by 48-inch tiles are today's most current looks. **Best-Sellers:** Backsplash tile. We have more than 90 different choices in stock so you can choose and take it home today.

*Continued on page 106*

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519.830.3797

sales representative  
[andraarnold.com](mailto:andraarnold.com)  
519.821.3600

  
**andra arnold**



people

AT HOME

Winter Sport:

Snowmobiling. **Favourite**

**Winter Drink:** Beer. **Comfort**

**Food:** Reuben sandwich.

AT WORK

Recent Project:

Currently finishing a project where we manufactured the doors, casing and base, hinged and bored the doors, then stained and finished all the millwork in the shop. We then installed all doors and trim that were precut in our shop.



DEAN YOUNG

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PHOTOGRAPHY  
JASON HARTOG

Barb and Al  
Vodicka

# REINVENT your space



## THE PLACE

**N-Hance Wood Finishing** owners Al and Barb Vodicka have been bringing new life to kitchens for more than 15 years. First, as kitchen refinishing and refacing company Spray It!, and then as Coat of Many Colours Quality Kitchens Inc. In March 2020, the couple merged their business into three franchises: N-Hance Waterloo, Kitchener and Guelph, serving the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas.

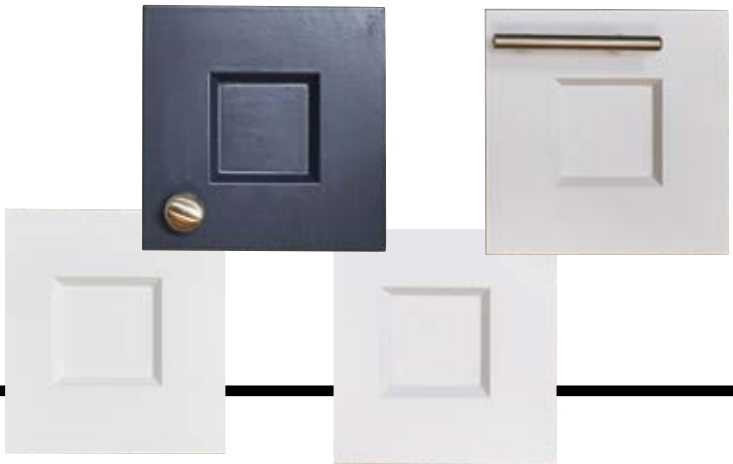
## SERVICES

The new franchises still refinish and reface, but now offer wood refinishing including floors and railings, as well as granite countertop renewal. “N-Hance has its own exclusive products that are used only by the franchisees,” says Al. “Floor and kitchen stains are top-quality and our kitchen solid colours are not paint but rather a polyurethane acrylic blend product, which is very durable. They are amazing products to work with.”

## TRENDING

When it comes to cabinet colour trends, Barb says solid white kitchens with a clean and bright look have been extremely popular, but there’s been a recent trend toward darker colours (such as espresso), blues and some greys. “More customers have also been asking to have upper and lower cabinets painted in two different colours,” Barb says.

*N-Hance uses Benjamin Moore colours and the most popular cabinet paint shades are:*



## WHAT'S NEW

The Vodickas’ new franchises are booming and servicing an increase in new customers. “Since March we have hired five employees, purchased two company vans and my new full-time job is managing the office, which includes answering inquiries, booking appointments for quotes, booking jobs and more – which I enjoy very much,” says Barb.

## BEST PART OF THE BUSINESS

“Seeing our motto ‘Love your kitchen (and now your floors) all over again’ come to life in our clients’ faces when they see the transformation,” says Al. “It’s so gratifying to see them happy with the job we’ve done. The greatest compliment is when they refer us to their family and friends.”



## THE PROCESS

Innovative and affordable, the N-Hance process for getting kitchen cabinets refinished starts with N-Hance removing your cabinet and door fronts and bringing them back to the shop where they clean, sand, prime and apply a spray finish coat to each piece. “About a week later we return to tape and prep your cabinets on-site in one day, and then the next day the cabinet shell is sprayed,” says Al. “The day after that we put the doors back on, and in three days everything is fully cured. The result is durable, washable and has that fresh-from-the-factory look.”



## Get In Touch

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double take



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**5. EASTERN ACCENTS:** Shiloh Petal Sheet Set  
**6. CARACOLE:** Mrs. Sandman Bed  
**7. SURYA:** Laney Table Lamp in White. **OH**



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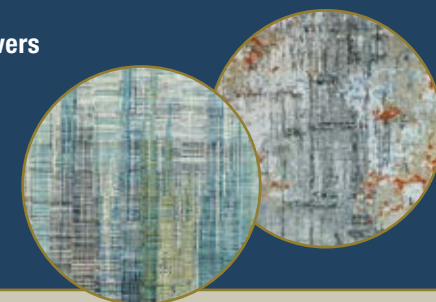
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Ceramic tiles have long been a natural choice for any project. Those who dare to use this industrial and stunning material in the home are richly rewarded with striking texture and interest.

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519.943.0188  
info@northridgehomes.ca  
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(Please see ad on pg 45)

## KITRAS ART GLASS

**Kitras Art Glass** is a family run, Canadian company, with a strong belief in finding, making and sharing the Everyday Beautiful.

