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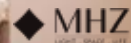
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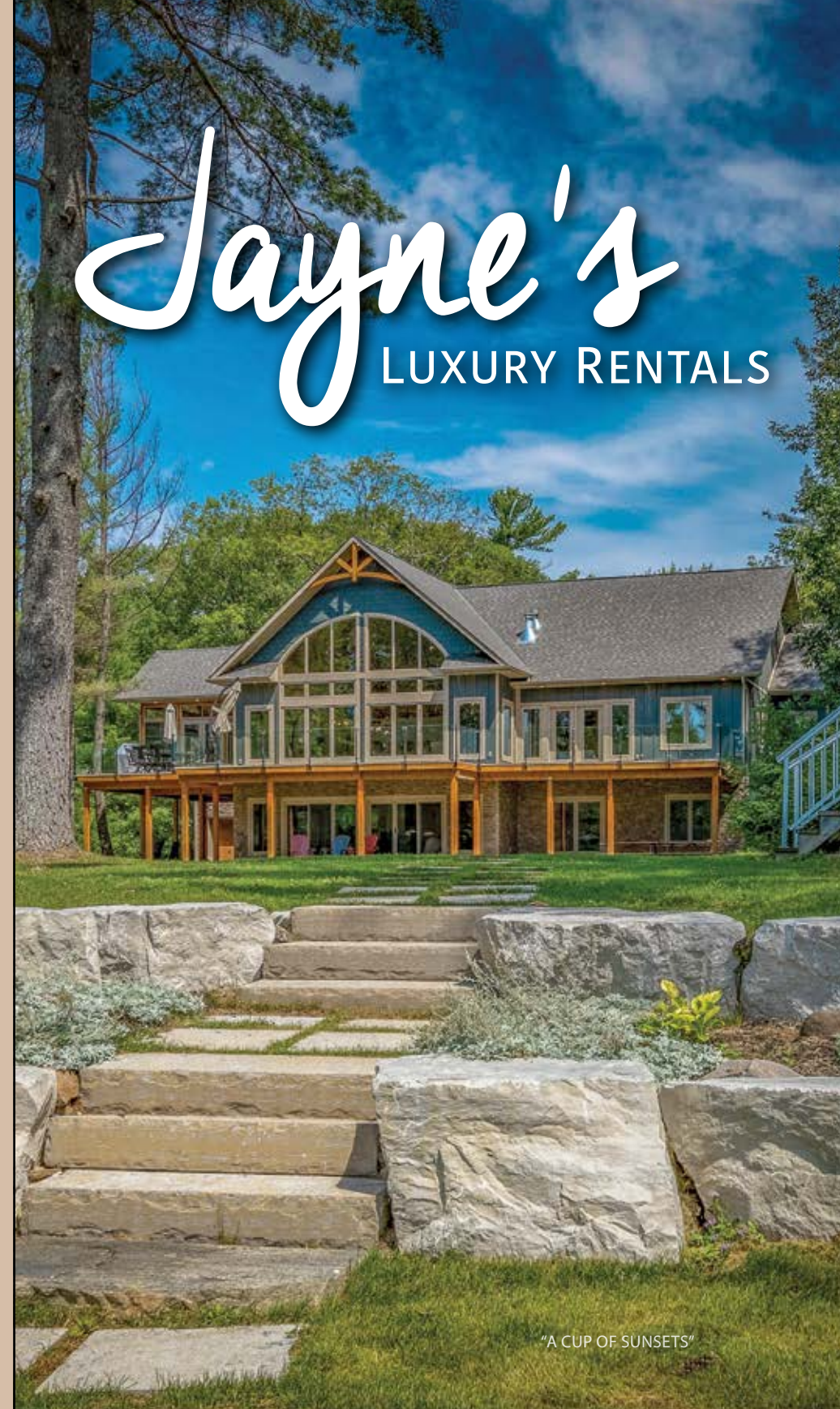
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dwelling place

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE WORD DWELL. As much as it describes living or staying in a specific setting, it's also defined as continuing in a condition or state of being. It's a polysemy that seems to perfectly encompass the human reality for the last 12 months: We've been dwelling.

What that looks like from day to day can differ greatly from one person to the next, but my hope is that your experience has included many moments of peace, reflection and joy. Having the opportunity to be "safe at home" is a gift for so many reasons, and simply having a comfortable, warm and inviting space to ride out these uncertain days is something to be incredibly grateful for.

In my house, this season of dwelling has brought with it a rollercoaster of emotions. What began in mid-March as a time of fun, discovery and opportunity eventually morphed into a weeks-long season of loneliness for my three young and very social sons. Thankfully, the arrival of warm summer months and ensuing opportunities for sports, swimming and camping adventures brought a level of normalcy back to our lives. The lockdown in late December – along with a return to online learning – seemed much more difficult to navigate the second time around.

While I'm thankful to have turned the page on that moment in time and am grateful to be inching toward a return to "normal" with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, I'm hopeful that society as a whole will choose to carry lessons learned during this season forward. Among my biggest takeaways: Time spent with loved ones is so very precious and should never be taken for granted, a busy life does not necessarily equate to a happy one, and thinking of yourself less while prioritizing the well-being of others more should be a given. Oh, and hugs? Highly underrated.

Liz Bruckner

Liz Bruckner, *Managing Editor*
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CONTENTS

SPRING 2021



52



28



32

ON THE COVER

As striking on the exterior as it is on the interior, this Eagle Lake cottage is all the owners imagined it would be. Story, page 32. Photography by Harold Clark.



48



22

LOCAL FEATURES

- 22 Style Picks** Dial up your style with these local standouts.
- 32 Feature Home** A feast for the eyes, this Eagle Lake cottage effortlessly blends natural materials and clean lines.
- 48 Spotlight** With more than 50 years of experience, Floortrends is a must-visit for your flooring needs.
- 52 Home & Builder** An Otonabee River gem, this renovated home is bright, inviting and modern.
- 62 People & Places** Local owners discuss 2020's trends and what they foresee in 2021.
- 72 Spotlight** Kitchen Cabinet Solutions offers an abundance of modern and traditional designs and materials for the heart of your home.
- 74 Model Home Tour** New Amherst Homes' Live-Work unit offers high style and space to spare.

DEPARTMENTS

- 14 Editor's Note**
- 20 Advice** Elements Survival
- 24 Design Ideas** Colour Trends
- 28 Good Taste** Elderflower Fig Cocktail
- 30 Double Take** Powder Room
- 44 Gardening** Direct-Seeding Success
- 68 Real Estate** This Year's Forecast
- 88 Focus** Pantone's 2021 Colour
- 90 Design Ideas** Material World
- 94 Home Resource Directory**
- 96 Cooking At Home** Caramelized Peaches
- 98 Finishing Touch** Black & Gold

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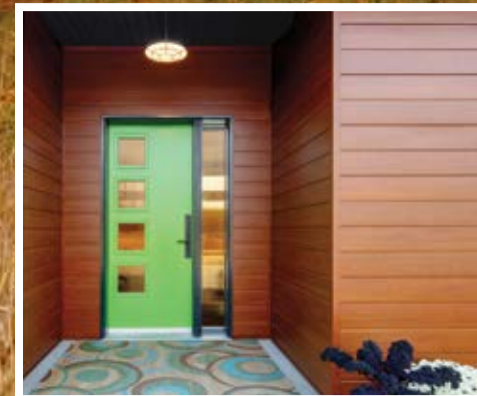


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Interior Designer Dolores Pian shares her ideas.

SURVIVING THE ELEMENTS

The great outdoors: Whether we experience it on a tiny balcony, a cosy deck or a big backyard, we all want to get out to enjoy warmer temperatures. While it's lovely to lounge, linger and live outdoors, you need to know Mother Nature is cruel towards materials. The scorching sun, with temperatures that go up and down, along with the wind, rain and water are all challenging to materials, natural or man-made.

To navigate the dos and don'ts for your outdoor life experience, first, ask yourself, "How much time do I want to devote to maintenance?" A bit of research will make your lounge time more enjoyable.

CABINETS AND FURNITURE – MAINTENANCE 101

- ☀ Most products are made of plastic, wood, aluminum or wicker, and each material has its own set of positives and negatives.
- ☀ Take time to read and follow manufacturers' instructions to clean and maintain any products. It'll make your life easier in the short and long run.
- ☀ Corrosion- and weather-resistant means the finish protects materials. It is not waterproof.
- ☀ UV-stable and light fastness is a stabilizer added to protect from deterioration or fading in the sun.
- ☀ Fire, heat and impact-resistant materials are easy to clean and non-corrosive. The most practical is stainless steel.
- ☀ The easiest solution is to cover your furniture and place in storage when not in use.

WANT SUSTAINABLE PATIO FURNITURE?

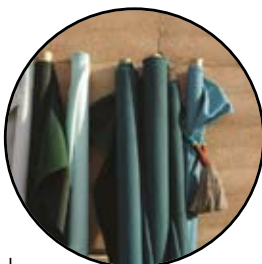
Look for recycled plastic, reclaimed wood or FSC-certified wood. Teak is well known for durability, beauty and strength and is popular on ships.



CABANACOAST: Landing Deep Seating in Umber

FABRICS

Cushions and fabrics make outdoor lounging comfy. Make sure fabrics are breathable and UV, water, mildew and stain-resistant. Most people are familiar with Sunbrella fabric for its durability and soft feel. Power-washing is not recommended as it can ruin the seams of the cushions.



SHADES AND CANOPIES

Extend your outdoor stay in a natural way to keep cool, protect yourself from UV rays and reduce the premature ageing of wood and fabric. Add a fan for ultimate breezy coolness.

