

HOLIDAY/WINTER 2017/18

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

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WELLINGTON COUNTY ORANGEVILLE CALEDON



## CHIC FAMILY BUNGALOW

CENTURY  
STONE *revival*

SOLAR  
SAVVY  
IN ORTON

*stylish*  
WINTER  
PICKS

KITCHEN  
DESIGN MAGIC

*perfect*  
ESPRESSO MARTINI



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Owners design their "forever home" with chic and family-friendly style. Story, page 52. Photography by Jason Hartog.

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# NATURAL MODERN *living*

STORY **MELISSA HARE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG** | FLOWERS **WR DESIGNS**

Apart from solar heat, the wood stove from Caledon Fireplace is the only source of heat for the 2,100 sq. ft. home. It took only two bush cords of wood over the past two years to heat the house.

*AS JEANETTE AND STEVE MACEACHERN PURSUED THEIR DREAM TO BUILD A STRAW-BALE HOME IT TOOK THEM A LONG TIME TO FIND THE PERFECT LOT.*

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**ABOVE:** The modern staircase by welder Jay Mayes is a focal point of the house – the steel frame blending with the polished concrete floor and the modern lines of the kitchen make for a stunning entrance. **RIGHT:** A rustic pine tabletop pendant lamp combined with a modern steel pendant lamp work together to provide interest and warmth to the contemporary open-concept dining area. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A high-gloss finish on Ikea cabinets mixes with warm wood on the island for a sleek but toasty vibe in the kitchen. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Texture plays a leading role in the home. Warm neutrals and natural fabrics combine with artefacts from family travels to soften the bright white walls in the living room. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The staircase mimics one in a nearby Erin cafe.



Ideally it would be south facing and in Erin Township so their teenagers wouldn't have to change schools. The lot they found had southern exposure but wasn't ideal. The house had to be turned away from the road to get the south facing angle, so although it wasn't what they had hoped for, they made it work.

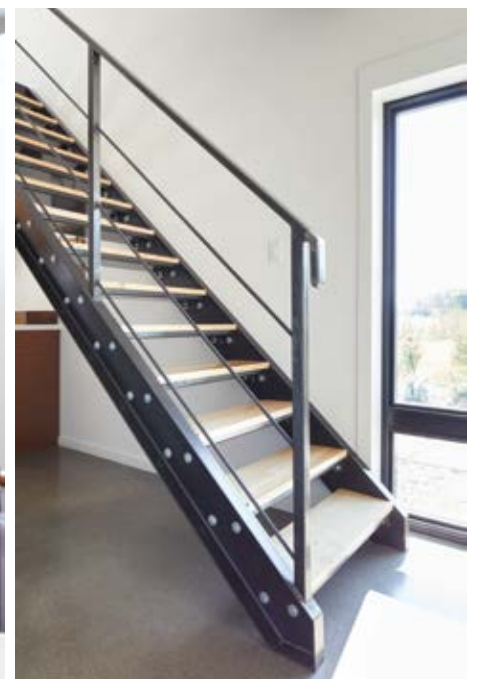
It was only natural that Steve, with a career in graphic design and a passion for architecture, spearheaded the design and build for his family of four. He was particularly drawn to straw because of its low embodied energy, biodegradability and insulation values. Unfortunately, their plan to build using straw insulation was interrupted when the company they hired went out of business.

With engineering already complete, they decided to alter the wall construction and opted for Roxul – a natural, rock-based mineral fiber insulation. Three years later, the MacEacherns completed their 2,100 sq.ft. passive solar home and proved that it can be both a rewarding and stylish way of living. The house isn't off the grid but it's wired to accommodate future solar/wind power systems if necessary.

With a modern, industrial-loft feel, it's easy to forget that this home is as smart as it is charming. Entering through the glass panelled front door, your eye is immediately drawn to the custom barn door. The door was crafted by **Century Wood Products Inc.**, from reclaimed wood, and fastened by steel hardware to an expansive block wall, which spans the middle of the home. At first glance, this wall appears to be an aesthetic choice in the modernistic space. In fact, this load-bearing wall serves a much greater purpose – to act as a heat sink for thermal mass. In the winter months, this sleek feature wall absorbs heat from the sun, while in the summer months it releases cool air into the home.