The roots of their company are built around the handmade and all that accompanies it – the quality, the uniqueness and above all, the beauty of a piece made by hand.

Their studio is the largest hot glass studio in Canada and their products can be found in shops and homes across North America.

Their signature line of ornaments called The Tree of Enchantment series is a favourite among customers for its unique look and story tags. Pictured above is their Tree of Caring which reminds us to be thankful for those who care and to pass on the care that we have received to others who need it. Their on-site showroom is closed to shoppers at the moment but you can shop their full line at kitras.ca!

Kitras sends a special Thank You to all essential workers and those who are caring for others during this difficult time.

For more information please visit our website [kitras.ca](http://kitras.ca) or send us an email at [info@kitras.ca](mailto:info@kitras.ca)

You can also join our community on Instagram and Facebook to stay in touch!

(Please see ad on pg 72&73)

## LINEN + LORE HOME

The search is finally over! We welcome you to check out our new online home décor boutique – **Linen + Lore Home** – offering a curated line of hand selected and custom designed goods for your home.

Linen + Lore Home was started by two local designers who often found it difficult sourcing the right products for their own homes and client projects. We dreamed of a place where we could collect and share those hard to come by pieces with our amazing clients and other homeowners.

Our boutique mixes the convenience of online shopping with the personal touch of thoughtful selections and excellent service. Focusing on Canadian manufacturers and artisans, our collections mix together new pieces, custom designs and selected antiques ranging from home goods to small furniture, art, lighting and textiles, and we're constantly adding new items. We'll do the hunting for you and minimize the guesswork of what to pair together. With free shipping or local delivery options, it's hard not to stop by for a browse.

Be sure to check out Instagram for daily inspiration, new product launches and monthly ready-to-style décor packages that are truly one of a kind!

We hope to see you stop by Linen + Lore Home soon!  
[linenandlorehome.com](http://linenandlorehome.com)  
@linenandlorehome

(Please see ad on pg 53)

## BATH FITTER

For more than 35 years, **Bath Fitter** has been making dreams come true. The bathroom of your dreams is just a day away! Most Bath Fitter solutions are completed in less than one day. All the work is done by expertly trained Bath Fitter employees.

Bath Fitter has perfected a tub-over-tub installation process. Once our Sales Consultant takes precise measurements of your bath space, our manufacturing team creates a premium quality acrylic bathtub liner, custom made to fit over your bathtub. Our one-piece seamless walls are also manufactured at our Canadian facilities to provide a watertight fit over the existing walls in your bath space.

Along with bathtubs and wall systems in a variety of styles and colours, Bath Fitter offers several shower liners and can convert bathtubs into walk-in showers. Accessorize your bath space with your choice of shelves, grab bars, soap dishes, seats and more.

Our free consultations can take place in your home, or virtually. All of our employees adhere to strict protocols to keep themselves and our customers safe during this pandemic.

Find out more by calling our **Kitchener location today at 519.747.3906**. Visit our website: [bathfitter.com/location/kitchener/](http://bathfitter.com/location/kitchener/) or stop by 265 Frobisher Dr, Waterloo

(Please see ad on pg 59)

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Bigelow Flooring has been providing high quality flooring and exceptional customer service in Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and the surrounding area for over 10 years. Our team of flooring experts is on hand to guide our customers through the whole flooring process, from choosing the right floor to flooring installation.

Family-owned, our focus is on our relationships with our customers. We don't believe in high-pressure sales, and are proud of our helpful and comfortable environment. With our wide selection of carpet, hardwood, vinyl, ceramic, natural stone, laminate and more, we work tirelessly with each customer.

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Units 4, 5 & 6, Guelph  
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*(Please see ad on pg 101)*



## KARA'S GLASS

We all decorate our homes to suit our personalities. Kara can help you express your creative nature in a variety of locations throughout your home. Her artwork ranges from french doors, window screens, cabinets, transoms, and wall panels to small handcrafted items such as candleholders, and other various gift items.

For the empty space on your wall, Kara can design a beautiful panel you can display. Give your kitchen a facelift with original, one-of-a-kind glass inserts for your cabinets. Instead of using blinds for privacy or to shut out less desirable views, contact **Kara's Glass** for window screens.

Kara brings a modern take on stained glass as she provides a style that allows plenty of sunlight through her glass, while still maintaining the purpose of privacy and artistic design.

Kara's Glass designs her art to represent her customers, what they love in life, their passions, their inspirations, and their personalities. Make your house a home, and decorate it to inspire yourself every day.

**Call for an appointment!  
519.570.7110  
karastainedglass.ca  
kara@karastainedglass.ca  
325 Breithaupt St, Kitchener**  
*(Please see ad on pg 25)*



## CANOPY FARMS LTD

Dealing with multiple contractors for your outdoor and indoor projects can be time consuming and troublesome. We offer a unique combination to the landscape and construction industry.

Owners Marie Paxton and Kevin Heywood offer separate strengths to the business.