FLOORING

What's under your feet needs to be practical, beautiful and long-wearing. First, take an inventory of the area you want to cover. Assess conditions such as drainage, holes made by animals, soil type and exposure to sun and rain. This will determine what materials you'll need to use. Flooring options include:

Wood: It's versatile. Redwood and cedar have a natural resistance to rot and the elements. Other woods require sealants.

Stone: Natural and durable. Includes granite, slate and marble and still requires care. Dark stones absorb the heat and will scorch your tender tootsies.

Brick and permeable concrete pavers: Great hardscape options for eco-friendly patios and walkways.

Tile: Porcelain tiles can mimic the look of other materials, including wood and stone, all while being durable and budget-friendly.

Rubber paving stones and recycled plastic: Helps divert waste from landfills. Resilient, durable, slip resistant and shock absorbent – a favourite around pools and kids' playgrounds.

Composite Decking: Wood fibres encased in plastic and binding agents. Low-maintenance, easy to install with a multitude of great traits. Very popular despite higher cost of materials.

Carpets: Makes the outdoors homelike. The synthetics are easy to clean, and are mould, mildew and stain-resistant. Many are made of recycled materials.

Artificial Grass: It's not the real thing, but it is easy to install and long-lasting. You do need to vacuum it.

NOTE: Make sure your flooring has a matte or non-slip finish. Shiny surfaces are hazardous around water and in the winter.



HINKLEY: Hardy Island Round Side-Mount LED Path Light

Finally, your evening outdoor stay is more enjoyable when you light things up! Make sure any fixture you use is wet-rated. Safety first. **OH**

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1 BACK 40 DESIGNS PTBO

Boho Felt Hanger

Handcrafted by Pretty Little Felts, a Peterborough-based maker, this fun piece is simple, symmetric and full of texture. "I would use this when designing a little girl's bedroom at home or at the cottage. We all need a little more whimsy these days, right?" says Back 40's owner, Jenny Pink.

3084 Base Line, Keene
705.872.7424 | back40designsptbo.com

2 LUKE'S FOR HOME

Chair

An ideal mix of modern comfort and style, this Decor-Rest chair is available in a plethora of fabric, leather and metal/wood finishes, and features a next-level cushiony 2.5-pound foam seat. We love the dark finish on the metal frame.

207 Queen St., Port Perry
905.985.3011 | lukes.ca

3 CORNERSTONE FURNISHINGS

Dresser

This modern and solid Mako eight-drawer pine dresser not only features deep drawers for maximum storage, but its neutral finishing shade (Robina Sand) ensures it will stylishly meld with any décor setting.

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705.887.2521 | homefurniture.ca/store/20034

4 KENNEDY'S APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

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5 BENJAMIN MOORE

Paint

Oxford White, Gray Owl and Woodlawn Blue – a trifecta of calming yet trending hues. These shades will look lovely on kitchen cabinets, walls, handpainted accessories and on home and cottage exteriors.

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6 BRITISH EMPIRE FUELS

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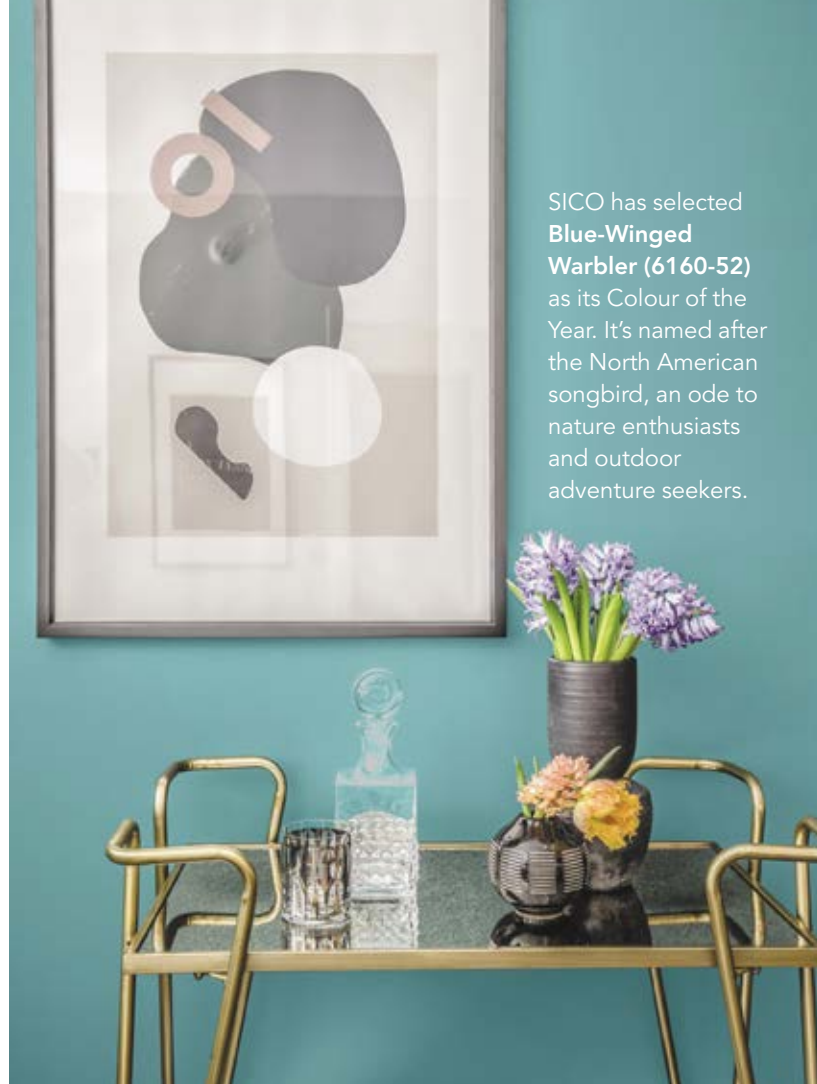
design ideas

COLOUR TRENDS

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**



It's a blue year for interior design. Major paint brands have picked their top paint colours, and blues are trending for your walls and home accessories.



SICO has selected **Blue-Winged Warbler (6160-52)** as its Colour of the Year. It's named after the North American songbird, an ode to nature enthusiasts and outdoor adventure seekers.

THIS YEAR'S COLOURS ARE OPTIMISTIC AND PLAY TO OUR OVERWHELMING NEED FOR COMFORT AT HOME.

THE BLUES



Beuti-Tone Paint has selected **Dancing in the Rain (C20-5-0644-0)**, a pastel blue. "It's a blue we can relax in while feeling as though we are in a calm and tranquil environment," says Kristen Gear, Beuti-Tone's lead colour designer.



Aqua Fiesta (PPG1147-4), a vibrant blue-green, is Glidden's first-ever accent colour of the year. It's a bright refreshing aquamarine that will make a splash in small doses, perhaps on millwork or an accent wall. *Continued on page 26*

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Benjamin Moore says its colour, **Aegean Teal (2136-40)**, will help create natural harmony in your home. The company calls the colour "intriguing, balanced and deeply soothing." Imagine this colour on your kitchen cabinets.



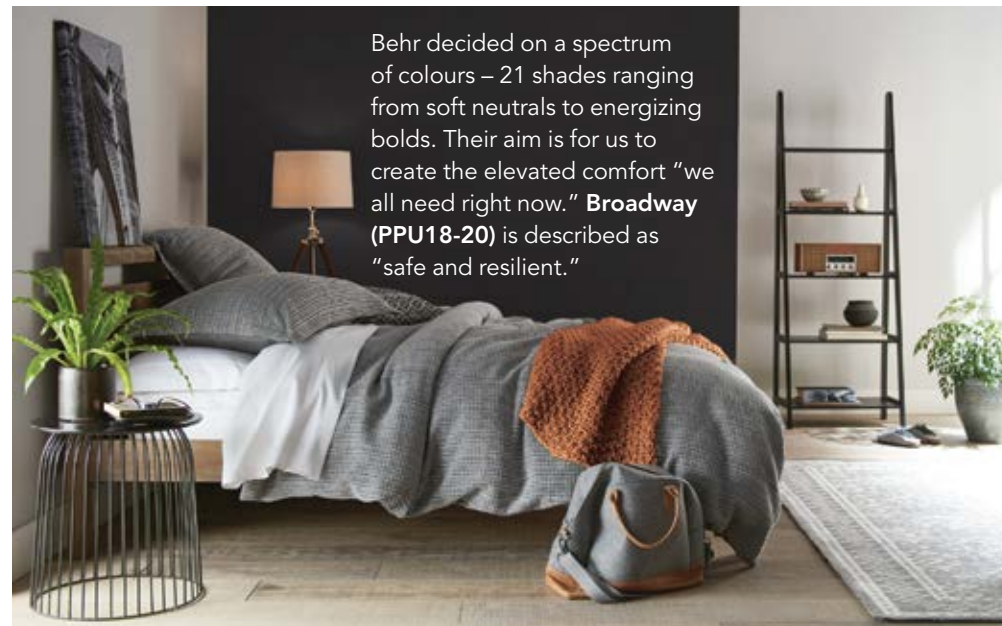
BACK TO NATURE

While blues dominate, our natural surroundings also inspire colour.



Urbane Bronze (SW 7048), the top pick from Sherwin Williams, is a warm hue the company says will help you create "the ultimate retreat for reflection and renewal," and "a sense of calm from the ground up." It's perfect for window trims or accent walls.

MOVING AWAY FROM GREY



Behr decided on a spectrum of colours – 21 shades ranging from soft neutrals to energizing bolds. Their aim is for us to create the elevated comfort "we all need right now." **Broadway (PPU18-20)** is described as "safe and resilient."



