

CANADIAN

JAN/FEB 2022

HOUSE & HOME

TRENDS 2022

DECORATING'S FIVE BIG LOOKS:
BRITISH REVIVAL, AMERICAN CRAFT,
MID-CENTURY REBOOT AND MORE!

TOP 12
PAINT
COLOURS



**LYNDA'S
LAKEHOUSE**
THE BIG
REVEAL

MEET
THE
DESIGN
TEAM

At Home with JACLYN PETERS,
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Designers Gillian Atkins (left) and Candace Thompson with furniture maker Michel Zelnik.

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A HOUSE FOR ALL SEASONS

REIMAGINING THE LAKEHOUSE WAS A JOYFUL JOURNEY.



Design by **LYNDA REEVES** with **GILLIAN ATKINS** and **CANDACE THOMPSON**
Photography by **STACEY BRANDFORD**
Produced by **STACY BEGG**

In the great room, soaring ceilings rise above this grouping of mohair velvet seating. Michel made the live-edge coffee table from Claro walnut. The floors are original oak, resanded and finished with hard oil. **Charlotte sofa, armchairs and ottomans, Montauk Sofa.**



IT'S THE LAST SUNDAY MORNING in October. I'm up before sunrise, sitting in the kitchen of our almost-finished lakehouse. Tomorrow morning, our photo crew returns for the final day of shooting, just in time for this issue. Soon, I'll be able to enjoy this beautiful house without all the intense fussing for the cameras. Today, we're having friends for lunch, and I'm about to make a tarte tatin. Michel is peeling apples and I'm rolling out the puff pastry. Last week, I brought up 40 years' worth of recipes from our city house to my new country kitchen, where I plan to sort and file, and cook up a storm for years to come.

Can I tell you how much I love this house? It's so grand, and yet casual — warm and inviting, supremely comfortable and totally romantic.

Yesterday, I told Michel that I didn't recall the lake ever being so calm and serene as it is now. He reminded me that we were never up here overnight in October until this year. I couldn't believe that, so I looked back over the photos and videos from the fall of 2020 and was stunned to see that, a year ago, this house was a construction site with no kitchen or bathrooms or finished

RIGHT: The once-solid panelled wall was cut to create a secret door that leads through the bar and into the kitchen beyond. The table and chairs are antique, and the chandeliers were original to the house, so we rewired them and found a set of 24 vintage parchment shades in mint condition. **Vintage shades, Residential Lighting Studio.**

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TOP LEFT: In the dining room, I hung a new work by Hunkpapa Lakota artist Dana Claxton, who's from Saskatchewan. Above my head is one of two 1930s Murano glass pendants. The new Loewen casement windows throughout the house were clear coated, with screens to match.

TOP RIGHT: In the great room, the screen saver on the Samsung Frame TV feels like bold art. Michel made the beautiful table beneath it from a solid piece of Bubinga wood.

rooms! And here we are now, totally settled in, and feeling at home.

The gods have been on our side all through this project, starting with our good fortune to be able to buy this glorious one-season century-old home from the Stewart family. Lovingly preserved for generations, the great room, with its vaulted ceiling, had survived through 100 winters of no heat or insulation.

Planning started in October 2019. We put together a great team of experts, came up with the structural, mechanical, insulation and construction plans, and applied for and received our permits just days before the Covid regulations kicked in. Lumber prices were still stable, and the labour and material shortages had not yet begun. Crews were available and, frankly, I had nowhere to go except to the design studio. The H&H media team were working from home through most of that year, so it was possible to motor through 18 months of construction, design, decorating and chronicling our progress for print and video, with little interruption.

I'm so glad we have our 10-part video series that documents every step, from the excavation and building of our underground mechanical room, to the insulation, cedar siding and new cedar roof, to the interior construction including new windows and floors, and heating and air-conditioning. It was a huge undertaking, and almost without hiccups. If you're interested in touring the original house, learning the details of the construction and seeing the progress as it happened, please watch our video series. You'll see the beauty of the wide cedar plank siding that transformed the house into a modern country lodge-style home.

The very first thing we did when we broke ground in the early spring of 2020 was renovate the original "chauffeur's apartment"



An eight-burner Wolf gas stove is the star of our kitchen. It sits below a high shelf and backsplash in beautiful Stormy Black soapstone. I love the glass display cabinets in the background. The centre console is an old pine piece I've had in storage for 30-plus years. Above are concrete pendants by Foscarini. **Cabinets**, Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry; **counters**, Greenville Soapstone Company; **range**, Sub-Zero Wolf.

OPPOSITE: Great details include the flatware drawers lined in anti-tarnish cloth, the glass-top bread drawer, the wall of fridges hidden behind painted panelled doors and the coffee bar, where Nespresso machines and a microwave drawer invite guests to help themselves. **Fridges**, microwave drawer, Sub-Zero Wolf.

