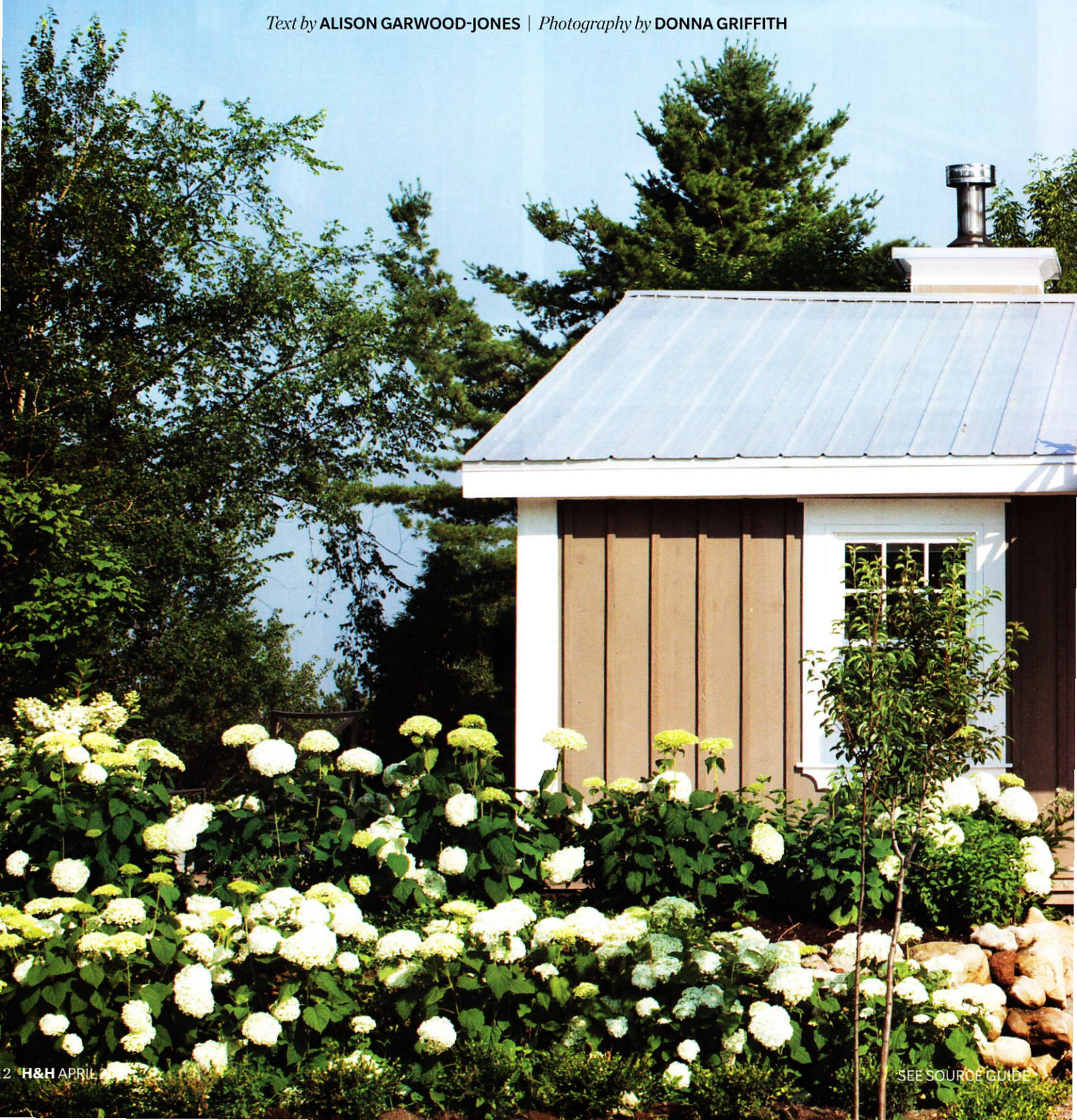


DECORATING

# BREATHING SPACE

A CRISP PALETTE AND SWEEPING VIEWS  
MAKE A COUNTRY HOME FEEL LIKE ONE BIG EXHALE.