Valspar's colour experts unveiled 12 "fresh and familiar colours" that are on-trend now and are "easy to love forever." One of our top picks from this collection is **Soft Candlelight (3005-6C)**.



Farrow & Ball has selected 12 shades for its 2021 colour trends, mostly earthy neutrals and natural colours. The company says its selections reflect "a broader trend toward warm, organic colours and away from cool greys and blues." We like **Green Smoke No.47**. **OH**

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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

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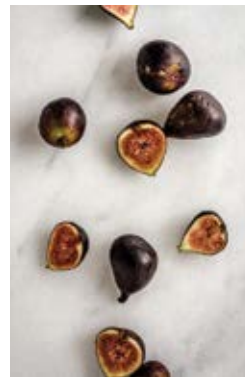
INGREDIENTS

FIG SYRUP

- 1 cup figs, diced
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup water

COCKTAIL

- 1.5 ounces gin
- 1.5 ounces elderflower liqueur
- 2 ounces lemon juice
- 1 ounce fig syrup
- 1 ounce egg white, pasteurized
- Garnish: edible flowers (optional)



HOW-TO

FIG SYRUP

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and simmer for 10-15 minutes.

Remove from heat and cool for 30 minutes.

Strain with a fine mesh strainer and store in fridge.

PREPARE COCKTAIL

Chill glassware of choice.

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker and add ice. Shake until chilled then strain.

Garnish with edible flowers. **OH**



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double take

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10



7

8

9

1. **RENWIL:** Coburg Mirror 2. **Z-LITE:** Mila Wall Sconce in Rubbed Brass 3. **POKOLOKO:** Leo Terry Hand Towel 4. **CREATIONS BY ALNO, INC.:** Acrylic Contemporary Towel Bar in Polished Brass 5. **YORK WALLCOVERINGS:** Branches Unpasted Wallpaper 6. **CROWN SURFACE SOLUTIONS:** Chinoiserie Cherry Blossom Wallpaper 7. **SALTILLO TILE:** Combined Hexagon Thassos Carrara 8. **CASA ROMA TILE:** Geoshapes - Ice (7x8 Hexagon with Frame) 9. **CREATIONS BY ALNO, INC.:** Acrylic Contemporary Single Post Tissue Holder in Polished Brass 10. **JAMES MARTIN:** Brittany 36" Single Bathroom Vanity in Urban Gray. **OH**



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GREAT FLOW AND STREAMLINED STYLE MAKE THIS EAGLE LAKE HOME A WARM AND MODERN RETREAT.

Continued on page 32

STORY **LIZ BRUCKNER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**

A view from below: This modern family getaway is a snapshot of design sophistication at any angle. **TOP RIGHT:** Quite possibly the perfect place to settle in with a good book and listen to the waves lap.

With wood and stone finishes that echo the cottage's surroundings, the couple says the mix of materials creates the welcoming, relaxing effect they intended. The stunning fireplace/oversize metal clock combo adds presence while furniture from Restoration Hardware layers the room with comfort.



Darren Shale and Melissa McCale always assumed that when the time came to purchase a cottage, they'd end up in Muskoka. When the couple eventually began their search for a property there in 2013, they felt disheartened when their years-long efforts yielded dismal results. "Our kids like to remind us that we were never satisfied with any of the places we saw in Muskoka," Darren says.

It wasn't until a friend suggested the couple discuss their property wish list with **Andrew Hodgson**, a Haliburton-based real estate agent with Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd., that they even considered looking outside of their preferred area. "We met with Andrew and instantly felt like he understood what we wanted," Melissa says. "We toured many of the lakes in the area by boat and saw more than a few great properties, but it wasn't until we saw the topography of what is now our plot of land that we found a fit, despite the fact that it was in very rough shape when we initially visited." Hodgson encouraged the couple to wait for the land to become available, and when it did in June 2015, they quickly jumped to purchase it. *Continued on page 39*



ABOVE: Open and airy, the cottage's front entrance area beautifully channels a rustic-modern vibe with its barnboard feature wall, shiplap walls and ceilings and its contemporary staircase design. **BELOW:** An oversize sectional, a plethora of family games and a telescope for serious skywatchers make this space a hub for the family.





"It's where we congregate and create," says Melissa. "It's the culmination of so many design and décor ideas, and we absolutely love spending time in this space."



“WHAT SOLD US WAS ITS EXTENDED WATER VIEW AND ITS HISTORY.”
-Darren Shale

“What sold us was its extended water view and its history – the property was littered with countless shingles, tree hooks, bottles and pieces of broken glass, along with a rustic two-log boat launch,” laughs Darren. “We knew it would be a spectacular cottage setting but we needed an architect with vision to make our brainchild come to life.” They found one in **Gary Stein** of **Gary Stein Architects**.

Following months of discussions and drawing iterations, the cottage build began in November of 2015. “We wanted a five-bedroom home with two mini-wings on each side of the main cottage area, and we wanted it to feel airy, open and bright throughout,” says Melissa. “Dark wood finishes are too cabin-like for me, so we were purposeful about incorporating shiplap to create a warm, cosy but bright feel. We also ensured that there were many windows throughout the space so that a feeling of the outdoors coming indoors was created.” *Continued on page 40*



LEFT: With heated floors, hurricane blinds and warmth-infusing furniture, this three-season room is an idyllic spot to rest and recharge. **BELOW:** The couple keeps the upstairs hallway minimalist chic with the inclusion of an oversize linen catch-all.





This mindful inclusion of nature is apparent throughout the home, from the poplar-wrapped living room walls and stone-clad fireplace surrounds, to the home's stunning barnboard feature walls and showstopping mixed-texture kitchen. Designed by **Sandy Sillaots** of **Hickory Lane Kitchens**, the kitchen features a tasteful combination of white Shaker-style cabinets with dark leathered-finish counters from **Delray Granite**, a hammered-stone apron-front sink with black hardware and iron/glass light fixtures

throughout. The space is punctuated by exposed wood beams while a complementing barnboard ceiling highlights the dramatic and spacious skylighted area above.

"What we love about this room is that from any angle, every sight line is amazing," says Melissa. "We had a vision and Sandy listened and delivered. We played around with a lot of initial ideas and she let us know what would work and what might not, which we appreciated so much. All of that dialogue has resulted in a space we absolutely love."

Continued on page 42

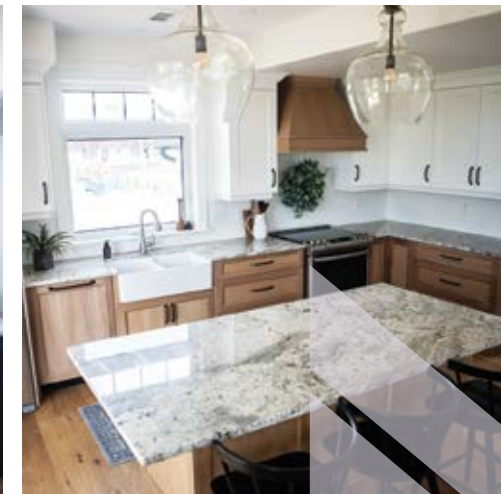


ABOVE: The principal bedroom is layered in soft textures and fabrics that pop against the black metal bed and window frames. "To spend nights here and wake up to this view makes us so happy," Melissa says.

LEFT: "We love the finishes in this bathroom, from the tiles to the vanity to the shower fixtures and bathtub. It's spacious and functional, and we designed it with our current and future grandchildren in mind." Darren says.



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ABOVE: A guest space with room to spare, these bunk beds were custom-made by Mennonite craftsmen and add visual interest without busyness. **TOP RIGHT:** Natural light is abundant in this calming, minimalistic guest room. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The sun shines in on this serene, stylish, clutter-free space.



The couple chose to mirror these much-loved finishes in their pantry. “We wanted it to look like an extension of the kitchen and not anything close to a typical pantry,” Darren says. They also chose to style the rest of the cottage with a similar organized yet relaxed vibe.

Throughout the home, carefully chosen pieces of furniture and accessories from Restoration Hardware inject doses of casual cool while lighting fixtures and area rugs from **Blue Ocean Lighthouse** infuse personality and warmth.

“Everything that’s been added to this cottage has been handpicked and is here because we love it,” Melissa says. “It’s where we want to be, and we spend as much time as we possibly can here. Before COVID, we would aim to come for one weekend each month in winter months, and as often as we could for extended periods of time in the summer. Now we try to be here as often as we’re able because it’s become a respite for us. We can’t imagine not having this beautiful space to enjoy with our family.” **OH**



“EVERYTHING THAT’S BEEN ADDED TO THIS COTTAGE HAS BEEN HANDPICKED AND IS HERE BECAUSE WE LOVE IT.”

-Melissa McCale



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Sow EASY

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY MELANIE REKOLA

2020 was a wild year that brought so many challenges – some were utterly heartbreaking and others were just plain annoying. The lack of availability of items we take for granted was frustrating, including plants. Many garden favourites just weren't attainable. Seed-sowing to the rescue!



Most garden seeds (both flowers and veggies) are readily available online and at your local nursery, often in varieties you might otherwise never find. Plus, growing plants from seed is an inexpensive, fun and rewarding process. Most seeds can be started indoors earlier in the growing season but for this piece I'm focusing on the direct sowing method because it's terrifically simple. Direct seeding/sowing means to plant seed directly in the garden. Sounds easy doesn't it? That's because it is!

Unlike their inside-grow counterparts, seeds that have been grown in place don't experience the stress of transplanting and won't need to adjust to their new surroundings. Often you won't lose any time at all direct-sowing and I learned this (again) firsthand during last year's growing season when a friend gifted me a variety of veggie seeds in June. With no time to start indoors I had no choice but to direct-sow them. To my surprise, many of these sown-in-place seedlings grew better and produced more than the ones I started inside the previous months.

