

MOVATO HOME PRESENTS

# TORONTOHOME

DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • LIFESTYLE

## THE SUMMER ISSUE

### GENUINELY JOAN

Real Housewife of Toronto  
Joan Kelley Walker opens  
the doors to her home

### THE BIRDS AND BEES

How to cultivate a  
pollinator garden

### MANY MEDIA

The varied art  
of Paul Ygartua

### THE NEWEST PLANTS

This year's horticultural  
introductions

### OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE

Furnishings and  
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**SOMETIMES, THE MAGNITUDE OF** our environmental woes can be overwhelming. With the challenges our planet is facing – climate change, pollution, species extinction – it's easy to feel a sense of hopelessness.

For the past 15 years, environmentalists have been sounding the alarm about precipitous declines in bee populations through colony collapse disorder.

Until then, we probably took bees for granted, despite the fact that they, along with other beneficial insects, tirelessly pollinate the plants that feed us. They are essential in our ecosystems. Without them, food production is impossible. Their decline is our decline.

But this is no time to feel hopeless. It's time to act. As individuals, we can do our part to help the Earth heal from the damage we have collectively inflicted over the decades.

In this issue, writer Cheryl Cornacchia reports on how we as individual gardeners can do our bit to help such pollinators as bees and other beneficial insects survive and thrive. Of course, it goes without saying that our gardens must be pesticide-free, which is a first step. But we can go further by installing bee houses, bat houses, and the right plants to create environments for pollinators that are welcoming and free of toxins.

While we create those pollinator-friendly gardens, we may want to consider planting some of this year's new cultivars. In another feature, Cheryl reports on the latest horticultural introductions, ranging from annuals through perennials, shrubs and edible plants. Your local neighbourhood bees, bats, birds and butterflies will love you for your plantings.

And because this is the season when we can truly appreciate venturing outside, Tracey MacKenzie has written a guide to outdoor furnishings and accessories to help you design a backyard that is as welcoming and hospitable for you and your guests as your landscape is for the birds and the bees.

Of course, we don't all relate to the big, beautiful outdoors in the same way. That's why writer/astrologer Susan Kelly looks at how people born under each sign of the zodiac approach alfresco living in their own particular ways.

As always, we have some spectacular homes to show you, along with two dazzling gardens on the shores of Lake Ontario. Each garden was designed specifically to take best advantage of the views and to welcome guests for outdoor dining.

I hope this issue will give you plenty of inspiration to transform your home into a beautiful living space and your patch of the Earth into a haven for the critters we so desperately need.

**STEPHANIE WHITTAKER**


*Editor-in-Chief*

*stephanie@movatohome.com*

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**SUSAN KELLY**

Frequent contributor Susan Kelly admits that what she knew of homeowner and prominent Toronto socialite Joan Kelley Walker was from the Real Housewives of Toronto reality TV show. “However, beneath Joan’s chic exterior lies a multi-faceted and multi-talented woman possessing true genuineness and warmth,” Susan adds. “Giving seems to top her priority list: to her family first and then to the world through philanthropy. And as refined and elegant as her home is, it’s also very inviting and meant to be lived in.” Susan also writes our horoscope feature and provides weekly forecasts via Facebook at Susan Kelly Astrology.



**VALERIE WILCOX**

While photographing this issue’s cover story, which features Joan Kelley Walker at home, photographer Valerie Wilcox was able to capture the elegance of a home designed both for entertaining and for family comfort. “Joan’s personality really shines through in this house: bright, beautiful and fun,” says Valerie, adding that the fun is apparent in the home’s indoor swimming pool, which is adorned with floating neon globes. “Standing on a glass floor, looking down into that pool, while photographing Joan in her walk-in closet reminded me of what I love about my job,” Valerie says.



**WENDY HELFENBAUM**

Wendy Helfenbaum reports that taking a peek behind prolific Vancouver artist Paul Ygartua’s creative process was revelatory for her. “The effortless way Paul embraces many different styles and mediums amazed me,” says Wendy, who also profiled the home of a couple in St. Lambert, Quebec who downsized ... into their own backyard. “They embodied ‘out-of-the-box’ thinking when they moved from their elegant Edwardian brick home into a re-imagined Scandinavian-style guesthouse,” she says. Wendy is a journalist and TV producer who covers real estate, architecture, design, DIY, travel and gardening. Her work has appeared in Country Gardens, Realtor.com, and Canadian Living among other publications.



**CHERYL CORNACCHIA**

After weathering one of the toughest winters in recent memory, writer Cheryl Cornacchia says the garden stories she wrote for this issue were anything but work. “That’s what I love about gardens,” she says. “They keep me feeling sunny when the days are grey.” In her stories, Cheryl introduces us to new plants for 2018, profiles the latest trend in pollinator-friendly gardening, and takes us to a garden on the shores of Lake Ontario that was once so overgrown with vegetation, its owner could not see the water.

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6100 TransCanada Highway Suite 100, Pointe-Claire Quebec H9R 1B9  
Call 1-866-846-1640  
movatohome.com  
sales@movatohome.com

**PUBLISHER**

*Dr. Sharon Azrieli*

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

*Stanley Kirsh*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

*Stephanie Whittaker*

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

*Matthew Azrieli*

**ART DIRECTOR**

*Randy Laybourne*

**PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**

*Wendy Loper*

**EDITORIAL COORDINATOR**

*Carmen Lefebvre*

**CONTROLLER**

*Jenny Marques*

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

*Neve Foltz*

**DIRECTOR OF SALES - NATIONAL**

*Kelly Chicoine*

**CONTRIBUTORS**

*Cheryl Cornacchia  
Wendy Helfenbaum  
Sarah B. Hood  
Susan Kelly  
Brenda O’Farrell  
Phillipa Rispin  
Karen Seidman  
Tracey MacKenzie*

**DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SALES - ONTARIO**

*Grant Wells*

**FOUNDER**

*Leah Lipkowitz*

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Jean Blais  
Maxime Brouillet  
Stephani Buchman  
Jeff McNeill  
Eugen Sakhnenko  
Aaron Thompson  
Alicia Thurston  
Valerie Wilcox*

**STYLING**

*Klaudia Capalbo  
Brandon Fox  
Micah Gilbert  
Cassandra Jakubek  
Heather Lewis  
Rhonda Thornton  
Somia Torson  
Scott Yetman*

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Joan Kelley Walker of Real Housewives of Toronto loves her elegant and cozy home

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## STYLISH STATEMENTS

A Forest Hill home gets strong design elements in a renovation that make it highly unusual



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# THIS JUST IN



### 1. HITTING THE NAIL ON THE HEAD

The Gina club chair sets the bar high for style with its striking emerald-green velvet upholstery and nailhead trim. V-channel tufting brings au courant retro style to any room it graces.

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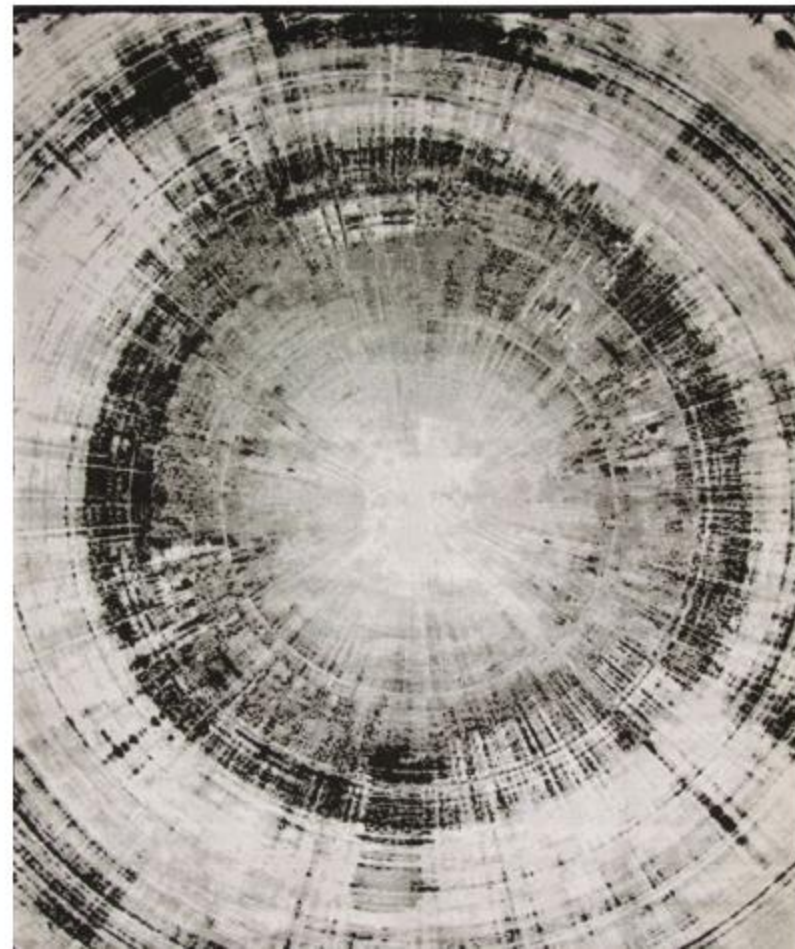
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### 4. COSMIC AND CONTEMPORARY

The colour combination of ebony and ivory in the Super Nova rug is neutral, but its dynamic design gives it oomph. Woven in wool and bamboo silk, it's available in standard and custom sizes.

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### 1. SOPHISTICATED SOFA

The Caleb sofa has an air of quiet sophistication. Its clean-lined design includes tone-on-tone upholstery with matching throw pillows and subtle accents of decorative leather bands and nailhead trim.

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### 2. PUT THE PETAL TO THE METAL

Silver-leaf detailing gives extra shine to the Avery mirror's ivory-coloured carved petals. The central mirror's beveling adds its own glints to this cheery piece. 63" W x 6" D x 63" H.

*Import Temptations*

188 Bentworth Ave., Toronto

416-256-3150

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### 4. ALFRESCO STYLE

Add style and comfort to outdoor living with the Helios sofa. A sleek linear aluminum frame with platinum finish embraces the sofa's cushioned sides and back, upholstered in 100 per cent acrylic. 84.5" W x 33" D x 31.5" H. \$5,929.99

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### 3. THE COLOURS OF SUMMER

The Cyprus bedding collection by Echo is 100 per cent cotton with a modern paisley pattern. Highlights of aqua and coral add a nice splash of colour to its overall relaxed aesthetic.

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**5. HIGH STYLE, LOW MAINTENANCE**

The Breeze swivel rocker would look great indoors, but it's also outdoor-ready in marine-grade stainless steel with teak inserts in the arms. Comfortable sling-style seating is provided with stylish flow-through minimal cushions. \$1,995.

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 100 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga ~ 905-990-5433  
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**7. RICH RUG**

Hints of traditional arabesque and paisley designs peep out from the Mid-Century kilim for a rich yet subtle effect. In 100 per cent wool, this flat-woven area rug comes in many patterns and colours that are available exclusively at Weavers Art's flagship showroom.

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**6. ON TRACK**

This rough, distressed railroad-tie pendant light comes with dark bronze metal accents and a heavy chain. It includes nine 60-watt decorative bulbs, which hang from cloth-covered sockets and cords that wrap around the wood. 60" W x 9" D x 9" H. \$1,279.99.

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**8. ENHANCED OUTDOOR LIVING**

The Grid collection from Gloster incorporates multiple units – from loveseats to daybeds to coffee tables – that can be combined for a flexible seating system. Frames are made with teak and aluminum, and cushions and pillows come in a multitude of colour and water-resistant options.

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## DESIGN



### 1. CLASSIC CLUB

The Belmont club chair provides a practical take on a traditional porch style. It's totally up to date in all-weather resin on an aluminum frame, with custom Sunbrella cushions. We show it in natural; also available in grey. \$925.

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### 3. GENTLE GEOMETRY

The Silk Tabriz rug features a delicate pattern in muted undertones of warm greys, with hints of grey-blue. It's woven solely in 100 per cent silk and is oh-so-luxurious to the touch.

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**8. DYNAMIC DINING**

The geometric, coloured shapes of the Triangle serveware collection adds a burst of energy to the dining table. This lively, contemporary look in enamel on wood is exclusive to Linen Chest.

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# GLAMOUR & COMFORT UNDER ONE ROOF

*Real Housewife Joan Kelley Walker  
loves being in her recently renovated  
King City home*

BY SUSAN KELLY  
PHOTOGRAPHY: VALERIE WILCOX  
HOME STYLING: RHONDA THORNTON

HAIR: CASSANDRA JAKUBEK  
MAKE-UP: MICAH GILBERT  
FASHION STYLIST: SONIA TORSAN  
ASSISTANT FASHION STYLIST: KLAUDIA CAPALBO



**SLICE NETWORK SAYS** its on-hiatus reality show *Real Housewives of Toronto* followed “six of the city’s most privileged, powerful and glamorous women as they navigate the elite social scene of Canada’s largest city.” One of the show’s stars, Joan Kelley Walker, was most often shown entertaining in her downtown Toronto digs or taking the gang to the cottage compound in Muskoka.

From the reality show, one might think to find her in her downtown Toronto condo or home in Miami. But Joan spends most of her time in the red-brick King City country house she has lived in for more than 20 years. While a recent update to the interiors elevated its undeniable if understated chic, this is a family home to be lived in. And although Joan “tries to bring the fabulous” wherever she is, she would rather talk about her roles as dedicated mom, philanthropist and businesswoman. “I love fashion but also gardening. I’m passionate about charitable work but I love Gucci, too. I turn my hand to home design but it’s often me who has to clean up what the cat left on the carpet,” she says.

A “small town girl” born in Saskatchewan, she feels most at home in this venerable Georgian-style manor, which is surrounded by rolling farmland. The house has undergone many updates, including one that upped the number of bedrooms to six from four. The most recent increased the kitchen’s square footage, added an indoor swimming pool, and expanded the master suite.



*Joan’s new kitchen reflects her personal taste: the classic style of the soft white English-style cabinetry contrasts with such modern accents as the dramatic chrome faucets and hardware. Cabinetry: Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry; faucet: Waterstone; cooktop and wall ovens: Wolf.*



*“I’m a big believer in giving back and making a difference.”*

*The new indoor swimming pool’s deep blue hue and waterfall bring the great outdoors inside the home. Housed in a new addition, it overlooks the backyard. Formal Georgian columns echo the ones that grace the red brick house’s exterior.*

The home offers a retreat from the jet-set lifestyle so often splashed across society pages of this former model and television host. Photos focus on the celeb-strewn parties thrown by this legendary hostess and her husband of 18 years, Don Walker, CEO of Magna International. The couple have two boys, aged 15 and 17. Two young-adult children from Walker’s first marriage complete the household, which also includes two dogs and two cats.

“We have worked very hard for our money, and giving back is one of the most important and valuable things you can do when you have it,” Joan says. “I’m a big believer in giving back and making a difference.” Her charity work goes far beyond writing cheques and posing for pictures at fundraising galas. For the past 20 years, Joan and Don have been very hands-on supporters of World Vision Canada, for which Joan is an ambassador. They have traveled to Kenya, Costa Rica and

many other countries where the agency works to improve the lives of children and their communities. The couple are also primary supporters of World Vision’s Starting Strong program that supports Cambodian women during and after pregnancy. For her charitable efforts, Joan has won several awards, including the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. 📖



*“The kitchen is so beautiful; I feel so good in here.”*

*The designer and homeowner worked together in the kitchen’s design. Designer Rhonda Thornton sourced the counter stools’ high-tech fabric. Joan found the striking pendant lights that hang over both islands; they are the work of a friend, Florida-based designer Teresa Costa. Lighting: Luna Bella.*

Joan tends to favour Canadian fashion designers and wears their creations proudly. And she is poised to join their ranks with her own eponymous label. Once it gets off the drawing board, the Joan Kelley Walker brand will highlight elegance in fashion with a humanitarian twist. More will be revealed shortly about the project she calls “a lifelong dream that fills my heart.”

As poised and fashion-savvy as she appears, Joan admits: “I used to be terrified of interior design until I learned to partner with the right person.” And for this renovation, she

turned to designer Rhonda Thornton, owner and creative director of Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry. “We’re also friends, which made it easier,” Thornton says. “Our design sense and the way we make decisions is similar, and we had some fun road trips to source products.”

The expansion of the house doubled the kitchen’s size to about 800 square feet. The dark and cramped original kitchen has been replaced by a stunning bank of cabinetry and two islands. What Joan calls the “kitchen table,” a large harvest table that has been in the family for many years, was relocated to




the new addition, beyond which lies a formal dining room. The kitchen also features a separate lounge area with a pair of comfy armchairs, perfect for enjoying morning coffee and a beautiful view of the pastures outside.

A soft white colour scheme was chosen. “Joan wanted this to be a ‘little black dress’ of a kitchen,” Thornton explains, “timeless and classic with a look that could be changed with accessories.” To get that, the Bloomsbury English-style framed cabinetry, which harmonized with the home’s Georgian-manor style, was chosen. The counters and islands

are topped with rare Calacatta Gold marble, a soft white variety with veins of rich taupe and gold running through it.

It took a long search, though, to find the marble mosaic backsplash tiles in a diamond pattern to match the leaded-glass windows of the cabinetry above. The cabinets hold china and tableware that have also been in the family for years. Other heirlooms are on display throughout the home.

Portions of what was once the exterior brick wall were worked into the updated home’s design. 

