



DETAILED DESIGN

by Kim Masin
photography by Samantha Parent

A fantastic family neighbourhood gave Ted Handy the perfect setting to work his architectural magic by taking a 1960s ranch bungalow from routine to remarkable.

The words location, location, location were written for this home. The children's school is within walking distance, as is Barrie's beachfront water park and a private marina. The kids often fish off the dock early in the morning and catch perch. Downtown Barrie is a quick 10-minute bike ride away.

Describing the project as a "contemporary upgrade," the owner of Ted Handy and Associates Inc. says the complexity of the project is captured within its simple details. Builder Rob Suddaby and the homeowners collaborated with Handy to create a sexy and seductive makeover that lures you into its beauty one detail at a time and then unfolds into a space of sheer comfort.

"It's a special home built with simplicity of lines and attention to detail in mind," says Handy. "We wanted something other than the typical eavestroughs and soffit vents. We had a discussion with Rob and he just rolled with it. I never thought of using perforated metal but it's perfect, it just works."



Clockwise from top:
Architect Ted Handy used an entire wall of windows in the communal living room to catch the right light. Eight inches of height was added to the dining room, making it appear much grander than before. The cedar door, custom built by Rob Suddaby, is warm and welcoming.

The metal fin corners and soffit vents, in contrast to the cedar siding, tie together the beauty of this home and provide a subtle clue of what's hidden inside. Sculptures and a bear carved from a fallen tree adorn the immaculately landscaped property.

Please come in

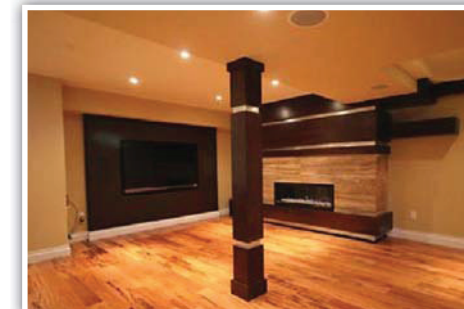
The cedar door, custom-built by Suddaby, is grand but again simplistic and sets the tone of design. A tile floor is carried from the outside right into the entranceway, bringing the natural surroundings indoors. "The entranceway was designed to invite you into the structure and it does just that, giving a sneak peek into the communal living space," says Handy. Entering further into the home it's like an unveiling – the reveal of the structure and the design envelope you.

Between the communal living space and dining room the original fireplace was reconstructed and now features a double-sided fire. An intimate dining room adjacent to the living room shares the beauty of this stonework. Builder Suddaby was able to raise the ceiling in the dining room eight inches which makes it seem much grander than before. Handy says small, intricate details like increasing the height of room are executed throughout the home.

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“We took the basic structure of the home which had a pretty good layout and did a minimalist intervention by pushing out the wall by eight feet,”

« The original wall was pushed out eight feet to allow for an open, yet cozy living room. A skylight was positioned over the fireplace and glass floors in front of it to bring to the lower level.

Light and space

The communal living room features an entire wall of windows which look out to the treed lot and frame the rural beauty indoors. The trees are the backdrop to the house and the green colour factors in the décor. The communal room is a large space with 14-foot ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows that ooze comfort – quite a coup in such a large space.

“We took the basic structure of the home which had a pretty good layout and did a minimalist intervention by pushing out the wall by eight feet,” the architect explains.

Standing in the spacious room it’s hard to imagine the room in its original state. The new surroundings feel so utterly natural and comfortable like the structure was meant to be created this way.

“Trying to catch the right quality of light was an extremely important element to the home and its design,” says Handy. He worked with the sun to balance the light in the space to make everything come alive creating a warm lived-in feeling by strategically installing a skylight over the fireplace.



Walnut cabinets by Norcab and marble countertops are used in contrast to the stark white walls. The work island comfortably fits six.

The rear exterior overhang protects the living area from the hot sun in the summer and in the winter radiant light penetrates through and warms the room. Inventive glass floors in front of the fireplace carry some of the natural light to the basement and add an eccentric design component to the living area.