Continued on page 46

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.

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TIPS FOR SEEDING SUCCESS

Though direct-sowing is easy, it doesn't mean your new plant babies won't need care. Follow these tips for the best direct-seeding success:

- Make sure to clear your seeding area of any weeds and have the soil loose, damp and ready for planting.
- Most of the specific sowing info per plant variety is found on the seed packet. Please read carefully. The rule of thumb is to plant a seed three times as deep as its circumference, but some require light or a cold stratification to germinate. Also keep in mind that when to sow is equally important, as some seedlings are frost-hardy and some are not.
- Mark your spot. It's really easy to forget where you planted seeds once springtime growth is in full swing.
- Water your seeds gently as needed until you see germination, then again whenever you see the soil surface looking a bit dry. Watch the weather and adjust your watering. Schedule accordingly as seedlings can easily die from drought or drowning at this delicate stage.
- If you have a good germination rate, you may need to thin your seedlings to give them airflow and room to grow. I find it's better to pinch the unwanted seedlings off at the base because pulling them disturbs their delicate, young root systems. If the unwanted seedlings are edible plants you can eat them, too.

- Keep watching and caring for your new brood until they're established plants, and always be on the lookout for pests and predators. Some insects love to snack on and decimate defenseless seedlings.

MELANIE'S PLANT PICKS

Annual flowers, vegetables, and even some perennials are great candidates for direct-sowing. Some plants even seed themselves for subsequent years. Here is my list of favourites, but please don't let it limit you. There are many others that will work.



THE EDIBLES

Beans, salad greens, parsley, basil, dill, borage, cilantro, fennel, beets, carrots, peas and radish.

BLOOMS-FOR-DAYS ANNUALS

Cosmos, zinnia, calendula, sunflowers, nasturtium, nigella, bachelor buttons, california poppies, morning glory and moonflower.



DEPENDABLE PERENNIALS/BIENNIALS

Foxglove, blue flax, black eyed susans, milkweed, butterfly weed, columbine and lupine.



PRO TIP: After your seed garden is well established, don't forget to sow succession crops of both flowers and veggies to keep those beautiful blossoms and edibles coming all season long. You can even save some seeds at the end of the season for next year.

Lessons learned? Direct sowing is a little bit risky and patience-building but also incredibly easy and inexpensive. Which method will you choose this gardening season? **OH**

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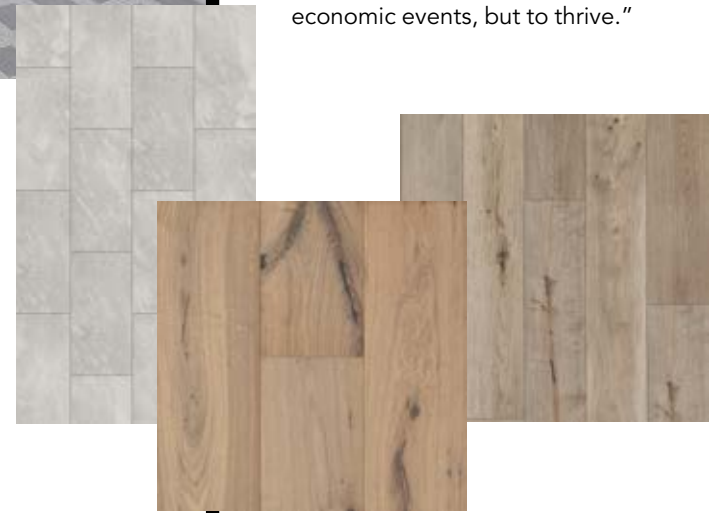


THE STYLE

Known for their selection, size, buying power and commercial department, Floortrends has also gained notoriety for Muskoka – their exclusive brand that they import and distribute. “We offer a vast variety of options for everything from a small backsplash or set of stairs to an entire house, tract home, condo, apartment and more,” Jessica says. “The diversity of products and services we offer has been a large factor in our success, and has helped us to not only survive in difficult economic events, but to thrive.”

THE TREND

Extra-wide and long luxury vinyl planks that mimic popular engineered hardwoods are having a moment, particularly when they’re finished with natural European oak or a very light stain. Geometric and colourful tiles are also trending as people move away from grey and neutral basics, and carpet is back! The demand for patterns, colours and higher-quality products made from quality nylons and wools is booming.



THE PLACE

Floortrends has come a long way since its inception. Established as Kawartha Carpet & Tile in 1967, the brand has experienced exponential growth over the years, and in addition to their flagship Peterborough store, there are now locations in Belleville, Bowmanville, Cobourg and Lindsay. “Our slogan is: *We make homes so good to come home to* and that really is our goal,” says sales and estimating manager Jessica Arscott. “We strive to be on the cutting edge in our industry, from the products in our showrooms to installation techniques and warranties. Our mission is to not only be a leader in these areas, but also to drive the entire industry forward, as well.”

THE FUTURE

“Floortrends is one of the largest flooring operations in Canada, being one of only two Canadian retailers invited to the exclusive National Floorcovering Alliance,” Jessica says. “We are truly a homegrown success story and we’ve been fortunate to have both staff and customers with us for over 30 years. We look forward to at least 30 more.” **OH**

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FROM THE **FLOOR UP**

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Country living is very close to my heart. Growing up on a working farm I have a great appreciation for the love of harvesting your own, 'doing down' veggies for the freezer, making jam in the hottest days of summer, cherishing that pickling recipe passed down from Great Gram.

It was such a delight for me to help create this dream kitchen with a separate canning kitchen for a truly creative client, the kind of person that takes farm life and pickling to an all new level.

The main kitchen is a phenomenal working space in its own right. Two ranges sit side-by-side, each with their own specific purpose. A large fridge/freezer clad in barnboard-like panelling with solid brass pulls sits front and centre, so farm-like, yet so elegant. The canning kitchen is just around the corner. With a 50" sink, specialty dishwasher for sterilizing, rolling carts for jars, it must be a dream to work in. I do have first-hand knowledge that the goodies created in this space are simply delish!

You can see more of this remarkable farmhouse kitchen on instagram.



Sandy Sillaots
Designer/Owner

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Bright white cabinets impart a fresh, clean look while the blue island, contemporary countertops, modern light fixtures and adjustable stools enhance the area with style. The abundance of natural light makes this an ideal spot to savour the afternoon sun. **OPPOSITE:** Peter Telford of Hawthorn Creek Building Co., homeowners Cathy and Shawn Brown, and Warren Rose of Monaghan Lumber Specialties.

Pretty & Peaceful

STORY **LIZ BRUCKNER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**
FLORALS **MISS GROVE & CO.**

A once dark and closed-off Otonabee River home gets a major style upgrade.

Some people purchase a waterside property to get away from the frantic pace of city living. Not so with Shawn and Cathy Brown. The couple was content to reside in the bustling Toronto community they formerly called home until a serious accident caused them to seek out quieter surroundings.

“Shawn suffered a significant injury in 2017 while we were vacationing in Ireland, and after he arrived home following a months-long hospital stay, our noisy downtown Toronto condo was no longer an ideal setting for us,”

Cathy says. “We decided that we wanted a place on water to help manage the ongoing effects of the accident, and since Shawn grew up in Peterborough and still has family in the area, the Kawarthas were our first choice when it came to relocating.”

In July of 2018, after finding and purchasing the Otonabee River house they now call home, the couple began the process of reimagining the dark, segmented space. “We loved the quiet location and knew that the house had great potential, but we were also very aware

Continued on page 56



“We wanted a home that felt comfortable and modern yet cosy and traditional, and we couldn’t be happier with the tranquil, lakeside feeling that’s been created here.” - Cathy Brown



Mixing furniture from their Toronto condo with pieces purchased locally, the Browns have created a dining area that feels both cosy and modern. “I particularly love the tall, wooden stand in this space because it belonged to my grandfather, who brought it on the RMS Carpathia many decades ago,” says Cathy.



Handcrafted by two Parry Sound artists, this stunning stained-glass feature simultaneously adds interest and privacy.

that it would require extensive renovations,” Cathy says. That’s where **Peter Telford** of **Hawthorn Creek Building Co.** stepped in. Having worked with him at their previous homes in the GTA, the couple was thrilled when Peter, now based in Peterborough, agreed to take on the challenge of rebuilding this home.

“Having him onboard was a relief because we knew he was capable of managing all the moving parts associated with this type of project, and that he would create a space that would not only work for our current requirements, but also for our eventual transition into

Continued on page 58



“Sitting here and looking at the backyard now versus when we first saw this decrepit space seems like a night-and-day difference,” says Shawn. “The home is all we hoped for and this view is one of the best parts of it.” **ABOVE LEFT:** A hardworking space that’s also stylish, this entryway features an impressive fixture from Lockside Trading Company.



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ABOVE LEFT: The home's principal bedroom is a haven of calm for the couple, with natural light enhancing the serenity of the space. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Functional with decorative touches, this bathroom checks all the boxes. **RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT:** Additional bedrooms for guests and the couple's children are bright, pretty and polished.

retirement," she says. "He immediately saw the vision we had and started to put processes in place to make the transformation happen."

Those processes involved a complete overhaul of the 850 sq. ft. main floor, as well as the 750 sq. ft. basement. Peter and his team, along with insight from architectural designer **Bobbie-Jo Sundstrum** of **Hideaway Homes**, began by pulling out half of the centre support wall and framing a vaulted ceiling in the home's main-floor living areas. Once complete, they tackled the next sizeable renovation on the agenda: removing one of three original tiny bedrooms on the main floor and allotting its space to the principal bedroom and open-concept living areas. "This change alone completely altered the flow of the home," says Shawn. "The footprint makes so much more sense now."