Kevin is a licenced carpenter with a background in renovations, framing and landscape construction. Our projects range from fences and decks to gazebos, sheds and garages, custom renovations and additions as well as retaining walls, walkways and patios. This broad range of skills allows our customers to deal with one contractor for all their outdoor and indoor projects. In the winter months we take on small renovations. This includes bathroom and basement renos, interior framing and drywall as well as trim, flooring and tile work.

Marie's experience of being a trained landscape designer and horticulturist for the past 16 years, along with her passion for natural landscapes and sustainability, bring a unique experience to every size of outdoor landscape project. She specializes in natural design projects. This includes ponds, pondless waterfalls, conservation plantings, and natural stonework. We offer maintenance packages of all sizes for finished projects and existing landscapes.

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kevin.canopyfarms@gmail.com**  
*(Please see ad on pg 65)*



## ENVIRONMENTAL PEST CONTROL

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We service all types of properties – country living, residential, cottages, boathouses, island properties, marinas, commercial, industrial, hospitality, healthcare, not-for-profit, and more.

Why do people choose us? We care, we listen, we educate, we get to the root of the pest problem, and we help our customers say goodbye to bothersome or serious rodents, insects and bugs.

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or visit us at  
environmentalpestcontrol.ca**  
*(Please see ad on pg 115)*



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We specialize in blending design with technology. We offer motorized shading solutions for any home or office. From the early stages of construction to final installation, our team will provide you with everything you need. Whether you require a single motorized shade or an entire networked system, we have the internal resources to ensure your project is done right.

If you're building and are considering motorized shades or drapery, contact us early in the process. We will guide you and your builder on the correct wiring before the walls are closed in.

**For more information or to book a consultation in your home or office, visit our website coverscanada.ca or call us at 519.894.3455  
500 Fairway Rd S, Kitchener (beside Michaels Arts and Crafts Store)**

*(Please see ad on pg 105)*



## RIMIK CONTRACTING

Investing in home remodelling and renovation can be a daunting endeavour. When you are transforming your home into something special, there are many things you need to take into consideration. There's cost, quality of materials, whether or not you'll be displaced or have to share your space with contractors for an extended period of time, and are those contractors going to be cutting corners? After all, just because a problem is hidden behind a wall, doesn't mean it's not still a problem.

Mike Buck of **Rimik Contracting** is a Red Seal Tradesman who puts the client relationship first, which means ensuring that he, as well as all of the members of his team conduct themselves with professionalism, courtesy, and integrity at all times. Servicing Southwestern Ontario over the past 11 years, Mike has a reputation for his attention to detail, sourcing high quality, eco-friendly materials at reasonable prices, and most importantly transparency with his clients and team members.

To the savvy homeowner, Rimik Contracting is the remodelling and renovation service that provides the collaborative, thorough, and attention to detail style approach people can rely on because they believe that elite craftsmanship is what makes a project truly special.

**519.837.7841  
mike@rimikcontracting.com  
rimikcontracting.com**  
*(Please see ad on pg 24)*



## ENDEMAN'S IRONCRAFT

A business has moved to Orangeville, and the sparks are flying! **Endeman's Ironcraft** has found a new home base at 23 Commerce Rd, but while its location has changed, they still offer the same great services and client care.

Over 40 years ago, founder Harold John Endeman set up Endeman's with the goal of helping customers by building what they needed even if the job was laborious or complex. Now owned by his son and grandson, Albert and Wade Endeman are proud of the niche market they have developed that extends beyond the local community.

Gates and spiral stairs are just a small portion of the specialty items Endeman's has garnered a reputation for producing.

With many years making customer service a top priority, clients as far away as Huntsville, Peterborough, and Ottawa have to sought out their services, knowing they will deliver what they need.

To meet the needs and desired look of designers and clients, they have fabricated a variety of one-of-a-kind pieces, such as a raw iron-clad fireplace, a 14-foot-tall driveway gate, and even a 42-foot-tall spiral stair.

**For further information including a portfolio of some of their work, check them out at endemansironcraft.com 519.941.2876  
23 Commerce Rd, Orangeville**  
*(Please see ad on pg 115)*



## RON WILKIN JEWELLERS – ONE FAMILY, TWO GENERATIONS SINCE 1967

Behind every gift is a memory, and at **Ron Wilkin Jewellers** we have perfected the art of giving. We love to help you create beautiful memories through beautiful gifts. Generations of families celebrate their milestones with Ron Wilkin Jewellers. Let us help you too.

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We are now offering two locations to better serve with our new boutique shop opening on Mill Street in Elora where we will continue the Wilkin Jewellers tradition of quality jewellery and service.

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# CLASSIC & timeless

STORY JANET WHITE BARDWELL | PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

When Waterloo homeowners decided to embark on an extensive main floor reno of their two-storey home in the city's picturesque Beechwood West District, they knew it was crucial to assemble a stellar team to make their dream a reality. *Continued on page 120*

This classic white kitchen has ample storage and a large island warmed by natural wood casings. A breakfast nook with a window bench offers a cosy spot for morning nibbles and late-night coffee.





Blonde matte wide-plank oak flooring warms the kitchen's white-on-white palette.



