

PERFECT

Story | Cara Williams

HARMONY

Photography | Clay Dolan



After years of travel and life abroad, Mike Hutchings and his wife were anticipating their next move – a permanent one. When they happened upon a home feature much like this one, spotlighting a Normerica Timber home, built by David Eaton of Baylyn Construction. That was the beginning.



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The Hutchings found this property quite by accident – they spotted the original cottage from the water, which had a for sale sign haphazardly hanging on the balcony. The couple was quick to recognize the potential, and promptly purchased the property. Because the bay-side residence would eventually become their retirement home, they decided to tear down the existing structure and build to suit.

Baylyn Construction specializes in building homes designed to match clients needs and lifestyle. During his first meeting with the homeowners, David knew the couple was leaning toward a Normerica home with authentic timber framing and energy-efficient post and beam construction techniques. The adventure that followed involved months of design work with input from Normerica, Baylyn and Redman Watson Interior Design. Mike credits his wife with taking care of the essential details of the living spaces, while he was relegated to Captain of the (considerable) garage structure.

The floor plan, tailored to 21st-century living, boasts large communal spaces and an absence of main floor hallways. The home was designed somewhat akin to bungalow living with an open floor plan concept where everything the couple needs is incorporated within the main floor level – laundry, master suite, kitchen and dining.

With a spectacular 180 foot water frontage, the primary objective was to maximize the view from every room throughout the entire home. To this end, they settled on Pella Architect Series windows with aluminum clad exterior and clear pine interior.

Mike and his wife are perhaps most delighted with the great room, a vast, comfortable and inviting enclosure with 'knock your socks off' panoramic views. It's the go-to place in which to curl up and read on one of the oversized sofas or simply watch the weather patterns form and pass over Georgian Bay. A Rumford, high efficiency fireplace anchors the room, flanked by wrought iron accents by Desiron in Clarksburg, including custom fireplace utensils, and coffee table. Vaulted pine ceilings add to the magnificence of the space while lending to the coziness – certainly this is the focal gathering spot within the home. MBM Stoneworks undertook the sizeable stone masonry project of the grand fireplace, adding texture and interest to the soaring space and visually linking it to the shoreline beyond. The finishes are equally refined, fresh and natural: earth toned walls, additional wrought iron details and post and beam timbers which are mostly pine with the exception of large, load bearing Douglas Fir beams.



The kitchen, dining room and great room all open to the breathtaking, expansive water view. Mike's wife sourced Middlebrook Woodworking Ltd. who painstakingly constructed timeless, custom cabinetry in the kitchen, bathrooms and closets. The classic, clean white façade of the cupboards and soapstone countertops conceal everyday kitchen appliances like the pop-up hood for the range resulting in unobstructed views to the bay outside.

Engineered hardwood floors (an educated flooring choice for a home situated this close to the water) means they will never warp, and easily clean up after sandy footprints. Low profile modernized wrought-iron lighting from Georgian Design Centre add a masculine elegance to the home with hanging kitchen sconces, and wrought iron chandeliers.

The dining room's antique hutch mingles with bespoke pieces like the taupe upholstered chairs, grey-blue breakfast bar, vibrant afghan rug and crimson table settings – colours that prevail throughout the house.

The first thing I said to David (of Baylyn Construction), was that I wanted to walk in the front door and see right through to the Bay.



The overall feeling of the interiors—which are enlivened by a selection of contemporary artworks by local artists – is at once traditional and modern.

The oversized harvest table centers the indoor dining area while the double sliding doors to the deck make al fresco dining a convenient luxury year round.

Great care was taken to avoid inhibiting the stunning views from all angles, hence the glass railings on the balconies and oversized windows and doors.





The landscape architects at Landmark Landscaping constructed and maintain the magnificent grounds, planting indigenous perennials in abundant shades of green. At the rear of the house, beyond the spacious lawn used for family football games, Landmark created a delightful and relaxing nap nook, complete with hammock under a shady pergola. At night the grounds come alive, with strategic outdoor lighting (all controlled from the living room upstairs). A flagstone walkway weaves from the beach through the outdoor lounge with in-ground gas fire pit and continues along the perimeter of the property. Once a part of the Glam Garden Tour, the grounds were transformed for one night, with a Great Gatsby theme, complete with big band music and vintage bathing beauties lining the exterior timber staircase.

The Hutchings often enjoy their early morning coffee in the solitude of their private sun deck. The remaining bedrooms (located on the lower level and top floor) all enjoy extraordinary water views, yet are equipped with elegant window treatments by Bouj Custom Design Studio in Thornbury, for those mornings when visitors and family might wish for a little more rest.



