

CANADIAN

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Our 2010
Showhouse

HOUSE & HOME

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Winning Style

THIS YEAR'S SHOWHOUSE BY LYNDA REEVES AND ARCHITECT GORDON RIDGELY OFFERS A MASTER CLASS IN CROWD-PLEASING DESIGN.

Text by AMY VERNER | Photography by MICHAEL GRAYDON

Everyone has a different idea of a dream home. For every fantasy of a palatial estate, there's the desire for someplace sleek and modern. But it's safe to say that no one would be disappointed to win the 2010 Princess Margaret Hospital showhome, a testament to casual elegance and classic style.

After last year's exercise in rustic minimalism, Lynda Reeves opted for an altogether different direction. Her concept is familiar to seaside destinations such as the Hamptons, Cape Cod and Chester, N.S., where cedar-shingle exteriors, inviting verandas and gabled roofs not only define the picturesque homes there but shape universal notions of a beautiful life. Wisely, given this home's location on a leafy corner of Bentley Road in Oakville, Ont. — and not an oceanfront perch — the translation isn't literal. Working closely with renowned

TOP: The showhouse sits on a quiet corner in Oakville, near Lake Ontario. **Architectural design**, Gordon Ridgely Architects; **construction**, PCM; **landscape design**, Holbrook & Associates; **landscaping**, Coivic Contracting. LEFT: Lynda Reeves and the H&H team: Peter Paquette, Trish Johnston, Sheri Graham Delagran and Amanda Smith (not pictured). OPPOSITE: Stone, seagrass, wicker and wood mix with slate grey and quince green for an edgier take on the Hamptons look. **Sofas**, coffee table, Restoration Hardware; **rug**, The Sullivan Source; **art**, Art Interiors.

Portrait by Gabor Jurina

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Stepping through the front door reveals a renewed interest in a traditional floor plan, albeit with a twist. Here, rooms are defined, but not closed in



OPPOSITE: Patterned pillows in crisp blue and white bring decorative punch to the home's clean, uncluttered aesthetic. Furniture in classic shapes looks timeless, while breezy sightlines between rooms maintain an airy feel. **Chairs**, DeBoer's; **throw pillow fabric**, Kravet and Primavera; **paint**, Para.

ABOVE: High-gloss paint puts a glamorous spin on the study's cosy vibe. Handsome built-ins, weighty drapes, leather chairs and brass lighting convey the hushed luxury of a library. **Chairs**, **drape hardware**, Restoration Hardware; **table**, **chandelier**, **mirror**, Elte; **rug**, Pottery Barn; **TV**, Radiant Audio Design; **paint**, Farrow & Ball.

INSET, TOP LEFT: On a rustic console in the entry, wood lamps, a framed vintage map and a trio of potted plants under glass domes form a welcoming vignette. **Console table**, **rug**, Elte; **art**, 1212 Decor; **baskets**, Boo Boo & Lefty.

TOP RIGHT: Ivory white walls play off ebony-stained oak floors in the centre hallway. A bleached-oak pedestal table and black iron hanging lantern define the space. **Table**, Camilla House Imports; **light fixture**, Cocoon; **paint**, Para.

BOTTOM LEFT: Light filters into the great room via clerestory windows fitted with shutters.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A baby grand piano turns the space between the dining and living rooms into a grand reception hall. **Piano**, Robert Lowrey's.

RIGHT: The dining room tempers matching chintz upholstery and drapes with a dark table and simple iron chandelier. The Welsh dresser was painted light taupe like the dishes for a graphic tone-on-tone effect. **Chairs**, Cocoon; **table**, **dish cabinet**, **mirror**, Sharon O'Dowd; **dishes**, Crate & Barrel; **drape and chair fabric**, Kravet; **chandelier**, Elte.



WEB See more details in our Showhome videos.

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KITCHEN
of the
YEAR

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT

- A moody palette creates high drama
- Anticato Calacatta marble counters and a white beadboard ceiling balance cool grey walls and cabinets
- Crystal lamps and a hanging lantern add a decorative layer
- Stainless-steel professional-grade appliances lend a restaurant feeling
- A rustic farmhouse table replaces the ubiquitous island
- The floor's Bluestone pavers evoke the charm of a cobblestone street
- A wall of glass overlooking the garden floods the space with light

THE KEY INGREDIENTS

- Viking 36" refrigerator with french doors and bottom-mount freezer
- Viking Professional Series six-burner range and exhaust hood
- AGA Pro+ dishwasher
- Franke bar sink and Kohler gooseneck faucet
- Marvel Dual Zone wine cellar
- Tara Classic Profi kitchen faucet
- Farmer Pro sink
- Heated floors by Flextherm





A lively scheme of aqua and red brightens a kid-friendly bedroom. Ebony wood beds add weight. **Beds**, DeBoer's; **mattresses**, **chair**, **mirror**, Ikea; **rug**, West Elm; **duvet cover**, euro **shams**, **pillows**, John Robshaw; **red pillow fabric**, Kravet; **closet doors**, The Home Depot.



architect Gordon Ridgely, builder PCM and landscape designer Ronald Holbrook, all Toronto-based, Lynda and the H&H team created a property that blends into the neighbourhood while accomplishing what the best showhomes do, well, best: present a model for fresh ideas and current styles. "We needed to update the classic look so it wouldn't be precious," says Lynda of the 6,500-square-foot home. "We made it edgier."

