



# SERENITY NOW

BY KATHLEEN DUNCAN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



The sophisticated, contemporary waterfront home is a product of Sharon Vigmond's exquisite style and vision. The visually stunning stairway off the main entrance leads to the office above, overlooking the light-filled great room below.

RIGHT: From the foyer, stairs lead down to a living room. Floor-to-ceiling doors, in every room on this level, lead to the terrace above Kempenfelt Bay. Designer Kris Brigden of North Muskoka House worked with Sharon on the décor.





Perfection is indeed in the details of a carefully crafted lakefront home in Barrie's east end.

From the bands of brushed stainless steel highlighting the darkly stained wood of the many banisters fabricated by **David Barks Stairs**, to the vented smoking room providing a haven for husband Jim to enjoy the occasional cigar, Sharon looks around with satisfaction.

"It's my vision," she says of the 8,500 sq. ft. contemporary home that exudes warmth and takes full advantage of its location on the north shore of Kempenfelt Bay. Built with rooms flowing down five levels of elevation,



connected for easy mobility by a Concord elevator, the house hugs the slope of the land across 200 feet of water frontage.

Sharon tries to pick a favourite feature of her newly constructed home and her eyes travel to the massive fireplace wall with a dry-stack look built of Corinthian grey granite from **GP Masonry** by **Steenhof Stoneworks**. The focal point of the house's great room, rugged natural stone frames the stained-glass artistry of **SGO Designer Glass** and provides inspiration for the incorporated colours.

*Continued on page 52*



The Vigmonds entertain often. A double-sided fireplace adds warmth to the dining room while an elaborate chandelier sparkles above the beautifully set table.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:**

**LEFT:** The stunning foyer offers a view of the lower level. All flower arrangements by Joshua's Greenery in Barrie.

**TOP RIGHT:** The table is set for company coming.

**BOTTOM:** The grand entrance features a cherrywood front door and unique glass inserts by SGO Designer Glass.





Windows dominate the chocolate brown kitchen by Barlow. There is still plenty of storage and space to eat-in.

BELOW: Cabinets surround built-in appliances in the kitchen. Sharon loves cooking in her new kitchen.

TOP RIGHT: Sharon stands on a balcony overlooking the hallway, which leads to the master suite.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Mosaic tiles from Desert Tile frame a mirror in the downstairs powder room.



"We use an overlay technique to permanently bond colour, texture and lead to a solid sheet of clear tempered glass," says SGO's owner Cathy Keys, who works with husband and business partner Bob. "It gives the look of stained glass with the integrity of one piece of safety glass."

They created a similar look in the sidelights of the house's 12-foot cherrywood front door. SGO, following Sharon's vision, also added custom mirror panels and stunning crescent inserts in most of the home's interior doors.

Keys also created a three-layer crushed diamond glass bar top in the games room downstairs. Working with **Barlow Cabinet Works** and **Marnoch Electric**, it lights up with a choice of 170 colour configurations to amuse the many guests entertained by the Vigmonds.

That lighting, as well as other household systems like music, security, computer data, blinds and the complex HVAC system – which includes

two furnaces and a boiler system for the in-floor heating by **A Few Degrees More** – have all been automated by **Entertaining Interiors**.

Sharon's exquisite taste and style is evident in the lighting and stunning fixture selection throughout the home. **James Solecki** of **Integra Lighting** was instrumental in the overall look and thoughtful lighting design throughout this special home.

In marrying the clean lines of a contemporary style with the warmth of traditional, Sharon wanted a more sophisticated look than the rustic getaway she put together at the family's Muskoka cottage.

Husband Jim, a busy founding partner of the law firm **Oatley Vigmond**, trusted Sharon not to fill his new home with detested floral prints and plaids.

"As long as there was eventually a nice dock, fishing boat and a bar, he said 'do it'," she laughs. She also built in an espresso machine with cup warmer for him in their new kitchen. *Continued on page 56*