*Text by* ALISON GARWOOD-JONES | *Photography by* DONNA GRIFFITH







Homeowners Ingrid Oomen and Asad Wali transformed the original cinder-block exterior of their Caledon, Ont., home by covering it with board-and-batten siding and adding a standing-seam metal roof. "I like pure materials. I like how they age and get a patina," says Ingrid, who also planted reams of hydrangeas for further country charm. *Windows, Marvin.*



Ingrid and Asad in the open-concept kitchen of their weekend home. Custom cabinets painted white contrast nicely with the dark-stained pine floors.

**Cabinet design, Qummunicate.**

BELOW: Stainless-steel cabinets break up the expanse of white. A bench reupholstered in mohair adds a touch of luxury. **White pitcher, Angus & Company.**



**"I always wanted** to live on a farm," says Ingrid Oomen, an avid gardener with a thriving Toronto design business, Qummunicate. So, when she and her husband, Asad Wali, a political consultant, found a potential weekend home an hour outside of the city, he said to her, "Here's your chance!" Nestled in the rolling hills of Caledon, Ont., with 30 acres of hardwood bush, open fields and four spring-fed ponds, the property was idyllic. But the three-bedroom farmhouse that sat on it certainly wasn't their dream home; it was a derelict cinder-block bunker. "The windows were cockeyed, the inside was a maze of rooms and there must have been about 30 buckets on the floor catching rainwater," says Ingrid, who suspects the original structure burned down and was replaced by the block home about 60 years ago. "At first, I thought we'd bulldoze the bunker, but its potential inspired us to save it." Instead, they transformed the space into a cosy retreat anchored by a sophisticated black and white palette.

The pair had to rethink their living situation a few years ago, when Asad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. By selling their multistorey house, they were able to buy two wheelchair-accessible homes: one in the city so Ingrid could maintain her business, and this one in the country.

Overseeing the project, Ingrid worked with a team of local tradespeople to open up the 1,200-square-foot space. "It had three tiny bedrooms and you had to go through the first to get to the second and the second to get to the

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Presiding over the white slipcovered armchairs (all hand-me-downs) and the buff-coloured sofa in the living room is an antique most lamp that Ingrid had rewired into a pendant. The airtight wood-burning marble fireplace not only provides a focal point in the room but heats up the whole house. The classical lines of the dark fireplace and the rococo flourishes on the white mirror set up a masculine-feminine tension," says Ingrid. Mercury-glass bottles (on mantel), Angus & Company.





## SIGNATURE STYLE

SECRETS TO INGRID AND ASAD'S COUNTRY-FRESH LOOK.

**1. Keep things fresh and bright** Decorate with a spare hand and use durable pieces: casual white slipcovers can be easily laundered; washable flat paint on walls can be wiped down; and bare floors create a unified look throughout the space.

**2. Update flea-market finds** Ingrid reinvented several hand-me-downs and found items to add an authenticity to the home. She painted chairs, reupholstered cushions and customized an old dresser and work table.

**3. Use classic pairings** A black and white palette always looks sophisticated. Black is used sparingly on key architectural elements and furniture pieces. Varying the tone (warm, grey, yellowish) and finish (glossy, matte) of white paints throughout adds depth.



The wood wainscoting outside the guest bedroom was painted a warm shade of white. The black slate tile floor creates an appealing and practical contrast. Layers of white bedding punctuated with blue-grey pillows make for an inviting room to sleep in. Green **shams**, white **throw pillow**, blue **throw**, Elte; floor **tiles**, Olympia Tile; **wainscoting**, Central Fairbank Lumber.





CANADIAN

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## CONTINUED FROM...

## VIEW

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last day of our trip and my friend Katharina mentioned it over lunch. She said Merci was the home store that Parisians are buzzing about, open only since spring 2009. This large emporium of home, fashion, fragrance, stationery and flowers also includes a library/café. There, you can shop with a conscience. Famous names such as Stella McCartney, Isabel Marant, Yves Saint Laurent and Annick Goutal have come together to fill three floors with an eclectic assortment of great finds — forgoing their profit margins to help fund young women's and children's charities in Madagascar.