*Joan prefers that most design elements also have a function. Here the designer incorporated a storage drawer under the sink. Decorative posts also have concealed storage options worked into the design.*









“Joan has a very keen design eye, but it’s also important to her that things be highly functional,” says Thornton. In the kitchen, for example, she loved the idea of tucking a ladder under the cabinetry’s kick base. It can be taken out easily and used to reach the top bank of tall shelves. Every post has storage behind it to conceal everyday items. And though the tufted wing-back counter stools appear to be delicate and satiny, their fabric easily wipes clean and is stain-resistant.

In a separate addition, an indoor pool was added. As with the kitchen, it features a glass wall open to the backyard, which is replete with mature trees. Joan loves that the pool features formal Georgian columns, a nod to the home’s exterior architecture. The Ontario wilderness is evoked by the pool’s deep blue lining and the black slate tiles surrounding it. A waterfall is found at one end and a fountain feature at the other. The family, who all enjoy swimming, can do a full water circuit there. Off to the side, there’s an infrared sauna, steam room, laundry area for towels, and dressing room. *ES*

*A skylight floods the informal dining area with light. The family often shares meals at the antique harvest table. For very large sit-down dinners, Joan has it moved beside the formal dining table beyond to expand seating capacity.*



The pool addition made it possible to expand the master bedroom and bath considerably. A new home gym now stands just outside it. The cramped walk-in closet that the couple once shared has become spacious his-and-hers dressing areas. Joan now has a main closet for her everyday wardrobe and a separate one for out-of-season clothes and accessories. There are also separate areas devoted to a vanity and another to store luggage. "It's really gorgeous, a dream closet," Joan says.

Yet for all her fashionista image, she spends much more time in the kitchen than in the dressing room. "The kitchen is so beautiful; I feel so good in here," she says. "The island is where everyone gathers and where we turn out so many good meals, have heart-to-hearts with the kids and make decisions, things that nourish the soul. This kitchen encompasses all that." ☛

*A pink marble countertop provides the only hint of colour in the spa-like master bathroom. Joan enjoys a daily soak in the sculptural freestanding tub while taking in the view of the backyard and the original artwork painted by a friend. Painting: Janna Downey.*



The kitchen and pool dresses from Ted Baker, shoes from Versace.  
(This page) Dress provided by Yaya & Co, shoes from Gucci.

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# VIEWS OF THE WATER

*A once-overgrown shoreline garden is redesigned, rebuilt, and opened to vistas of Lake Ontario*

BY CHERYL CORNACCHIA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFF McNEILL







**KIM LANDER KNEW THAT THE PROPERTY** she was buying in 2007 would require work. Situated on the Lake Ontario waterfront near Belleville, the five acres of land were overgrown with trees and shrubs. Kim couldn't even see the lake through all the vegetation.

She felt as if she were landlocked, not a comfortable feeling for the owner of a waterfront property, especially for such a lifelong sailor as Kim.

A past commodore of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, Kim undertook to connect her property to the lake through a renovation that had as its centrepiece a landscaped link between her home and the lakeshore it sits on. The first step was restoring the mid-20th-century, 5,000-square-foot house. When that was completed, Kim met with a local landscape-design company to create a garden that would fit with her vision of linking the house to the bay.

"The whole point of living on the water is to see the water," says Kim, recalling her first meeting with Scott Wentworth, owner of Wentworth Landscapes. "You couldn't see the water from the living room. I told him, 'Obviously, I want to see the water,' and that I needed a big entertainment space. I also told him I wanted a few private areas where you would want to stop, read a book, relax or meditate." 📖



First to go were the overgrown shrubs that blocked the view of the water and the small patio against the back of the house facing the lake. But the core challenge for Kim and Wentworth when it came to rebuilding the hardscape was how to deal with the height gradient from the house down to the water.

Kim wanted a patio large enough for entertaining big groups, one with a dining area and a custom-made pergola, cooking facilities, a bar and a water feature. She also worked out with Wentworth a design that ultimately produced a two-tiered decorative pool, which is filled by a large fire bowl that has a spout on its base from which water flows and fills the upper of the two pools before

cascading into a lower and larger eight-by-15-foot pool below. The gradient challenge was met by placing the main patio on one level at mid-slope, and by adding two sweeping staircases, one on each side of the interlocking-stone patio to allow people to move from the house to the waterfront.

New garden beds containing a large collection of hardy shrubs, ornamental grasses and flowering perennials soften all the stonework.

As Jason Partridge, another landscape architect on the project, says: “We needed to make sure the landscape was as impressive as the house. The garden is an extension of their indoor living space.”







To the end, Partridge says, the design team pulled out all the stops when it came to what became known as the serenity garden. Kim had asked for a quiet place where she could meditate and practice yoga. She had chosen pink sand for the garden's circular floor and even ordered a teardrop-shaped hanging chair called a Nestrest. However, there were no trees from which to suspend it. Partridge says they fixed that problem by introducing a mast and sail to do the job, and for extra flourish they put Kim's racing boat number, 36, on the sail. "It was perfect," he says.

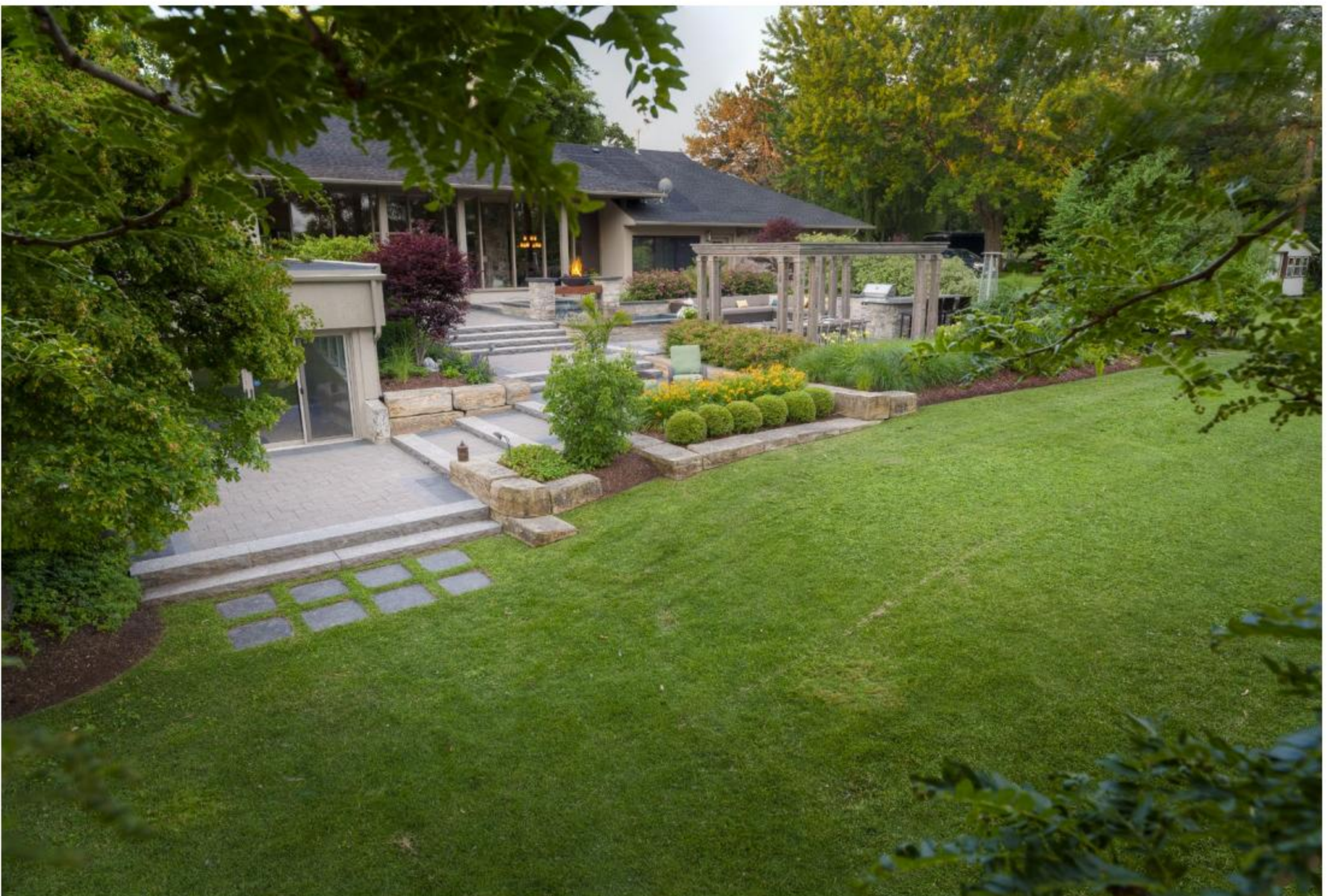
Kim agrees. "They really came through with the details. They did a fantastic job," she says, adding that she was initially attracted to the property because she saw influences of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the steel-post-and-beam house, and she loved its waterfront location.





But after painstakingly restoring the house close to its original 1952 state, she says, she wanted the exterior of the property to meet the same exacting standards. Although she has no idea how the grounds may have looked when the house was built, she says the garden is a perfect fit and will weather the test of time.

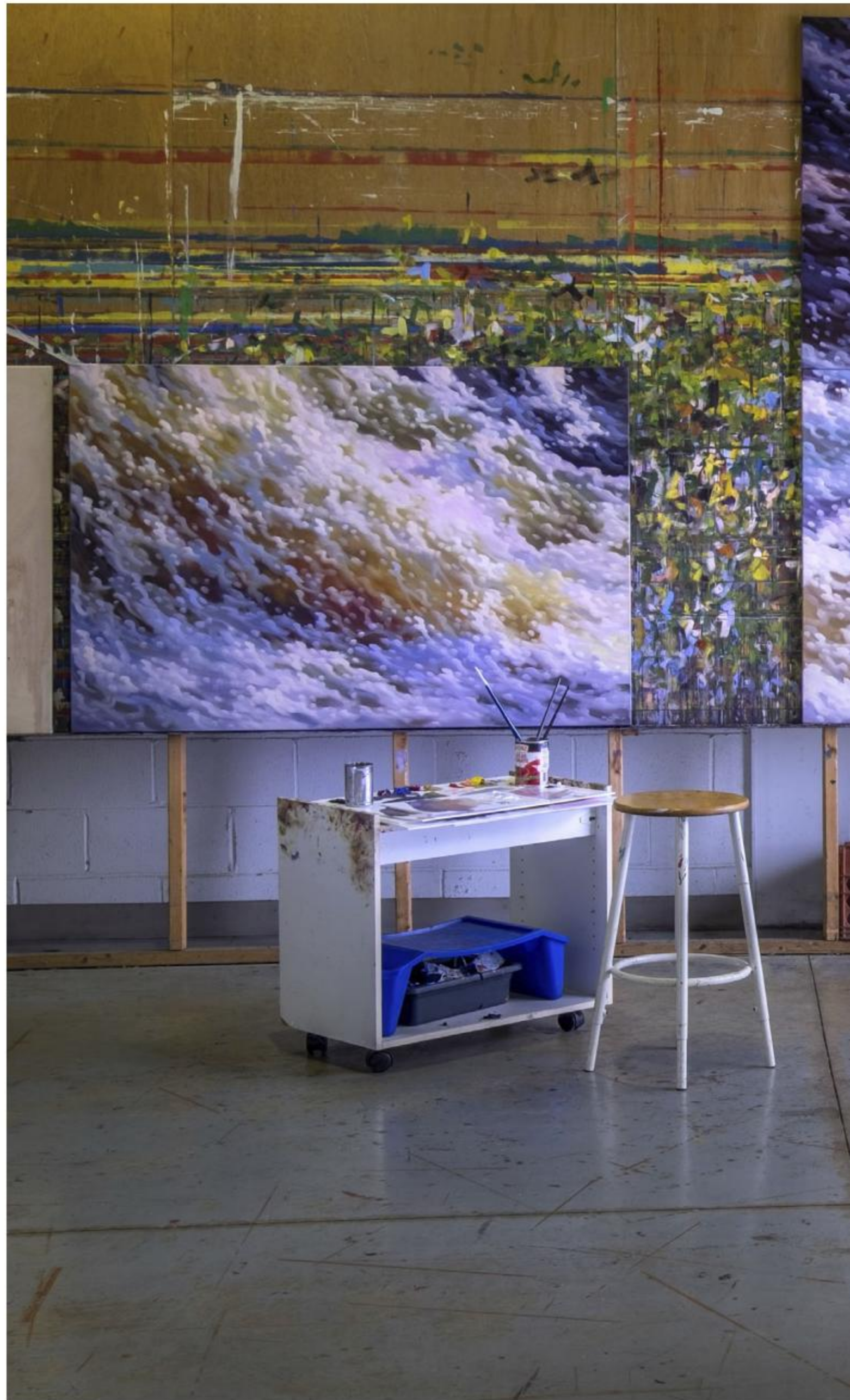
That's a good feeling, says Kim, a retired accountant, given that she is no longer the owner of the property. In 2014, she married her second husband in the new garden; together, they decided they wanted a smaller property. They have built a new house not far away and a new garden with one element that she moved with her: the Nestrest and the sail with the number 36 on it. ▶



# A BABY, BRUSHES, AND OIL PAINTS

*The birth of  
Michel LeRoux's  
daughter inspired  
the birth of his  
career as an artist*

BY KAREN SEIDMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JEAN BLAIS







**MICHEL LEROUX VIVIDLY REMEMBERS MAY 20, 1980** as the blessed day his only daughter, Marie-Hélène, came into existence. Moreover, it was the day LeRoux first went out to buy himself oil paints and brushes – the day when the illustrious career of a Quebec artist was also born.

The juxtaposition of those two events is no accident. LeRoux, having grown up in an artistic family and having worked in graphic design and lettering, found himself dealing with such a torrent of emotions after his

daughter's birth that he could think of no other way to express his feelings. "Four hours after her birth, I went out and bought paints and brushes," recalls LeRoux, who has lived in the South Shore region of Montreal for some 40 years. "I had too much emotion and didn't know how to deal with it."

Ever since that momentous day 38 years ago, he has painted with the goal of capturing emotions.





His first painting, he says, was terrible. He destroyed it, and many that followed. But then his vision of the natural world began to take shape and his style began to emerge. “Gradually, I began to internalize my subject and I began to paint in a single shot without even taking a step back,” he says.

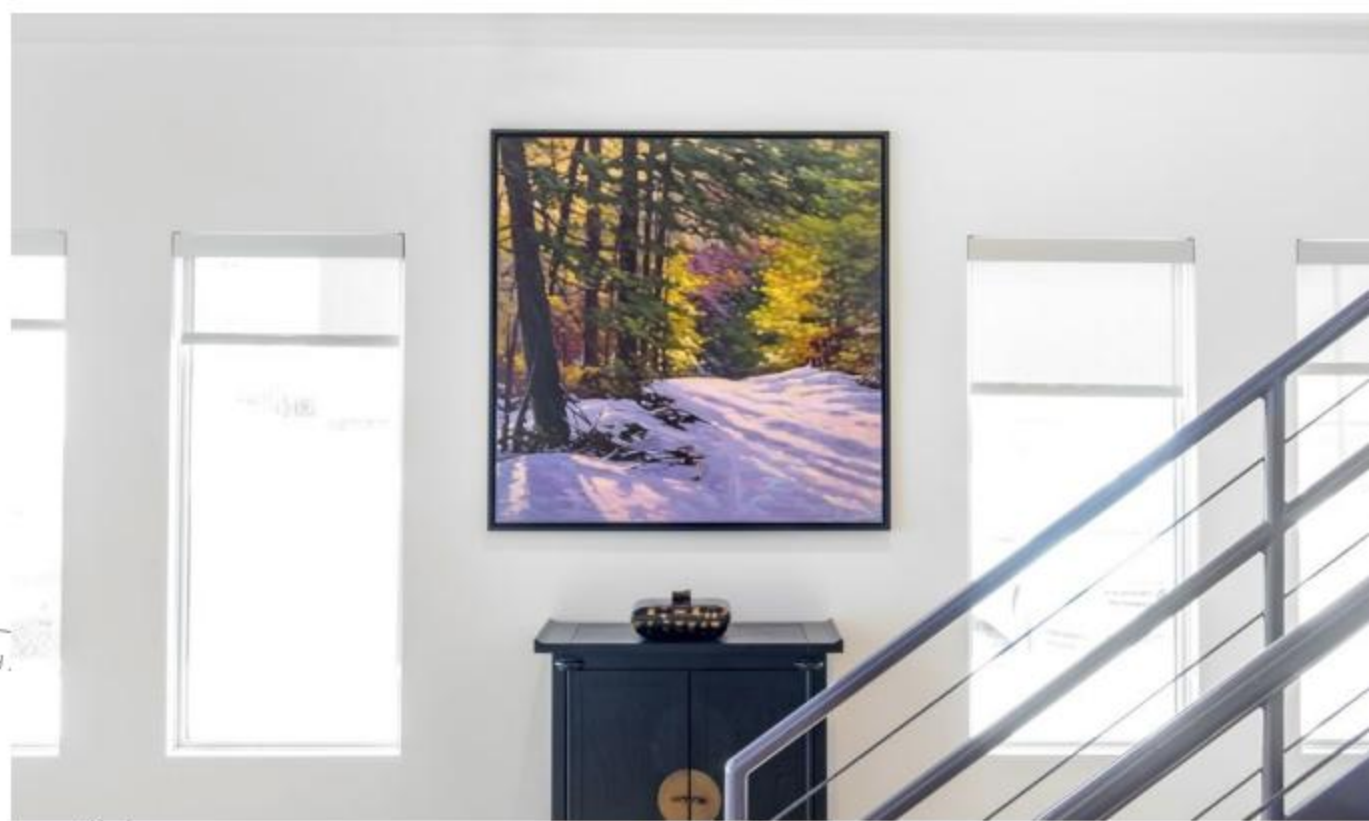
By 1985, LeRoux had enough paintings for a gallery show. “My career started very fast,” he says. “I sold a lot at that first show and began to have a lot of one-man shows and began to get good reviews.”

