

WORLD VIEW

Avid travelers, Cathy and Michael have been around the globe and knew exactly where they wanted to be when they retired from their Toronto careers: on Georgian Bay. They found the ideal property overlooking Midland Bay and the sailing club, but the home was old and tired. They purchased the acreage in the fall of 2015, opting to live in the house for four seasons before deciding what to do with the structure.



STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

ABOVE: Jewel tones dominate the furnishings in Cathy and Michael's incredible bay front, contemporary home.
LEFT: Beads collected from travels around the world hang in the dining room window.

"We really like Midland," Cathy says. "Great community and services, it's on Georgian Bay and it's relatively close to Toronto." The home was a different story. "The house itself was from the 70s," explains Michael, "and the waterfront view was obstructed by a massive stone fireplace."

The original plan was to renovate only the great room, but they eventually realized that alone wasn't going to address the other problem

areas on the main floor, including a five-foot deep sunken living room. "We decided to go all in (and renovate everything) so we went to **Brian Lee of The Ideal Environment**, an architecture firm recommended by our local builder, **Gilkon Construction Ltd.**," says Michael. From there they fleshed out what they wanted, including great views, and it turned into a complete redo from the foundation up. *Continued on page 56*

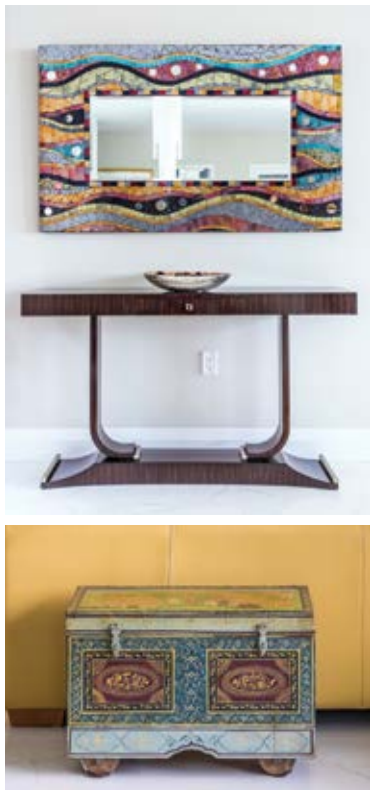


Chris Bondar of Gilkon met with the couple at the property when they were first considering the purchase and Cathy says, “He spent a couple of hours with us, telling us the art of the possible in terms of the renovation perspective.” Chris and his team executed the build meticulously.

Their Midland home is a completely different design than their former Toronto home; lines instead of curves, natural materials instead of manmade, neutral tones instead of pastels. “We call it the opposite house,” Michael says. They both refer to the finished design as “coastal elegance” and add that they didn’t want a cottage, but a fully functional house on the water.

The large property slopes more gradually to the sandy beach than many others in the area, but the water deepens off the dock and they can easily anchor their 24-foot Limestone Cuddy boat and keep other watercraft, like Sea-dos, stand-up paddle boards and kayaks. This gentle slope also provided the ideal

ABOVE: The mahogany front door measures nine-by-four-feet with sidelights. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The coffered ceiling in the lounge is covered in Moroccan cement tiles. **FAR RIGHT, TOP:** The mirror in the foyer captures the colours throughout the home. **FAR RIGHT, BOTTOM:** Cathy bought this trunk in India. **RIGHT:** The home has 12-foot ceilings and windows everywhere.



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LEFT: The kitchen cabinets are aubergine and finished in a high-gloss Italian lacquer. The kitchen is from Perkinsfield Kitchen + Bath. **BELOW:** The kitchen island has an elevated bar, a stovetop with a retractable exhaust fan and a beverage fridge.

location for their daughter’s 2018 summer wedding, which was held only a month after the renovation was finished and the couple moved in. Cathy smiles, “150 guests, kitchen taken over by caterers. It was awesome and it was also incredibly stressful but it just worked out beautifully.” All landscaping was designed and completed by **Nicole Pattenden Landscape Design**.

The lower floor includes guest rooms plus a media room with a Murphy bed and a walkout to a stone patio with hot tub overlooking the bay. All of the bedrooms are spaciouly designed for king-size beds so guests feel pampered and welcome.

The home contains many odes to the travel locations they’ve visited over the past 35 years, but Cathy’s favourite is dubbed The Moroccan Room; the coffered ceiling is covered with tile imported from Morocco. The Arabic-style curved display niche holds memories from South Africa, Indonesia, Honduras, Cambodia and many other locales. Cathy says, when they look at the room, “we are immediately transported back to our travels.” Art niches are scattered throughout the home, with spaces custom built to hold specific treasures. **Natalie Hutton of Natalie Hutton Designs** worked with Cathy and Michael to complete the interior decorating and art niches. *Continued on page 58*



Light fills the dining room on a glorious summer day.



The kitchen has a contrasting set of upper and lower cabinets. Cathy was initially nervous about the aubergine-coloured lower cabinets but they ended up being perfect in the neutral setting with grey uppers and stainless appliances. They were concerned a large range hood would obstruct waterscape views from the expansive island, so they gave up their preferred gas range for an induction stovetop with an exhaust system that retracts into the countertop when not in use. **Perkinsfield Kitchen + Bath Inc.** designed, sourced and installed the kitchen, and custom constructed most of the cabinetry in the bathrooms, pantry and downstairs media room.

Every trade involved was local. Cathy and Michael were so pleased with the quality of work done by local trades that they hosted a celebratory barbecue for them and their partners. "We had steak and wine and storytelling and laughter," he says. "We got along famously. A lot of (trades) don't see the final product, maybe just doing the tiling or the electrical stuff, so they never see it finished. It was really neat." *Continued on page 60*



LEFT: The patio is located just off the living room. **ABOVE:** Michael and Cathy enjoy the sunshine on the dock.



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