Throughout the myriad renovations in the home – almost every square inch was updated,

Continued on page 60

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A light-filled, welcoming room, this recreational area features furniture from Lockside Trading Company and Knock on Wood, and a chic fireplace from Fires Alive.

from all new mechanicals and spray-foam insulation to a new roof and bright, custom-designed **Cabinetree** kitchen – the couple mindfully chose as many materials, suppliers and businesses from the Kawarthas as possible. Among the contributors: **Kingdon Timbermart**, which provided timbers and building supplies, **FCI Windows and Doors**, which supplied the home’s new windows and front door, and **Monaghan Lumber Specialties**, which provided interior doors, hardwood and vinyl flooring, trim and mouldings. They also supplied tile for the foyer and main bathroom, the lumber and rails for the deck,

as well as the home’s exterior board-and-batten siding.

By the time Shawn and Cathy were ready to move in last March, their home on the water had been completely transformed.

“We love how it’s all come together, how seamlessly we’ve transitioned to living in Peterborough, how warmly welcomed we’ve been by our wonderful neighbours – all of it,” Cathy says. “We wanted a home that felt comfortable and modern yet cosy and traditional, and we couldn’t be happier with the tranquil, lakeside feeling that’s been created here. It’s our ideal home, now and for the future.” **OH**

“This is one of our favourite views of the property,” says Cathy. “We love the contrast of the blue siding and wood deck, combined with the stone finishings.”



“This is the other favourite view,” she laughs. “It’s amazing to live so close to the water and to be able to enjoy all the activities that come with it.”



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PHOTOGRAPHY **LIZ BRUCKNER**

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IN DEMAND

"It's a toss-up between wall treatments like shiplap, V-joint panelling, frame-and-panel and similar items, and engineered, wide plank and medium-toned, character-rich hardwood flooring," Warren Rose says.



**Warren
Rose**

PHOTOS: HAROLD CLARK



LOOKING AHEAD

If 2021 is anything like its predecessor, the Monaghan Lumber Specialties team anticipates there will be a continual focus on beautifying home and cottage floors and walls with a variety of materials and finishes.

Continued on page 64



AVANT-GARDEN SHOP

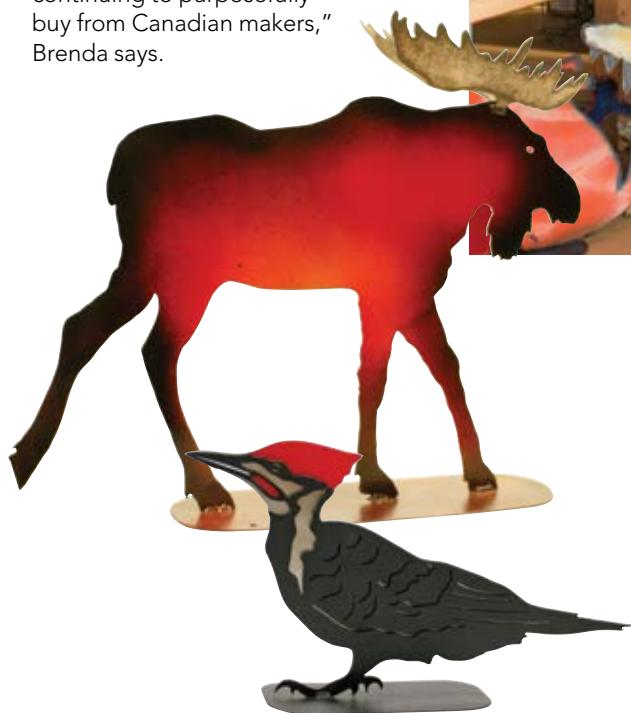
Established in 2002, this gem in the heart of downtown Peterborough offers an alluring selection of functional and decorative items to enhance your outdoor-living and gift-giving experience. “My hope is that everyone visiting is impressed by the variety of local and Canadian-made items we carry,” says owner Brenda Ibey. “There’s incredible talent in this country and I love highlighting the offerings we have nationally and closer to home.”



Brenda Ibey

OH, CANADA!

“People are thankfully looking to support local stores and artists, and I anticipate that this year will see shoppers continuing to purposefully buy from Canadian makers,” Brenda says.



IN DEMAND

There’s been a huge surge of interest in bird feeders, bird food, bird poles, puzzles and cosy socks since the arrival of COVID-19. “People are home and they want to make their time as enjoyable as possible.”



Continued on page 66

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Larry & Melanie Sine

IN DEMAND

"The most popular products of 2020 were luxury vinyl plank and luxury vinyl tile because they offer the ideal combination of durability, style and comfort wherever they're placed," says Melanie Sine.



TRENDS FOR 2021

The focus on home renos seemed to hit a fever pitch last year, and Larry and Melanie suspect 2021 will encourage more of the same. "We anticipate that DIY jobs throughout the home will continue to be a big trend, and we have the flooring and window covering products needed to beautify any space." **OH**



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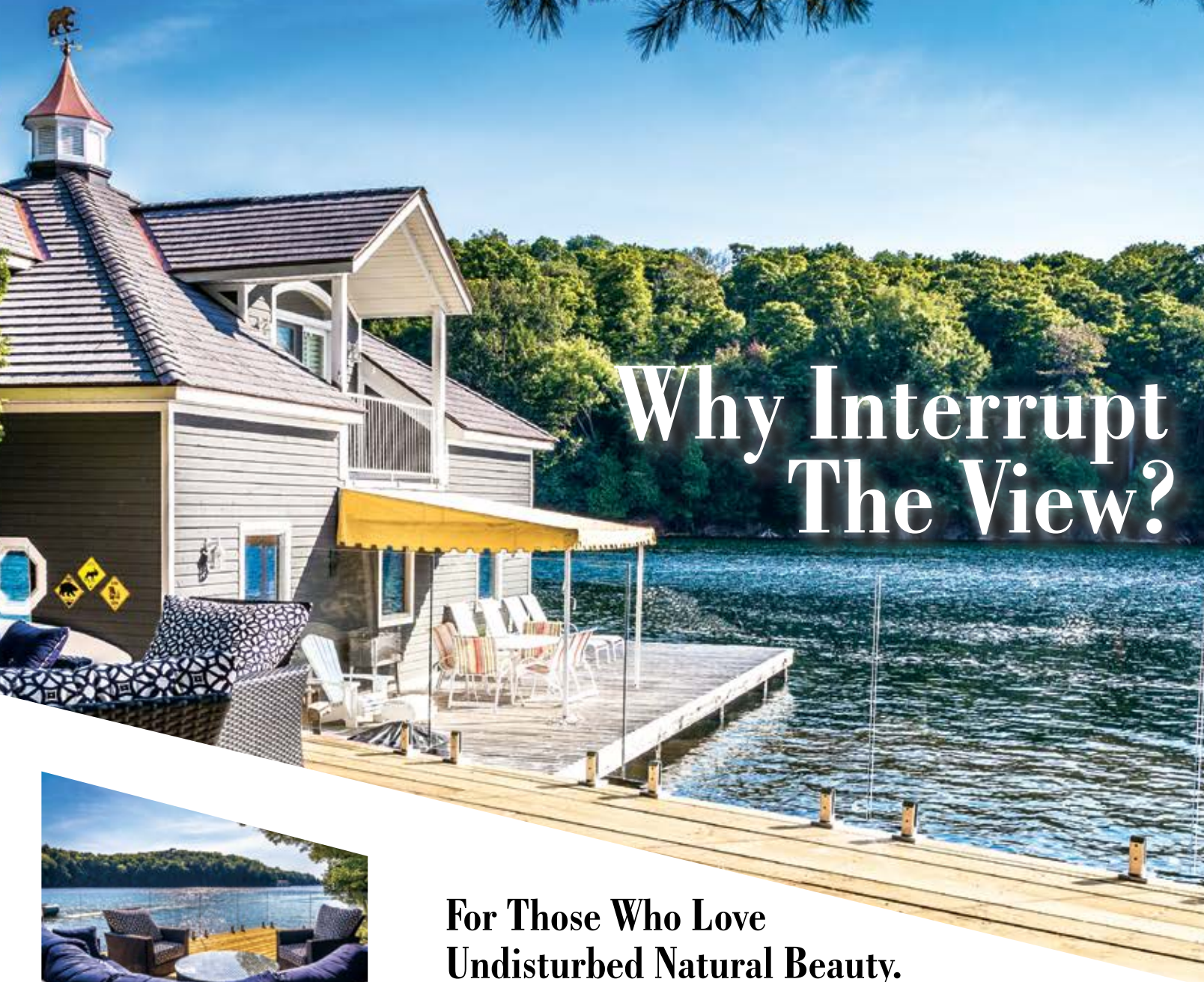
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PHOTO: KELLY HOKKOFF, LANDSCAPING: FAIRVIEW LANDSCAPE



Why Interrupt The View?

HOME IMPROVEMENT FORECAST 2021

WHAT HOMEOWNERS CAN EXPECT

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

IF YOU TRIED TO COMPLETE SOME HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (OR EVEN BASIC MAINTENANCE) OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HIT A FEW SNAGS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

Homeowner Karen Homer has certainly been there. Homer, who's been completing a string of projects on her Guelph century home over the past year, recalls encountering everything from booked-up contractors to lumber shortages to COVID-related product and shipping delays. With a custom door for example, she says, "This door should usually take nine weeks to come, which is long enough, but it took 16 weeks."