Now, his work sells at galleries across Canada and the U.S. for between \$3,000 and \$5,000, and is held in many prominent Canadian collections. 📍





Some 5,000 sold paintings later, LeRoux, almost 68, knows how fortunate he is. “My father was an artist who couldn’t make a living at it,” he says. “I’ve made a very good life for myself.” To pay the bills, his father worked as a lettering artist, doing towering billboards along highways and brick buildings in Old Montreal. For the young LeRoux, who began apprenticing with his father at the age of 12, it was fun to learn an artistic skill. Like his father, however, he strove for something more: a legitimate career as an artist.





*“I try to express my own feelings as I stand in the forest or at the sea.”*

While he taught graphic arts and lettering at Collège Ahuntsic and was, he says, one of the last in the province to still do lettering by hand in the early 1990s, at that time the writing was already on the wall, both literally and figuratively in LeRoux’s case. Despite big contracts for his independent graphic design firm, LeRoux could see that computers were taking over and that his art of hand-lettering was going to vanish in the computer age. “I knew that I wanted to keep a brush in my hand,” he says. “I was happier painting.”

The rest, as they say, is history. Painting filled a void in his life; his paintings explore his symbiotic relationship with nature, which has been his anchor and his inspiration throughout his life.

“Sap, salt water and fresh water flow through my veins,” says LeRoux, who considers himself a man of the forest, sea and rivers. Indeed, his canvases depict scene after scene in those places, each capturing a different mood, emotion, and the changing light. ☞



He finds a spot that inspires him – these days it is mostly by water – and then takes many photographs, which he uses to create his works of art in his studio. Lately, he is inspired by the beauty of the water in Kamouraska. “My emotions are strong when I stand in front of a canvas,” he says. “Colour, light, movement: I am always studying these things and trying to improve the way I capture them on canvas. I try to express my own feelings as I stand in the forest or at the sea.” It’s not always easy. With his water series, LeRoux figures he destroyed the first 30 paintings because he wasn’t satisfied with them.



“My influences come from the French Lyrical Abstraction movement of which Jean-Paul Riopelle was a part and for whom I have much admiration,” he says. “They also come from American Expressionism. I am fascinated by their works and even if I paint nature, my evolution gradually brings me to paint works that come out of the canvas and fit in a contemporary context but are inspired by these movements.”

In the same studio for 25 years – a loft in an industrial park on Montreal’s South Shore – LeRoux has worked tirelessly to capture the essence of the natural world around him.

Decades into his art career, his mind still bubbles with ideas, and nature still compels him to paint. “I have no plans to retire,” LeRoux says. “Painting is life to me.”

*In Toronto, Michel LeRoux is represented by Harbour Gallery, 1697 Lakeshore Rd., Mississauga (905-822-5495). His work can also be viewed on his website at: [www.michelleroux-art.ca](http://www.michelleroux-art.ca).*





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# DESIGNED & BUILT JUST FOR THEM

*A couple create their custom dream home in Etobicoke that unites the indoor spaces with the outdoors*

BY KAREN SEIDMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ALICIA THURSTON  
STYLING: BRANDON FOX









**ONE MORNING, MARIAN AND MICHAEL DAUD** woke up in their condo in the heart of downtown Toronto with a sudden, burning desire to have greenery and fresh air outside their door.

So the couple bought a property in Etobicoke – an area they had accidentally fallen in love with several years before when they got lost in the neighbourhood – and set about building their dream home on a challenging, pie-shaped lot.

Since the catalyst for the project was their wish to be able to enjoy the outdoors, one main objective was to create a fluid indoor/outdoor living space. The results of their endeavour are spectacular.





*Cool lighting fixtures and warm wood provide design counterpoints in the main living area. Millwork: Canara Woodworking.*



*Designer Carey Mudford says she used interesting, textured wallpapers to bring drama to the decor.*

Pocket sliding doors off the kitchen and family room can be pushed aside to completely disappear, allowing the great room to flow seamlessly into the lush outdoor living room and kitchen and then into the garden and pool area beyond. 🏡

It took a lot of engineering to make that work, says Michael, who used his experience building houses for Edition Homes to help with the design. "Making that indoor/outdoor living come to life was a necessity to me," he says. "We wanted it to be one organic living area."

Carey Mudford and Brandon Fox of Coe Mudford Interior Design were responsible for overseeing the design, along with Michael.

Mudford says they worked hard to create a continuous, fluid space. The pre-finished European oak floors in a matte finish indoors were replicated outside in a tile from Stone Tile International Inc., so the floors appear to spill over into the elegant outdoor room, which also has splashes of dark wood panelling and a similar palette of colours that reflect the interior space.


*Not merely a patio or backyard, the outdoor living space off the kitchen and family room is really an open-air room with all of the comfort and style that are on display in the home's indoor spaces.*





*The full outdoor kitchen boasts a regular grill as well as a pellet grill for slow cooking and smoking. A wood-burning fireplace means al fresco dining - nine months a year thanks to ceiling heaters - often end with roasted marshmallows.*

While the indoor kitchen is Marian's space, the outdoor kitchen, with both a grill and a pellet smoker for slow cooking, is Michael's domain. With a sink, a fridge and storage, the kitchen is fully functional – and overhead heaters make the space usable at least nine months of the year.

A TV and wood-burning fireplace complete the space and make it much more than a mere patio. It is really an outdoor extension of the house, all the more satisfying to the Daouds because of the challenging constraints of the narrow space they were working with. 





There is no question that this is a house with a major “cool” factor. From the heated driveway and walkways to the home automation system that controls absolutely everything – locks, security, cameras, blinds, drapes, temperature – the technology incorporated into the home allows the couple to live maintenance-free.

*“Hands down, the outdoor part of the house is my favourite in the summer. I love to jump in the pool on a hot day,” says homeowner Michael Daoud. “We wanted seamless indoor/outdoor living.”*





*“They wanted a very clean look but not cold and clinical.”*



The soaring architecture and abundance of windows lend to the 8,000-square-foot home’s airy ambience.

The couple spared no expense, using high-end materials in the millwork, furniture, tiles, lighting and appliances – all of it elegantly showcased in a sleek and contemporary design that has breathtaking elements, yet never seems to veer into the realm of being over the top.

Part of the reason for that is the spare design of the interior, which Michael chalks up to his wife, whom he calls “the queen of anti-clutter.”

Mudford says the couple didn’t shy away from design elements that brought a lot of character to the home: brass inlays in the foyer’s floors; dark cabinets and finishes that create drama and warmth; interesting textured wallpapers such as the velvet paper over the main staircase. “They wanted a very clean look but not cold and clinical,” says Mudford. ☞



*More striking wallpapers highlight the master bedroom, an office and a bathroom. The rich palette of colours brought warmth to the expansive living spaces, says Mudford.*







For Michael, the pièce de résistance is his basement retreat. Marian wanted it to resemble a hotel lobby, but Michael wanted man-cave elements, such as a five-screen TV wall to watch sports. They succeeded in achieving both goals. The bar accented with zebrawood and brass bar stools, the club chairs in front of the fireplace, and the sprawling custom-made sofa bring the chic style Marion wanted, while Michael has a built-in humidor, ample space to display his music memorabilia (including a signed B.B. King guitar and a signed Michael Jackson album cover), a 2,200-bottle wine cellar and a superhero mural in the gym.

“We live really busy lives but we enjoy our home when we’re in it,” says Michael. “It makes life easy.”



# FOLLOW THE SIGNS OUTSIDE

*The zodiac will determine how you experience outdoor living this summer*

BY SUSAN KELLY

**OUR COLLECTIVE MANIA** for outdoor living may be more about meteorology than astrology. With fair weather so fleeting, who doesn't want to take full advantage while it's here? Still, each zodiac sign has its own inimitable style. And that extends to making the most of every precious moment spent alfresco.

## **ARIES MARCH 21 – APRIL 19**

Restless Rams rage at being confined to a backyard or balcony. You simply have better things to do than watch a garden grow! Which is why you prefer to keep your own outdoor space as minimal and low-maintenance as possible. You may enjoy growing peppers as red-hot as your passionate nature, though. And you will want the biggest, baddest barbecue in the 'hood. As further outlet for that competitive streak, consider adding a games area (badminton, anyone?).

## **TAURUS APRIL 20 – MAY 20**

There's no such thing as sensory overload in a Taurus home – and that includes the outdoor areas. Mix textures, colours and aromas liberally in the landscaping or window boxes. Heap the patio furniture with weather-resistant throw pillows and throws. With your legendary green thumb, your little patch is probably prize-winning. Your fave planet, Venus, is associated with such plants as “love apple” tomatoes. For something different, try fragrant basil or honeysuckle, said to attract the money you love.

## **GEMINI MAY 21 – JUNE 20**

To make your outdoor space really feel like home, embrace your love of doing things in twos: Think twin reclining chairs, a set of matched side tables (you get the idea). Same goes for the colour scheme; pick two main accent hues for accessories and echo them in any flower beds. A strategically placed chaise longue from which to dawdle through your summer reading list is a must. And if there's a docking station for your ever-at-hand digital devices, so much the better.

**CANCER JUNE 21 – JULY 22**

It's family first for the Moonchild, also known for culinary chops. You're happiest with an outdoor kitchen and spacious dining area, plus a spot reserved for any children in your life. Do include a private retreat in which to grab some 'me' time. Since you enjoy womb-like spaces, an egg-shaped cabana chair or cozy chaise nestled under an arbour would be ideal. In the vegetable patch, try moisture-packed watermelons and cucumbers, and moonflowers are an apt floral choice.

**LEO JULY 23 – AUGUST 22**

Your home is your palace, decorated on-trend and with touches of luxe. Carry that impulse into the grounds along with your warm-hearted love of living large. As a fire sign, you'll find that a fireplace, the grander the better, is a good choice. Add an outdoor theatre space, too, so you can indulge your love of entertainment and entertaining to the hilt. A warm, happy accessory colour palette, shades of orange or yellow, helps create a perfect habitat for the Lion. A dramatic bank of sunflowers is a nice touch.

**VIRGO AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22**

As an earth sign, you enjoy the outdoors and gardening — at least in theory. Because you're also fastidious, literally getting your hands dirty offends. Planning orderly rows of vegetables or border plants thrills you. So does keeping the lawn and hedge manicured to perfection. What may be lacking: more space to just kick back and throw a shindig or two. Put your perfectionism aside because even if it hasn't yet attained your very high standards, your outdoor space is worth showing off.

**LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22**

After all things romantic, decorating and hosting are your favourite pursuits. Your ideal outdoor living room echoes the current and understated chic of your indoor one. You agonize over the layout, striving for balance in not only the look but meeting the needs of others. Deploy your refined aesthetic sense and incorporate a sculpture or two and artful accessories. And since you're such a social butterfly yourself, consider planting flowers that attract the real thing, such as alyssum, daylilies and asters.

**SCORPIO OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21**

Privacy, please! Your ideal: a totally secluded garden all to yourself. Secure your space by building the highest fences zoning will allow. Green screens are not only on-trend but soothe your tightly wound soul. Behind closed walls, you lean toward clean and refined style, with classic neutral lawn furniture and minimalistic accessories. Of all the signs, you're most likely to appreciate composting and its importance in the circle of life. And you could (and just might) teach the neighbours a thing or two.

**SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21**

Summer for you usually means more time devoted to travel or participating in sports. When you are at home, you treasure an outdoor space that resembles the wilderness you love. A firepit is a *de rigeur* feature for you, as you love nothing better than gathering the gang around a campfire-like flame. Your patch also has to be pet-friendly, for both your menagerie and visiting animal friends. Just don't let it go too *au naturel*, lest you come into conflict with the neighbours or local codes.

**CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19**

Traditional, polished and classic about sums up your style. And yet you will hang onto outdoor furniture with sentimental value, no matter how worse-for-wear it is. Any new purchases will be of highest quality and added judiciously over time. You also plant for posterity, preferring slow-growing vines such as ivy or fruit trees that take a generation to bear fruit. Your alfresco colour palette leans toward somber no-nonsense neutral shades. Try adding pops of unexpected colour to brighten things up.

**AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18**

Your outdoor space invariably can fit a crowd. And even when alone, you prefer as much wide, open space around you as possible. As one of the three air signs, you find it natural to grow a variety of grasses. The sights and sounds as they dance in the breeze help you chill out. Plus, they fit the sophisticated modern look you prefer, indoors and out. You'll want to add at least one curiosity or stand-out feature to cause comment. A telescope or astrolabe might be a natural choice for far-seeing you.

**PISCES FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20**

Traditional English gardens appeal to you — if not literally, at least the basic idea. Your natural habitat is an apparently random jumble of flowers, herbs and/or vegetables that is really well-orchestrated. Traditionally, you prefer single-petaled flowers, such as cosmos and daisies. And, since a spot in which to daydream is essential, invest in the largest water feature to fit your space and budget. Being born under the sign of Fish, try a pond deep enough for koi and perhaps Neptune himself to enjoy. 🐟



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# FOR OUR GROWING LOVE OF PLANTS

*The latest horticultural introductions offer gardeners plenty of choice for their gardens*

BY CHERYL CORNACCHIA

**THROUGHOUT THE COLD MONTHS OF THE YEAR,** when most of us are dreaming about our gardens, plant breeders are already hard at work selecting new varieties. It's a multi-step process involving rigorous field trials at public gardens, universities, nurseries and by individual growers, seed producers and industry representatives.

In time, many of those new varieties will make it to our garden centres – but not before going through this judging process. All-America Selections, a non-profit trialing organization, boasts 45 trial sites of its own, including

nine in Canada. It was founded in 1932, and one of its first trial sites was Montreal's Botanical Garden. But that's another story.

Finding an exciting new plant is part of the pleasure of being a gardener. And so, with a view to helping prepare for the gardens of 2018, we've contacted All-America Selection, Landscape Ontario, the University of Guelph and other experts to ask what's new, unusual and exciting this year. In a nutshell: more compact varieties, more edibles, and more pollinator-friendly annuals and perennials. Here are 22 of them. 🌱

ANNUALS

*Ornamental Pepper Onyx/Red* is an eye-catching new compact variety of *Capiscum*. With almost-black leaves, its shiny red fruits glisten like marbles. Height: six inches. Full sun.

*South Pacific Orange* is a new *Canna* hybrid that's a looker. It features bright orange inflorescence set against tropical-looking foliage. No staking required. Height: up to 52 inches. All-season bloomer. Full sun.

*Copper Prince* is this year's ornamental millet. It has rose-bronze panicles and spiky foliage that starts as caramel-coloured and deepens to copper. Height: up to three feet. Full or part sun.

*Sunfinity sunflower (Helianthus interspecific)* from Syngenta Seeds is a fabulous new sunflower that puts out bright yellow blooms all season long. Unlike traditional sunflowers that have one stem, *Sunfinity* is multi-branching. Height: three to four feet. Requires a minimum of six hours of sun.

*Apollo Lovesong* is a sun-loving dwarf cosmos that is even harder-working than its garden-workhorse predecessors, given its size. And its large pastel pink and white flowers will attract plenty of pollinators. Height: 18 to 24 inches. Full sun.

*Asian Garden Celosia*, bred in Japan, is a *Celosia argentea* made for Canada's cold climes. It has stunning magenta-pink plumes and a bushy habit. A favourite of pollinators. Height: up to three feet.



South Pacific Orange Canna



Copper Prince Millet



Sunfinity sunflower



Apollo Lovesong Cosmos



Asian Garden Celosia



Photos courtesy of All-American Selections, Norseco and Landscape Ontario



*Gypsophila Gypsy White Improved* is, as its name suggests, an improved *Gypsophila*. It has semi-double, white blooms so abundant it almost looks like a fluffy mound of snow. Height: 12 to 18 inches. Full/part sun. And *Cuphea FloriGlory Diana*, a new variety of *Cuphea*, commonly known as Mexican heather, packs a punch with new magenta-coloured flowers. Height: 10 to 12 inches. Spread: 16 to 18 inches. Both are good for borders, mass planting and containers. Full sun.

*Rockin' Deep Purple Salvia* hybrid is an eye-catching new *Salvia* that blooms steadily all summer into fall. Height: up to 40 inches. Full and part sun.