*Let's just say,  
if one had all the  
money in the  
world, it would be  
tempting to dine,  
sleep and shower  
in Hermès!*

In the library/café, the books are all donated, so you can flip through while you sip your café au lait. My favourite parts of the store are the old-fashioned sewing shop, where you can buy buttons, ribbon and zippers, and the paper shop.

Last stop was the new Hermès store. Let's just say, if one had all the money in the world, it would be tempting to dine, sleep and shower in Hermès! Imagine curling up in a reissue of the classic club chair designed by Jean-Michel Frank crafted in Hermès leather, wrapped in a cashmere Hermès blanket while sipping tea from a china cup after a long ride in your Hermès saddle....

Regardless, this store's sheer beauty will inspire you. There is a flower shop by Baptiste that carries exotics from around the world, a bookstore and even a new line of Hermès carpets.

For more pictures from Paris, go online to my blog on [houseandhome.com](http://houseandhome.com). **H&H**

BREATHING  
SPACE

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third." They got rid of them all. Adding to the open feel are a number of other accessible features, including bare hardwood floors throughout the main living space and bedrooms, smooth stone surfaces in the two bathrooms (with no changes in elevation between the surfaces) and 36-inch-wide doorways.

Ingrid took snippets of multiple historical styles and threw them on a white canvas, grounding it all with dark-stained pine flooring. "I don't go for any particular feel — if I like it, it's in," she says. And she loves it all: Venetian chandeliers, baroque architecture and over-the-top French gilded mirrors. Ingrid points to the mirror over the fireplace as an example of her style. "It has rococo lines, but I simplified them by spray-painting the whole thing white." She repeated the all-white theme with the principal bedroom's bergere chair, half the dining room chairs (the other half were sprayed black) and the plush armchairs and footstools in the living room. "Painting or covering mismatched furniture or artifacts in white unites the pieces and also makes them more casual and less precious by downplaying any details and embellishments."

Ingrid admits she has always wanted to use lots of colour in her designs but can't bring herself to do it. "I find it hard to live with bright colours, and we'd both rather let nature dictate the tones inside our home. You know how the sky takes on this intense light on the first warm, sunny day in spring? I feel like our white walls reflect these changes. That relaxes me."

Come spring, Ingrid decorates the place with white pillows, soft grey and sage accents and vases filled with lilacs and lavender cut from the property. "But the biggest spring ritual up here is the frogs!" she says. "They're so loud during mating season." On the first warm evening of the season, you'll find Ingrid, Asad and their golden Labrador, Dolce, sitting on the front porch, taking in the rising moon and smiling over the symphony of frogs in surround sound. **H&H**