Add to that an extra layer of COVID protocols and PPE. At one point, during some mould remediation work in her basement, Karen found herself dealing not only with "guys in COVID suits but others in mould-hazard suits. So it's been fun!"

For industry players and homeowners alike, 2020 was uniquely and unforgettably challenging. If you plan to begin a new project this year, here's a look at what's in the forecast for the home improvement industry plus advice on navigating challenges.

Continued on page 70



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MORE OF THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT, TOO

What can homeowners expect this year? We talked to Michael Garrity, CEO of Financeit, a Toronto-based company that provides mobile-friendly financing apps for things like home renos.

Michael begins by making sense of what happened last year. “If there was a theme for 2020, it would be ‘Dealing with change without a playbook,’ right? We had no idea this was going to come, once it hit us we had no idea how big it was going to be, what the implications were going to be, what the government reaction was going to be, what people’s perceptions of safety would look like. It was all trial by fire.”

Adding to the complexity, says Michael, after an industry lockdown in Q2, the home improvement sector saw a wild 60 per cent year-over-year rise in the third quarter – hand-in-hand with unprecedented delays and shortages.

For 2021, with a second lockdown in January, he says, “We are going to continue to wrestle with effects and implications of the health pandemic for the entirety of the year.” Yet Michael also sees more reasons to be encouraged.

“What’s different this year from last year is we have information; we know what to expect. We’re done with [establishing] policies and procedures and protocols. We know how to operate in a lockdown... in a grey zone, and a yellow zone and red zone. We’re ready as an industry.”

BETTER TECH TOOLS

In 2021 we’re all also armed with geeky new skills, having mastered virtual meeting platforms and other tech tools thanks to COVID. Michael says on the industry side, “We’ve moved to virtual consults, taken advantage of new tools that are available so we can minimize interruptions with customers.” In this wider-scale adoption of tech, he says his own company’s online applications, which allow customers to finance home improvement projects online, also saw real growth in 2020. “Electronic payments and online financing tools like ours exploded because of again just health concerns and the inconvenience of cash.”



PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF
LANDSCAPING: SHADES OF SUMMER LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE



NATUREKAST WEATHERPROOF CABINETRY

SUPPLY ISSUES

Supply issues are improving. Overall, Michael says, “I think that supply chain issues are going to be less frequent because of knowledge. We know and we can plan for alternative places to source material from.”

SPECIFIC TRENDS

Michael says the past year also brought a “reinforcement of the value of the home.” In 2021, with people still not travelling, we should see more of the same – spending on backyards, pools, spas, outdoor kitchens, new driveways, basketball courts and anything that maximizes enjoyment of our homes.

ADVICE

For 2021, with home improvement projects, Michael advises planning ahead as much as possible. “Secure the contractor that you want to work with as early in the season as you can because there will be an increased amount of demand.”

And for larger spends, particularly if you might sell down the line, Karen says a savvy realtor with good local knowledge can really help you prioritize spending. “I had a realtor walk through the house with me and make lists of bare minimum things that needed to be addressed,” she says.

Finally, the right mindset – being patient and flexible – and the need for good safety protocols will stay with us this year. “We’re going to experience elements of the health pandemic for all of 2021,” says Michael. “It’s safe to do projects, as long as you take care.” **OH**



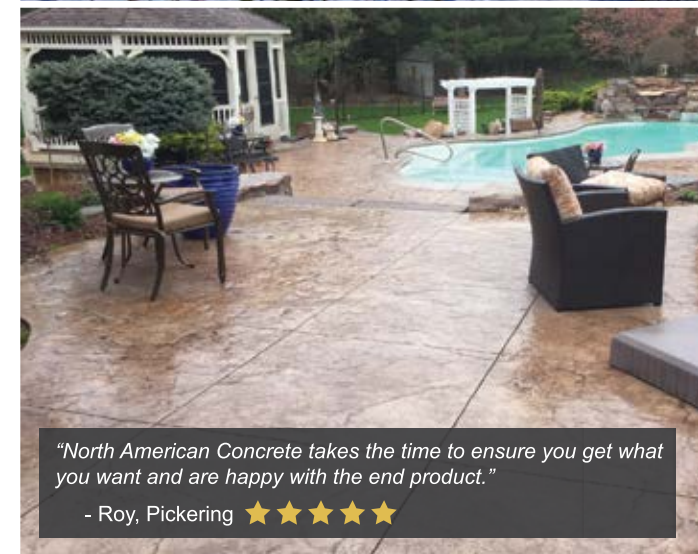
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LANDSCAPING: LAND EFFECTS OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES



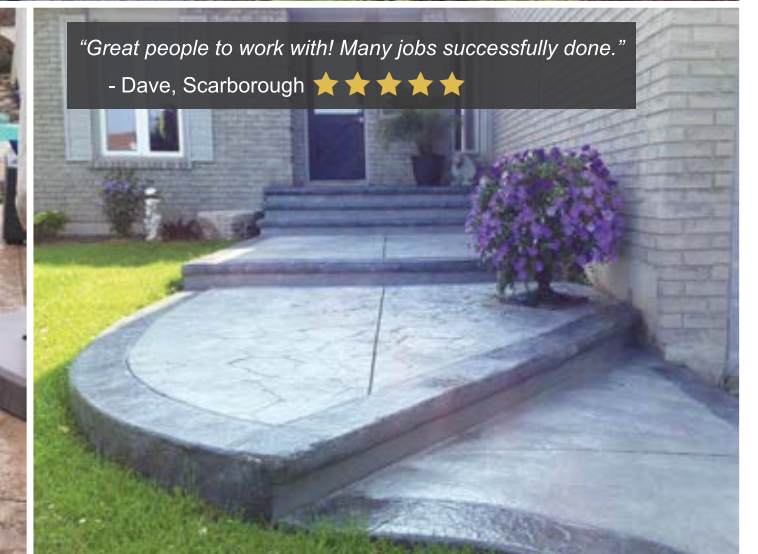
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FUNCTION & style

PHOTOGRAPHY LIZ BRUCKNER

THE PLACE

Established in 2000, **Kitchen Cabinet Solutions** is known for creating kitchens and bathrooms that marry fine craftsmanship with curated design. Offering materials and prices to suit every lifestyle and budget, the Peterborough company carries a vast selection of textures, colours and cabinetry styles, as well as myriad countertops, cabinet hardware and accessories. The team makes it their mission to create inviting living spaces as unique as their owners.



Brenda Perry, Michael David and Jennifer Young.

PHOTO: ADAM CUMMINGS

THE TREND

White, grey and Hale Navy blue (Benjamin Moore) Shaker-style cabinets are having a moment, as are white quartz countertops with grey veining and matching quartz backsplashes, co-owner Brenda Perry says. Matte-finished brass hardware is also very current and in-demand for 2021, along with vinyl plank flooring options. The trend of hanging pendant lights over islands remains popular, as do recessed lights.



PHOTO: WALTER FRANCIZYK

THE STYLE

Though their team of design experts are ready to accommodate a vast array of style wants and needs, creating a space you'll love starts with discussion. "We recommend that potential clients visit our showroom to review our products and share their vision with us," says Brenda. "We'll discuss their current space, its dimensions, and what they envision for it. Next, we'll talk about the materials and finishes they prefer, what works for their budget and the potential renovation timeline they can expect. Our goal is to create rooms that check all the boxes for our clients and communication is integral in making that happen."

THE FUTURE

"In 2021, large, functional kitchens with plentiful storage (think drawer-heavy islands and banquettes) are big," says co-owner Michael David. "The kitchen is the heart of the home and it's important to ensure that adequate storage is built in to accommodate style and function." **OH**

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A faux-brick feature wall, ample natural light and carefully curated furniture pieces combine to create a room that mixes traditional comfort with modern style.

SPACE TO SPARE IN COBOURG

STORY LIZ BRUCKNER | PHOTOGRAPHY WARREN DENOMME

For almost 10 years, New Amherst Homes has been building neighbourhoods that blend small-town charm with big-city conveniences. Now, they're offering their clients a customized Live-Work product that's perfect for a multitude of uses.

