

SURE COOL CLIME

Exclusive surroundings of quartz césarstone and walls made from dry stacked stone quarter a variety of vintages. The wall mounted, high-tech cooling system has a changeable front display to add a favourite piece of artwork to the decor and an antique, ornate wood carved table from a foreign journey finds a suitable port in the climate controlled shelter.

MULTI-PURPOSE LOWER LEVEL

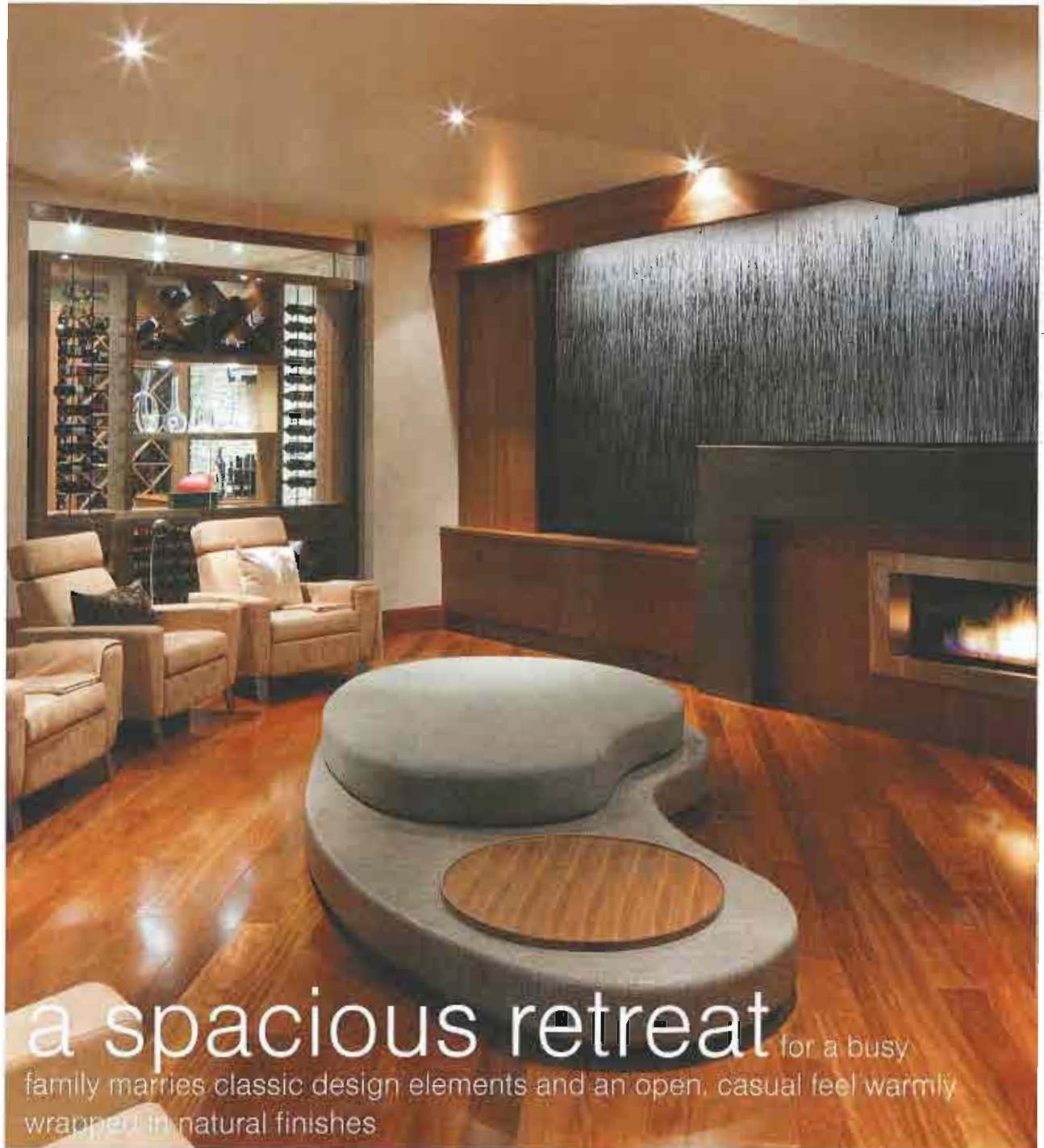
Beautiful backlit screens with reeds of grass pressed between acrylic panels provide an effective, incandescent art exhibit along one wall in the downstairs retreat.



