

COLLINGWOOD'S CAPE COD

*A beach house near
the water's edge*

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than a traditional cottage."*

The oiled silver-maple flooring adds to the charm of this beach-inspired home. The kitchen, with ample storage and stainless steel appliances, has a perfect view of Georgian Bay.

Karen used to ride her bike in a park by the water during weekends spent in Collingwood. When a wooded lot with a small cottage and a million-dollar view of Georgian Bay came up for sale near the park, she knew it was time to make this spot her home.

But the small cottage on the lot would not do. Karen wanted something that reflected her US east coast roots modified for the cold climate. She decided on a custom-built beach-style residence reminiscent of Cape Cod.

Karen and architect **Ted Handy** from Barrie looked to the book *Patterns of Home: Ten Essentials of Enduring Design*. The book uses ten design principles and preaches the creation of rooms within rooms, the capturing of light, the use of transition spaces between indoors and outdoors and the crafting of flow throughout the home.

"We wanted a home that had a beach house feel to it rather than a traditional cottage," recalls Karen.

The blue and white nautical exterior faces Georgian Bay. The exterior lighting, designed and installed by **John Oosterholt**, of **Multi-Electric** in Collingwood, highlights the symmetry of the home, accenting architectural features after the sun sets and providing a shadowed path to the entrances.

The home features large custom windows and a rooftop cupola with working transoms. The result is lots of natural light and the feeling of being outside even when you are in. "I call it my home in the trees," says Karen with a smile.

Builder **Dave Harrington**, of **Absolute Craftsmen** in Collingwood added a key feature to the exterior of the home: exposed rafter tails. Karen attributes much of the success of the building and home design to Harrington and his crew. "He always ensured the materials were appropriate for their use, and were durable and installed properly," says Karen. And the project was finished on time.

Interior design firm **Lex Parker Designs** created a flow throughout Karen's home through the consistent use of colour and material. White walls, warm brown-toned Turkish marble from **City Stone** in Collingwood and silver-maple oiled hardwood floors anchor the interior design. The brown marble-tiled foyer features a herringbone cut that flows through the first floor of the home, which contains three bedrooms and a media room. The marble is cut in various sizes and laid in different patterns. It can be found in three full bathrooms and around the fireplace in the open-concept living space.

The hardwood floors are spectacular. "Since we were trying to create the beach-house feel, I just couldn't imagine going with varnished hardwood floors," Karen says of her decision. "So we decided to use flooring that looks weathered and natural. It also feels fantastic on bare feet."

The walls throughout the home are unconventionally white. As you walk in the front door, the *continued on page 46*

feature

FROM LEFT: The spacious master bathroom has a glass shower stall with a pebble-stone floor and a separate tub. The maple staircase blends beautifully with the oiled silver-maple floors. An elevator provides an alternative way of moving between floors in this spectacular home. The living room off the kitchen is easy-living casual. A step-up leads to a reading cove with comfortable banquettes. BELOW: The gas fireplace pulls the room together. Built-ins, painted white to match the walls, provide storage for books and electronics.



only splash of colour comes from three abstract Mark Kellett pieces. The white walls surprisingly do not contribute to a bland atmosphere. Blue and taupe fabrics compliment the flooring. Walnut countertops in the kitchen add contrast.

"We wanted the colour to come from outside through the windows," says Karen. "We didn't want anything to take away from the view."

The incredible view of the Bay and the surrounding wooded lot is the focal point of each room. To capture the essence, almost every room has natural light coming in from at least two sides.

Also providing natural light to the home is a cupola that protrudes from the centre of the roof. Its windows provide light to the office and bedroom on the third floor. A glass floor separates the second and third stories. Karen finds it amusing when guests get a little nervous on their walk across the glass.

The second-floor living space is open concept with a 10-foot-high ceiling. Parker created rooms within the larger room. In the living space, there is an open kitchen—installed by **Premier Kitchens** of Collingwood—a dining area and a cozy living room. The gourmet kitchen features a Wolf stove with two ovens, four burners and a double grill, two sinks, more than 15 feet of counter space and a ten-foot bar with seating. The dining room table with the L-shaped banquette seats ten comfortably. The living space also includes a nook which Karen calls the sunset room. It's bordered on three sides by bench seating and large windows topped with a curved wood ceiling. Decorative arches break up the open room.

"We decided that since the home fronts onto the Bay, and the best view is out our front door, we would put our main living spaces on the second floor looking out onto the water. This way the view isn't wasted on a foyer," Karen says.

The master suite is also a series of rooms within one large space that can be closed off from the main living space. The bedroom contains only a bed and two lone nightstands accented by the beautiful window and towering drapery. Any clothing and storage is contained in the very large walk-in closet with built-ins. The suite is capped off with a luxurious master bath with soaker tub and glass-encased cobblestone shower.

"We were conscious of using materials in the house that bring the outside in," says Karen. The cobblestone shower floor is like standing outside in a stream.

The 3,800 sq. ft. home is rectangular in shape and utilizes every inch of space. Even the third-floor rooms contain storage spaces off to the side that have walls dropping at a 45-degree angle.

"The objective was to make all of the space as usable as possible," says Karen.

Karen now enjoys both the house and the park and calls Collingwood home. **OH**