*Gypsophila Gypsy White Improved*



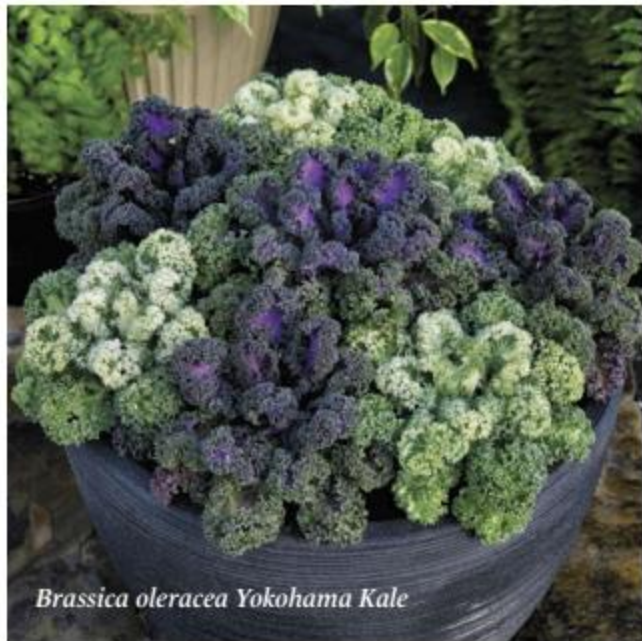
*Rockin' Deep Purple Salvia*



*Supertunia Bordeaux Petunia hybrid*

In 1995, *Petunia 'Purple Wave'* ushered in a new era of petunias as flower powerhouses that can function as both fillers and spillers. New to that class is *Supertunia Bordeaux Petunia hybrid*. Its soft purple flowers are accentuated by its deep plum throat and veins. Heat- and drought-tolerant. Height: six to 12 inches. Trails up to 30 inches. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Partial to full sun. 🌿

Photos courtesy of All-American Selections and National Garden Bureau



*Brassica oleracea Yokohama Kale*

**EDIBLES**

Edibles have become increasingly popular, especially with small-space gardeners. Filling that niche is a hardy new pansy hybrid, *Pansy 'Tasty Mixed.'* Its flavoursome flowers are mildly sweet and peppery. As well, *'Raspberry Fool' Nasturium* is a new nasturtium that has delightful edible raspberry and pink semi-double and single flowers. A new ornamental kale, perfect for container growing, is *Brassica oleracea Yokohama.* It has frizzy green, white, and purple leaves that are both pretty and tasty.

**SHRUBS**

Many new shrubs this year are compact versions of old favourites. *Paeonia lactiflora 'Kiev'* is a new dwarf peony from the Patio Series. It has large, single, bright-pink blooms that soften toward a centre of creamy yellow stamens. Hardy to Zone 4. *Cephalanthus Occidentalis 'Bail Optics' Fibre Optics* is a new version of a buttonbush native to Ontario and Nova Scotia. It has creamy white, compact flowers. Zone 4. *'Czechmark Trilogy' weigela* is a new *weigela* cultivar with not one, not two, but three colours of blooms on each plant: white, pink, and red. Zone 4. And *Hydrangea arborescens 'Invincibelle Mini Mauvette'* is a hardy new dwarf hydrangea with mophead mauve-violet flowers that bloom right through summer into fall. Hardy to Zone 3.



*'Raspberry Fool' Nasturium*



*Pansy 'Tasty Mixed'*



*Cephalanthus Occidentalis 'Bail Optics' Fibre Optics*

Photos courtesy of Norseco and Landscape Ontario



*Schizachyrium scoparium 'Twilight Zone'*

**PERENNIALS**

Perfect for sunny, hot, dry spots where nothing seems to grow, *Schizachyrium scoparium 'Twilight Zone'* is an exciting new little blue stem. It's tough and boasts a nearly iridescent silvery mauve purple cast that darkens into the autumn. Height: up to five feet. Hardy to Zone 4.

A new look for *Echinacea purpurea*, commonly known as purple coneflower, *Echinacea 'Kismet Intense Orange'* is a pollinator magnet that will bring in bees, birds, and butterflies. Height: 12 to 24 inches. Full sun. Hardy to Zone 4. Note: The flower is sterile; does not produce seed.

For something other than ferns or hostas in the shady areas of your garden, consider *Heucherella 'Onyx.'* These black foamy bells can thrive in deep shade. Height: eight to 12 inches. Hardy to Zone 5.

'*Munchkin Fire*' *hosta* is a miniature *hosta* that is ideal for small landscapes. It boasts a fountain of narrow yellow leaves and lavender flowers in midsummer. Height: four inches. Width: nine inches. Partial to full shade. Hardy to Zone 3.



*Echinacea 'Kismet Intense Orange'*



*Heucherella 'Onyx'*

*Allium 'Millenium'* was first introduced in 2000, but we are including it here because it has been named Perennial of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. A butterfly magnet extraordinaire, it is also deer- and rabbit-resistant. Full sun. This plant proves that once a winner, always a winner. ➤



*'Munchkin Fire' Hosta*

Photos courtesy of All-American Selections and Landscape Ontario




# STYLISH STATEMENTS

*A Forest Hill home is given strong design elements that make it unusual and unique*

BY BRENDA O'FARRELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY: STEPHANI BUCHMAN  
STYLING: ALI BUDD

**THERE ARE STYLES:** contemporary, transitional, traditional. And then, there are statements. They don't come with labels or fall into categories, though. They tend to speak for themselves. But what if the two were combined? And showcased in a kitchen? That's right, a kitchen. What would a stylish-statement kitchen look like?

It's a notion that architect Brenda Izen and interior designer Ali Budd did not directly set out to explore, but that is exactly what they created in a two-storey home in the Forest Hill area of Toronto. It was due, in part, to their unique and intricate collaboration. 



Izen, the principal architect at Izen Architecture Inc., and Budd, the owner of Ali Budd Interiors, share office space. This proximity allows them to continuously consult, adjust, improve and integrate the smallest of architectural and design elements that go into re-imagining a space.

In this instance, it meant infusing the kitchen with a sense of grandeur. It's an effect created not only by the height of its new soaring ceilings and the light streaming through clerestory windows on four sides, but also by the sophistication that reverberates from the combination of the finishes.

*The back wall of the kitchen boasts double French doors; four of the six panels open to the backyard.*



“We really wanted this to be the heart of the home,” Izen says of the kitchen. “We reconstructed the back wall and created a space that is seemingly bigger. We brought the natural light in and made this a dramatically different kitchen.”

The magnificence results from the decision to take advantage of the fact that this area of the house, which was previously a den at the back of the residence, was a section that had only one storey. Izen raised the roof, adding clerestory windows to create height and invite in light.

“The clerestory is the most special feature of the house. It makes the kitchen so bright,” she explains. “We didn’t want skylights. We wanted something more. It was a unique situation. It gives the kitchen so much depth.”

But more than depth, this space also has an air of sophistication and is very functional. One of the owners is a dietician, “whose life revolves around food, so the kitchen was very important,” Izen says. 🍴



*The clerestory windows on four sides, and the wall of windows to the backyard fill the kitchen with natural light.*



*The breakfast room features pastel blue wallpaper, a large round table and banquette seating that frames the bow window. The fireplace mantel, which was painted, is an original piece from the house.*





*Brass elements are carried through the entire kitchen, including the picture lights above the opening to the breakfast room. The stairs to the pantry are red oak; and all the millwork, including the built-in shelves, was custom-designed.*



*Bright colourful floral wallpaper, marble countertops and blue cabinets with brass pulls distinguish the large butler's pantry. It is equipped with a sink, wine fridge and "tons of storage," says designer Ali Budd. "It's a walk-through space. It's not a space you hang out in. You must choose your spots to be bold."*

The architectural treatment reflected the importance of the space, but it also needed to be addressed in how it was finished and styled. And this is where Budd's expertise came into play.

"The client wanted a white kitchen, so this is my version of a white kitchen," Budd says. "There are different ways of doing a classic kitchen. It can be edgy."

This edge is introduced with the use of brass and black. Brass detailing is showcased on the custom-made range hood and is echoed in the pendants above the island, the frames of the stools, and the unique use of painted detailing above the opening that leads to the breakfast room, where brass picture lights are installed. The black elements include the interior window frames and the faucet; they're also carried throughout the rest of the main floor.

"It's a beautiful space to hang out in," Budd says of the kitchen. "It's a large, bright, beautiful space."

Her favourite space on the main floor, which was completely reconfigured, however, is the breakfast room. "It's so special, so different," she says, explaining how the use of the dreamy blue wallpaper and the sheer size of the round table give this space a unique quality.

Budd admits that introducing the blue was "a bit of a trust-me moment," when the homeowners allowed her to implement a big-picture approach. "This is a full-concept design, not a piecemeal design," she says.

"It was the perfect space in the house to do something impactful," she continues, pointing out how the construction of the banquette "was a great way to frame the window. "This is a really good example of how to live with colour." 🏡





*The living room features a wall-mounted television set on a charcoal-grey wall above the black marble fireplace surround. The use of black “anchors the wall and that space. When the TV is off, you are not staring at a black TV on a white wall,” designer Ali Budd explains. The coffered ceiling was painted white. “We wanted it to be white and bright and amazing,” she says. “People are scared to paint wood, and I don’t know why.”*

The choice of over-sized grey and white tiles in the kitchen and breakfast room speaks to the role that colours play, she adds, explaining how the choice of grey rather than black softens the contrast. The floor is not only aesthetic but practical because it is heated, Izen says.

“This project was a collaborative team effort,” she says. “We focused on the details. We revisited each decision. We adjusted every detail architecturally and design-wise. The vision was to make a really beautiful, functional home that could be lived in.”

The end result, Budd says “is specific and unique to them, and they are a very special family.”

It’s a great example of how to employ style to make a statement. ☛





*Brass elements are used throughout the house, including the pendant light above the dining room table, which designer Ali Budd describes as “almost like a piece of art.” The table, from Restoration Hardware, has a marble top.*





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# CHILL OUT UNDER THE SUMMER SUN

*Our guide to finding perfect  
furnishings and accessories for  
your beautiful garden room*

BY TRACEY MACKENZIE

**T**he weather is hot, so it's a great time to go and chill outside. If you have plans to transform your yard into an outdoor room this summer, here are some suggestions that may help you create the perfect spot in which to socialize with friends and family or just decompress alone.

OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018



MODERN MÉLANGE

Constructed of marine-grade stainless steel with teak accents, the Gotland collection of outdoor seating is sleek and reminiscent of the best of the Mid-century Modern style.

Available at *Casualife*  
[www.casualife.ca](http://www.casualife.ca)

CURVY AND CONTEMPORARY

Designed by Australian brothers Harrison and Nicholas Condos, the Balmain collection from Restoration Hardware is handcrafted of plantation-grown teak. Gentle curves and tapered legs soften the contemporary look and add an organic feel to the collection.

Restoration Hardware  
[www.rh.com](http://www.rh.com)



OUTDOORS OR IN?

The Heathered shag mat is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. It's durable, quick to dry, and is mold- and mildew-resistant. Perfect for the patio or indoor workshop, this mat is available in four sizes.

Available at *Chilewich*  
[www.chilewich.com](http://www.chilewich.com)



LIGHT THE WAY

The Chassis lantern, shown here in peach, has a brass-coloured handle and comes in three sizes: votive, small and medium. Also available in white.

Available at *Anthropologie*  
[www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)

OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018

**HAPPY HERRINGBONE**

Tracey Boyd reinterprets the herringbone pattern on her new Twill ceramic indoor/outdoor tables. A painted contrast band around the top and bottom adds colour. It pairs well on the patio with Anthropologie's Chassis lantern.

Available at Anthropologie  
[www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)



**LOUNGE AROUND**

The Bene outdoor lounge chair has an aluminum frame and is strung with weather-resistant woven cord in a pattern that improves breathability. Available in two colours: black and stone grey.

Available at Article  
[www.article.com](http://www.article.com)

**LOW AND LINEAR**

The woven texture of the Clodagh sofa reflects the centuries-old art of basket-weaving, albeit rendered here in resin. Its low and linear profile will lend a sleekness to your outdoor space. Available at Restoration Hardware in Graphite and Bronze.

Restoration Hardware  
[www.rh.com](http://www.rh.com)





OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018



**ACCENTUATED ANGLES**

Geometric shapes accentuate the Olema lounge chair from designer David Sutherland. From the elegant cushions to the angled seating, this chair offers comfort and refinement.

*Restoration Hardware  
www.rh.com*

**GET INTO THE SWING OF IT**

The unique look of the Destiny Tear Drop PVC swing chair with stand by Mistana will add a tropical look to an outdoor terrace or patio. Complete with beige cushions for extra comfort, this chair can be hung from the ceiling or stand alone. Weather- and UV-resistant.

*Available at Wayfair  
www.wayfair.ca*



**THE GOLDEN EGG**

The allen + roth 16-inch gold-finished side table will add a touch of glamour to your patio. Lightweight and easy to move, this handcrafted side table can be used either indoors or out.

*Available at Lowes  
www.lowes.ca*

## OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018

**COOL CORAL AND A TOUCH OF TURQUOISE**

The Charleston melamine side plate set is ideal for serving up canapés poolside. Available in coral, turquoise and blue, these plates are sure to brighten up any table setting. Comes in a set of four.

Available at Anthropologie  
[www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)

**LOLLYGAGGER LOUNGER**

Designed by Loll Designs, the Lollygagger lounge chair is made of 100 per cent recycled plastic, mainly from reclaimed milk jugs. The company's dedication to the environment has kept more than 100 million milk jugs out of landfills. Waterproof and fade-resistant, this chair is perfect for the garden or beachside patio.

Available at DWR  
[www.dwr.com](http://www.dwr.com)

**BEACHED**

A modern take on the iconic bean bag chair, the IBIZA chaise offers relaxed lounging by the pool or the ocean. The water-resistant shell encases quick-dry foam and beads to provide you with the ultimate in luxury beach chairs. Available in a variety of colours.

Restoration Hardware  
[www.rh.com](http://www.rh.com)

**BARBECUE BLISS**

The Weber Genesis II is a liquid-propane gas grill that includes high-performance burners, which are tapered to ensure a consistent gas flow from front to back. It also has a bar, a grease-management system, and an infinity ignition. Everything you need to get cooking.

Available at Lowes  
[www.lowes.ca](http://www.lowes.ca)

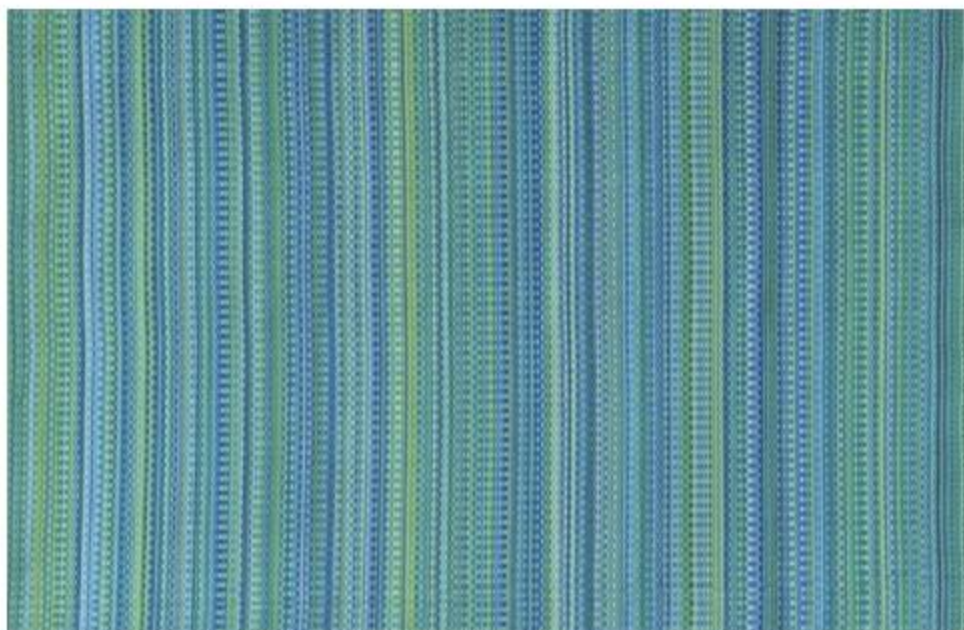


OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018

BLUE BLEND

The Bottomley area rug is hand-woven of tubular plastic straws and is UV-protected and fade-proof. Reversible and easy to maintain, it's also made to repel mold and mildew. Rinse clean with a garden hose.

Available at Wayfair  
www.wayfair.ca



SLUMBER UNDER THE SUN

The Maura double chaise longue is a stylish, canopied sunbed with an exotic larch-wood frame. Perfect for lazy afternoons. Just add throw pillows and a good book and you've got your own personal oasis.

Available at Wayfair  
www.wayfair.ca

COMFY CURVES

The Kobo lounge chairs by Manutti are equally at home poolside or surrounded by nature. Their gentle curves and low profile will complement the verticality of tall ornamental grasses or stand alone as perfect statement pieces.

Available in two colours.  
Jardin de Ville  
www.jardindeville.com



## OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018

## TAKE A SEAT!

This beautiful grey sectional from Jardin de Ville's Outfit collection has an aluminum frame and cushions covered in Sunbrella fabric for durability. Perfect for the patio or deck, this ensemble will add elegance to an outdoor room.

*Jardin de Ville*

[www.jardindeville.com](http://www.jardindeville.com)



## STURDY AND STACKABLE

The popular Bellini chair, designed by Mario Bellini for Heller, is crafted of injection-molded, fibreglass-reinforced polypropylene. Sturdy and stackable, this fashionable favorite is exceptionally comfortable and tough enough to withstand constant use. Elegant enough for the indoors, it resides in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

*Available at DWR*

[www.dwr.com](http://www.dwr.com)

## HAVE A BALL

The Ball portable LED lamp, designed by Smart & Green, is waterproof, shockproof, cordless and rechargeable. And if that weren't enticing enough, there are three colour modes from which to choose. Perfect for the living room or patio, this lamp can even be used on water for a stunning lighting display. One six-hour charge provides between eight and 20 hours of power, depending on the mode and intensity level used.