Designer Suzanne Tait

**THEIR FIRST CALL WAS TO Suzanne Tait**, owner of **Suzanne Tait Design**. Suzanne – a 20-plus year veteran in residential design – and her team have worked on two homes with the homeowners over the last 10 years. During this time Suzanne has earned their respect for her design skills and professionalism, and they consider her a friend. Since the family moved to the home in 2015, Suzanne has helped them renovate the upper level and family room. The homeowners say of their relationship: “Suzanne knows our likes and dislikes. Hiring a design consultant who is passionate about what they do and is an expert in their field is a tremendous benefit.”

The main floor reno, however, was the couple’s most ambitious project and required an extensive team working cohesively together to bring their dream reno to life.

With the goal of making better use of the square footage and opening up the kitchen and family room area, the plan required structural changes. Two supporting walls would be moved, the layout reconfigured to bring the dining room from the back to the front, and a butler’s pantry placed neatly off the kitchen. *Continued on page 122*



**“HAVING THIS CLOSE BY FOR EXTRA STORAGE OPENED UP SPACE IN THE KITCHEN TO ADD FEATURE PIECES SUCH AS A CUSTOM HOOD FAN, WALL SCONCES AND BUILT-IN COFFEE MAKER.” – Suzanne Tait**

**ABOVE:** The sliding barn door provides easy access to this clever pantry space with shelves and cubbies to keep craft supplies, dry goods and pet supplies handy. **TOP RIGHT:** At the kitchen island, easy conversation and help with food prep are encouraged. **RIGHT:** A built-in desk helps with organization, recipe research and other necessary tasks. **FAR RIGHT:** A well-appointed butler’s pantry is tucked in behind the kitchen with access to the dining room.





Adding to the challenge, the homeowners are working professionals with two busy children and an enthusiastic furry family member named Poppy. These realities demanded that the reno be functional, comfortable and durable as well.

The couple met with a few general contractors and made a decision to commission **Murray** and **Pat Horst** at **Revive-a-House** to oversee the renovation. Next, **Homestead Woodworks**, **Rich-Craft Interiors**, **Stonex Granite and Quartz**, and **Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique** were brought on board, and the core dream team was complete. The couple was grateful to have Suzanne keeping watch. “She worked so well with everyone. Having her at all the meetings ensured that no design aspect was overlooked.”

To keep their sanity while the team worked its magic, the homeowners moved into a nearby Airbnb for nine weeks – a move they highly recommend.

The result was worth the wait. The entrance now opens to a space filled with light. Blonde, matte, wide-plank oak flooring

*Continued on page 124*



**ABOVE:** Comfortable yet formal, the dining room is used for family celebrations and special occasions. The room is framed by white, wall-to-wall built-ins that house tableware, cutlery and oversize serving dishes. **LEFT:** Poppy keeps watch from her favourite perch at the front window.







In an earlier reno, Suzanne designed the master en suite with a timeless white theme, setting the stage for phase two on the ground floor. **TOP RIGHT:** A curbless glass shower completes the glitzy feel to the master en suite. **RIGHT:** A sparkling crystal chandelier and inviting soaker tub add glamour to the en suite.



throughout from Rich-Craft Interiors provides a warm foundation that will withstand the wear and tear of this busy family. “Blonde oaks are also particularly forgiving with pets,” advises Suzanne.

The dining room to the right of the front entrance is framed with wall-to-wall built-ins by Homestead Woodworks, and original art from **Paula White Diamond Art Gallery + Design Studio** adds a contemporary edge. Sconces and a statement chandelier from **Living Lighting** complement the room’s comfortable formality.

To the left of the entrance is a space

transformed from a non-descript garage entry into a charming mudroom and laundry area. Cubbies for each family member, washer/dryer from **TA Appliances** ensconced by built-ins from Homestead Woodworks, and a clothes dryer wall inset fulfill Suzanne’s goal of making the home liveable and functional.

Toward the back of the house, the open hallway flows seamlessly into a stunning kitchen and family room area. Generous white walls offer a gallery-style backdrop for more unique fine art from Paula White Diamond Art Gallery + Design Studio that add colour to the space. *Continued on page 126*



A dark blue feature wall in the master bedroom is reminiscent of a deep blue sea.





Showcased centre stage, a striking quartz island and comfy seating from **Casalife Furniture** lend themselves as perfectly to family dinners and homework as to a long-overdue catch-up with friends. A nearby banquette awaits a morning repose with a warm beverage.

The island and countertops from Stonex Granite and Quartz are accented by pristine white cabinetry and brushed chrome fixtures by Homestead Woodworks. A corner ceramic farmhouse-style sink and plumbing by Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique, and a variation of the classic subway tile backsplash, exude durable, timeless chic.

The butler's pantry area (Suzanne's favourite part of the reno) features antique leathered granite countertops and walk-in pantry with a barn-style sliding door. "Having this close by for extra storage opened up space in the kitchen to add feature pieces such as a custom hood fan, wall sconces and a built-in coffee maker," she says.

The second level stars Suzanne's earlier work with the family. The main bath calls upon a timeless New York retro style with double vanity and walk-in shower for the kids to have a space to call their own.