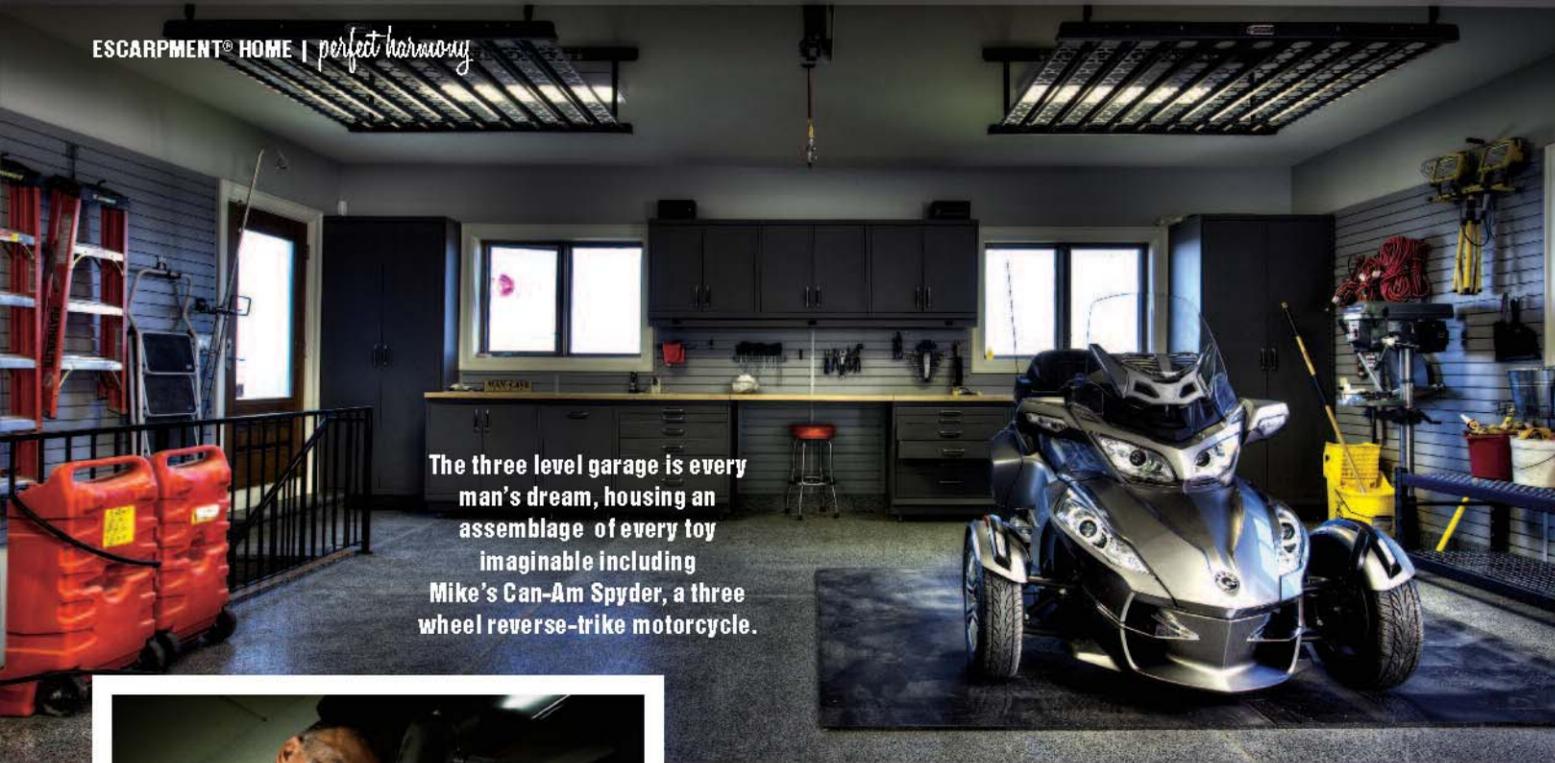
Quality carries through to the private quarters where the master bedroom (built to be completely sound proof) features a tranquil river rock fireplace, beautiful in its simplicity and the show-stopping, panoramic water view lends to a spa-like experience. An interesting Sputnik influenced, orb chandelier from Georgian Design Centre is suspended from the dramatic, dormer-style wooden ceiling.

"I designed the ceiling in the master so that we had dormers coming in from all sides and they would peak in the centre. We love the way the wood all flows together. It meant that we had to make this room a little bigger than originally planned, but the result is amazing."



The master suite features a sizeable bathroom, complete with in-floor radiant heating, oversized steam shower and custom dual vanities from Middlebrook Woodworking Ltd.





The three level garage is every man's dream, housing an assemblage of every toy imaginable including Mike's Can-Am Spyder, a three wheel reverse-trike motorcycle.



In the original drawings, the garage was a separate building from the house, but due to the size of the three level structure, the architects at Normerica suggested they attach it to the house. Then another level was added above, to balance out the weight distribution.

Mike happily obliged, relegating the additional space as an office and impressive home gym. The multi level garage is every man's dream, outfitted with an assemblage of every toy imaginable... kayaks, paddleboards, jet skis, windsurfers, Laser sailboats, and of course his Can-Am Spyder a three wheel reverse-trike motorcycle.

An engineer by trade, Mike spends a lot of time in his "shop" creating and repairing, and of course like every classic Escarpment dweller, has a ski tuning bench in arms reach of his beer fridge.