*Available at DWR*

[www.dwr.com](http://www.dwr.com)



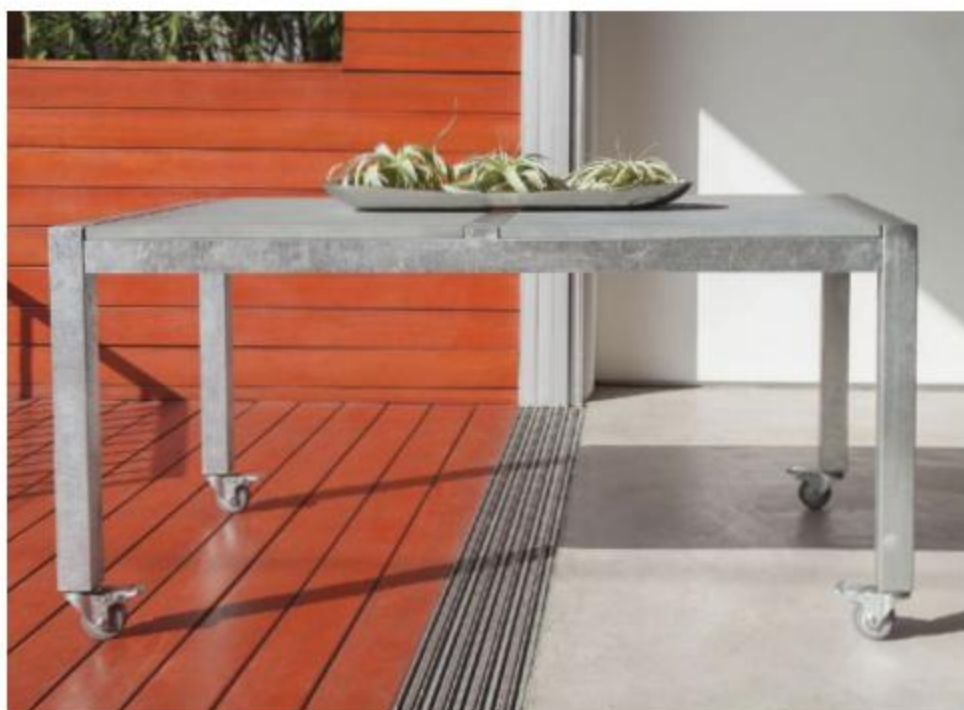
OUTDOOR LIVING GUIDE 2018



**SLEEK SOFAS**

Modern and modular, these pieces from the Jardin de Ville Statement collection add a minimalist flavour to a backyard or patio. The cushions, covered in Sunbrella fabric, are designed by Cuscini.

*Jardin de Ville*  
[www.jardindeville.com](http://www.jardindeville.com)



**INDUSTRIAL INCLINATIONS**

The Moda dining table sports a fibre-cement top and galvanized metal legs for an industrial look. Combine with wood accessories for a touch of warmth. Rolling wood casters make this table easy to relocate. May be used indoors or outdoors.

*Available at Article*  
[www.article.com](http://www.article.com)

**CEMENTED IN STYLE**

The Colorfade coffee table is made of cast cement and is as versatile as it is beautiful. Painted in a soft ombre finish, it works for the living room or outdoor lounge area. Pina coladas not included.

*Available at Anthropologie*  
[www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com)



# LET THE SUN SHINE

*Interior designer  
Danielle Campbell  
opens the interiors  
of a Markham home  
to increase light and  
improve flow*

BY SARAH B. HOOD  
PHOTOGRAPHY: EUGEN SAKHLENKO







**WHAT ATTRACTED DENNIS WONG AND ROSANNA YU** to their new home in Markham was its layout and its wide front facing the street. A few decades old, it needed updating, but they saw potential for a bright living space with plenty of room for them and their daughter, who stays with them during breaks in her university schedule.

“The one thing they kept saying was ‘We want more space on the ground floor for entertaining,’ ” says interior designer Danielle Campbell of the eponymously named Danielle Campbell Design. “They wanted the house to flow better, with clean lines, incorporating little hits of colour.”

*Danielle Campbell's reconfiguration of the home creates a seamless flow between the dining room, the kitchen and the new addition that projects beyond the original back wall of the house into the garden area.*



*“It’s not one specific style; it’s a collective of beautiful pieces that work in concert together.”*



Campbell knocked out walls to expand connections between the rooms and reduced a narrow living-dining room to accommodate the expanded kitchen. It has become a charming sitting room with a large bay window facing the front of the house, where a bright blue Jonas sofa and matching chair from Design Within Reach invite visitors to pause and chat.

“They’re attracted to the light and a crispness, with bright pops of colour,” Campbell says of her clients. Moreover, she adds, “It’s not one specific style; it’s a collective of beautiful pieces that work in concert together. I supported Rosanna and Dennis with sourcing the furniture as they have a great eye and wanted to make their mark on the project.”

Framed in a striking contrasting gold frame behind the sofa is a Chinese landscape of misty evergreens, which the couple acquired in Hong Kong about 20 years ago. These strong primary colours bounce forward from the white walls, light fixture and carpet. ☞



*“I think it turned out to be perfect, in the sense that it actually exceeds our expectation.”*



*HanStone quartz, installed by Surface Spectrum Inc., grounds the centre of the kitchen with the massive simplicity of a central island; it provides an inspiring blank canvas for the home chef.*



The kitchen intensifies the white-on-white theme in walls, counters and much of the cabinetry. Mississauga-based Surface Spectrum, Inc. fabricated and installed beautifully fitted HanStone quartz to encase the kitchen island and top the working surfaces. AyA Kitchens and Baths installed the cabinets, which provide the room's single note of dark contrast below counter level. The Wolf stove, Bosch oven and Fisher & Paykel refrigerator blend discreetly into the counter and wall surfaces.

The adjacent dining room is equally light and airy but is anchored by a substantial L-shaped Flare fireplace. It is finished in porcelain tiles from Metro Source. Because the spaces leading into the dining room are so impressive, "the dining area had to live up to the other areas with impact," says Campbell. She adds that the fireplace "embodies the natural elements in a contemporary fashion; it still gives them the earthiness with the clean lines." 🏡

A glass-topped table and a honeycomb-shaped chandelier offer understated drama that matches but does not compete with the weight of the grounded fireplace.

But the most remarkable transformation was achieved by building a relatively modest addition onto the back of the house. A mere 200 square feet, this greenhouse-like sunroom, almost entirely walled in glass, opens across the rear of the home to the outdoors and expands the sense of breathing space throughout the ground floor. “We used some of the old brick from the back wall,” Campbell says. “It aged it a little bit. Cathedral ceilings on the inside with the shiplap give you that feeling of space.”



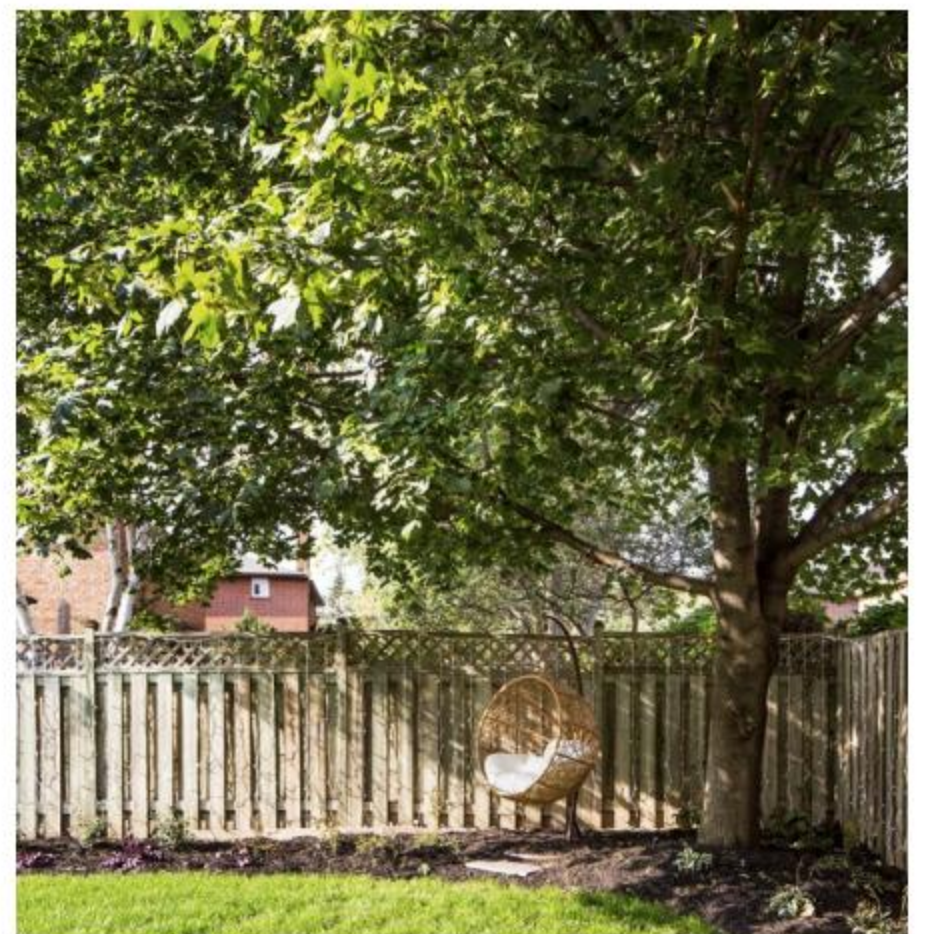
The sunroom continues the white palette, with a sofa from Calligaris and armchairs from Prima Lighting. As in the kitchen, there are a few strokes of contrast, including a dark brown leather wine cabinet, already in the family’s collection. Above it all, a brilliant gold sunburst chandelier from Lighting New York creates a joyful flash of colour that draws the eye upward to emphasize the extra ceiling height.

If the ground floor has been designed for hospitality, so have the outdoor spaces. Two separate seating areas provide enticements for chatting and dining, while a hanging chair tucked away in one corner is a perfect spot for some secluded summer reading. ☞

*The spare lines of the dining room lamp and hanging light fixture hint at austerity, but the elegant extravagance of the Flare fireplace turns this minimalism into sophistication.*



*Complex geometry: matching the high cathedral ceiling to the lower existing roof required ingenuity, but it has paid off by making a modest footprint feel spacious, bathed in outdoor light that reflects off many tones and textures of white.*





*In the master bathroom, a deep soaker tub invites repose.*

The second floor was also rearranged to enlarge the master bedroom and bathroom. Another bedroom was converted to a walk-in closet.

With its glass-enclosed shower stall and cunningly mitred HanStone quartz surrounds for the fixtures, the master bathroom is as luminous as the downstairs. However, the master bedroom deviates from the rest of the home. Its clean, stark, black wall underlines that while the rest of the house is designed for guests to wander at their pleasure, this is the family's personal sanctuary.





The furniture is simple and does not call attention to itself. In fact, with the addition of a wall-mounted mirror, the vanity table was converted from its intended purpose as a desk. It was sourced from Structube. Simple wall sconces from Union Lighting only minimally break up the intensity of the headboard wall.

“I think it turned out to be perfect, in the sense that it actually exceeds our expectation,” says Dennis.

Rosanna agrees: “It’s the dream house come true!”

*The black wall in the bedroom is the yin element to the brilliant yang of the rest of the home, defining a place of rest, renewal and comfortable solitude. Vanity: Structube; sconces: Union Lighting and Furnishings.*



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# FOR THE BIRDS ... OH, AND BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND BATS, TOO

*Gardeners can protect the  
environment by building habitats for  
pollinating insects and animals*

BY CHERYL CORNACCHIA



**ISABELLE BÉRUBÉ AND HER HUSBAND** built their dream house four years ago on a 12-acre property in Quebec's Eastern Townships, an hour's drive southeast of Montreal. Passionate nature lovers, they planted flower gardens, vegetables and fruit trees to get the most out of country life.

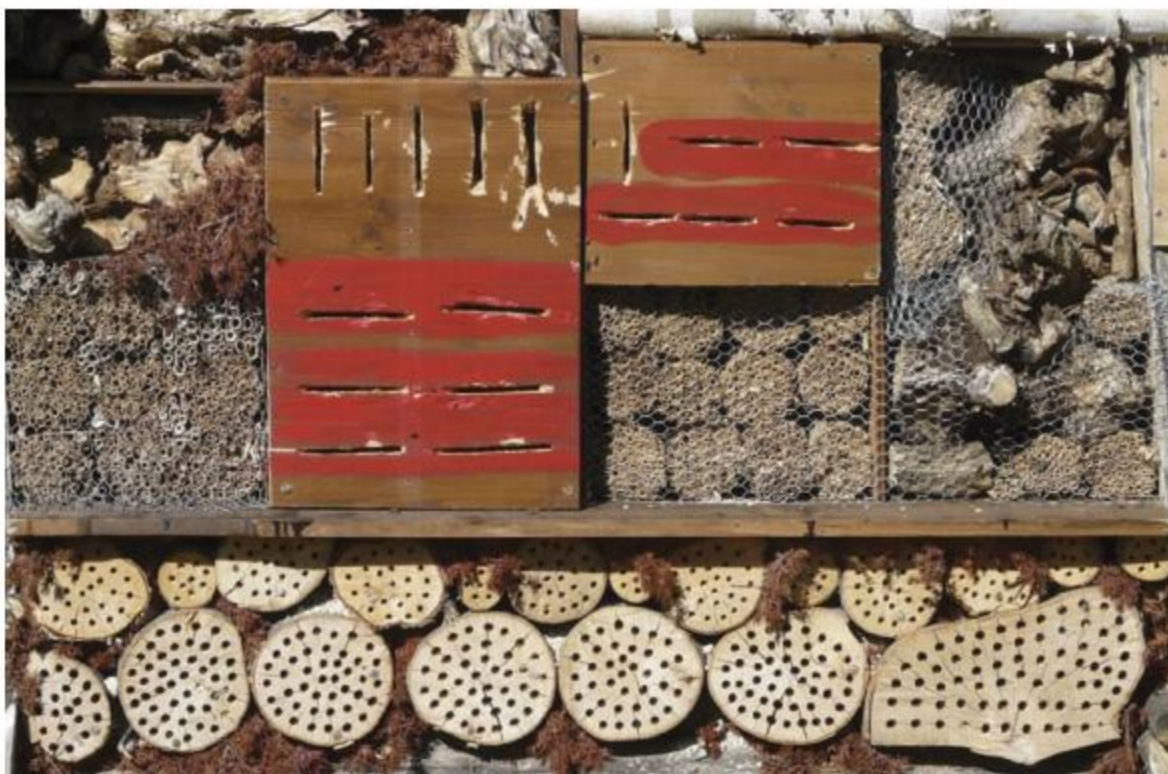
Then Bérubé built a second dream house – just to attract bees. Her thinking with her first bee house was: “Build it, and they will come.” And come they did.

“It was a test,” Bérubé says of the bee house she made with scrap wood. It had multiple holes and compartments in it and measured five-by-two feet. “They (Mason bees, the first pollinators of the season) started going into all the different holes. They laid their eggs, put in nectar and pollen and then sealed it with mud. I was amazed! It worked,” she says.

The following spring, Bérubé recalls, the eggs hatched and the bees were out pollinating her garden.



Photos courtesy of Isabelle Bérubé



Just as man and woman cannot live by bread alone, bees need more than nectar and pollen. They need shelter from the elements, somewhere to breed. Gardeners have begun to recognize this and are embracing the housing challenge. As a result, bee hotels, as well as bug condos and insect houses, are helping bees, butterflies and valuable insects to thrive.

“Habitat is as important as providing food for bees,” says Nigel E. Raine, a professor who holds the Rebanks Family Chair in Pollinator Conservation at the University of Guelph.

He supports anything that attracts pollinators to the garden. “Almost 90 per cent of flowering plant species worldwide rely on animals and insects for pollination,” he says.

By providing shelter and integrating into gardens native plant varieties and other pollen- and nectar-rich plants, bees, butterflies and other insects are able to better survive the ongoing habitat degradation that occurs as cities grow and natural habitats disappear.



It doesn't take much to create these crucial niche habitats in an ordinary residential garden. A 10-by-12-by-six-inch box divided into compartments and filled with tube-like structures is a good start. Bamboo poles cut into six-inch lengths make perfect tubes.

Gardeners who are not that handy or are uninclined to tackle do-it-yourself projects can look online, where there are many models from which to choose.

Alternatively, gardeners can leave part of their garden uncovered rather than mulched to allow ground-burrowing native bees to build homes. They can also keep some old wood lying around. If it is rotting, or it has been drilled through with holes, it will quickly become an insect shelter.

Of course, there's no need to stop with just bees and other insects. An eight-by-eight-by-eight-inch closed box with shutter-like openings on one side makes a perfect home for the little brown bat, the most common bat in Canada, now threatened by white-nose syndrome.



Bat boxes



Song birds, too, can be encouraged to stay in bird houses, which are easy to build or buy. Horticultural choices are also important. Planting pollinator-friendly varieties in the garden creates a welcoming environment. Lists of important pollinator plants are available online. A good resource is [www.flowerscanadagrowers.com/pollinator-poster](http://www.flowerscanadagrowers.com/pollinator-poster). Many new plant hybrids are bred for us – with brighter colours and bigger flowers – but they often contain less pollen. For insects,

there’s nothing like the real thing with which they have evolved in nature. “If I had a slogan, it would be helping people to help create life,” says Isabelle Bérubé, who has since refined her bee and insect houses and is now selling them at a nearby nursery, Jardins de l’Écoumène in St. Damien, Quebec and online at [www.atelierzabie.ca](http://www.atelierzabie.ca). “I feel so proud,” she adds. “It makes my eyes twinkle.”

# A NEW ENERGY IN PALM BEACH

*Canadian designer Scott Yetman renovates this Mediterranean-style home in Florida*

BY BRENDA O'FARRELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY: AARON THOMPSON  
STYLING: SCOTT YETMAN









**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT** of living in Palm Beach? Just imagine.

The town is a 29-kilometre stretch along a barrier island off the eastern coast of Florida. It is no wider than 1.2 kilometres and narrows to about 150 metres at points, covering an area of 27 square kilometres, of which only 10 is land. The rest is water. Oh, and there is sunshine everywhere.