# Source Guide

rug, Y&Co, Toronto (416) 968-7700, Montreal (514) 287-8998 or visit [ycocarpet.com](http://ycocarpet.com); Michael S Smith console lamp, Circa Lighting, call 1-877-762-2323 or visit [circalighting.com](http://circalighting.com) for ordering information; sofa, chair, coffee table, Ankasa pillows, Anne Hepfer Designs, Toronto (416) 800-2485 or visit [annehepfer.com](http://annehepfer.com); wall colour, Ranchwood (CC-500) from the Designer Classics collection, Benjamin Moore, call 1-800-361-5898 or visit [benjaminmoore.ca](http://benjaminmoore.ca) for locations across Canada. **Drape with pullback:** Fabric, Calvin Fabrics (to the trade), call 1-888-732-1996 or visit [calvinfabrics.com](http://calvinfabrics.com); Samuel & Sons trim, Primavera Interior Furnishings (to the trade), Toronto (416) 921-3334 or visit [primavera.ca](http://primavera.ca) for showrooms across Canada. **Page 102: Outdoor seating area:** Furniture, McKinnon and Harris, visit [mckinnonharris.com](http://mckinnonharris.com); Raoul Textiles floral pillow fabric, Y&Co, Toronto (416) 968-7700, Montreal (514) 287-8998 or visit [ycocarpet.com](http://ycocarpet.com); rug, Magdalena York Collection, visit [magdalenayorkcollection.com](http://magdalenayorkcollection.com). **Page 104: Get the Look: Table:** Brigitte 1-drawer side table, Bungalow 5, Oakland, N.J. (201) 405-1800 or visit [bungalow5.com](http://bungalow5.com) for retailers across Canada. **Light:** Vintage Barn pendant, Restoration Hardware, Vancouver (604) 731-3918, Toronto (416) 322-9422, (416) 223-2055 or visit [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com). **Fabrics:** From left: Gilardia in Bluebell, Palmer Plain in Luna, Mayfield in Cora, Robert Allen (to the trade), call 1-800-333-3777 or visit [robertallendesign.com](http://robertallendesign.com). **Headboard:** Camel tufted headboard, LIV by Au Lit, Toronto (416) 481-2300 or visit [livbyaulit.com](http://livbyaulit.com). **Stool:** Vintner 24" white counter stool, Crate & Barrel, Calgary (403) 278-7020, Mississauga, Ont. (905) 949-1545, Toronto (416) 657-4100, 1-888-657-4108 or visit [crateandbarrel.ca](http://crateandbarrel.ca). **Sofa:** Apartment sofa 1347-11 in Flax Patton upholstery, Lee Industries, Cocoon Furnishings, Oakville, Ont. (905) 829-2780 or visit [cocoonfurnishings.ca](http://cocoonfurnishings.ca), and Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit [elte.com](http://elte.com), and Ridpath's Fine Furniture, Toronto (416) 920-4441 or visit [ridpaths.com](http://ridpaths.com), and Celadon Collection, Montreal (514) 789-1542 or visit [celadoncollection.com](http://celadoncollection.com), or call 1-800-892-7150 or visit [leeindustries.com](http://leeindustries.com) for retailers across Canada. **Pillows:** Cocoa and Ivory with centre embroidery (ANK 1549-CCO-IV), Blush with metallic motif and border (ANK 1503-BLS-MET), Ankasa, New York (212) 575-1994 or visit [sachinandbabi.com](http://sachinandbabi.com) for retailers across Canada. **Vanity:** Gramercy single metal washstand, Restoration Hardware, visit [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com). **Page 105: Principal bedroom:** Rug, The Red Carpet & Rug Company, Toronto (416) 363-0905, Montreal (514) 989-1111 or visit [theredcarpet.ca](http://theredcarpet.ca); Osborne & Little blue-grey linen, Primavera Interior Furnishings (to the trade), Toronto (416) 921-3334 or visit [primavera.ca](http://primavera.ca) for showrooms across Canada; wall colour, Ballet White (OC-9) from the Off White collection, Benjamin Moore, call 1-800-361-5898 or visit [benjaminmoore.ca](http://benjaminmoore.ca) for locations across Canada.



## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Pages 106 to 111

Landscape, pool and interior design, Tim Tanz, Toronto (416) 924-7683 or email [timtanz@rogers.com](mailto:timtanz@rogers.com), or through Studio b, Toronto (416) 368-2838 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com); renovation, GranVal Construction, Cambridge, Ont. (519) 621-2970 or visit [granval.ca](http://granval.ca); millwork design, Weis & Associates, Toronto (416) 967-9347 or visit [weis.ca](http://weis.ca); landscaping, Eldon Costa, Signature Landscaping, Sheffield, Ont. (519) 621-7134 or visit [signaturelandscaping.ca](http://signaturelandscaping.ca); pool, Emmett DeAngelis, Precision Pools by Triple A Pools, Kitchener, Ont. (519) 746-6311 or visit [precisionpools.ca](http://precisionpools.ca). **Page 106: Foyer:** Thibaut Tea House collection Lanterns wallpaper, Crown Wallpaper + Fabrics, call 1-800-268-1300 or visit [crownwallpaper.com](http://crownwallpaper.com). **Page 107: Dining room:** Jacques Garcia for McGuire Lucky pedestal dining table, Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com); Kartell Philippe Starck Louis Ghost chairs, Plan b, Toronto (416) 941-1010 or visit [planboffice.com](http://planboffice.com); artwork (ink jet prints) by Oleh Sirant, Corkin Gallery, Toronto (416) 979-1980 or visit [corkingallery.com](http://corkingallery.com). **Page 108: Front door exterior:** Door fabrication, Synergy Manufacturing, London, Ont. (519) 951-0909 or visit [synergymfginc.com](http://synergymfginc.com); doorknobs, The Door Store, Toronto (416) 863-1590 or visit [thedoorestore.ca](http://thedoorestore.ca). **Page 108 and 109: Living room:** Orange artwork (on left wall) by Tim Tanz, Toronto (416) 924-7683 or email [timtanz@rogers.com](mailto:timtanz@rogers.com); Barbara Barry Realized by Henredon Conversation sofas, Jacques Garcia for Baker black velvet Crown pillow, Barbara Barry fabric (for drapes), Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com); drape sewing, Kingswood Drapery Services, Toronto (416) 633-1103; CaesarStone in Nougat countertops (in kitchen), John Galiano, Genuine Marble & Granite, Toronto (416) 454-1369 or visit [genuinemarblegranite.com](http://genuinemarblegranite.com). **Page 110: Table in foyer:** McGuire pedestal table, Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com); Eero Aarnio Puppy for Magis sculpture-chair, Plan b, Toronto (416) 941-1010 or visit [planboffice.com](http://planboffice.com). **Page 111: Pool house exterior:** Glatz Bistro umbrellas, Davy Grosemans for Sywawa Frou Frou parasol, Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com). **Pool house:** Thomas Pheasant for McGuire settee, chairs and table, Dedon bar stools, console and bench, Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com). **Tassel:** Doorknob, The Door Store, Toronto (416) 863-1590 or visit [thedoorestore.ca](http://thedoorestore.ca); antique tassel, Luigi Bevilacqua, visit [luigi-bevilacqua.com](http://luigi-bevilacqua.com). **Bedroom:**

Throw (on chair arm), Hermès, Vancouver (604) 681-9965, Toronto (416) 968-8626, Montreal (514) 842-3387 or visit [hermes.com](http://hermes.com) for ordering information; Laura Kirar for Baker lacquered linen bench, Baker Collector's Edition Venetian painted bed, Barbara Barry Dream bed linens, Barbara Barry Carousel table lamp, Studio b, Toronto (416) 363-2996 or visit [studiobhome.com](http://studiobhome.com); chandelier, Sescolite, Toronto (416) 651-6570 or visit [sescolite.com](http://sescolite.com).



## BREATHING SPACE

Pages 112 to 117

Design, Ingrid Oomen, Qumunicate, Toronto (416) 487-8684 or email [qumunicate@rogers.com](mailto:qumunicate@rogers.com). **Pages 112 and 113: Exterior:** Windows, Marvin Windows and Doors, call 1-800-263-6161 or visit [marvincanada.com](http://marvincanada.com). **Page 114: Kitchen:** Cabinet design, Qumunicate, Toronto (416) 487-8684 or email [qumunicate@rogers.com](mailto:qumunicate@rogers.com); Tolix pull-up stools, Design Within Reach, Toronto (416) 977-4003 or visit [dwr.com](http://dwr.com); GE appliances, Sears, visit [sears.ca](http://sears.ca) for locations across Canada; cabinet colour, Oxford White (CC-30) from the Designer Classics collection, Benjamin Moore, call 1-800-361-5898 or visit [benjaminmoore.ca](http://benjaminmoore.ca) for retailers across Canada. **Kitchen cabinets:** White pitcher, Angus & Company, Toronto (416) 537-4104 or visit [angusandcompany.com](http://angusandcompany.com); stainless-steel cabinets, Qumunicate, Toronto (416) 487-8684 or email [qumunicate@rogers.com](mailto:qumunicate@rogers.com). **Page 115:** Mercury-glass bottles (on mantel), Angus & Company, Toronto (416) 537-4104 or visit [angusandcompany.com](http://angusandcompany.com); woodstove, Hearth & Leisure, call 1-888-211-8295 or visit [hearthandleisure.com](http://hearthandleisure.com); sofa, The Bay, visit [hbc.com](http://hbc.com); mantel design, Qumunicate, Toronto (416) 487-8684 or email [qumunicate@rogers.com](mailto:qumunicate@rogers.com); black marble, Ciot, visit [ciot.com](http://ciot.com); pillow fabrics, Kravet Canada (to the trade), call 1-800-535-3258 or visit [kravetcanada.com](http://kravetcanada.com) for showrooms across Canada; gnome, Target, visit [target.com](http://target.com). **Page 116: Kitchen to living room:** Marble tabletop, Ciot, visit [ciot.com](http://ciot.com); glasses, La Merceria, Toronto (416) 848-0057 or visit [lamerceria.ca](http://lamerceria.ca); footed glass bowl, cutting boards, Angus & Company, Toronto (416) 537-4104 or visit [angusandcompany.com](http://angusandcompany.com); lamps, Urban Archaeology, New York (212) 431-4646 or visit [urbanarchaeology.com](http://urbanarchaeology.com); baskets, Loblaws Superstore, call 1-888-495-5111 or visit [presidentschoice.ca](http://presidentschoice.ca) for locations across Canada. **Sideboard vignette:** Brown baskets, Angus & Company, Toronto (416) 537-4104 or visit [angusandcompany.com](http://angusandcompany.com); blue bowl, Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit [elte.com](http://elte.com) **CONTINUED**