Ridgely, best known for his fine Georgian residences, focused on drawing from the Hamptons vernacular without being exact. "The house has a pleasant cottage-like feel with some beach-house undercurrents," he says. First and foremost, though, it's a family home. Stepping through the front door reveals a renewed interest in a traditional floor plan, albeit with a twist. Here, rooms are defined, but not closed in: the wide front foyer quickly opens onto both the dining and living areas, creating an

TOP LEFT: The spacious back deck is accessible from the great room and kitchen. **Chairs**, **table**, Crate & Barrel; **deck**, **bench**, **planter**, **barbecue screen**, Niet Custom Renovations.

TOP RIGHT: The sunroom's black shutters and wicker seating channel a Victorian conservatory. Geranium accents brighten the

neutral sofa. **Shutters**, Canadian Superbilt Shutters; **chairs**, Bielecky Brothers; **ceiling fan**, Union Lighting; **floor**, Stone Tile.

LEFT: A sideboard holding potted plants and baskets reinforces the sunroom's indoor-outdoor feel. **Floor lamps**, Universal Lamp; **sideboard**, Cornerstone Antiques.



ABOVE LEFT: The mirror in the principal bathroom houses a Blue Vision Mirror TV that only appears when it's on. **Vanity**, **mirror frame**, Andrew Johnston Woodwork; **mirror**, **TV**, Radiant Audio Design; **countertops**, **floor tiles**, Moscone Tile. ABOVE: Pairing floor-length drapes with a freestanding oval tub establishes the ensuite bathroom as both elegant and tranquil. **Bathtub**, Ginger's; **pendant**, Elte; **drape fabric**, Kravet.

LEFT: Panelled closets and drawers in the dressing room keep essentials organized behind a tailored façade. **Closets**, California Closets Oakville; **desk**, Ikea; **shutters** (not shown), Canadian Superbilt Shutters.

RIGHT: An armoire with mirrored doors adds sparkle upstairs and storage for linens. **Mirrored armoire**, Oly. BELOW: The guest bathroom is a symphony of white marble. **Floor tile**, **marble baseboards**, **marble vanity top**, Moscone Tile; **shower wall tile**, Ciot; **faucets**, **mirror**, **wall sconce**, **sinks**, **cabinet**, **tissue holder**, **vanity base**, **accessories**, Restoration Hardware; **shower curtain fabric**, Kravet.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Quince green reappears in the principal bedroom surrounded by neutral browns and bold paisley prints. **Colette bed**, Crate & Barrel; **duvet cover**, Lucca; **euro sham** and **throw cushion fabric**, Kravet; **standard pillow shams** and **drapery fabric**, Primavera; **rug**, Y&Co; **mattress**, Ikea.



The guest bedroom layers buttercream walls with floral chintz. A raffia-frame bed and nubby wool rug add texture. **Bed**, **chair**, **dresser**, Cocoon; **mattress**, Ikea.





TOP: Cabinets lining the basement media room conceal components while butcher-block shelves hung between structural columns provide display space. A slipcovered Ikea sectional and chair, plus upholstered bench cushions offer ample seating. **TV**, Radiant Audio Design; **photography**, Luc Johnston; **carpet**, Carpet One; **tile**, Stone Tile; **furniture, bookcases, accessories**, Ikea.

LEFT: A front-loading washer and dryer give the laundry room maximum counter space. A railing for drying runs along the pale green tile wall. **Washer, dryer**, Miele.

RIGHT: A soothing palette and a Sauna Ray infrared sauna (not shown) turn the basement bathroom into a spa-calibre retreat. **Vanity, mirror**, Ikea; **floor tile**, Stone Tile; **shower tile**, Salttillo Imports; **art**, Art Interiors.