Frequently featured in the news during the past year, the island is the site of the

Mar-a-Lago estate owned by U.S. President Donald Trump, which he often refers to as his “Winter White House.”

According to the latest census, Palm Beach has slightly more than 10,000 residents, of whom more than half are over the age of 65.

But Scott Yetman sees that shifting. He’s a Montreal-based interior designer and owner of Scott Yetman Design. He does about 30 per cent of his business in Florida, and says Palm Beach is experiencing a youthful resurgence.

It is with that trend in focus that he set out to remodel a prime luxury home that is going to hit the market with an asking price of \$8.8 million. It’s a six-bedroom, seven-bathroom, two-storey Mediterranean-style house. To bring the project to fruition, the designer worked with builder Sciamé Homes of Palm Beach and with architect Benjamin Schreier of Affiniti Architects in Boca Raton.

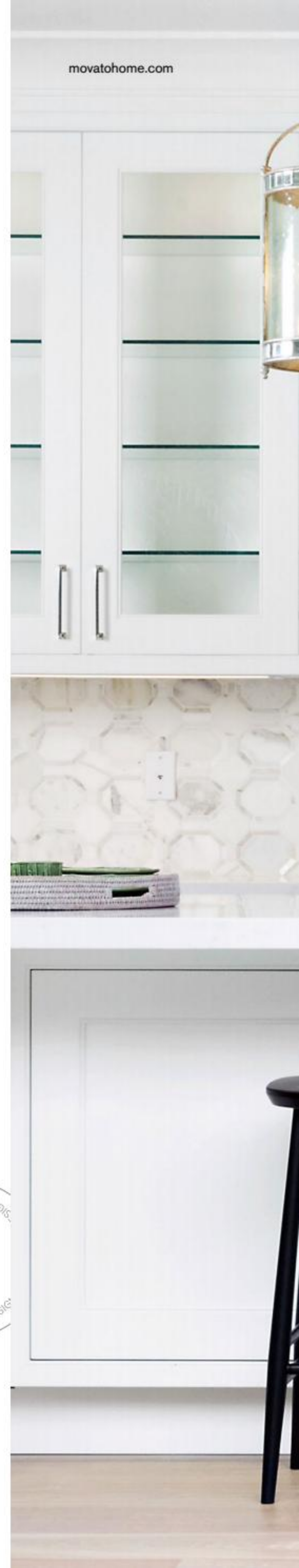
“It’s a fresh, young version of a classic Palm Beach home,” Yetman says of the project. 🏡



*The dining room was opened to a covered terrace with the installation of a large bank of windowed doors.*



*(Right) The black oversized range hood dominates the kitchen and creates contrast with the almost all-white space.*



When asked if it would be a perfect second home, his response: “Or third, or fourth or fifth.” Welcome to the no-worries, privileged lifestyle of Palm Beach.


The home, which was originally built in the 1950s, has been completely remodeled and updated. Yetman refashioned it for a young family, or an older couple who has grandchildren. “I’m trying to create a younger, more modern Palm Beach look,” he says. And that starts with creating energy. “I really like the living room. There’s energy between the colours – the black and the white.”

The setting is all white, including the pecky cypress-clad ceiling. As Yetman explains, “It gave it a fresher approach to paint it.” The black is introduced via accents and art. Many of the dramatic works displayed on the walls and atop the limestone fireplace

mantel are on lease from a local gallery, giving the new owners the option of keeping them for now, changing them up later, or buying them.

Quality art pieces give the home a curated look, Yetman says, which adds to the vibe.

The designer also created his signature coffered ceilings in the kitchen and dining areas. This is a feature that provides both function and form, he says, allowing for a practical way to install ductwork, while creating a “layered effect” that “gives the room texture.”

During the renovation, a new bank of wide patio doors was added to the dining room, giving access to the outdoors almost across the entire side of the home, stretching along the living room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast-nook area. 







*The open terrace is an inviting space with a selection of furnishings that include a faux-stone table made of a cast material.*



The doors access an open terrace off the living room and a covered outdoor space off the dining room, as well as the swimming pool, which has been refurbished. Yetman says the outdoor furniture is treated very much like that in the interior rooms, with a mix of styles to create inviting spaces that have charm and sophistication. “It adds another room to the house,” he says.

The kitchen is another area where the energy is amplified with the use of black and white. The oversized black range hood, with its molded frame, commands attention. The contrast with the almost all-white surroundings, and the strategic use of black accents and details creates the contrast that gives the space a fresh, modern feeling. The three-dimensional marble-tile backsplash provides interesting texture. *ES*

*The covered terrace is appointed with furniture that makes it an outdoor room. It extends the home’s living area and provides a shaded seating area that is ideal for sunny mornings.*



*The living room is flooded with light. This space is almost all white, including the pecky cypress ceiling.*







*(Above) The spacious master bedroom is on the ground floor and opens onto a private courtyard that is lined with tall hedges.*



And what would a Florida home be without a master bedroom in which French doors open onto a private courtyard? Surrounded by walls of hedges, this outdoor space is an oasis.

The house was designed and is intended to be sold with all the furniture. Or, as Yetman says: “There is nothing to do. It’s ready to roll.”

His take on the newer, younger look to Palm Beach living could gain traction. “I’m not completely trying to change things; I’m trying to update them,” he says. “For most people, they could imagine themselves living there.”

Perhaps it’s time to start thinking about living in Palm Beach? Go ahead, imagine. ✦



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# NO COMPETITION WITH MOTHER NATURE

*A low-key landscape allows the view of Lake Ontario to play the starring role behind this home*

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFF McNEILL





*“The house is ultramodern,  
and we wanted the landscape  
to mimic that style.”*



**“GRASS, CONCRETE SLABS, AND A POOL”** is how Doug Glancy, owner of Kiva Architectural Design of Fonthill, Ontario, succinctly describes his first view of this backyard. His clients and their guests enjoyed alfresco dining against the background of Lake Ontario, but the view across the foreground left much to be desired.

“They wanted something more usable,” says Glancy, recalling a rather forlorn landscape consisting of about 4,800 square feet of lawn punctuated by a swimming pool and its fractured concrete surround. “They wanted solutions to the cracked concrete, and they also specified a firepit and the hot tub area.”



Because the property is sloping, the Kiva crew had multiple levels to play with. Glancy envisioned distinct spaces, each on its own plane: the back deck, where the family could dine and entertain friends; the firepit, which would offer a welcoming, warm spot for enjoying the view on cool evenings; the hot tub, which would offer both views and a

conversation area; and the pool and grassy areas for fun and soaking up the summer sun.

“The house is ultramodern, and we wanted the landscape to mimic that style,” Glancy says. The approach was for a contemporary, linear, sleek look. 🏡







The choice of materials was partly dictated by existing elements. For instance, when the house was built a few years earlier, the side garden connecting the front and backyards was landscaped, so the backyard was designed to maintain continuity. The side garden path consists of slabs of slate, and Glancy has used the same material to pave several areas and walkways in the back.

Plantings along the side are mostly ornamental grasses, with purple spires of Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) to give a streak of colour. In late summer, interest is added as some of the grasses grow fronds, and colours change from variations of green to pale yellow and rusty red.

Glancy has maintained the low-key approach in the backyard. Plantings are mostly low-profile, with judicious splashes of colour, so as not to divert attention from the view.

Three materials delineate the various “rooms” in the backyard. Spilling down from the house and running along much of the back and side are steps and a large platform of composite decking in a medium-dark grey, providing an elevated area for dining and large gatherings.

Down a few steps is the next level, paved in slabs of blue-grey slate that will weather to the same pale tones of the side yard. The firepit, built up with pale Indiana limestone, is rectangular and substantial enough to suit the home’s architecture but is still low-profile.

On the far side of the firepit area is more composite decking into which is set the hot tub. The homeowners had originally requested a literal room – a cabana – here but realized that it would obstruct the view from the house, so they decided to have the sunken tub and lounge furniture on the deck instead. 🏡





A few more steps lead down to the swimming pool and surround, which was problematic when Glancy started the project. “A couple of the concrete areas were settling and cracking,” he says. It would have been costly and time-consuming to excavate it and lay down new concrete, so he opted to cap it with a pale composite.

“This new decking gives a fresh look and more interest,” he says. “It made sense aesthetically and practically.”

The geometric aesthetic is continued with low Indiana limestone retaining walls delineating several more grassy levels as the property slopes down to the water’s edge.

Low-voltage LED lighting, mostly inset into decking and walls, ensures that the homeowners and their guests can safely navigate the area at night.

It’s difficult to compete with Lake Ontario, and Glancy has wisely provided his clients with a low-key, streamlined design that offers plenty of room for enjoying their backyard while revelling in a fine view.

“The lake speaks for itself,” he says. “That’s why they’re there. We really didn’t have to do anything to make it a special space, because of the location. For a bonus they have these specialty areas looking out onto that picturesque lake view.”



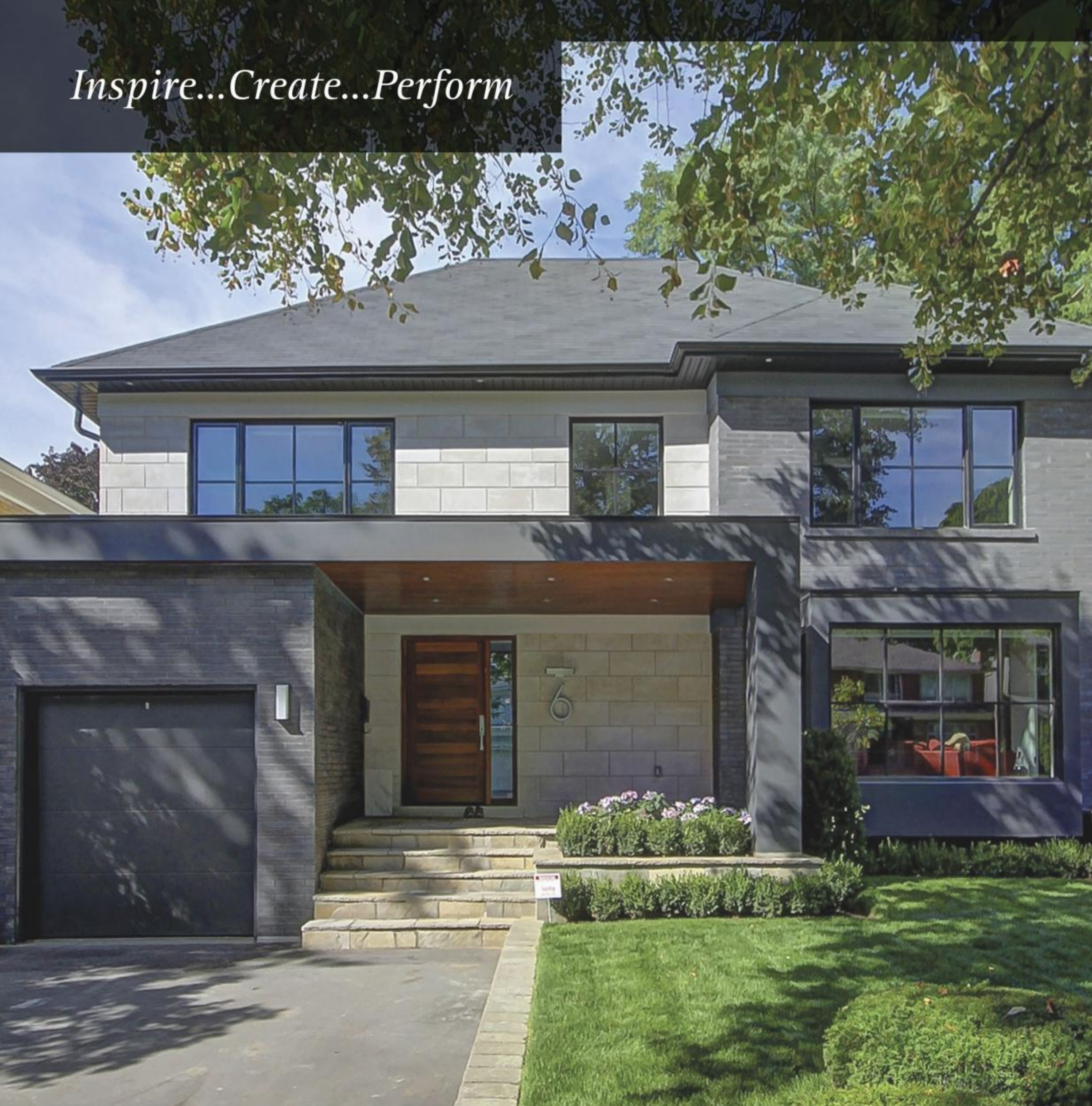
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# VERSATILE AND PROLIFIC



*Inspired by his travels, world-renowned artist Paul Ygartua works tirelessly on a vast variety of artworks*

BY WENDY HELFENBAUM



**PAUL YGARTUA IS A CREATURE OF HABIT**, yet he's in a state of constant reinvention. The artist, who was born in Bebington, England and is based in Vancouver, France, Spain or the U.K. depending on the time of year, paints about 10 hours a day, often completing a new work in that time. 🎨



Since 1970, Ygartua has amassed an astonishing body of work that encompasses a wide variety of styles including figurative abstract, European impressionism, neo-cubism, surrealism and abstract expressionism. A prolific creator, Ygartua continually seeks new challenges every time he reaches for a fresh, blank canvas.

“I’m a Gemini and a workaholic as far as painting goes,” explains Ygartua. “It doesn’t matter where we are in the world, my wife Joanne and I have a system: We get up at 7

a.m. every day. If we’re in Spain, at my studio in Cadaqués – the home of Salvador Dalí – we’ll go for a swim, then to the local café on the beach. By 9 a.m., I’m painting. Our place has 20-foot ceilings and terrific light, so it’s probably my most favourite spot to paint. I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Ygartua developed his skills while painting alongside his artist mother during childhood summers spent in Basque country, northern Spain. However, his father discouraged him from pursuing his passion. “My

dad wouldn’t allow me to become an artist; he said I’d never make a living and that I’d have to get a degree,” recalls Ygartua, who studied silver- and gold-smithing at Liverpool Art College, where he met John Lennon. He studied painting and art at the Laird School of Art in Birkenhead, near where he lived. Because there were few jobs in England for industrial designers, he handed his degree to his father and moved to Canada. One month later, he met his wife Joanne. ✍





*“Sometimes, I start on a canvas without knowing what it’s going to be, and then suddenly it hits me and I just take off.”*

While he notes that travelling the world and meeting new people feed his work, Ygartua believes that an artist's inspiration begins from within. "You shouldn't have to wait for inspiration," he says. "Sometimes, I start on a canvas without knowing what it's going to be, and then suddenly it hits me and I just take off. I don't use sketchbooks anymore; I prefer the spontaneity of just working straight on the canvas."

He moves effortlessly between styles and mediums – he's worked with acrylic, oil, pen and ink, pastel, graphite and more. He is currently creating large abstract paintings, developing his palette-knife work with heavy texture, and he continually works on new techniques.

*"I like to wing it, because the artistic side is almost more important."*





He believes a good artist should be able to paint fast, noting that he rarely spends more than a day on any one project. Even the tools with which he works are chosen for their speed quotient. For example, he'll start with a sponge or large brush to cover big areas quickly. "You've got to get the paint on fast so you can get the feeling of it," he says. "Then, I'll put detail in right at the end with a smaller brush or a palette knife. Each style requires a different discipline. For instance, if I'm doing a Vancouver abstract city scene, it's so fast and spontaneous; I can do those in a couple of hours. Cubist style is more time-consuming and organized: I have to plan where the faces are going to be, so these take five or six hours to do. For pure abstracts, sometimes I can do those in an hour or less."

Ygartua's massive murals take longer to complete because he paints them freehand without grids or projectors. The mural he created for the United Nations pavilion at Expo '86 took about six weeks, and one on the Beachcomber Hot Tubs building in Surrey took around seven weeks. 📍



Because of his unusual technique, he's been called The Mural Miracle Maker by Pauline Hilistis Waterfall of the Heiltsuk Nation, an Order of British Columbia recipient for her work in adult education for indigenous communities.

"Organizers get frightened when they see me sitting up against the wall with a pencil," Ygartua laughs. "I like to wing it, because the artistic side is almost more important. Even if the mural's not perfect, the imperfection is what makes it different and better. If you have to grid it off or use a paint projector, it's so mechanical that you lose freedom of expression."





He has created some of the largest murals in the world, such as *Legends of the Millennium*, a 9,000-square-foot piece that spans two walls of the Beachcomber Hot Tubs building. His 2013 mural *Bella Bella – United in History* was commissioned by Shearwater Marine Group to commemorate the history of Bella Bella, B.C. and the Heiltsuk Nation.

Since the early 1970s, Ygartua has been drawn to North American aboriginal culture. He has longstanding friendships with several First Nations chiefs, and his colourful collection of West Coast totem poles and masks is exhibited at Eagle Spirit Gallery on Granville Island. His most recognizable works include his Heritage Series, which showcases First Nations peoples and other native cultural groups.

Ygartua often gets tapped to create innovative art installations. He recently painted a 10-foot abstract mural, *The Experience*, to complement the sleek, modern decor of Bauhaus Restaurant in Gastown. And his vast jigsaw-shaped Checkmate is the focal point along one wall of the historic Royal Bank building in Vancouver's financial district.