*Continued on page 128*



**TOP LEFT:** This fun, funky and functional mudroom/laundry is located off the garage. **ABOVE:** The main floor laundry room has a great view. **LEFT:** A dramatic powder room off the front entry has dramatic flair.



**SUZANNE TAIT  
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**ABOVE:** Suzanne designed this bedroom to match their daughter's personality. **TOP RIGHT:** In the kids' bathroom there's a double vanity and a walk-in shower. Mosaic patterned floor tiles give the space a youthful look.



Suzanne describes the first room she designed for the couple's daughter as a "sweet little girl's room." Now a teenager, she shared her ideas with Suzanne to create a bedroom with touches of lush texture and pretty details.

The master suite is comfortable yet traditional, while the en suite opts for Old Hollywood appeal, complete with a freestanding tub, shimmery chandelier and a curbless shower and hidden drain. The marble countertop from **Natural Stone City**, mirror-mounted sconces and polished nickel fixtures add warmth to this private retreat.

The family moved back in shortly before the COVID-19 lockdown, as the house quickly became home, office and school – and they couldn't be happier with both their new surroundings and the team that made it happen. "Our contractors listened to our vision. Revive a House and Homestead Woodworks were fantastic to deal with. Suzanne and her team took away a lot of stress and helped make the rooms comfortable and functional yet classic and timeless." **OH**

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# BARN QUILT trail

PHOTOGRAPHY **HILIARY BREADNER**  
COMMITTEE PROJECT MANAGER FOR  
THE LOVE OF GREY BARN QUILT TRAIL



## ≈ **DOUBLE WEDDING RING**

This quilt symbolizes the circle of love and the connection between an inspirational grandmother, her family and friends and the love, dedication and passion put into everything she did.

In 2001, Donna Sue Groves, a contemporary quilter from Adams County, Ohio, created a large painted quilt square to honour her mother. An admirer of quilts and old barns, Donna Sue displayed the square on her property for passersby to admire. The project quickly expanded to include 20 painted sampler quilt squares on barns around the county, encouraging visitors to drive through the countryside and discover Donna Sue's community. Her vision for a barn quilt trail has spread throughout the United States and Canada, with more than 7,000 quilt blocks now on display. Quilt blocks are now popping up on barns across Ontario, telling stories of local history, tourism, agriculture, family traditions and heritage. Grey County has joined the movement with the For The Love of Grey Barn Quilt Trail.



## ≈ **UNITED**

The owners of this farm researched its history and discovered it was settled by an Irish immigrant who purchased 100 acres of Crown land. Because one of the present owners is of Scottish ancestry, the thistle was chosen as a link between the start of the farm, present day and thistles on the property. The head of the flower is in the shape of a crown, representing Crown land, and the colours came from the husband's kilt.

## ≈ **THE BIRD**

A celebration of a mother's love of Barred Rock chickens and a special pet hen named Salt and Pepper – all cherished memories for her daughter.



## « **CALEDONIA COW**

Wiley represents the happy dairy cows that reside in this recently restored barn. The two Irish shamrocks represent the farm's first owner, who emigrated from Northern Ireland. The current family's Scottish roots are represented by the Scottish Thistles.

*Continued on page 132*

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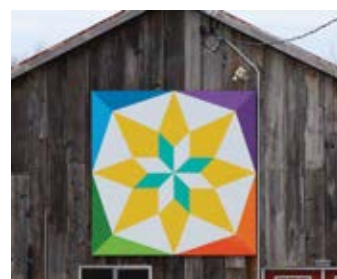
### « **CAMPBELL'S CELTIC KNOT**

The infinity (or Celtic) knot was chosen to represent the endless intertwining and looping of family and farming. The colours of red, black and white represent love, life, passion, purity, fertility, Holstein cows and Canada.



### ≈ **BELL'S OAK TREE**

Just after the marriage of the owners, a large pine tree by the house was struck by lightning. That tree was replaced with an oak, which was chosen because of its deep roots. The barn on this property was raised in 1882.



### ≈ **STARBURST**

A quilter and her family moved to the farm where her husband was raised. The bright colours make this quilt a focal point for everyone who drives by or visits their farm.

### ≈ **GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN**

A granddaughter remembers the quilt frame set up in her grandma's dining room and the quilting bees that took place as she played under foot. Although she never had the privilege to quilt with her grandmother, she did take up quilting after her grandmother's passing. The multi-generational love of quilting is now being passed to her own granddaughters.



### ≈ **THE FAMILY TREE**

The apple tree on this quilt pays homage to the orchard on this land, in operation for almost a century. Ten apples on the tree represent parents, children and grandchildren, and four apples in the bucket are in memory of family members who have passed. The friendship of family and friends is symbolized by the border of friendship stars.



