

SANCTUARY

STORY ANNE TAIT | PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY | STYLING SARA MARTIN



A salvaged, hand-hewn barn beam rises from the centre of the main floor through the stairwell to the upper level. Stylistic female and male figures transform into chairs at either end of the dining table. Floral arrangements courtesy of Paperwhite Flowers. **OPPOSITE:** Grey porcelain tile and barn board, underlit by LED lights, float on the fireplace surround and extend upward over the ceiling. Engineered oak flooring complements the overall design.

When they first noticed the empty lot with the incredible view of the Blue Mountains, they wasted no time. Coming to Collingwood for over eight years, the homeowners already owned a nearby property in Craigleith. This would be their third new build, so they “came with experience,” and set to work planning their next home. Construction began in the summer of 2013 and they moved in a year later.

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The walls throughout the main living area and entry are painted Barren Plain by Benjamin Moore.



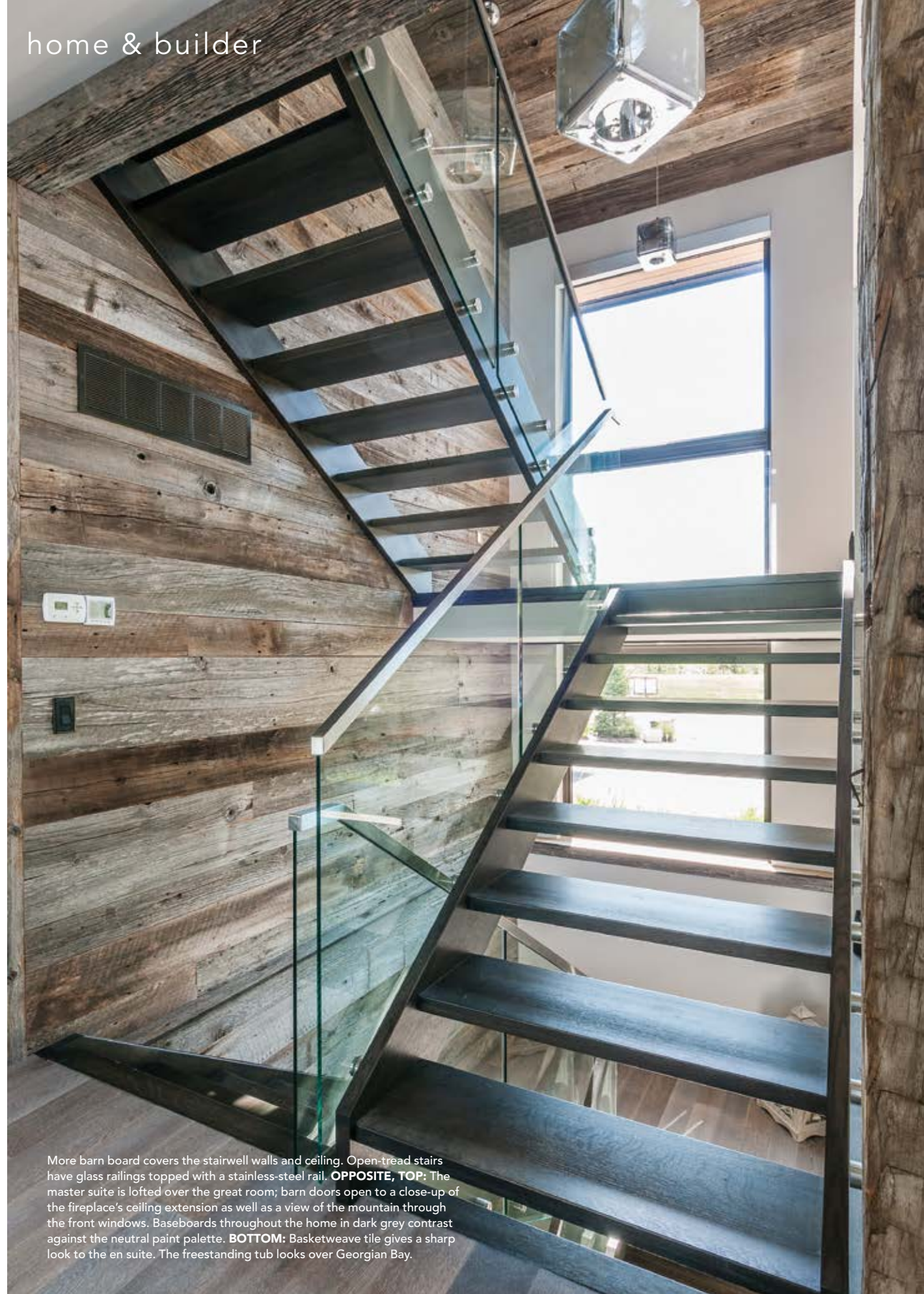
The couple selected **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen Ltd.** as the builder. In business for 28 years, Dave, partnering with his daughter **Christine Harrington**, who worked as the build’s project manager, didn’t disappoint. “We felt as if Dave wasn’t working for a client, but building his own house,” says the homeowner. Christine adds, “We really meshed with the homeowners and formed a unique relationship.” Larry May Architect created the architectural plans.