Certainly this project was a superior collaboration between numerous talented professionals, including architects, designers, trades and builders, working cooperatively with a decisive couple who had a clear and definite vision. The result is a truly striking structure, embraced by ledges and terraces. It seamlessly nestles into the surrounding aesthetic of nature, beach and bay – all in perfect harmony. |E|



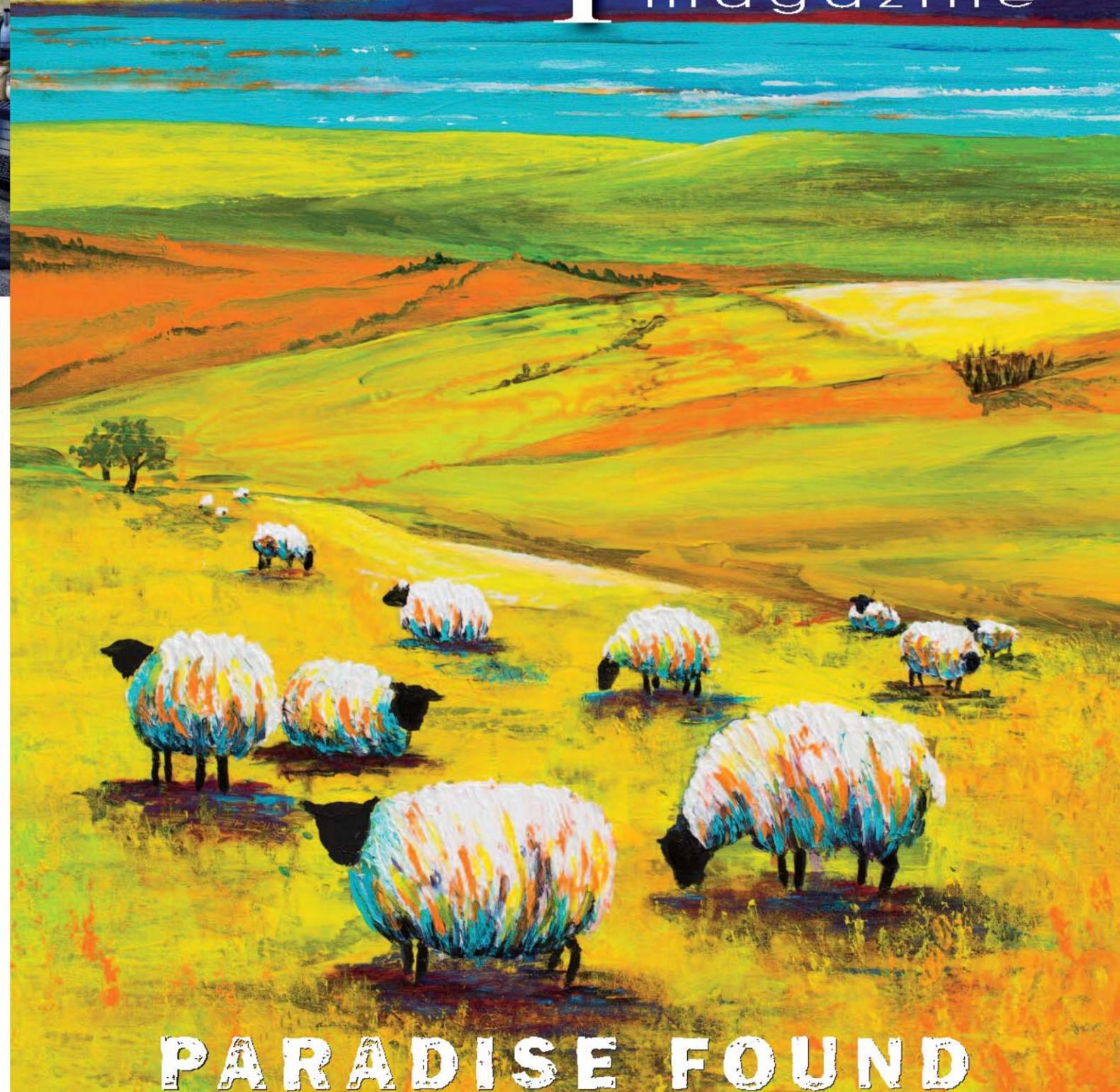
Builder, David Eaton (L) and homeowner Mike Hutchings on the deck with 'Milo'

Source Guide...

- Builder: Baylyn Construction - David Eaton
- Architect: Normerica Timber Homes, Cottages, Clubhouses & Resorts
- Interior Design & Décor: Jo Redman of Redman Watson Inc, Interior Design Consultants
- Windows: Pella, Architect Series
- Kitchen Cabinetry: Middlebrook Woodworking Ltd, Fergus, Ontario
- Window Coverings: Bouj Custom Design Studio, Thornbury
- Appliances: MacDonald's Furniture, Meaford
- Entertainment System: Home Digital, Collingwood
- Alarm System: Huronia Alarms
- Flooring: The Flooring Place
- Light Fixtures: Georgian Design Centre, Collingwood
- Landscaping: The Landmark Group
- Electrical: Current Power Electrical
- Drywall: Marcel Rette Drywall
- Masonry: MBM Stoneworks
- Electrical: Clearlite
- Plumbing: Shuttleworth Contracting

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