WEB

To see all the episodes of the Lakehouse series, visit houseandhome.com/thelakehouse

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THE DINING ROOM GLOWS WITH ITS RICH WOOD TONES AND AMBER PENDANTS

Our dining table was made from a solid slab of Claro walnut. The chairs are from our own House & Home line at HomeSense. The armchair from Provence is my dishes closet. Custom dining table, Coolican & Company; framed art by Dana Claxton.



ABOVE: In the dining room, a Rumford smokeless fireplace got a new floating mantel.
LEFT: My table settings are always mixed elements from many lives. Williams Sonoma painted pottery accent plates sit on black glazed dinner plates over woven placemats.
BOTTOM LEFT: In the bar, walls and millwork painted in Benjamin Moore's Louisiana Hot Sauce hide the twin freezer drawers with ice maker. The counters are soapstone and the faucet is a pump style. **Cabinets, Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry; fridge and freezer drawers, Sub-Zero; faucet, Kohler.**
BOTTOM CENTRE: LH is the monogram on our vintage silver flatware from Paris.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Amber glass disks give these drop fixtures a golden glow.





ABOVE: A niche in the mudroom features a custom oak bench by Coolican & Co. **RIGHT:** A fully integrated Sub-Zero freezer and wine fridge were clad in panelling painted in Benjamin Moore's Mortar. The floors are sliced old bricks brought in from Iowa. **Sconces, Turn of the Century Lighting; cabinets, Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry; counter, Canadian Butcher Block Company; washer and dryer, rotary iron, Miele; wine fridge, freezer, Sub-Zero.** **BOTTOM, LEFT AND MIDDLE:** The front foyer features a vintage rug from my collection. Down the long hallway to the bedroom wing are more runners from Elte. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The handsome sink in the powder room was carved from a solid block of Carrara marble. The walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Grant Beige.



THE GUEST SUITES

We call the primo guest room (top row) "Woody's suite." An old tribal rug with hits of blue-black inspired the custom slipcovered headboard and bedskirt. The hotel-style marble sink and brass base feel old world. **Headboard, slipcover and bedskirt, Hemme Custom; bedding, Hudson's Bay; wood blinds (throughout), Hunter Douglas.**

BOTTOM, LEFT AND RIGHT: In "Mom's suite," Ikea's Björksnäs bed frame and night tables work perfectly against walls painted in Benjamin Moore's Jute. The runner is Christiane Lemieux for Anthropologie. The adjoining bathroom features a Kohler sink vanity, faucets, tub, toilet and shower set. **Mirror, Canadian Tire.**

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In our bedroom, I placed a blond console made of reclaimed wood and paired it with two modern chairs in creamy white fleece. I love the woven cotton rugs from Elte. **Armchairs, rug, Elte; floor lamp, Home Soci te.** **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT AND RIGHT:** In our room, simple cube night tables flank a linen bed from RH. The Samsung Q90 TV and sound bar make viewing in bed amazing! **Night tables, Elte; bedding, Hudson's Bay.** **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** Our closet by California Closets is a "room" hidden behind custom doors that open to reveal a full vanity, hanging rods, shelves and cubbies, with plenty of storage. I topped the vanity with a round mirror and two vintage lamps, and kept the original panelling on the back wall. **Cabinets and closet system, California Closets; mirror, Elte.**



attached to the garage, behind the house, so we would have a place to stay during construction. The patriarch of the Stewart family was David H. Gibson, an executive at The Robert Simpson Company. Well-heeled and a lover of architecture, he hired George Molesworth to design his new summer residence in the 1920s. Hence, the chauffeur's quarters and the maids' rooms and, in total, 11 bedrooms and two bathrooms. Each bedroom included a sink. We reconfigured to make six guest rooms with ensuite baths.

Back to the bunkie: We installed a bathroom with a good shower,

PurParket wood floors, a Carrier ductless mini split system for heating and air-conditioning, and a fridge, microwave and coffee bar. Good Wi-Fi and a Samsung TV made the bunkie a welcome weekend retreat.

From there, we could watch the excavation of an underground mechanical room topped by our new mudroom and the new back door to our house. We watched the new Loewen windows and doors go in, the insulation, the gorgeous Real Cedar siding, cedar shingle roof and copper downspouts, and the exterior trim get installed. The exterior was finished this past summer, *CONTINUED ON PAGE 89*

OPPOSITE, CENTRE RIGHT AND BOTTOM LEFT AND CENTRE: In our bathroom, my Kohler tub, wall-mounted brass faucets and Veil washlet toilet in its own water closet make me feel totally spoiled. Michel's shower is amazing. There was too much glare to capture it in a photo, but you can see it in Episode 9 of our video series. Totally worth a look! **Sconces, Elte; counter, shower walls, Stone Tile; vintage cane chair, Absolutely Inc.**



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A HOUSE FOR ALL SEASONS

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just in time for the decorating to begin. I had Gillian Atkins and Candace Thompson from our design studio to help me. I had never lived in a house with wood walls, so lighting was a first priority. New windows and French doors allowed me to increase the light in the great room and kitchen. That made a huge difference.