Uncovering the beauty

The kitchen overlooks the living area complete with walnut cabinets by Norcab, marble countertops and a work island that comfortably seats six. Stainless appliances, all by Miele from TA Appliances, contrast the simple white walls and the natural wood such as the walnut floors. The dark contrast to the white walls combined with the bright natural lighting work as a natural backdrop for the exposed beams and large windows. The hardware all the way through the bungalow makes a statement and complements the exposed structural beams. “We tried to expose structure wherever we could. Too often the beauty of the structure is covered up. It adds character to the home.”



Designers Plus

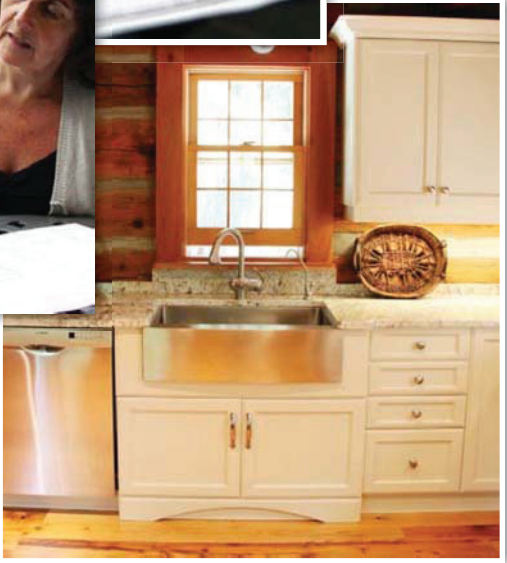
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Their country gem, a 100+ year old log home in Essa, in its wooded setting, was perfect for the couple but the kitchen, was waiting to be brought into the 21st Century. That is when Cynthia called Elke Bradford of Designers Plus Kitchen and Bath Studio in Barrie.

The plan was to design and install the cooking, storage and clean up areas and then turn the attention to the kitchen's centre island.

Currently being installed in this magnificent home, the 6.5' x 5' maple island with its Bianco Romano granite top, fabricated to match the rest of the kitchen, features an appliance lift-up station, pot and pan drawers, pull-out spice rack and seating for three people.

If only the original pioneer builders of this log home - could see it now !!

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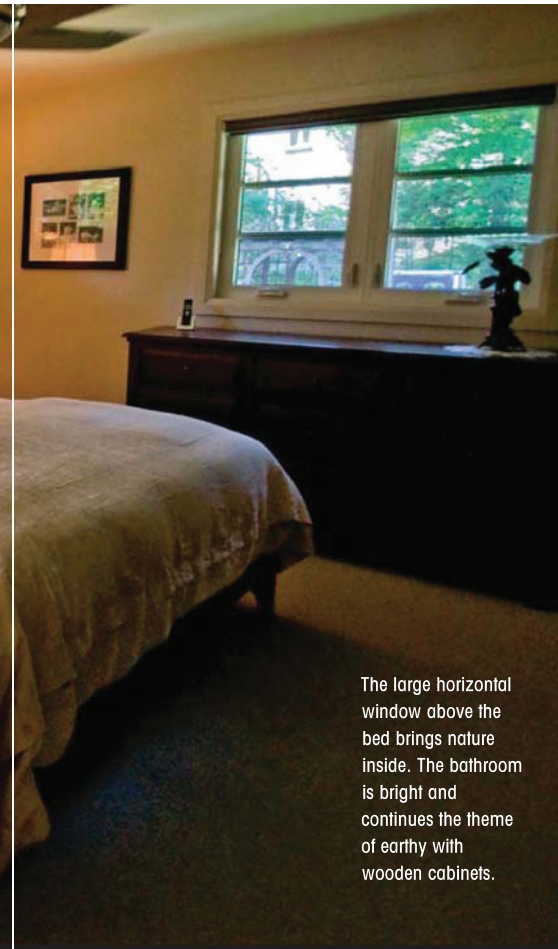
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The large horizontal window above the bed brings nature inside. The bathroom is bright and continues the theme of earthy with wooden cabinets.