Self-described private people, the couple knew exactly what they wanted. “A comfortable space, a sanctuary, something open and welcoming for family and friends,” offers the homeowner. They envisioned a modern space with a contemporary feel, straight lines that flowed, with contrasting materials and textures to add interest. “And definitely a steel roof.” All masonry was handled by **Steve’s Masonry**. Exterior doors were sourced from Marvin Windows and Doors, and the home was secured and wired for sound by **Huronia Alarm & Fire Security Inc.**

Inside, there is a sense of calm, created by a softness in décor selected by the homeowner. There is a creative use of materials, with a balance of steel, glass, tile and wood throughout. The palette is minimalist, largely in complementary muted shades of grey, selected by Christine, all of which are Benjamin Moore tones. “It amazes me how long it takes to decide on the right colour,” adds the homeowner. *Continued on page 55*



White, shaker-style cabinetry contrasts with polished, concrete counters in the kitchen. A trio of Edison bulbs hang as pendants over the island. The kitchen walks out to the outdoor room. **TOP RIGHT:** Project manager Christine Harrington of Absolute Craftsmen Ltd.



More barn board covers the stairwell walls and ceiling. Open-tread stairs have glass railings topped with a stainless-steel rail. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The master suite is lofted over the great room; barn doors open to a close-up of the fireplace's ceiling extension as well as a view of the mountain through the front windows. Baseboards throughout the home in dark grey contrast against the neutral paint palette. **BOTTOM:** Basketweave tile gives a sharp look to the en suite. The freestanding tub looks over Georgian Bay.



The master bedroom is painted Sea Haze and the en suite is Stonington Gray.



The homeowners enjoy small-town shopping and dining, and took every opportunity to buy locally whenever possible. The furnishings are a mix of already owned and new pieces, several selected from **C & G Solid Wood Furniture Co.**

For a softer look and to minimize glare, the homeowners opted for indirect LED lighting where possible.

The open-concept plan allows a seamless flow between rooms. The two-storey living room and the oversize window wall from Inline Fiberglass Inc., equipped with motorized shades by **Karen James** of **Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters** frames the mountain beyond.

A custom backlit fireplace surround of barn board and grey porcelain tile, designed by Dave and Christine Harrington, climbs the wall and creeps onto the ceiling. "We weren't sure at first, but now we love the fireplace," says the homeowner. A gas insert was supplied and installed by **Chantico Fireplace Gallery** and an art piece from **Van Allan Design Centre** nestles in the fireplace niche.

The kitchen is simplistic, with white, shaker-style cabinets by **Greg Andrews** of **Clearview Woodworking**, contrasted with concrete grey counters. Porcelain tile flooring in the main foyer, kitchen and bathrooms was sourced from Ciot, and Bianco Carrara tile adds a finishing touch. The perfect dining table, with a dramatic chandelier overhead, is flanked at both ends by artistic body-shaped chairs, a nod to the homeowner's unique sense of style. *Continued on page 56*





The son's bedroom is painted Conventry Gray.

LEFT: A clear, glass fixture lights the owners' son's room.
BOTTOM LEFT: In the son's en suite, small black and grey tiles are inlaid to accent the marble floor and offer contrast in the upper third of the shower's subway tile. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A more traditional bed is set with summery bedding in the daughter's room.

A feature wall of barn wood sourced by Christine is first noticed in the main foyer, and runs from the lower level to the second floor. Barn wood is a key element in the fireplace design and the stairwell beam. The engineered oak flooring is from **Georgian Design Centre**, and the custom stairs and interior doors are solid rift-cut white oak with ebony stain.

Multiple-level, open-tread stairs offer a sense of space and drama. Anchored by glass baluster railings from Barber Glass, and capped with a stainless-steel handrail, the steps appear to float from the lower level to the second floor. A distinctive light fixture sourced by Christine from Eurolite enhances the contemporary feel.

The second level houses three bedrooms, each with its own bath. The master bedroom is a unique loft above the main living space, with a glass-railing balcony, offering the same mountain view as below, and can be closed off with sliding doors. The master en suite offers a view of Georgian Bay. *Continued on page 58*



The daughter's bedroom is painted Stone Harbour.



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RIGHT: Lockers and mirrors keep this handsome mudroom on task. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The main floor shower offers easy access to the swimming pool. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Bright cabinets in the laundry room bring cheer to chores.

Wall art is a work in progress and it is intended to remain minimal. A lower-level wall is tagged for a future collection by the homeowners' daughter, who lives away while studying. The lower level also features a theatre room, a family room, a pantry and two additional bedrooms with bathrooms.

In other areas of the home, there are more elements of surprise. The mudroom can be closed off with a sliding door and is accented by an Absolute Craftsmen-designed feature wall of ebony-stained oak, barn board and mirrored glass. And, in a house of muted tones, the laundry room pops with the homeowner's choice of bold teal-coloured cabinets.

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Six wide stone steps lead to a refreshing pool. The backyard offers numerous outdoor gathering places for conversation, privacy, sun or shade. **BOTTOM:** The windowed outdoor room looks over the yard and into the stunning modern home.



Directly off the kitchen, visitors enter a covered, three-season outdoor living area, featuring a hot tub within a gazebo, with a relaxing sitting area and fire pit overlooking the pool below. Landscaping was provided by **Parklawn Landscaping**. “This space works well for our family,” reflects the homeowner. “With two children soon to be out on their own, we knew we were building this for us, but hope they will still enjoy coming here.” **OH**



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