Custom Retreat

WRITTEN BY NADINE TAYLOR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT NOWELL

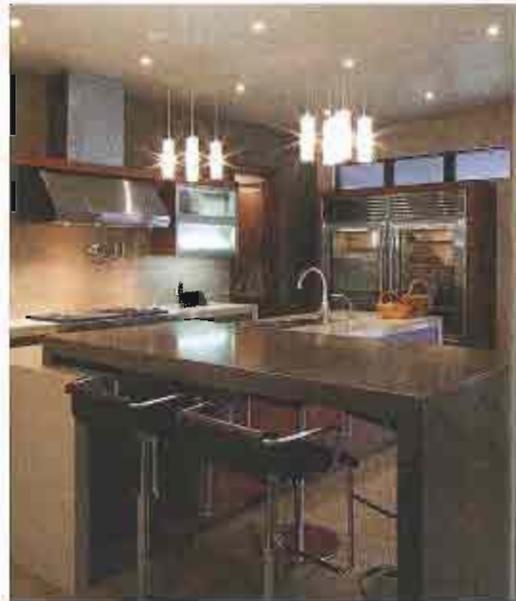
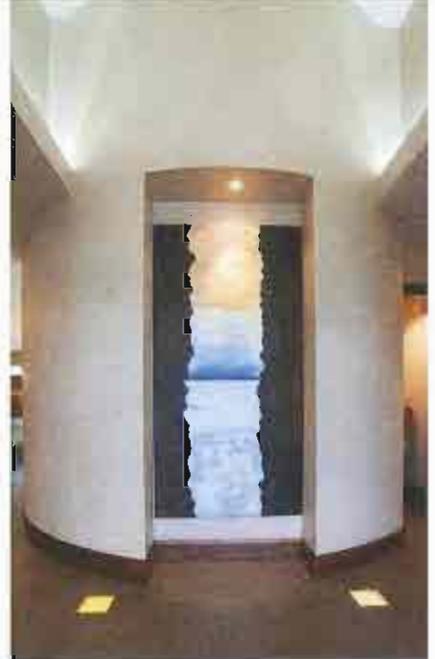




a spacious retreat for a busy family marries classic design elements and an open, casual feel warmly wrapped in natural finishes

There is a contemporary dwelling of grand proportions recently established near the Niagara shoreline. And as with any prominent new build, myriad careful considerations were involved for getting the most quality living out of the surroundings: Will this layout work equally fine for family life as entertaining? Does this design adapt well to a calendar of different seasons? Can we be content here for many years to come?

With primary aspects such as these always outstanding, the husband and wife design team of Edwards Designs set about creating a house able to be thoroughly enjoyed by the homeowners in every regard. >>



SUNKEN TREASURE

The visual interest created by a sunken living room revisits a tasteful throwback to a separate, distinct floor plan, as style-forward, white Selene furniture lines the seating area around the quartz stone hearth and fireplace by Stamford Hardware. The wood floors were done in a pre-finished Brazilian Teak, with a custom maple stain on all doors, windows, casings and baseboards to complement their rich hue.

AN ARTFUL AIR

The striking, evocative paintings of Tibor Hargitai enfold the interior in a colourful, contemporary collection. An acquaintance of the homeowners based in Woodbridge, Ontario, the Hungarian-born artist's work is exhibited internationally.

COME AND GET IT

Carmine Colangelo at Artcraft Kitchens assisted the design team and homeowners in providing the sleek efficiencies of a European-style kitchen, adding in a galley pantry to the side and double-wide, built-in commercial fridge. Quartz caesarstone countertops are done in two complementary colours—Largo's Blue and Latte—using a waterfall effect dropping over the quarter-sawn walnut, vertical grain base cabinetry. The custom backsplash is identical to the floor: a full-bodied, porcelain, soft dove grey tile with a concrete-type texture, but in an elongated 24 by three-inch cut. Acrylic pendant lights are owner sourced.

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Multiple French doors in the kitchen and dining area open to a walkout on the same grade, admitting easy exterior living for unlimited entertaining functions. And for an extra bit of splash, Boldt Pools and Spas installed a lofty hot tub by elevating it on a wooden deck that bridges the far end of the outdoor pool.