I might have gone too far with my combo of recessed pots, undercounter halogen lighting, wall sconces, pendants, spotlights, and floor and table lamps! But absolutely everything is on a dimmer and the Buster + Punch switches and knobs are, in themselves, beautiful.

I had a design vision for this house. The look would be “grand casual.” Inspired by the great room, it would be a house layered with both antiques and new seating, artisan-made wood pieces, mid-century modern elements, vintage rugs and a palette that sang against a backdrop of Douglas fir panelling, with its rich amber wood tones.

For me, that meant jewel tones. My colour fan for the living and dining rooms, kitchen and principal guest suite was amber, claret, mustard, orange and off-black. Then, in our bedroom and the second main-floor guest suite, I switched to stone, cream, mustard and smoky greys. In the guest suite, I introduced bleached-out woods, painted walls and pale rugs.

My vision for this house was influenced by many things. In the kitchen, it was the dark-painted wood cabinets I had seen while staying at English country houses. These kitchens often combined antiques of different periods; they were highly eclectic rooms filled with character. I visited the showrooms of Plain English in NYC for inspiration,

and then turned to Bloomsbury Fine Cabinetry in Newmarket, Ont., to build my dream kitchen millwork, and Greensville Soapstone Company to supply our custom counters and kitchen sink.

I chose the best appliances we could afford: Sub-Zero fridges for the kitchen, an eight-burner Wolf gas stove with two ovens, a Wolf microwave drawer in the coffee bar, and Sub-Zero freezer and fridge drawers for the bar, along with a tall freezer and wine fridge in the mudroom. All are integrated, which means they could be concealed behind panels to look like furniture.

The mudroom houses my laundry area, where I have the Miele TwinDos washer and Eco&Steam dryer, and my beloved rotary iron or “mangle,” to help cope with all those sheets and duvet covers!

In the dining room, it was the modern country furniture made by skilled American craftsmen in the Hudson Valley that inspired me. Fortunately, we have our own amazing makers at Coolican & Co., here in Toronto, who were able to make our fabulous Claro walnut dining table. Michel, who is himself a furniture maker, travelled to his favourite source in Massachusetts to buy our slab.

Another influence was the primitive style of new furniture we’re seeing from designers like Christiane Lemieux and Leanne Ford that seems carved from reclaimed woods. Finally, I was inspired by Commune Design, whose renovation of a country house in California struck a chord.

Then, there was the practical need to use what I had, which turned out to be exactly right for this house. Our dining chairs are from the House & Home collection for HomeSense — from two seasons ago! The chairs are very comfortable; I had bought all I could find and stored them for someday. Our sideboard is a drop-leaf Georgian Irish wake table from our Toronto house. The amber chandeliers are vintage from Stanley

Wagman Antiques in Toronto. They add a hit of grandeur to the room. The armoire is a French country piece I’ve had in every house I’ve lived in. Here, it’s the essential dishes closet.

All through the house, the rugs are vintage from years of collecting, plus a few new additions. In the living room, there’s one particularly beautiful old flatweave rug that contained all the colours I needed to decorate the room.

I’m a big believer in keeping the largest upholstered pieces in one solid colour. I find it’s visually calming, and it lets you change things up easily with new pillows and throws. I chose the Charlotte sofa, two matching chairs and ottomans from Montauk, done in claret mohair velvet with a single bench seat cushion. We love them.

An old Louis armchair in brown velvet came from the city house, the Ralph Lauren table in the window came from our former farmhouse, and the vintage card table and chairs came from our friends’ parents’ home. Michel makes beautiful wood furniture; the living room coffee table and long display table are his work. So are the mantels in the living and dining rooms.

And so it goes. The house is decorated like all my homes, with a mix of things I’ve often bought for no particular reason, except that they’re exactly my taste and, if I don’t buy them when I see them, they’ll be gone.

I had lots of help from the LRDS designers. Candace Thompson has a PhD in light fixtures! Gillian Atkins knows construction, how to solve problems and every kitchen faucet on the market. Some things were chosen just because I liked the idea of them, like our soapstone kitchen counters and high shelf. They turned out to be such a beautiful choice.

The second-floor bedrooms are not yet decorated — that’s a project for this winter. For now, we have new beds in all the bedrooms, and bits of old furniture, and our guests are comfy and content.

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