BOTTOM LEFT: The lower-level bedroom feels cosy with a warm espresso colour scheme and layers of sumptuous bedding. **Wallpaper**, Crown Wallpaper + Fabrics; **lamps**, Boo Boo & Lefty; **art**, John Queenan; **carpet**, Carpet One; **furniture, bedding, accessories**, Ikea.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The laundry room boasts a sewing table and open shelving. An oversized sink is perfect for flower arranging. The mangle rotary iron is a state-of-the-art appliance for pressing sheets. **Cabinets, sink, counters**, Ikea; **floor tile**, Stone Tile; **wall tile**, Salttillo Imports; **rotary iron mangle**, Miele.



airy great room framed by french doors that take full advantage of the corner lot's beautifully landscaped gardens, courtesy of Coivic Contracting. Tweaking the layout just so emphasizes the importance of openness and light; the cathedral ceiling, complemented by a juliet balcony, adds to the impact.

White walls with crown mouldings and ebony-stained European oak floors anchor the principal rooms, but colour — used as an accent in patterns and as solids — is what truly brings the space to life. Less predictable than au courant orange or fail-safe blue, quince green suggests a fresh and versatile choice, especially when paired with dark grey. It appears again in the principal bedroom, adding zest to a neutral scheme of natural linen and chunky jute. Shocks of geranium red in the sunroom signal a modern twist on Victorian and plantation themes. The study, meanwhile, is designed to be cosy, with club chairs scaled down for maximum seating. High-gloss paint reinforces a luxe, masculine

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ABOVE LEFT: Doric columns support the covered porch for a classic yet casual first impression. **Chairs, cushions**, Angus & Company; **planter**, Restoration Hardware; **lanterns**, Universal Lamp.

ABOVE RIGHT: The mudroom has a shower for rinsing off boots (or paws). A skylight and heated floors elevate the space. **Skylight**, Velux; **cabinets**, Rettie Restoration; **faucet**, Kartners; **cushion fabric**, Designer Fabrics; **baskets**, Ikea.



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WINNING STYLE

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*“Grey is an
important neutral
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strong correlation
in design”*

sensibility while adding a hit of glamour.

The most dramatic statement, however, is reserved for the kitchen, which is self-contained and represents a departure from the open-concept live-in kitchens that have been trendy, perhaps beyond their prime. What it lacks is as telling as its many attributes. Consider the absence of an island, which Lynda says is deliberate. “Islands have been in for so long, it’s time for the pendulum to swing the other way,” she says. With its massive Viking range, built-in bar area and rustic farmhouse table, the kitchen is designed for the love of food and drink. Its assertive grey and stainless steel scheme — tempered by a white beadboard ceiling — is chic by any standard. “Grey is an important neutral in fashion right now, and there’s a strong correlation in design,” notes Lynda.

Up on the second floor, the message is traditional and pretty. To accommodate the cathedral ceiling on the main floor, the ceilings upstairs had to be lower. Tall mirrors and dressers are used to emphasize the cosier height and reinforce a cottage feel, while layers of prints — on drapes, bedding and upholstery — are mixed and matched to lovely effect. Visual details are myriad: louvered closet doors in the children’s room add texture, crystal knobs in the principal dressing area inject sparkle. A mansard mirror above the principal bed brings architectural flair. These are what elevate the house beyond a beach aesthetic. Look even closer and discreet

details that ease everyday life emerge, such as lined drawers for jewelry and a Blue Vision Mirror TV in the principal bathroom that only appears when it’s on. Music is piped throughout the house by a sound system from Radiant Audio Designs that features invisible speakers hidden behind the walls for a truly seamless look.

Practical needs have been addressed in a similarly thoughtful fashion. A spacious mudroom can be accessed from the kitchen, basement and front and back entrances and boasts closets, cubbyholes and a shallow footbath (for boots or pets). Two staircases lead to the finished basement, allowing easy access to the media room or privacy for a houseguest staying in the lower guest suite. The pale green laundry room is a dream space for this household task, complete with Miele front-loading washer and dryer, generous counter space, a desk area, a massive sink and a Miele mangle rotary iron that presses sheets like a pasta machine. Every item, gadget, appliance and piece of furniture — even the infrared Sauna Ray sauna, which turns the basement bathroom into a personal spa — was generously donated or made available at cost.

Although there is only one winning ticket, likely drawn by the time you read this, the showhouse offers countless design ideas that visitors have been able to see, touch and eventually interpret into their own spaces. Fans of the inspirational homes in director Nancy Meyers’ modern fairy tale films will recognize a similar feeling in this house. Take the Welsh dresser in the showhouse dining room, which is Lynda’s direct nod to a scene in the movie *Something’s Gotta Give*, when stars Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton spar over dinner in her Hamptons home. “Nancy’s houses strike a chord,” says Lynda. “There’s a level of sophistication that looks expensive but is accessible. It’s a woman’s house that men would still be comfortable in.” But the showhouse is much more than a plush set in a feel-good movie: it’s a feel-great prize that will likely prove a life-changing dream come true. **H&H**
Some products and accessories pictured were added for photography only and may not be included with the final prize home.