Continued on page 76



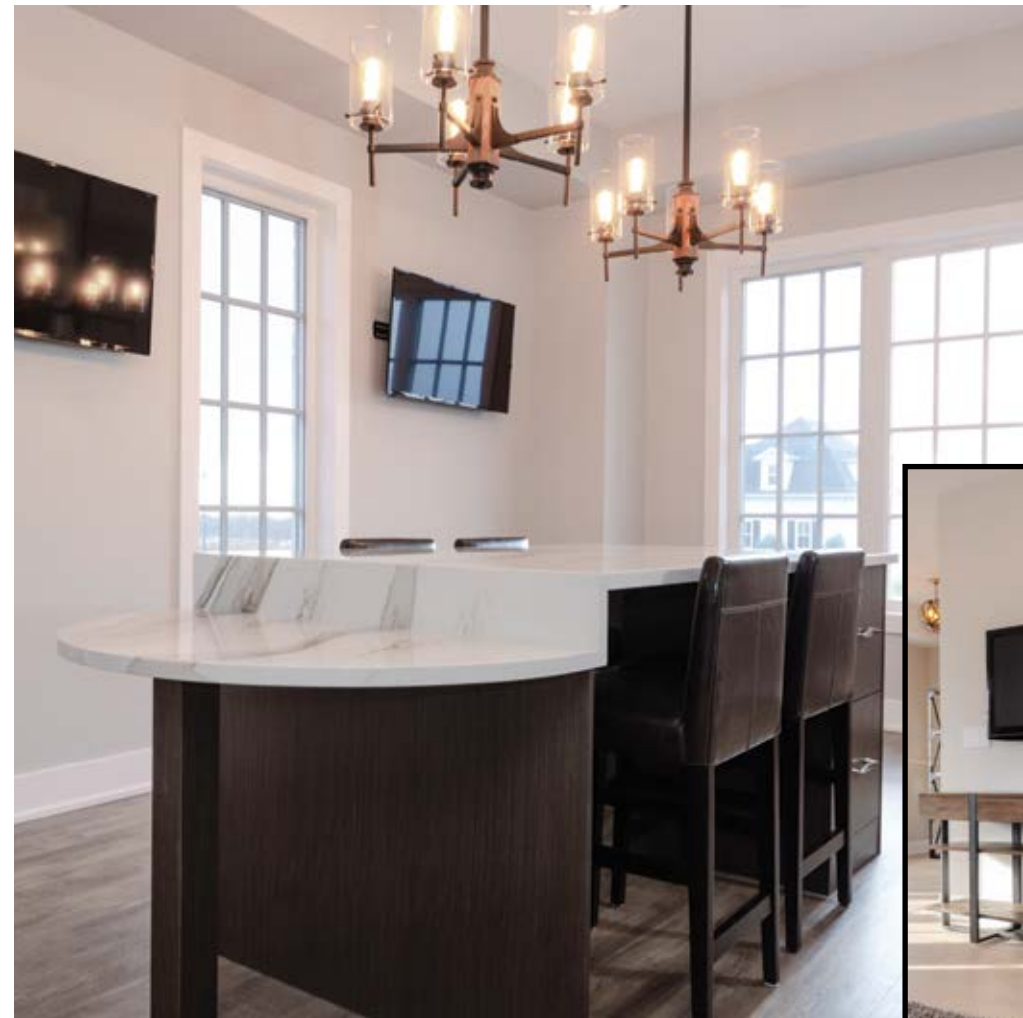
Creating spaces that prioritize style, function and well-being is at the heart of what **New Amherst Homes** does, and the **Live-Work** townhome is their latest innovative take on this mantra.

A freehold three-storey unit that varies between 2,288 and 2,846 square feet in size, it features two floors of residential living space (complete with two bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths) in addition to a main-level space (with one additional bath) that's perfect for multiple purposes – commercial use among them.

“The beauty of this unit is that it has the ability to be an ideal space for a variety of lifestyles,” says Ashley McFarland, project manager and design consultant for New Amherst Homes. “It’s perfect for owners who want to run their business from home while maintaining separate spaces, and it’s a great option for those who would use the main floor for commercial purposes and rent the living space above. Additionally, it’s an ideal living solution for people with aging parents or children who are unable to enter the housing market, as the main floor would make a perfect space for them.” *Continued on page 78*

“THE BEAUTY OF THIS UNIT IS THAT IT HAS THE ABILITY TO BE AN IDEAL SPACE FOR A VARIETY OF LIFESTYLES.”

–Ashley McFarland



“For this unit, we were going for a mix of industrial, modern and rustic,” Ashley says. “We were inspired by old industrial buildings that had been converted into modern, open living spaces. That’s why we chose tile that looks like exposed brick, light fixtures that have an old industrial look, and a colour scheme with an urban flair.”



model home tour

And because the unit's finishes are customized to suit each owner's unique design preferences, the completed product truly can be perfect. "We discuss each client's wants and needs for the space, and then we tailor it to their individual tastes," Ashley says. "We ask them to bring photos of what inspires them, as that helps us understand their end design goal. We don't just offer clients three shades of white for their paint colour - they have the freedom to choose the materials and

finishes that work for their unique style."

Among the stylish offerings are engineered hardwood floors that create a seamless, warming effect through most of the main living area. In the kitchen, painted and distressed wood Shaker-style cabinets are both functional and modern. Striking **Cambria** quartz counters and bronze-and-matte black hardware, along with a combination of pot lights and industrial style light fixtures, provide the space with an edgy,

Continued on page 80

BELOW: Carrying the urban, rustic and industrial effect into the unit's kitchen, this space caters to a variety of design wants and needs. **RIGHT:** Modern furniture combines with on-trend lighting and accessories to create an inviting dining area. **BELOW RIGHT:** A farmhouse sink, Cambria quartz countertops, and painted MDF and Alder distressed wood cabinets set the tone for this stylish space.





model home tour



“WE DISCUSS EACH CLIENT’S WANTS AND NEEDS FOR THE SPACE, AND THEN WE TAILOR IT TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL TASTES.”

urban contrast. A see-through fireplace helps define the open-concept area while adding an immediate focal point as well.

In the unit’s living areas, nine-foot ceilings and neutral walls create a bright and airy effect, while a range of sleek, comfortable and tastefully combined furniture and accessory materials imbue an industrial vibe.

Upstairs, each of the unit’s stylish and well-appointed bedrooms serves as an oasis

of relaxation with ample walk-in closet space and a beautiful en suite. The second floor also includes multiple storage closets, including one with a washer and dryer for an added practical touch.

“The pandemic has brought about so much change to daily life with people transitioning from working in an office to working from home, and we believe this trend will continue even after the pandemic is over,” Ashley says.

Continued on page 82

TOP LEFT: This tastefully designed washroom feels welcoming and fresh.

TOP RIGHT: This soaker tub/black faucet combo adds a modern edge.

ABOVE: Brimming with light and style, this principal bedroom is a study in functional and restorative style.

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ABOVE: Industrial meets rustic meets nautical style in this calming space. **BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT:** The use of bold shades of blue throughout the secondary bedroom and en suite add a modern effect while pairing perfectly with neutral shades of white and gold.



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(Please see ad on pg 41)

focus



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2. ANNIE SLOAN: Chalk Paint in English Yellow
3. BENJAMIN MOORE: Paint in Bright Yellow 2022-30
4. ANNIE SLOAN: Chalk Paint in Chicago Grey
5. YORK WALL COVERINGS: Citrus Party Unpasted Wallpaper & French Linen Stripe Sure Strip Wallpaper
6. DESIGN WITHIN REACH: Eames Elephant in Buttercup
7. BENJAMIN MOORE: Paint in Dior Gray
8. BOUCLAIR: Ceramic Potted Grass & Ceramic Potted Apple Leaves
9. FLOS: OK Light Dimmable Ceiling Lamp with Soft Touch Switch in Yellow
10. CYAN DESIGN: Moonbeam Vases
11. KLIPPAN: Luxor Wool Throws in Saffron and Stone
12. EASTERN ACCENTS: Thom Filicia Sconset Lemon Decorative Pillow
13. ARTERIORS: Archer Tray
14. RENWIL: Monrovia Rug - RMOB-22569
15. MUUTO: Outline Chair in Fiord 151
16. ALAMODE HOME: Ikat Jaya Table Runner
17. ABBOTT COLLECTION: Bevi Insulated Wine Tumbler in Yellow
18. SMEG: Portofino Cooker in Yellow
19. DAL TILE: Bee Hive Tile in Run-Up Cool Blend P018 & Retro Rounds Tile in Daffodil Yellow RR07
20. TON: Fleur Coat Stand in Ginger Yellow
21. ABBOTT COLLECTION: Hello Doormat
22. FATBOY: Junior Stonewashed in Grey & Pupillow Velvet in Maize Yellow
23. COVET HOUSE: Number 1 Graphic Floor Lamp
24. MUUTO: Restore Round Basket in Grey & Restore Basket Yellow
25. CIRCU: Sky B Plane Bed **OH**

MATERIAL WORLD

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



Fashion runways have always been at the cutting edge of design, inspiring everything from simple daily clothing choices to complete lifestyles – and yes, they even have a say in what our home environments look like, too. As designers, we're personally drawn to the latest collections from notable fashion houses, with anticipation of what might walk down that runway and change the trajectory of interior design as we know it.

Perhaps the most literal connection between fashion and home décor is the use of textiles. Look around you – they are everywhere, from window coverings and wall treatments to your furniture upholstery and accessories. Here are some of our favourite fabrics and where to use them.



WOOL

Just like your favourite sweater, wool is great to snuggle while lounging. Wool throws and pillows add decorative texture, but they also serve a warm and cosy purpose on colder nights. This fabric also boasts many natural benefits. It's a renewable resource, biodegradable, durable and despite visions of shrunken sweaters emerging from washing machines and dryers, modern innovations mean many wool products are no longer "hand-wash" or "dry-clean only."

SILK

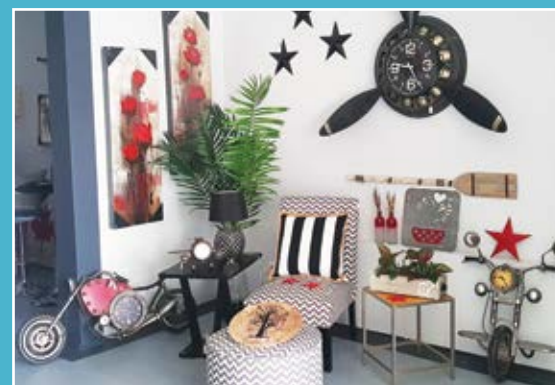
Silk is a highly durable and beautiful material, making it the perfect choice for fashionable and functional flooring. A rug that is 100 per cent silk or a wool/silk blend has a natural sheen to it, and because it usually has a higher knot count when compared to other rug materials, it allows for intricate patterns in its designs. While our favourite silk rugs have a single, solid colour, this natural material has organic variances in colour, making a solid rug feel beautiful and luxurious.