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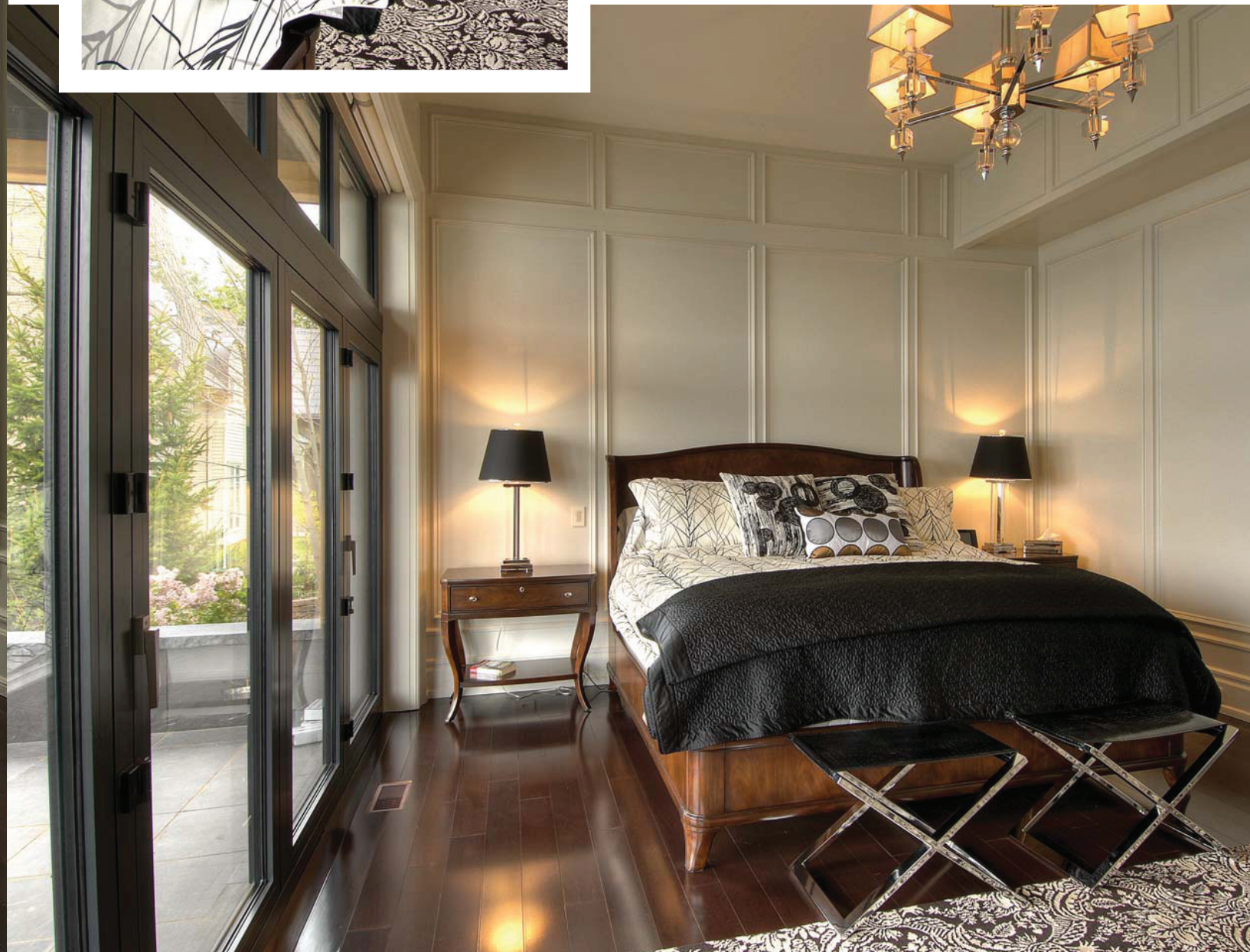
The chocolate-brown walnut kitchen by Barlow (who also crafted the cabinetry in the eight bathrooms and laundry room), incorporated a Wolf Steel six-burner gas stovetop and oven, Miele appliances and a commercial Hobart dishwasher that takes about three minutes to cycle.

"I haven't enjoyed cooking as much as I have in the last three months," Sharon says.

The kitchen overlooks the great room, accented by a custom wrought-iron firewood nest straight from the Severn Bridge studio of Artisans Gallery, as well as accessories suggested by designer **Kris Brigden** of North Muskoka House.

Echoing throughout the house, the great room is comfortably elegant from the creamy (Benjamin Moore Halo) walls with intricate mouldings and discreet mood lighting, to the handcrafted creations by **Creative Custom Furnishings**.

Providing a foundation for most rooms is the dark richness of Brazilian jatoba hardwood flooring. Porcelain tiling elsewhere was provided by **Desert Tile** and installed by **World Class Stone**. *Continued on page 58*







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The master en suite has a relaxing sunken corner tub, a custom stone-topped vanity and a separate glass shower.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

TOP LEFT: The television is hidden behind a mirror above the fireplace mantel.

BOTTOM LEFT: The luxurious master bedroom has a walkout to a private, covered terrace overlooking the water.





feature

High above, matching the scale and charcoal hues in the lofty fireplace, five pendant lights, hand-crafted by Toronto’s AM Studio using Israeli glass, cascade from the cathedral ceiling.

But despite the obvious care taken to perfect every detail both inside (with ongoing support of builder **Chris Ridding** of **Amanding Construction** and his foreman **Matt Dunlop**) and out – with the tiered flagstone patios and walkways softened by plants designed by **Lakeside Landscaping** – Sharon finally comes to the realization that it’s the ever-changing landscape of the bay that is the house’s premiere feature.

“We can sit in the hot tub at night and see all the lights of Barrie,” she says of her long-time adopted home.

Evenings can also include barbequing, using the custom concrete built-in unit by **Concrete Living**, which also made several basins, countertops and a fireplace in the family room, which adds an eclectic mix to the limestone fireplaces elsewhere by **Livio Veroni**.

Virtually every room in the house benefits from the view – some through circular portholes, others through barrel vault windows and some from an expanse of doorways that fold back to open things up.

With daughter Karen and son Chris away at university, it was time for the Vigmonds to start a new phase, too – one that doesn’t rely on protecting the house and contents from sticky fingers or teenage visitors.

“The kids left and we decided to have what we want,” she says with a grin. Mission accomplished – down to the last Sharon-inspired detail. **OH**



The gym, cigar room, home theatre, bar and games room are all on the lower level. The bar is topped with three layers of crushed diamond glass, which lights up in an array of colours.