WINE, MOVIES AND STRONG

The multi-purpose lower level includes the best of all worlds. A sophisticated seated bar area serves those with a thirst, everyone can be entertained in the six-seat home theatre, and close by, a state-of-the-art fitness room and accompanying sauna offer a total workout and relaxation package.

Wendy and Mark Edwards met with their clients in 2006 when the corner property was first purchased to carefully determine the expectations for this ample double lot in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake. The busy family imagined having a spacious retreat away from big city constrictions, with their wishes opting for open, casual spaces made inviting by warmly wrapping them in natural finishes, accommodating ease of entertaining, and the marrying of an outside haven to the interior arrangement.

The result is a West Coast sense of serenity, lending design thoughtfulness to clean, classic elements, and permitting an effortless approach to livability everyone can appreciate.

Finished in 2008 with just over 6,500 square feet of comfortable expansiveness, the evolution to completed house took about one year and 10 months from inspiration and inception phases to its landscaped conclusion.

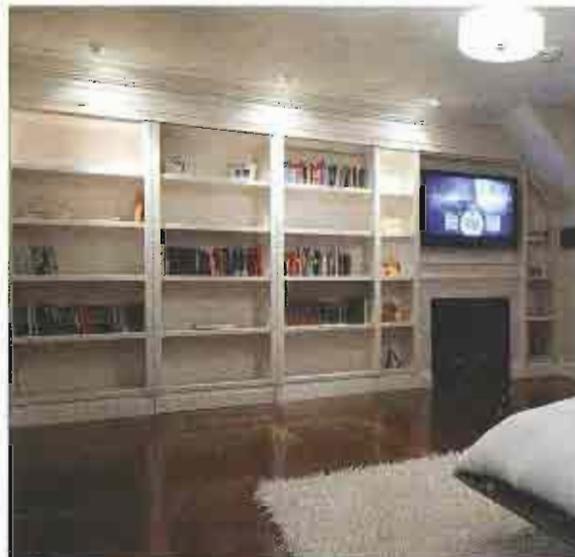
As is often the case, an exacting design process helps bring other potential dreams to the light of day. Four bedrooms with seven full baths and powder rooms now accompany three distinct living areas in this two-storey custom build; there is the main level, its equivalent size finished basement beneath, and

an in-law suite also integrated in the second level floor plan. A great inclusion proved to be a separate set of central stairs differentiating the suite section of the house, allowing the handy bonus of privacy and a completely self-contained getaway for guests when needed.

To carry a pleasing and consistent continuity, low, generous lines for windows and doors relate to all of the spaces walls were given a textured faux-finish of subtle striations throughout, providing a body to the paint and granting dimension for south-facing light to play off. The paint colour is Benjamin Moore, CC110 Muslin.

At the same time, there are intriguing hits of visual interest, such as the coil architectural curtain between the living room and front entrance. The metal drapery, done in an antique copper by the company Cascade Coil, can either be stationary or glide along a track to divide a chosen spot.

What other treats reside within and round out the luxe-list? For one, a sizeable man-cave for the garage connoisseur prompts long sojourns to sports car heaven. Outfitted with a built-in shower and motion sensor activated TV, the newly



SOUTHERN COMFORT

Maximizing plentiful natural light from the south facing side, extensive windows with motorized blinds either welcome daylight or keep it at bay in the master bedroom. As another convenient touch, all temperatures, lighting and electronics are zone specific and totally adjustable from afar by a remote controlled home system.

perfected sleek sanctuary quickens the pulse and accelerates any automotive adrenaline.

Enlisting Schneider Construction from Niagara Falls on the job as primary builder, the Edwards' combined experience and design ethos harmonizes to bring everything else together; Mark oversees construction project management and the technical drawing development, while Wendy is a registered ARIDO interior designer. United, they are capable of taking on all stages of a project: conceptual ideas, plus comprehensive space planning and interior finishes, to the working drawings and permits.

But whether an intended build is modest or monumental, there is one vital designer tip that suits every home. "Plan everything, as much as you can in advance, including all applicable quotes," says Wendy Edwards, "so there are no surprises or changes on the fly that cost needless extra time and money." NM1

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