# Source Guide

elte.com. **Bathroom vanity:** Basket, L'Atelier, Toronto (416) 966-0200; glass canisters, Pottery Barn, call 1-877-812-7889 or visit potterybarn.ca for locations across Canada; mirror, bucket, HomeSense, visit homesense.ca for retailers across Canada; sconces, Universal Lamp, Toronto (416) 787-8900, 1-800-465-LAMP or visit greatlighting.com; washcloth, drinking glass, pink room spray, small tiles (in grout), Ginger's, Toronto (416) 787-1787, 1-888-444-3292 or visit gingersbath.com; large tiles, The Home Depot, visit homedepot.ca for locations across Canada; tubing, Richelieu Hardware, visit richelieu.com; Carrara marble counter, Ciot, visit ciot.com.

**Bathroom tub:** Wall tiles, The Home Depot, visit homedepot.ca for locations across Canada; honed limestone floor tiles, Stone Tile International, call 1-866-669-1103 or visit stone-tile.com for showrooms across Canada; towels, bath salts, Ginger's, Toronto (416) 787-1787, 1-888-444-3292 or visit gingersbath.com; bergere chair, Hillmore Wood Products, Toronto (416) 251-2412 or visit hillmorewood.com; pillow fabric, Kravet Canada (to the trade), call 1-800-535-3258 or visit kravetcanada.com for showrooms across Canada; pillow design (throughout), by Qumunicate, Toronto (416) 487-8684 or email qumunicate@rogers.com; pillow sewing (throughout), Gail Leger, Toronto (416) 461-6683 or email thesewingstudio@hotmail.com; wood flooring, Mundell Lumber Company, Erin, Ont. (519) 833-9375. **Page 117: Guest bedroom:** Green shams, white throw pillow, blue throw, Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit elte.com; floor tiles, Olympia Tile & Stone, visit olympiatile.com; wall colour (bedroom), Monterey White (HC-27) from the Historical Colours collection, Benjamin Moore, call 1-800-361-5898 or visit benjaminmoore.ca for retailers across Canada; wainscotting, Central Fairbank Lumber, Concord, Ont. (905) 738-2111 or visit centralfairbank.com; gardening hat, Lee Valley Tools, call 1-800-267-8767 or visit leevalley.com; Philippe Starck bedside lamp, Flos Lighting, visit flos.com.



## DESIGN CONTEST 2011

Pages 118 to 123

**Page 118: Best Overall House:** Architect, Alan Bellavance, Atelier A. Bellavance, Bromont, Que. (450) 534-1616 or visit alanbellavance.com. **Kitchen:** Island, flooring, cabinets, La Belle Gueule de Bois, Magogue, Que. (819) 843-0049 or visit labellegueuledebois.ca. **Page 119: Family room sofa:** Drapes, L'Atelier du Presbytère, Montreal (514) 448-1768; dining table, La Belle Gueule de