Unique, polished concrete floors run throughout the main floor and provide a

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simple, yet luxe feeling underfoot. In the cooler months, radiant heat warms the floor and contributes to heating the home. Hints of rebar can be spotted on the floor near the base of the walls, giving the space a dose of rustic character. The steel rebar was exposed because they had to cut the concrete curb in half to support the insulation. “It’s all part of the story,” explains Steve. “With the modern design, the stone, glass, steel and wood all create added warmth.”

Contemporary elements like stark white walls, simple track lighting and glossy cabinetry are expertly paired with natural elements and contrasting traditional touches. “We were trying to go very natural with all the building materials,” says Steve. “These materials have a timeless quality to them.”

Rough-sawn Douglas fir ceilings in the main living space draw noteworthy attention. Steve cleverly planned all the utilities so the ceiling remained uncluttered, allowing the warm, raw wood to ground the surrounding white walls.

Main-floor windows, by Inline Fiberglass, are left undressed to allow the natural light to fill the space. The modern entrance and

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**LEFT:** The sliding barn door, artfully crafted by Century Wood Products, presents a stunning visual as you enter the house. **BELOW:** The separate family room can be closed off from the rest of the house, providing privacy from otherwise open spaces.



Sheets of metal on the railings – originally designed to meet building code during the construction period – have since oxidized, creating an interesting artistic effect as well as providing a safety component.





back doors were supplied by the **Fibercraft Door Company**. The interior doors remain unfinished. The artwork throughout is simple, yet meaningful – including framed bird photography taken by their daughter Kylie.

The heart of the home is most definitely the great room with an open-concept kitchen, dining and living room. The simplistic design is infused with unexpected accents, like a rustic farmhouse table, which pairs harmoniously with a steel pendant light, altered by **Tmac Electric** to hang artistically from the wood ceiling. An antique hutch, which belonged to Steve's grandmother, has been stained in black and brings a subtle hint of nostalgia to the otherwise uncomplicated space.

Steve and Jeanette chose Ikea kitchen cabinets for their simple lines and contemporary feel but added custom door fronts, by Allstyle Cabinet Doors, to give them

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**TOP LEFT:** The compact master en suite includes a walk-in glass shower and contemporary tub, while combining the elements of classic modern design with warm wood tones. **ABOVE:** A metal tool stand was salvaged by Steve and repurposed to a plant stand – and positioned in the perfect spot to soak up the solar rays. **LEFT:** The master bedroom opens to a clever open-concept en suite bath and walk-in closet.

a high-end feel. A streamlined hood fan from Tasco sits above a robust Blue Star gas stove, completing the gourmet kitchen.

Steve masterfully planned the main living space to feature two vital components – the wood-burning stove, from **Caledon Fireplace Ltd.**, and a stack of easy-to-reach kindling. The stove features glossy-red side panels, an accent colour that is repeated throughout the home. Bound at either side by custom steel bookends, the wood pile sits as though purposefully stacked and curated. Positioned to allow heat to flow from the main floor up to the second floor, the MacEacherns rely on the wood stove during cooler days, when less sunlight is absorbed.

While there is no basement in the home, the spacious upper level is just as bright and spectacular as the main floor. Leading upstairs, the steel and maple-tread staircase was inspired by a set of stairs they saw at a local cafe in Erin. Steve commissioned the same local welder, **Jay Mayes**, to design and construct their staircase and upper railing. The wood treads in the staircase are by **Neilson Cabinet Works**.

Upstairs, short-plank maple flooring purchased from an auction was installed by **Everwood Custom Contracting** to match existing wood flooring, already purchased for one of the bedrooms. Their daughter's room exudes a similar modern theme with hints of rustic charm. A weathered wood door, purchased from **Orangeville Flowers & Greenhouses Ltd.**, is flanked by two pewter wall lamps, fastened to a simple white feature wall. The white is repeated in the glossy Ikea wardrobe and desk, which Steve customized with sawn wood drawer fronts and antique hardware.

Finally, a bright master suite is cleverly designed to include an open en suite with a spacious walk-in closet. A contemporary freestanding tub complements the sleek vanity and modern lighting above.

When the MacEacherns aren't inside savouring all the beauty their custom home has to offer, you can find them relaxing on their back patio or skating on their picturesque pond – because after all, enjoying the fruits of their labour is the most rewarding part. **OH**



**ABOVE:** Steve's daughter, Kylie, inherited her Dad's artistic talent. Her art supplies are stowed away in the built-in desk and floating shelves. **LEFT:** A wooden headboard repeats the theme of warm texture and natural material against the stark white walls of Kylie's room.