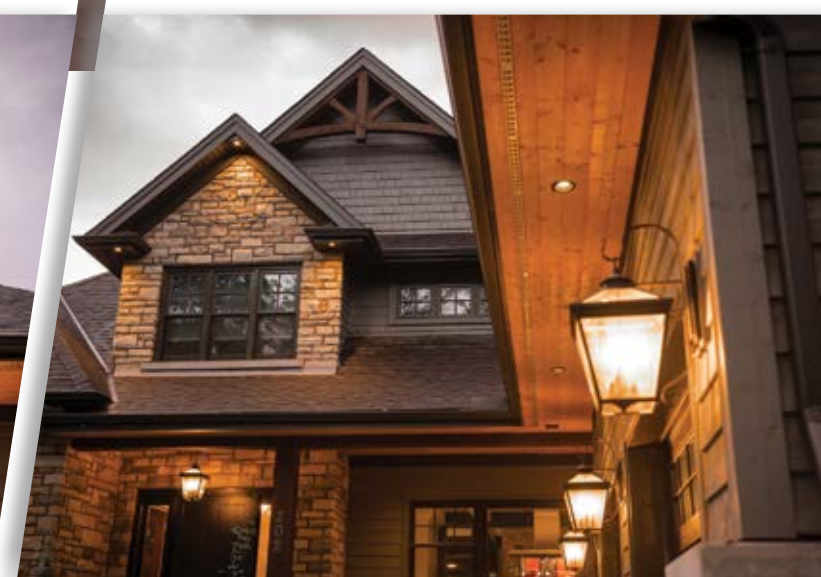
### ≈ **TULLOCH'S TARTAN STAR**

The eight-pointed star on this quilt is divided into four sections, each representing a generation beneath the family's patriarch, who arrived from Scotland at the age of 17. The Tulloch tartan was also incorporated into this design.



### » **MAPLES AND MASSEYS**

A maple bush at the back of the family farm is reflected in this quilt, which hangs on a barn raised in 1895. Maple leaves surround the symbol for the tractor brand Massey Ferguson, formerly Massey-Harris. The owner's father owned a Massey-Harris 30 in 1953, and Massey Ferguson equipment remains the brand of choice on this farm.



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STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF**

# AT-HOME ENTERTAINMENT

## PREPARING INDOOR SPACES FOR RECHARGING AND FUN

For many of us, the end of warm weather this year carries some extra wistfulness. Given the rollercoaster times, and with many of us still working from home and/or sheltering extra family members, saying goodbye to sunny outdoor spaces and heading inside is legitimately more daunting.

From an interior design perspective, it makes paying attention to our indoor spaces more crucial than ever. Leanne Mosquite of Leanne Mosquite Design in Beamsville frames the goal for our spaces this way: “Now everyone is going to come back indoors. And it’s going to be just that idea of being comfortable and also an area where you feel safe and you can relax and de-stress, because I find these times are adding stress to people. So it’s about creating that sanctuary within the home.”

So how to get there? Here are key considerations as we find ourselves settling back indoors.

### *SPACE TO GATHER AND RETREAT*

Leanne says the best designs today involve balance – where we create spaces for both gathering and retreat in our dwellings. Since the pandemic struck, she says, “There seems to be more people in the space. And it’s not just on the weekend or on a holiday, it’s every day. So it’s about creating areas within that same footprint of the house where you can all be together comfortably. So if you’re watching a movie, everybody is comfortable. It’s not ‘Last man in has the worst seat in the house.’”

On the flip side, Leanne advises homeowners to think about creating retreat spaces, as well. Whether your family members recharge over foosball and gaming, pumping iron or a cosy fireside glass of pinot, Leanne advises some effort here. “Create zones where, if you need to go and read a book quietly away from the chaos, there are designated spaces for these activities. Be mindful of making those secondary areas just as comfortable.”

*Continued on page 136*



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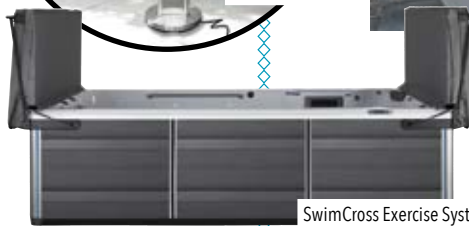
### SOFTNESS

While open-concept areas are wonderful for gathering, with more bodies at home, Leanne says noise and echo have emerged as more pressing issues. This may be felt most keenly in newer homes, she says, where homeowners sometimes have gone “all in on the build but haven’t followed through on the furnishing end yet.”

Solutions, says Leanne, are relatively easy to achieve via some carefully thought-out purchases. She recommends considering foot traffic, product quality and durability of materials before you invest. Beyond that, “It’s about soft furnishings – area rugs, window treatments, drapery panels – adding a dampening layer so when there are six to eight people in the space the sound doesn’t reverberate.”



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### PATIENCE

Finally, while not strictly design advice, industry players all stress the need to fold some patience into our plans right now. On the retail side, Courtney says with hot-ticket items like pools, hot tubs and swim spas, supply has been an issue owing to both incredible consumer demand and to manufacturer delays, so plan ahead.

Overall, Leanne recommends a twofold approach – looking at what you can do now in terms of short-term updates, and then adding some patience and longer timelines around larger projects like renovations. Builders and contractors, she says, are busier than ever. “We’re finding that in these times the building industry has not stopped; it is still swamped. Everyone is still really busy.” **OH**

## Shop here for fabulous furniture and decor on consignment

Just over 11 years ago, devotees of shopping on Ottawa Street in Hamilton, an area that was undergoing a regeneration, heard news of a new retail outlet opening in a former flooring store. Soon, the first Millionaire’s Daughter consignment store, specializing in mid-to-high end furniture and décor, became a reality, with curious customers visiting to find out what services were available, the origin of the name, and to meet the person behind this exciting retail concept.