Bois, Magogue, Que. (819) 843-0049 or visit labellegueuledebois.ca. **Portrait:** Staircase, Marco Lamoureux, call (819) 847-3471. **Principal bedroom:** Custom drapes, L'Atelier du Presbytère, Montreal (514) 448-1768; white linen bedcover, white matelassés, Boutique aux Mirabelles, Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu, Que. (450) 584-3388 or visit mirabelles.ca. **Page 120: Best Use of Colour:** Throw, decorative box, gold-trimmed bowl, Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit elte.com; sofa, Lee Industries, call 1-800-892-7150 or visit leeindustries.com for retailers across Canada; bergere chairs, mirror, Waddington's Auctioneers & Appraisers, Toronto (416) 504-9100, 1-877-504-5700 or visit waddingtons.ca; ceiling lantern, Living Lighting, Toronto (416) 364-9099 or visit livinglighting.com for locations across Canada; Manuel Canovas fabric, Bilbrough & Co., Toronto (416) 960-1611, 1-800-563-5716 or visit bilbroughs.com. **Page 121: Best Small Space: Living room (piano):** Jacobean-style table, chandelier, Flemish armchair, Applewood Antiques, Victoria (250) 475-1028; French trumeau mirror, Ryan Townsend, visit timothytownsend.com; zebra skin, sofa, Kilshaw's Auctioneers, call 1-888-545-7429 or visit kilshaws.com; orchids, Ramsey & Ramsey Flower Merchants, Victoria (250) 595-8919 or visit ramseyflowers.ca. **Linen press:** Linen press, Faith Grant's Antiques, Victoria (250) 383-0121 or visit faithgrantantiques.com. **Kitchen:** Copper cookware, Faith Grant's Antiques, Victoria (250) 383-0121 or visit faithgrantantiques.com, and Domus Antica Galleries, Victoria (250) 385-5443; backsplash, floor tile, countertops, Kilshaw's Auctioneers, call 1-888-545-7429 or visit kilshaws.com. **Page 122: Best Decorating: Dining room:** Tea towel, Les Touilleurs, Montreal (514) 278-0008 or visit lestouilleurs.com; settee, table, chairs, Stacaro, Toronto (416) 367-5959 or visit stacaro.com; pendant, The Home Depot, call 1-800-628-0525 or visit homedepot.ca for locations across Canada; mirror, HomeSense, call 1-866-HOME-707 or visit homesense.ca for locations across Canada; cabinets, Ikea, Vancouver (604) 273-2051, Coquitlam, B.C. (604) 636-1000, Calgary (403) 273-4338, Edmonton (780) 433-6000, Burlington, Ont. (905) 681-IKEA, Toronto (416) 222-IKEA, (416) 646-IKEA, Vaughan, Ont. (905) 695-5075, Ottawa (613) 829-4530, Montreal (514) 738-2167, Boucherville, Que. (450) 449-6755 or 1-866-866-IKEA or visit ikea.ca. **Kitchen:** Wood bowl, glass canister, tea towel, Les Touilleurs, Montreal (514) 278-0008 or visit lestouilleurs.com. **Page 123: Best Budget Room: Bed:** Light fixture, The Home Depot, call 1-800-628-0525 or visit homedepot.ca for locations across Canada; wall colour, Classic Brown (2109-10) from the Colour Preview collection, Benjamin Moore, call 1-800-361-5898 or visit benjaminmoore.ca for retailers across Canada; houndstooth fabric, Tonic Living, Toronto (416) 699-9879 or visit tonicliving.com; coverlet, Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit elte.com; bedside lamp, West Elm, call 1-877-451-9519 or visit westelm.com. **Portrait:**

Pax wardrobe, Ikea, Vancouver (604) 273-2051, Coquitlam, B.C. (604) 636-1000, Calgary (403) 273-4338, Edmonton (780) 433-6000, Burlington, Ont. (905) 681-IKEA, Toronto (416) 222-IKEA, (416) 646-IKEA, Vaughan, Ont. (905) 695-5075, Ottawa (613) 829-4530, Montreal (514) 738-2167, Boucherville, Que. (450) 449-6755 or 1-866-866-IKEA or visit ikea.ca; wardrobe hardware, Lee Valley Tools, call 1-800-267-8767 or visit leevalley.com; drape fabric, MacFab Fabrics, Toronto (416) 922-6000 or visit macfabfabrics.com.