Gallery representation includes Vancouver's Eagle Spirit Gallery and Ukama Gallery, London's Gagliardi Gallery, Galerie Lumières de l'Art in Paris, and the Art Museum of Chianciano in Tuscany, Italy. He has exhibited in New York, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Austria, Japan, Los Angeles, Miami, San Diego, Scottsdale, and Sydney, Australia, among other places. His work sells for \$6,000 to \$30,000.

In late March, Ygartua donated a painting to benefit the YVR Art Foundation, which supports BC and Yukon indigenous artists through scholarships, grants and exhibitions.

Having once agreed, at his wife's urging, to take a short break from painting during a trip to Hawaii, Ygartua insists he'll not do that again, because art fuels him. "I'm very lucky to support my life and my family through art," he says. "Every day that I'm painting, my bucket list is accomplished." »



# A SLEEK TRANSFORMATION

*A Toronto home is gutted, renovated and extended to give its owners a bright, casual space*

BY WENDY HELFENBAUM  
PHOTOGRAPHY: VALERIE WILCOX  
STYLING: HEATHER LEWIS

VISITORS TO THIS QUIET TORONTO CRESCENT would never guess that behind this house's brick facade, a two-year transformation recently took place. Although the house is not a new build, everything inside was renovated, and a 1,000-square-foot, two-storey extension was added to meet a growing family's needs.

"The homeowners lived here for about a year before the renovation, but they knew when they moved in that it would be gutted," explains Rania Ismail-Cherry, principal designer and owner of Fohr Design Studio in Toronto.

"It was a dated home with terrible flow, especially in the kitchen and main living space, which were closed off from each other," says Ismail-Cherry, whose firm oversaw the redesign. "The property backs onto a ravine, and it wasn't utilizing the view into the backyard or the natural light coming into the space." 🏡







The homeowners craved a sophisticated space where they could entertain family and friends, one that would be comfortable and practical for their two young boys.

Architect Peter Higgins re-configured the footprint of the house, bumping up the size to 4,300 square feet. His plans were aptly carried out by builder Z & G Construction Ltd.

Taking cues from the homeowners' extensive travels to the Caribbean and California, and with styling help from her colleague Heather Lewis, Ismail-Cherry created a bright, airy space indoors with a laid-back vibe.

*"There's a little secret area where we've tucked away some toys," says designer Rania Ismail-Cherry. Below the fireplace, deep storage drawers are concealed by beige porcelain tiling.*





*An oversized walnut slab with a live edge and a sculptural chrome base makes an ideal family dining table.*

“We used durable materials like engineered white oak flooring throughout the main floor so the kids could run amok, and we placed a lot of emphasis on storage while still keeping it an elegant, grown-up space,” the designer says.

The expansive kitchen and great room account for the extension on the main floor. The kitchen’s floor-to-ceiling windows drench the room in sunlight. Ismail-Cherry chose sleek, high-gloss white cabinetry with no hardware, and designed a hidden hood clad in horizontal walnut panelling. “The homeowners wanted

some wow factor that was slightly unusual,” she says. “We’re highlighting the cooktop area as a main focal point and everything else was more of a supporting character in the overall look and feel. We used quartz for the countertops and backsplash that looks like marble. It feels clean and modern, yet timeless.”

To maximize counter space at the back-corner window, Ismail-Cherry extended the countertop past the line of cabinetry, creating a little office nook where the homeowners can sit with a laptop and watch the children in the swimming pool. 🐾



Over the large walnut dining table, the designer hung a large light fixture replete with scattered orbs and burnished brass accents. “We wanted something to dress up the space and give it a bit more sparkle,” she says, noting that the pendant lights over the kitchen island were chosen for their modern look.

In the great room, Ismail-Cherry worked with the architecture of the space to create a dramatic focal point. “The great room is

the showstopper; that’s where they wanted to splurge. It was fun to design, because the homeowners were my first clients who didn’t want the TV and the fireplace on top of each other,” she says. “Having an asymmetrical composition lends itself to them being separate from one another, while still creating unity between the window, the TV and the fireplace by continuing that black colour all the way across.”

*Designer Rania Ismail-Cherry left the expansive kitchen windows bare because the homeowners wanted this space to be bright. Everywhere else in the house, she installed blackout blinds and curtains.*



Four large pieces of beige porcelain tile were bookmatched to create an eye-catching pattern around the fireplace. Ismail-Cherry also sneaked in hidden storage beneath the hearth, where the children's toys are concealed behind porcelain drawer fronts.



She carried an open aesthetic into the upstairs hallway, highlighting the skylight with beams clad in white oak. "Originally, it was supposed to have a lens, and I thought it was a shame to close that off because it makes the space feel so much bigger," she says. "We added some visual interest to the ceiling scape without leaving it as one big opening." 🏡

*The original door was replaced by a modern, dramatic front door with a large European-style handle. To disguise some HVAC pipes surrounding the entrance, the walls were thickened, creating an odd little niche that Ismail-Cherry turned into a practical window seat where the children can don their shoes at the front door.*



As with all remodels, the team faced some challenges during construction, Ismail-Cherry says. “There were some hiccups merging the new to the old, which is always a problem when you’re adding an extension and gutting an existing space; we had to create some clever ways of transitioning.”

For example, one son’s ensuite bathroom and walk-in closet were part of the existing structure, but his bedroom was in the extension. Building from the ground up left a five-inch difference in the levels, solved by creating a sloping threshold out of quartz going into the bathroom and walk-in closet.

*With its 14-foot ceilings and dark feature wall, the master bedroom is a restful refuge.*





A luxurious oasis awaits the homeowners upstairs in their master bedroom, where horizontal windows provide light, privacy, and a lovely view of the trees outside. In the adjacent master bathroom, sheer curtains with a chevron herringbone pattern envelop the oversized soaker tub. In the enclosed glass shower, marble flooring is paired with thin porcelain wall tile, bookmatched to resemble one large slab.

Once the remodel was complete, says Ismail-Cherry, the family's fresh and functional home was staged by her team for the big reveal. "We like to collect a bunch of accessories and deck the place out before we take pictures of our work, and then we leave it for a few days with the client, to see what they want to keep," she says. "They were so happy, they wanted to keep everything." ✦



# WHY CAN'T STREET KIDS JUST GET A LIFE?

We've all asked that question before at some point when walking by a street kid. Why can't they just get off the street? Why can't they grow up and take some responsibility by going to school and getting a job? Well, imagine being that street kid for a second. Getting a life is not a simple snap of the fingers. It isn't easy to just get a job or an education. And they can't always just go home. For street kids, every day is survival. Their life is based on simply getting through it. Finding food and shelter is their job, and even overcoming that doesn't put them in any kind of position to find stability in their lives. Getting off the street is just the beginning. So let's start from the beginning. We'll call this kid Steve. Steve's day starts at sunrise in a public park. The sun hits him dead in the eye and he wakes up shivering. Steve springs up from the bench that he slept on to make sure his stuff is still under it. It's almost nothing, a backpack with a couple of sweaters and a thermos in it, but two nights ago he almost got beat up for it. He was walking through a different park across town when three guys sitting on a bench asked him if he had a cigarette. Steve ignored them and kept walking, but he knew they weren't through with him yet. After verbally harassing him, they stood up and moved to surround Steve. He began to shake with fear. Steve told them again that he didn't have anything, but they didn't care anymore. They weren't going to leave without something. They began to step closer to Steve. And closer. One pulled out a knife from his back pocket. Just as another guy tried to grab Steve's backpack, Steve darted through an opening just out of their reach. They chased him for a few steps, but Steve was already far away, his backpack still in his possession. This morning, Steve's exhausted and he needs to get out of the wind. He picks up his backpack and spends the next two hours looking for an alleyway. Hopefully he can find one that's quiet, and, if possible, has boxes or newspapers that he can use to protect himself from the biting chill. Steve scours the alleyways in his area and finally settles on one. It seems perfect and he can't remember why he doesn't sleep there more often. He finds a spot, puts his head down and begins to doze off. The sounds of the city fade. He falls asleep. He dreams. In this fleeting moment, everything is OK. He's in his old home, in a warm bed, everyone's calm and there's breakfast waiting for him when he decides to – "Get up, kid," says the police officer standing over Steve. Steve opens his eyes as the officer informs him that he needs to clear out immediately. Steve rubs his eyes. Now he remembers the problem with this alleyway. He stands, picks up his things and starts his day again. Steve can't stop thinking about his dream. But that's all it was. Nothing like his actual life at home. He can still feel the pain from his father's fists. Hear his mother's screams. Things had been getting worse and worse at home since his father lost his job. It all started when his father came home drunk from the bar one night. Steve remembers the red mark on his mother's face the next morning and refusing to believe what was unfolding around him. But that refusal only made things worse, because Steve could never convince his father that he needed help. So it continued, one incident after another until one night, it wasn't just Steve's mother that was on the receiving end of it. It was him. His mother screamed louder when Steve was being beaten than when she was, and those are the sounds that haunt Steve every single day. The bruises are gone now, but the mental scarring never will be. Steve manages to snap back into reality, but reality isn't any better. Steve has not only had very little sleep in the past couple days, but also very little food. He really doesn't feel like rummaging through a garbage can this morning. That means it's time to go onto the street and beg for change. He'll never get used to doing this, but he's had to learn fast. Having to decide which street corner to sit on and beg strangers for change isn't something he ever envisioned doing. He decides on a busy corner downtown and begins the hike in that direction. He hopes that the long walk is worth the extra money he'll receive for being in a busier area. At least it isn't winter yet. The very thought of spending all winter on the street sends chills down Steve's spine. He's felt a Canadian winter before. He can't still be out here by then...can he? When Steve finally arrives, he sits down on the street corner and takes off his toque. He eyes the people walking by and begins to beg. "Change please?" is what he usually says, but today he's a little more desperate. He's painfully hungry and it shows in the anguish in his voice. Steve always tries his best to not worry about what other people are thinking, but it's hard. He can see the way they look at him. People are either scared of him, disgusted by him or they ignore him altogether. He's not sure which one is worse, but sometimes it feels like everyone hates him for one reason or another. Today, one person in particular is very aggressive when Steve asks him for change. He tells him that he's a loser and that he should get a job. After a few hours and thousands of passersby later, Steve has \$7.24, just enough for a burger combo. After waiting for a few moments, Steve slowly picks up the change in his toque. He stares at it, scared of what he might do with it. It takes him all the strength he has to not use the money for something else. Two weeks ago, someone else on the street started giving him free "samples." When you're in a dark enough place, sometimes you'll do whatever people tell you will make you feel better. It doesn't matter who that person is. It doesn't matter if deep down you know that what they're offering isn't a way out at all, but another anchor to keep you drowning. On these dark days, hope is replaced by distraction. Steve is constantly tempted to just let go and get away, but today he somehow fights that temptation off. He gets up and makes his way towards the restaurant. When he gets to the front of the line, Steve dumps the change on the counter before ordering. The annoyed cashier counts it as the people in line behind start to get restless. Steve tries to recall the last time he didn't have to pay for something in change, but can't. It's always embarrassing, especially when the line is as long as this. He asks the cashier if she can unlock the bathroom for him and she hesitates. Steve is rarely allowed to use a public bathroom, even as a paying customer. But today, the cashier doesn't want to keep the other customers waiting so she unlocks the door. Steve splashes water onto his dirty face inside the bathroom. He studies his reflection in the mirror. How long can he keep doing this for? When will this nightmare end? No kid should have to live like this. As he rinses, he begins to daydream. He thinks about the feeling of having a nice, long shower in a real bathroom. He steps out onto the cool floor and dries himself off with a soft, fresh towel. Steve is snapped out of his daydream by the sound of a knock. He opens the door to find the manager. He has to leave now. Steve puts his head down, grabs his food and heads outside. Later, with his hunger temporarily gone, Steve is back in his only home – the street. Back where he has no hope. There have been days when the shame has been too much, when Steve tried to find a way out. Steve recalls a time a few months earlier when he first started living on the street. He had woken up with a sense of hope that day he never felt before. He had slept in an abandoned warehouse another guy told him about and managed to split some breakfast with someone else staying there. That day, Steve was allowed to have something on his mind besides finding food, finding somewhere to sleep and trying not to get mugged. So, he wanted to do what so many strangers have told him to do before – get a job. Steve was walking down the street when he noticed a convenience store with a "Help Wanted" sign in front of it. Steve took a deep breath and walked into the store. He went straight to the cashier at the front and asked about the sign. But all he got back were insults. The owner told Steve that he sees him on the streets every day. He told him his clothes were a mess. That he must have been insane to think anyone would hire a stupid, lazy homeless kid. Steve slunk out and glanced back behind him at the "Help Wanted" sign. This had happened before. He didn't understand why no one would give him a chance. He doubted himself to the point where he began to wonder if he would even be able to trust the person who did. That was the day that Steve realized that the hill he had to climb was actually a mountain. Steve hears a car's honk that snaps him back to an all too familiar reality. He's out of money again. He has no place to go. He feels physically and mentally beaten. And soon it will be nightfall. Soon he'll be back at the bottom of the mountain once again. This is just a glimpse into Steve's struggle and the struggle that so many homeless youth face. There is no living, only surviving. And when you're trying to survive on the street, every little thing is an obstacle. Every time you beg for change, every time you go to the bathroom, every time you want to sleep, eat or drink – nothing comes easy. For many kids like Steve who want a way out, the struggle to meet basic needs is only the beginning. The coming days, weeks and months provide hurdles even harder to overcome. The physical pain may lessen in leaving the street behind but the mental anguish is constant when trying to forge a new life. Getting an education, applying for a job, admitting that you need counselling – these are hard for anyone. When you have to do all these things from scratch, the frustration can mount as fast as the confidence can fade. From learning how to stay warm in that first winter on the street, to the first day back at school, from deciding whether to steal food or pass out from hunger, to deciding where to get a shirt to wear for that first job interview, there are endless obstacles for homeless youth.

## THAT'S WHY.

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Please visit [CovenantHouseToronto.ca](http://CovenantHouseToronto.ca) to donate.



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# WARM DAYS, COOL NIGHTS

*Beautiful summer bedding offers both style and comfort in hot weather*







**SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY** - and so is the sleepin', in bedding designed for summer nights.

Let's start from the bottom up, with bedding basics: mattress toppers and pillows. Some of these items incorporate gel technology to promote a cooler sleep surface.

In the Cool Gel line from Canadian retailer Linen Chest, a bed, bath, kitchen and home decor company with 28 stores across the country, the fabric covering toppers and pillows (and even duvet covers) is infused with heat-absorbing compounds. Thus, it takes

longer than usual for the surface to warm up from body heat, and, therefore, remains cool.

"That's a pretty nice feeling on a hot summer night," says Stan Leibner, Linen Chest's president. "It's almost like built-in air conditioning."

Mattress toppers and pillows are what the industry calls "white goods," as they're usually wrapped in white or pale fabric. For aesthetic and practical purposes, we cover them with sheets and pillow cases. The good news is that this does not affect the cooling properties. ☺





Since it's summer, bedding generally goes with a soft, bright palette. There's always classic white, which is, well, a classic; it's a colour choice that never goes out of style. Greys and blues are still popular decor colours, and this season we see a variety of greys in bedding, from silver to charcoal. Blues range from pale blue to turquoise and navy. Both colourways often feature accents of coral and blush, and yellow and gold.





There's texture to this story, too. Bedding made of cotton sateen is soft and silky to the touch. The cotton is breathable, and the sateen weave gives it a gentle sheen.

Matelassé is another finish that provides texture in coverlets and duvet covers. It's the result of weaving fabric for a three-dimensional effect that looks almost like embossing or quilting, but doesn't rely on warm batting between fabric layers the way a quilt does.

For sleeping under a fan or in an air-conditioned room, you'll probably want more than just a sheet over you, but down- or polyester-filled quilts or duvets might be too much. Leibner recommends silk and bamboo-fibre bedding, including silk-filled pillows, duvets, mattress pads, and toppers.

"Silk filling is natural," he says. "Silk naturally wicks moisture away from the body. It's also hypoallergenic and repels dust mites."

Whether you keep the windows open to catch a breeze or you're curled up in an air-conditioned room, you can be cool and comfortable in style. ➤

*Linen Chest*  
[www.linenchest.com](http://www.linenchest.com)



# TURNING A LOSER INTO A WINNER

*Unique house design makes  
the most of an awkward site in  
Naramata, British Columbia*

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARTIN KNOWLES





**THE POTENTIAL OWNERS STOOD** with their architect and real estate agent, looking at the site. It was not ideal for building, the half-acre seemingly all slope, with a steep climb to get to the top of the ridge (which, undeniably, gave access to superb views of B.C.’s Okanagan Valley). The architect suggested that if they “could accept the added cost of underground parking on the lot, they would end up with

the best position, without an unmanageable driveway problem,” adding that what looked like a loser lot “would be a winner.”

The result is this modestly sized yet striking house by Allen + Maurer Architects Ltd. that is an homage to such icons of Modernism as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House and the Glass House by Philip Johnson.

*(Above) The smaller building is nestled into the hillside and has a green roof, which terminates at a gazebo. (Opposite, bottom) On the patio, a rusted steel panel hides the barbecue. During construction, raw steel panels were given an acid wash, then left to overwinter outdoors to develop their unique appearance.*





Honoured with a Special Jury Award from the Architectural Institute of British Columbia in 2013, the “house” is actually three buildings/spaces. Florian Maurer, one half of the now-defunct Allen + Maurer with fellow architect Chris Allen, says, “This is the design that does the site the most justice. We put all the living functions in the glazed pavilion at the one point where you have an unobstructed view of at least 300 degrees around.