It's quite amazing walking into a bedroom that instantly transports you outdoors

D Blagden Design and Cyndie Jerome were the interior designers who created the stunning decor in the home. With the light bouncing from every surface, the pair kept the palette minimal and let Mother Nature add the touches. Natural materials are carried through the home working with the earthy elements of the stone and wood with sporadic hits of colour. The punch of colour from the greenery outside and minimalist furniture from Elte and Direct

Interiors intermingle to bring a natural sense of calm to the home.

Behind the kitchen, a pantry and cupboard area is strategically placed equipped with a second fridge, just adjacent to the door to the backyard, for easy access in and out. "The kitchen wasn't working for cupboard space so we created a wall and built a walk-through pantry behind the kitchen to provide cupboards without taking away from the design of the other room."



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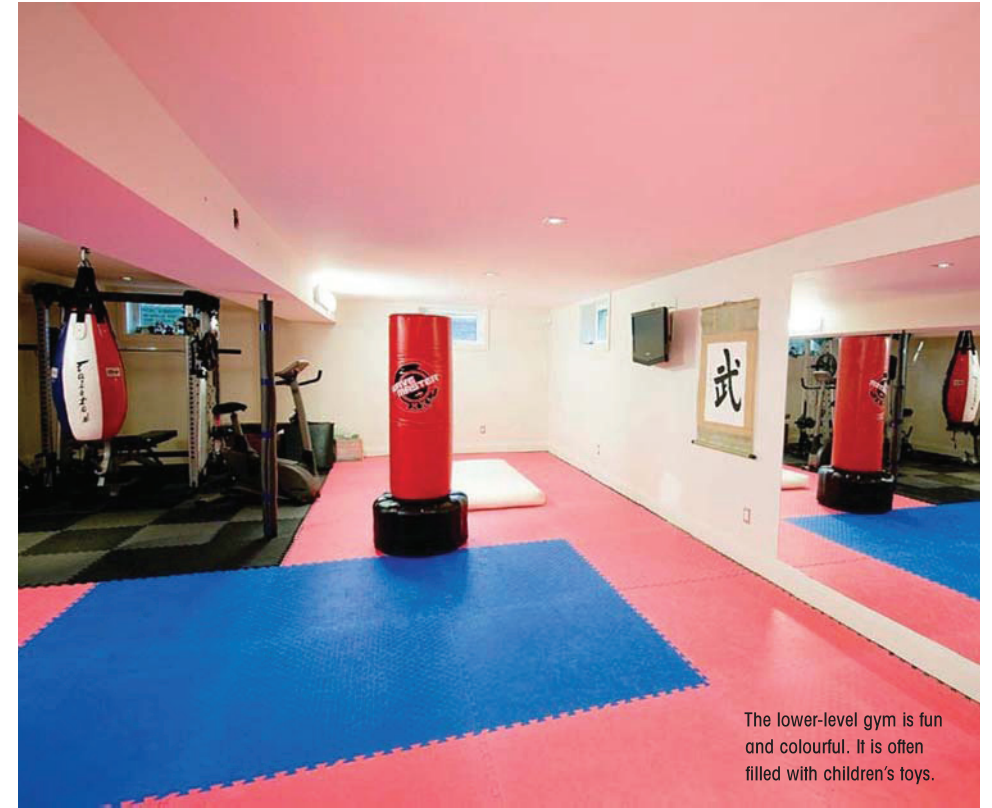
Family ties

Construction always considered the family's needs and sometimes took a turn to accommodate the needs of both the adults and the children.

A computer space looking out into the back yard creates a space for the children to do crafts and homework. It is specifically designed so the kids can be close to the activity of the home and feel a part of the action. The original layout of the home becomes evident in this area and although the space is tight, it has a sense of openness to it.

Handy suggested to the homeowners to keep the bedrooms together. "It was always nice when my kids were growing up to have them close by. They would walk by our room when they got home. It was a nice feeling." And although they originally wanted to create a children's wing, the homeowners are thrilled they took Handy's advice.

In the master bedroom, the window above the bed resembles a composition that frames the views beyond. It's quite amazing walking into a bedroom that instantly transports you outdoors.



The lower-level gym is fun and colourful. It is often filled with children's toys.