**Best Kitchen:** Contractors, Joseph May and David Hastie, Whirl Creek Construction, Stratford, Ont. (519) 301-7831 or (519) 276-9662; Herringbone in Moonstone stove backplash, Saltillo Imports, Toronto (416) 441-2224 or visit saltillo-tiles.com; sink backsplash, Yukon bevelled white subway tile sink backsplash, Regal taupe matte floor tile, Olympia Tile International, visit olympiatile.com for locations across Canada; clear pine ceiling, Hoffmeyer's Mill, call 1-877-644-5843 or visit hoffmeyersmill.on.ca; cabinets, JJ Custom Woodworking, Dublin, Ont. (519) 301-4252; cabinet colour, CIL Grey Tabby (00NN 16/000), island colour, Martha Stewart Living Bedford Grey (MSL246), The Home Depot, call 1-800-628-0525 or visit homedepot.ca; Gilmore cabinet hardware, Restoration Hardware, visit restorationhardware.com; CaesarStone Whisper and Viatera Quartz countertops, Southwest Countertops, Stratford, Ont. (519) 271-4246; Tag recycled-glass canisters, Candym Enterprises, call 1-800-263-3551 for retailers across Canada; tea towel, Studiopatrol, visit studiopatrol.com; Pro-Fit LedgeStone in Platinum stone wall, Cultured Stone, visit culturedstone.com.



## WEEKEND DECORATING

Pages 124 to 127

**Page 124:** Ribbon, Mokuba, Toronto (416) 504-5358; tassels, fabric (as background), Designer Fabrics, Toronto (416) 531-2810 or visit designerfabrics.ca. **Page 125: Subtle and Sophisticated:** Vaughan apartment sofa, Crate & Barrel, call 1-888-657-4108 or visit crateandbarrel.ca; Ankasa beaded textile artwork, Barrymore Furniture, Toronto (416) 532-2891 or visit barrymorefurniture.com; chest, Absolutely North, Toronto (416) 922-6784 or visit absolutelyinc.com; table lamp, floor lamp, rug, pillow (on chair), Elte, Toronto (416) 785-7885, 1-888-276-3583 or visit elte.com; coffee table, stool, South Hill Home, Toronto (416) 924-7224 or visit southhillhome.com; Mirabelle club chair, Boo Boo & Lefty, Toronto (416) 929-2223 or visit booboobandlefty.com; pillows (on sofa), ceramic bowls (on table), *CONTINUED*



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LE MARBLE MOSAIC STONE QUARTZ PORCELAIN  
COUNTERTOP MANUFACTURING ON SITE

MARBLE: SILVER WAVE | TILE: BIANCO ACUTA PARTITURA

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## CONTRIBUTORS

### HOW DO YOU GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SPRING?



**RYAN SZULC:** "We tend to accumulate junk over the winter, so we do a big purge of stuff to make space." Keeping the apartment neat is a necessity for Ryan and his partner, a prop stylist, because they often work from home and "clutter makes it hard to concentrate." When not focusing a lens on quirky human subjects or beautifully plated food, as he did for this issue's "The Milos Touch" (page 128), Ryan enjoys camping and cross-country skiing. His shots have appeared in *Canadian Family* and *Toronto Life*.



**ALISON GARWOOD-JONES:** "I place vases of tulips about my apartment and tie silk ribbons around the stems to prevent them from flopping over." A trained art historian, Alison spent 10 years working for museums and as a film consultant before taking up journalism. Recently, she went back to her roots, writing more design-focused stories and "profiles on people living creative lives." Alison's work has appeared in *Applied Arts* and *Homemakers*. For this issue, she penned "Breathing Space" (page 112).



**EMILY NORRIS:** "Spring is a celebration, so I get excited about taking down the curtains, washing the windows and putting away rugs and dark colours." Emily always wanted to work in magazines, so after university, she applied "everywhere," eventually landing a job at *Toronto Life*. A husband, three kids and many magazines later (including seven years as an *H&H* staffer), Emily still talks to people about style and design as a real-estate agent, her current career. She wrote this month's "Makeover" (page 68).