The name, “The Millionaire’s Daughter” pays homage to the businesses owned and run by Maureen’s parents and family, “The Millionaire Drive-ins”, with their towering neon signs that featured a tuxedoed waiter holding a burger in one hand and a frothy mug of root beer in the other.

When asked recently what prompted the idea of starting a consignment business, Maureen Barnes, the business owner and operator, replied that she had always loved having her own business in the Beaches for 6 years while her kids were young but, later, when travelling for another company and visiting her sister in Calgary, she went to see a consignment store and fell in love with the idea of reused furniture and, most importantly, making everything look beautiful. Since inception and over 11 years, Maureen has built her business from 1 store to 4, expanding to Oakville, Aurora and Kitchener. While maintaining her personal ideals to “work hard”, “treat others kindly” and “love what you do”, she has continued to innovate and provide services that customers and consignors are requesting, as well as stay abreast of the changes in technology and shopping styles and trends.

Whether you’re downsizing, renovating, moving, or just looking to change your interior décor, buying and selling on consignment makes perfect sense! The business goal is to carry a wide variety of furniture pieces and accessories at various price points for the shopping pleasure of any customer. With over 30,000 square feet combined, our expansive showrooms display one-of-a-kind pieces in unique vignettes that are constantly changing. Here you’ll find a fabulous mix of modern and vintage treasures, stunning china, and quality, affordable furniture. Maureen’s favourite saying, “Everything here has its own little story that has been gathered through the years”, exemplifies the heart of the business and Maureen’s life. — Margaret Gregory



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TA Appliances & Barbecues, 11  
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DRAFTSMEN & DESIGN

Janssen Design, 99

ART/ARTISANS/ART GALLERIES/STU-  
DIOS/WORKSHOPS

Kara’s Stained Glass, 25, 116  
Kati Bujna Fine Art Studio, 81  
Kitras Art Glass Inc., 72&73, 114

AUDIO VIDEO/HOME  
AUTOMATION/ELECTRONICS/  
SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

Station Earth Total Home Technologies, 19  
Top Choice Electronics, 135

AWNINGS/TENTS/SHELTERS

Shade Plus, 37

BBQS/GRILLS

TA Appliances & Barbecues, 11

BEDS & BEDDING/MATTRESSES/  
SLEEP PRODUCTS

Covers Canada, 105

BUILDERS

Bellamy Custom Homes, 23  
Dalerose Country Homes, 103  
Dan Clayton Homes, 105  
Grandview, 3  
Homestead Woodworks, 129  
JDC Custom Homes Inc., 115  
ML Quality Contracting, 141  
Northridge Homes, 45, 114  
Revive-a-House Inc., 129  
Rimik Contracting Inc., 24, 117  
Rockhaven Homes, 5  
Rudy Vandenberg Classic Renovations, 21  
Scott Hoegy Building Ltd., 15

BUILDING/LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Arthur Home Hardware, 141  
Elora Home Hardware, 97  
Orangeville Building Supplies, 103  
United Lumber Home Hardware  
Building Centre, 20

CABINETS & MILLWORK/  
CARPENTRY/FINE WOODWORKING/  
CUSTOM FURNITURE

Aeonic Kitchens, 143  
Jacob’s Woodworking, 30&31  
Kurtz Millworks, 115  
Millbank Family Furniture, 107  
Wellington Millwork, 53

CLOTHING/FASHION/FOOTWEAR/  
JEWELRY/LUGGAGE & LEATHER GOODS

Ron Wilkin Jewellers, 18, 117  
Shoe Villa, 17

EAVESTROUGHS/SOFFIT/FASCIA

RMW Exteriors, 133  
Synergy Exteriors, 12&13

EXTERIOR FINISHES/IMPROVEMENTS

JDC Custom Homes Inc., 115  
RMW Exteriors, 133

FABRIC/UPHOLSTERY/CANVAS

Ottomn, 81

FENCING/DECKS/GATES

Endeman’s Ironcraft Custom  
Fabrication, 115, 117  
Postech Grey Bruce, 107

FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Hearth & Leisure, 39

FLOORING

Bigelow Flooring Inc., 101, 116  
BreezeWood Floors Kitchener  
Forest Products, 81

Ceramic Decor, 112&113  
Conway Furniture, 4  
Cover-Ups Carpet & Flooring, 10  
Graham’s & Son Interiors, 23, 59  
Rug & Weave, 37  
Silk Road Persian Rugs & Interiors, 111

FOUNDATIONS

Postech Grey Bruce, 107

FURNITURE & HOME DECOR/  
ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES

Bauhaus Window Coverings &  
Draperies, 8  
Blinds Are Us, 89  
Conway Furniture, 4  
Cornerstone Home Interiors, 40&41  
Expressions On King, 16  
Heer’s Paint & Décor, 16  
HomeBasics, 39  
Karger Gallery, 27  
Kitras Art Glass Inc., 72&73, 114  
Linen & Lore Home, 53, 114  
Original Home Furniture, 47  
Ottomn, 81  
Rug & Weave, 37  
The Chanticleer Shop, 131  
The Millionaire’s Daughter, 137  
The Plumber’s Wife, 10  
The Rusty Star, 61  
Top Choice Electronics, 135

GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/  
NURSERIES

Brock Road Nursery, 99  
LittleTree Garden Market, 131

GLASS/MIRROR & DESIGN/  
GLASS WALLS

Kara’s Stained Glass, 25, 116

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Station Earth Total Home Technologies, 19

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/  
RENOVATIONS

Dalerose Country Homes, 103

Homestead Woodworks, 129  
JDC Custom Homes Inc., 115  
Revive-a-House Inc., 129  
Rockhaven Homes, 5  
Rudy Vandenberg Classic Renovations, 21  
Scott Hoegy Building Ltd., 15  
Synergy Exteriors, 12&13

INTERIOR DECORATING/INTERIOR  
DESIGN/HOME STAGING

Centre Staged Inc., 83  
Christine’s Designs, 99  
Cocoon Interiors, 6&7  
Decorating Den Interiors,  
Ritu Brar Designs, 61  
Decorators Corner, 65  
Expressions On King, 16  
Graham’s & Son Interiors, 23, 59  
Habermehl Design Group, 37  
Heer’s Paint & Décor, 16  
Suzanne Tait Interior Design, 127  
The Frugal Decorator, 24  
Toman Interiors, 81  
West River Design, 53  
Xanadu Fine Cabinetry  
and Interiors, 43

IRON WORK/METAL WORK

Endeman’s Ironcraft Custom  
Fabrication, 115, 117

KITCHEN & BATH

Aeonic Kitchens, 143  
Arthur Home Hardware, 141  
Bath Fitter, 59, 114  
Choice Cabinet Canada, 95  
Elora Home Hardware, 97  
Graham’s & Son Interiors, 23, 59  
Jacob’s Woodworking, 30&31  
Kitchen Revival, 33  
N-Hance Waterloo, 63  
Paragon Kitchens, 2  
Sutcliffe Kitchens and Renovations, 9  
The Plumber’s Wife, 10  
Toman Interiors, 81  
Wellington Millwork, 53  
Xanadu Fine Cabinetry  
and Interiors, 43

KITCHENWARE/RESTAURANT SUPPLY

Grand Gourmet, 99

LANDSCAPE DESIGN &  
ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPING/  
LAWN & GARDEN

Canopy Farms Ltd., 65, 116  
Creo Concepts Inc., 93

LIGHTING

Chatelaine Lighting, 63

MACHINERY/SMALL EQUIPMENT/  
FARM SUPPLIES

Stoltz Sales and Service, 20

NEW HOME COMMUNITIES

Hillside Towns – Dan Clayton Homes, 105  
Mountaincroft – Grandview Homes, 3  
Northridge Homes, 45, 114

OUTDOOR FURNITURE/STRUCTURES

Linen & Lore Home, 53, 114

PAINTING & DECORATING

Arthur Home Hardware, 141  
Bayley’s Decorating Centre, 16  
Benjamin Moore, 16  
Elora Home Hardware, 97  
Expressions On King, 16  
Galt Paint & Paper Co., 16  
Heer’s Paint & Décor, 16  
Refined Painting, 115  
Riverbank Interiors, 16

PEST CONTROL

Environmental Pest Control, 115, 116

PLUMBING

Bath Fitter, 59, 114

POOLS/HOT TUBS/SAUNAS/SPAS

D&D Pools & Spas, 131

REAL ESTATE

Coldwell Banker Neumann  
Real Estate – Andra Arnold, 101

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Real Estate – John Leacock, 67  
Home Group Realty, 61  
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Angela Berriman, 95  
Royal Lepage Royal City Realty, 14

ROOFING

Reuter Roofing, 144  
Synergy Exteriors, 12&13

STAIRS/RAILINGS

Railmaster Stairways Ltd., 39  
Stair Rite, 103

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Ceramic Decor, 112&113

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BreezeWood Floors Kitchener  
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Blinds Are Us, 89  
Covers Canada, 105  
Graham’s & Son Interiors, 23, 59

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Cedarport Window &  
Door Centre Inc., 17  
George’s Windows and Doors Ltd, 65  
Golden Windows, 83  
Hartmann Windows and Doors, 22  
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# Spicy DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

These double chocolate cookies have a little secret – a kick of cayenne, cinnamon and ginger. A yummy addition to your cookie exchange or holiday dessert table.

online

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## INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cocoa powder
- ¾ tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips

## DIRECTIONS

Mix together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt in a bowl.

In a stand mixer, beat together butter and sugars.

Add eggs one at a time until combined.

Add dry ingredients in two portions on low speed, mixing until combined.

Add chocolate chips and mix – the dough will be thick.

Chill dough in fridge for at least 12 hours, or up to 72 hours.

When ready to bake, scoop 2-inch balls and bake at 375°F for 12-14 minutes. **OH**



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