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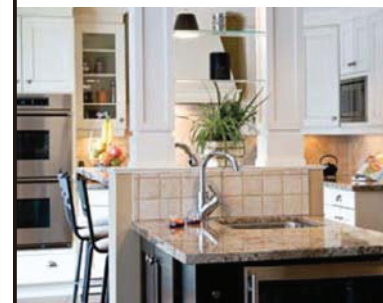
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Perfect for entertaining, the bar's clean lines echo the contemporary design.

Due to space constraints, the owners opted for a steam shower in the ensuite bathroom in place of a tub and Handy says they've never regretted it.

The children's bedrooms are bright and beautifully decorated, and the windows are a main component to the airy feeling of the spaces. Again, using natural light to bring the outdoors into the smaller spaces creates the illusion of larger rooms. Exemplary details like raising the height of the doors, to the full height of the ceiling, are characteristic of Handy's design, transforming a typical bedroom into something remarkable.

Lower-level light

The basement was transformed from a dark, closed-in area to an illuminated open space by extending the windows further down to provide more light, and the glass floor in the ceiling resembles a spotlight in front of the fireplace. Family night is spent in the movie room and has become one of the favourite spaces for the kids. A gym room is fun and colourful and often houses plenty of children's toys.

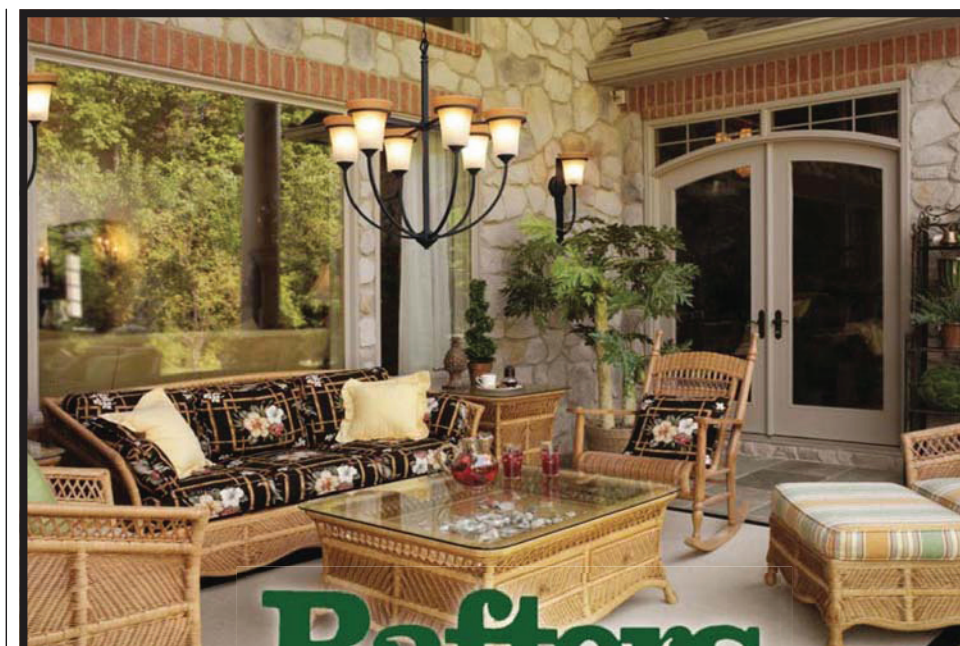
It was important to the homeowners to have a separate guest room for family visitors – a nice room with a completely separate bathroom so that visitors would have the convenience and comfort of their own space. They certainly achieved that.

Tennis anyone?

Step outside – in this oasis, Scott Jackson of Sport Court in Utopia designed and built the ultimate athletic area for the family complete with basketball court, tennis, hockey and more. It feels as though you're standing in the middle of the country, yet the city's core is just minutes away.

This fabulous lot really is a fundamental piece to the creation of the design. Mature trees line the back of the property and five other lots have been purchased to build similarly designed houses by Ted Handy and Associates Inc. The project was such a huge success that the homeowner wants to create other designs similar to their own for other families to enjoy so they put architectural controls on all of the lots.

It takes a real visionary to find an older structure on a beautiful, tree-lined street and deliver the quintessential image of urbanism through simplicity of lines and natural detailing. Handy, Suddaby and the homeowner have done just that. ■



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