Continued on page 92

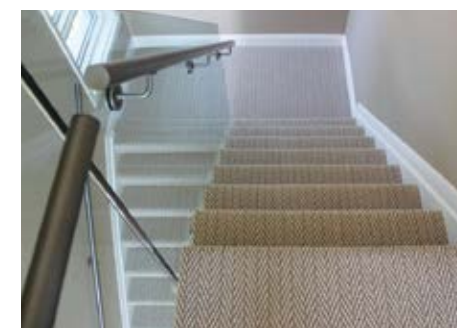


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design ideas



VELVET

Velvet is classically rich and luxuriously over-the-top, instantly adding glamour to everything it touches. In the right doses, it can elevate the look of any room. This fabric is consistent; its low pile gives it a smooth appearance, which shimmers under different light. This quality makes it a beautiful choice for furniture upholstery and pieces featuring beautiful curves. Despite its dramatic look and feel, velvet is low-maintenance and very forgiving, making it an elegant and practical choice for sofas, chairs and cushions.

LINEN

Linen is widely known for its versatility, both on and off the runway. This organic material varies in weight from light and airy to heavier options, and is known for its characteristic woven texture and casual vibe. Linen can be easily dressed up with a bold pattern or colour, thanks to its ability to absorb dye. All of these qualities, combined with the fact that linen always seems to fall nicely, make it a favourite choice for window coverings.



COTTON

There's nothing quite like the look, feel and even the smell of crisp cotton bedding. There's a reason we all use cotton in a variety of applications on a daily basis. This particular material pleases the masses – it's smooth and soft, not scratchy like some linen bedding or hot like silk. The structure of cotton fabric has air channels that make it cool and breathable, and this is one fabric that actually gets better with use. The more you wash it, the softer it gets.



When it comes to finishing touches in your home, textiles are everything. They add softness, texture and depth to your design and create a cosy nest to settle into at the end of the day. Do your research and consider your choices from an aesthetic and practical standpoint. Remember, there's a perfect fabric for every application. **OH**

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ACCOMMODATIONS/LODGING/RENTALS

Jayne's Cottages, 13

APPLIANCES

Cornerstone Home Furniture and Appliances, 25
Kennedy's Appliances & Electronics, 27
Peterborough Appliances, 100

ARBORICULTURE/ARBORIST

Logan Tree Experts, 45, 87

ART SUPPLIES

META4 Contemporary Craft Gallery, 67

ART/ARTISANS/ART GALLERIES/STUDIOS/WORKSHOPS

META4 Contemporary Craft Gallery, 67

BEDS & BEDDING/MATTRESSES/SLEEP PRODUCTS

Manderley Fine Furniture, 99

BUILDERS

1867 Confederation Log Homes, 11
Cedarwyld Homes Inc., 10
Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre, 31
Discovery Dream Homes, 6&7, 84
Hawthorn Creek Building Company, 59
Linwood Custom Homes, 15
New Amherst Homes, 83
RWH Construction, 2
Spotlight Home & Lifestyle Inc., 18&19, 86
Stalwood Homes, 25

BUILDING/LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre, 31
Kingdon Timber Mart, 59, 84
Monaghan Lumber Specialties, 61

CABINETS & MILLWORK/CARPENTRY/FINE WOODWORKING/CUSTOM FURNITURE

Cabinetree, 57
Lighthouse Cabinetry, 17, 86
Frank Bouwmans Kitchens & Cabinetry, 87, 97

COUNTERTOPS

Delray Granite, 41, 87

DEMOLITION SERVICES

ground worx, 10

EXCAVATING/SITE PREP/SEPTIC

ground worx, 10

FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Southern Comfort Hearth & Home, 93

FLOORING

Dickson Carpet One Floor & Home, 10
Floortrends, 91
Focus Flooring Centre Inc., 21
Monaghan Lumber Specialties, 61
Sine's Flooring, 43

FURNITURE & HOME DECOR/ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES

Cornerstone Home Furniture and Appliances, 25
Lakeshore Designs, 43
Lockside Trading Company, 67, 86
Luke's for Home, 81
Manderley Fine Furniture, 99
My Favourite Things, 43
River's Edge On Front, 91
Southern Comfort Hearth & Home, 93
Twohey Home, 3

GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/NURSERIES

Rockwood Forest Nurseries, 47, 87
The Avant-Garden Shop, 47

HEATING & COOLING

Alma Mechanical, 85
British Empire Fuels, 45

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Kennedy's Appliances & Electronics, 27

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/RENOVATIONS

Johnson Log Home Restorations, 10
Ready Pine, 45
Spotlight Home & Lifestyle Inc., 18&19, 86
Stalwood Homes, 25

INTERIOR DECORATING/INTERIOR DESIGN/HOME STAGING

Amy Marquis Interior Design, 81
Audley Interiors, 97
Back 40 Designs PTBO, 25
Lakeshore Designs, 43
Twohey Home, 3

KITCHEN & BATH

AyA Kitchen Designs, 65
Cabinetree, 57
Frank Bouwmans Kitchens & Cabinetry, 87, 97

Harwood Kitchens, 29, 84
Hickory Lane Kitchens, 50&51
Kitchen Cabinet Solutions, 9
Lighthouse Cabinetry, 17, 86

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPING/LAWN & GARDEN

CLEARRAIL, Frameless Glass Systems Inc., 69
Durham Artificial Grass, 47
ground worx, 10

LEGAL SERVICES

Titlers Professional Corporation, 65

MANTELS/MOULDINGS

Kerr's Home Products Ltd., 81

OVERHEAD/GARAGE DOORS

Overhead Door, 67

PAINTING & DECORATING

Benjamin Moore, 8
Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper, 8
Cobourg Paint & Wallpaper, 8
Colour Concepts, 8
Newcastle Home Décor & Design, 8
Village Paint & Paper, 8

PAVING/CEMENT/CONCRETE/INTERLOCK

North American Concrete, 71, 84

POOLS/HOT TUBS/SAUNAS/SPAS

CLEARRAIL, Frameless Glass Systems Inc., 69

REAL ESTATE

Keller Williams Energy Real Estate Brokerage – Amy Marquis, 81
Re/Max Rouge River Realty Ltd. – Rod Hall, 4&5
Royal LePage Frank Real Estate – Jo Pillon, 45
Royal LePage Frank Real Estate – Susan Bowie, 12, 86

STAIRS/RAILINGS

Kerr's Home Products Ltd., 81

TRIM/MOULDING/CASING

Kerr's Home Products Ltd., 81

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Cobourg Paint & Wallpaper, 8
Dickson Carpet One Floor & Home, 10
Ella's Drapery & Blinds, 12
Howie's Blinds, 45
Sine's Flooring, 43

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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

CARAMELIZED PEACHES *with* SPICED CARAMEL SAUCE

DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY MAKING YOUR OWN HOMEMADE CARAMEL SAUCE. THIS RECIPE REQUIRES ONLY A FEW INGREDIENTS, BUT IS SURE TO IMPRESS!



HOW-TO

CARAMEL SAUCE

Place sugar and water in a heavy-bottomed pot. (It is very important while caramelizing sugar that you do not stir it! Stirring will cause the sugar to crystallize and create a mess.)

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)

SPICED CARAMEL SAUCE

1.5 cups white sugar

¼ cup water

1 cup heavy cream

5 Tbsp butter

1 tsp salt

½ tsp ground cinnamon

¼ tsp ground nutmeg

Heat water and sugar over medium heat until sugar is dissolved and comes to a simmer. Let the water and sugar simmer untouched until an amber colour is achieved, about 10-15 minutes.

Turn off heat and whisk in heavy cream. (A word of caution: Be careful at this step, as the cream will cause a lot of steam and can result in a steam burn.) Whisk in butter until melted.

Return to stovetop and stir on low for 2-3 minutes until caramel bubbles. Add salt and spices. Let cool.

You can store sauce in fridge for up to 1 week.



CANDIED WALNUTS

Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Over medium heat combine sugar and water (again, do not stir!) and bring to boil until mixture is amber in colour.

Remove from heat and stir in walnuts.

Once coated, turn walnuts onto the baking sheet and separate with a fork.

Sprinkle with salt and let cool to harden.

PREPARE PEACHES

Now for the easy part! Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat.

Dip the cut side of the peaches in sugar and cinnamon and place sugar side down in the pan. Cook until caramelized and soft.

To serve, top peaches with ice cream of choice, caramel sauce and candied walnuts! **OH**



PEACHES

6 peaches, halved and pitted

1 tsp butter

¼ cup sugar

½ tsp ground cinnamon

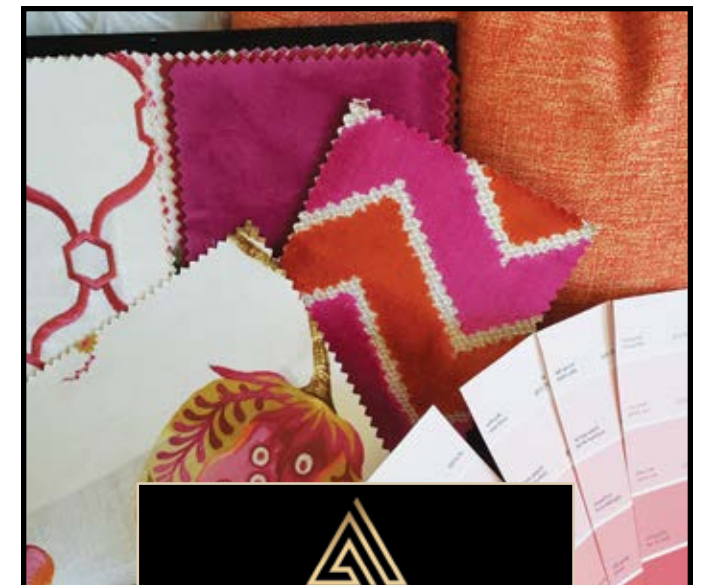
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