“Then the idea of creating a counterpoint comes up” – thus, the courtyard leading to a second, less generously fenestrated building, nestled into the ridge. “The extraversion of the glass house sets a dialogue with the sheltered space,” says Maurer. 🏡



*Leggy furniture and unadorned lampshades contribute to the light and airy aesthetic, all the better not to distract from the view over Okanagan Lake. (Below) External sunshades keep out the sun without completely obscuring the view.*

The third space is hidden. An interior stairway from the glass house leads down to a foyer, a wine cellar, a geothermal heat-pump room, and a garage, all underground and closer to the access road. This solution neatly resolves several problems: saving the owners from contending with a precipitous drive up the ridge, hiding functional yet less aesthetically pleasing spaces, and using the natural heat of the surrounding earth to keep the spaces at a constant temperature.







*“We wanted indoor and outdoor space with minimal design.”*

It’s an intriguing design, one that immediately captivated the homeowners, a professional couple in Vancouver who are now retired and using this as a second home. “We wanted indoor and outdoor space with minimal design,” says the wife. They liked the idea of having the main space (living, dining, and kitchen areas) glassed in, but “we didn’t want to sleep in a glass house,” says the husband. The second, sheltered building takes care of that, incorporating bedroom, studio, and media room.

The Valley’s hot, dry climate presents challenges for a glass-encased building. Referencing the Farnsworth House and the Glass House, Maurer wryly points out that this house “needs to do what they could not do: work technically.” Accordingly, Allen + Maurer specified LoE<sup>3</sup>-366 glass by Cardinal Glass Industries to glaze the building, providing insulation without compromising visibility. *AS*



*(Above) An interior stairway, with treads of rusted steel, leads to an underground foyer from which the wine cellar, mechanical room, and garage are accessed. (Left) The sleek kitchen cabinetry is part of an interior structure, likened by Maurer to “a box in a box,” that contains the pantry, powder room, and coat closet.*



*The ceiling of planed spruce slats appears to continue unbroken across the exterior wall of this side of the building to form the roof overhang. Black fabric is sandwiched in the half-inch gaps between the slats to absorb sound.*

The roof overhang also provides protection. Maurer points out that “overhangs serve a purpose; we cannot do without them.” However, in keeping with the minimalist aesthetic, “we wanted to let the overhang float thinly.” Working with the structural engineering firm Fast + Epp, Allen + Maurer devised a solution: use SIPs (structural insulated panels) for the roof, having them dropped onto supports around the interior perimeter of the ceiling so that the tops of the panels are flush with the tops of the exterior walls.

External retractable sunshades and internal roll-down shades add to the heat management. There’s no air conditioning per se, but with the geothermal heat pump and in-floor

heating/cooling, the concrete slab floor and its surface of 18-by-18-inch Italian porcelain tiles are adequately cooled.

The second building is partly burrowed into the hillside and has a more conventional overhang on the exposed side. It might not be as spectacular as the glazed volume of its neighbour across the courtyard, but its green roof gives it a certain cachet.

Particularly dramatic are the panels that clad the building and also provide both function and design interest in other parts of the site. The acid-washed 10-gauge steel panels have been allowed to rust and then simply rubbed with linseed oil, each one developing its own design “personality.”





*Evening arrives in the Okanagan Valley, and recessed LED rope lights around the perimeter of the ceiling help the glass house to glow like a jewel.*

The homeowners deliberately chose Allen + Maurer to design their second home, knowing that their desire for a minimalist aesthetic would be honoured. As one of them says, “We didn’t want a monstrosity sitting on top of a cliff.” There is no monstrosity on this cliff, just an elegant, functional dwelling in a gorgeous setting. ➤

# WARM WEATHER DESIGN

*This company specializes in outfitting outdoor rooms for maximum summer enjoyment*

BY WENDY HELFENBAUM



**BECAUSE WE TREASURE EVERY MOMENT** spent outside during our all-too-short Canadian summers, investing in durable, beautiful furniture makes sense.

However, while working in their family landscaping business, Jim and Carol Edick noticed that clients spent big bucks on massive outdoor projects, yet put little thought into their furnishings. So they launched Southern Living Design to fill that void.

“We do many high-end projects for high-rise condominiums and residential homes, and often, homeowners would finish beautiful landscaping, but their outdoor furniture didn’t complement what had just

been done,” explains Carol Edick, co-owner of the Mississauga store celebrating its fourth year in business.

“Once people complete their new patio or backyard barbecue area, we can help them create an extension of their home – a comfortable outdoor living space they can enjoy.”

Southern Living’s three showrooms feature everything required for a luxurious outdoor retreat: exterior furnishings, shade management and eclectic accessories. Condo dwellers can also find small-scale furnishings designed for tight spaces.

Product lines include Cane-line, a Danish company that crafts contemporary furniture

in hand-woven, waterproof materials, and Gloster, a British brand specializing in teak, aluminum and stainless-steel furniture.

On trend this season are lots of neutrals for primary pieces of furniture, which blend seamlessly with the landscape, Edick says. “You can have fun with accessories like pillows, blankets, stainless or bronze lanterns and cushion colours. Purples and deep jewel tones are very popular this year. Inside, darker colors can feel dark and heavy, but outside, they look lovely.”

No trees in the yard? No problem. Edick’s store carries just one brand: Miami-made TUCCI umbrellas. “We just love these



umbrellas, because they look like pieces of art – they’re actually called shade sculptures,” Edick says. “One model, Manta, has a winged look, and Zero Horizon is almost totally flat, so that if you have a gorgeous lakefront view, it won’t be impeded by the umbrella.”

Need even more shade coverage? Southern Living Design carries pavilions and lounges ideal for properties where building a gazebo is not permitted. “These not only provide shade and protection from the elements, but you can take them with you when you move,” Edick says.

Superior customer service sets the company apart. When Edick visits a property, she considers size, layout, function and privacy and makes design recommendations.

The company has clients in Florida and the Turks and Caicos Islands who opt to have the Edicks design their outdoor space and ship furniture to their vacation homes.

Whether enjoying a summer paradise means taking a nap in the shade or having a chat by a firepit while lounging on a sectional sofa, Southern Living Design can help create a perfect outdoor experience. ➤

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# SHORT MOVE, BIG CHANGE

*A couple downsizes to  
the most unlikely space:  
their own backyard*

BY WENDY HELFENBAUM  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MAXIME BROUILLET



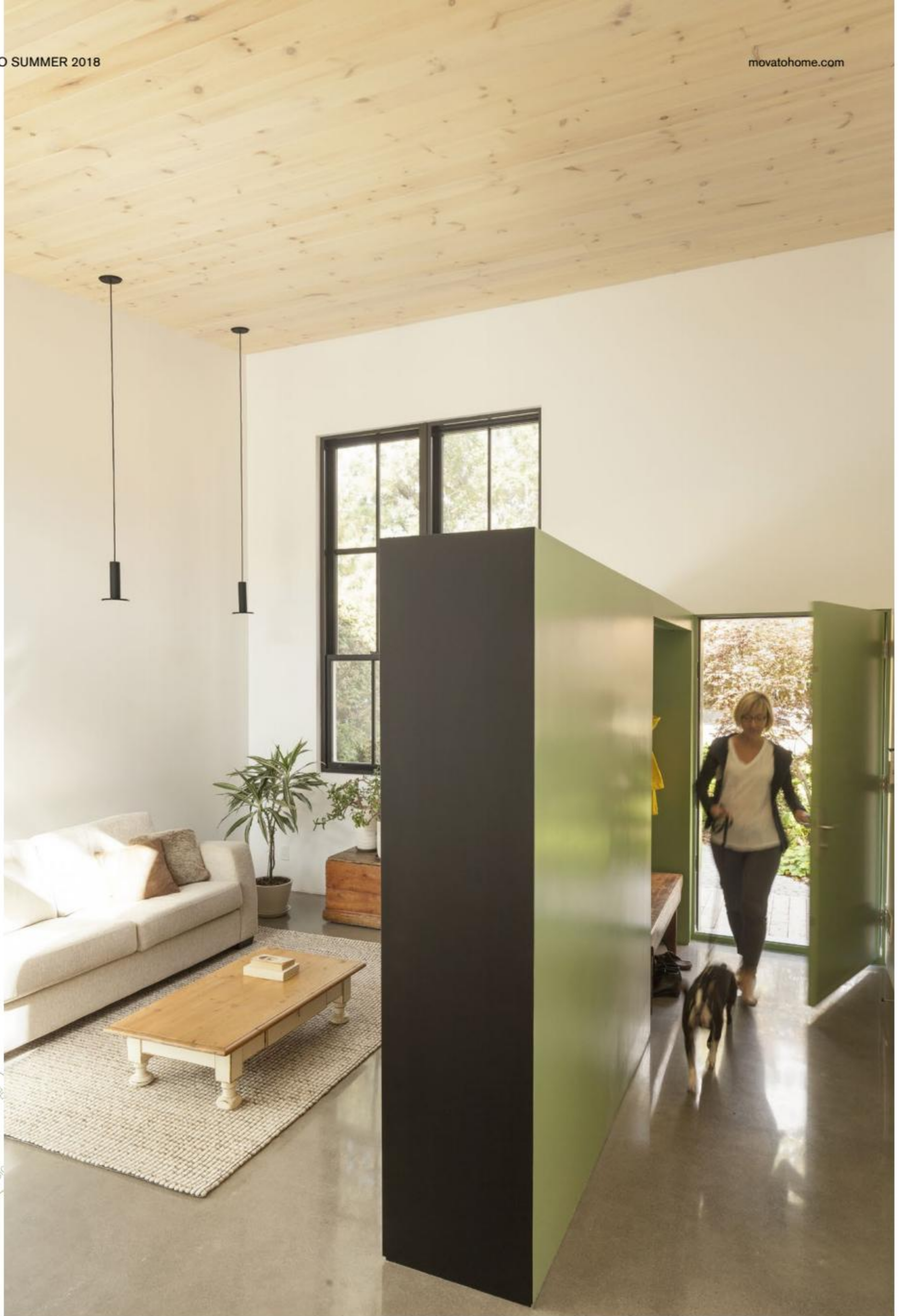
**ONCE UPON A TIME**, a tiny guesthouse built in the late 1890s sat in the corner of a wooded backyard in St. Lambert, Quebec, behind a larger, brick-clad family home. The 600-square-foot shack was in such terrible condition that in 2008, when Jean-Luc Gagnon and Marie-Hélène Larouche bought the property it sat on, the deed of sale included a demolition permit, courtesy of the city.

However, instead of razing the backyard hut, the couple hired the aptly named architectural firm La Shed to completely reimagine what ultimately became their dream house.

“From the beginning, we knew that one day, we’d live in the smaller house; we wanted it to be our retirement home, our pied-à-terre,” explains Jean-Luc, a trumpet player with l’Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.

For eight years, the homeowners lived in the front house, restoring its Victorian features. They also updated the guesthouse and rented it to various tenants while they fine-tuned their vision for the future: Sell the big house and move into the backyard abode. Between tenants, the couple enjoyed their little retreat, treating it as a weekend cottage. 🏡







*Heated concrete floors make the living room comfortable and cozy year-round.*



Finally, in 2015, they moved forward with their big plan. After nearly a year of bureaucratic wrangling and hoop-jumping, the couple's land was officially divided horizontally into two equal lots of 3,000 square feet, becoming a co-property.

The results of the year-long renovation are spectacular: the Scandinavian-modern one-bedroom space features expansive living areas atop a small footprint. "Because the house was too close to the properties behind and beside it, we had to keep the same footprint in certain spots without modifying the structure," says Jean-Luc. "We also couldn't demolish more than 50 per cent of the building; otherwise the city would've refused to let us rebuild it." 🐾

*(Left) Rufus the Boston Terrier is an honoured houseguest at the couple's home; he often stays with Marie-Hélène and Jean-Luc when his owners are out of town.*





The city allowed the homeowners to bump the house's square footage up to 930, but architect Yannick Laurin, who is also La Shed's co-founder, faced a long list of restrictions, including ceiling height and the contour of the home. Also, because the house could be extended only toward the front of the property, privacy was a concern.

"We reconfigured the architecture and the windows so there are no direct views, and when you're in the backyard, no windows face there, so it's very secluded," says Laurin, whose team designed the home to wrap around a private outdoor cedar deck on the southwest side of the property. Surrounded by mature Norway maple trees, the house has the ambience of a country cottage.

"The original guesthouse had lots of knotty pine, and a very rustic ambience; Jean-Luc and Marie-Hélène wanted to modernize and make it more comfortable, while keeping that simple feeling of being surrounded by trees in a very restful place," says Laurin. 🌿





*In the contemporary-style grey kitchen, the homeowners wanted stainless steel for the island and countertops to balance out the wood. La Shed incorporated sleek LED lights into the pine slats of the ceiling.*

To maximize privacy, La Shed played with sightlines and angles. Other than one small window that overlooks the original backyard, the main living spaces all face toward the new hidden courtyard. From the street, onlookers would never guess how much space lies beyond the cheery green front door.

“The most unusual thing about the house is that in the kitchen, the ceilings start at just seven feet and we couldn’t change that,” says Jean-Luc. So La Shed created a 40-foot-long incline beginning at the back of the house and spanning to the front, where the ceilings soar to 14 feet. “Cooking in our kitchen is wonderful, because we’re in front of a 17-foot-wide window which faces west, where we have a view of the trees. And the afternoon light is extraordinary; it floods the kitchen and dining room.”



*The bathroom’s old-fashioned clawfoot bathtub is the perfect spot to unwind. The walls are clad with wood that was reclaimed from the original guesthouse.*





In a nod to the cabin's original look, La Shed installed new red pine flooring throughout, along with white pine ceilings and built-in wood bookcases. The stainless-steel-clad kitchen island faces the outside deck, while the sleek grey cabinets conceal the master bedroom and bathroom just beyond. Three steps separating the dining room and kitchen from the living room divide the space while maintaining the flow.

La Shed pulled in as much natural light as possible into the space by installing a skylight in the bathroom and 12-foot-high windows in the living room.

"We get sunlight from the south, so we just love being in this room," says Jean-Luc. "The light makes it seem like we're outside."

Marie-Hélène and Jean-Luc moved in last September, and plan to stay for many years. "We were thrilled with the work La Shed did; they really kept that feeling from our original little house, of being in a cottage," says Jean-Luc. "Now that we've finally built our small dream house, we're living the perfect village life in St. Lambert." 🐾

*"The terrasse is really nice, because it connects all the living areas, and it's very private and surrounded by trees," says architect Yannick Laurin.*



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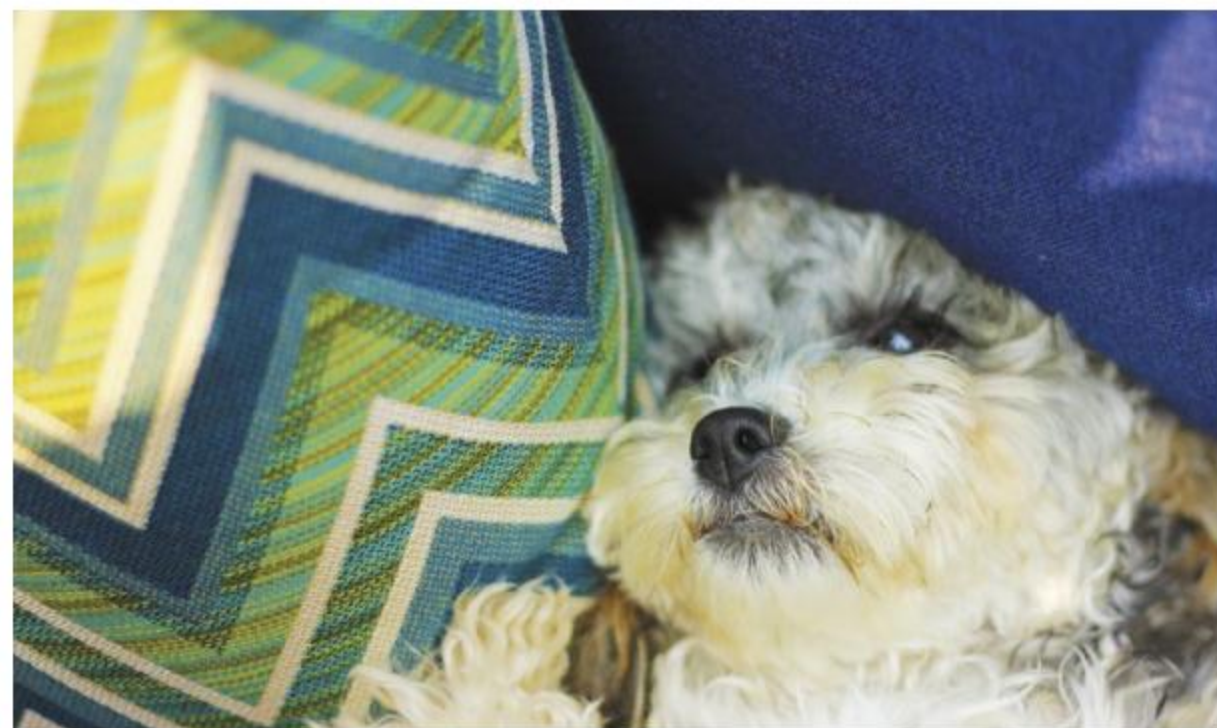
## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

What's hot? What's new? Where do we go from here? In our Trends issue, we'll tell you. If you're thinking of upgrading your home or garden, read all about the trends that are driving design, materials, and colour. Don't miss our annual Trends issue, on sale in early summer.



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