OCTOBER 2011

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CANADA'S MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

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EXCLUSIVE! LYNDA REEVES' LATEST SHOWHOUSE

Suzanne Dimma's Off-the-Grid Getaway Shingled Charm in Chester, N.S.

HOUSE & HOME OF THE MONTH



ENJOY A SNEAK PEEK BEHIND THE ROMANTIC DESIGN OF THIS YEAR'S INSPIRATIONAL SHOWHOUSE.

Text by LYNDA REEVES | Photography by MICHAEL GRAYDON

Two huge Moorish-style mirrors lend a Spanish flavour to the great room. The Geoffrey sofa by Montauk was custom-slipcovered in ivory linen as a light backdrop for custom throw pillows in solid linen edged in a contrasting blanket stitch and a Navajoinspired Ralph Lauren woven cloth. The Serengeti armchair from Elte and two Safari Camp chairs are a natural mix with the handcrafted cherry coffee table and tree-stump side tables. The limestone mantel and hearth stone were custom-made by

Tartaruga Design. On the mantel, artwork by Daniel Schneider is flanked by handwrought iron candlesticks from Hollace Cluny. Interior design, Lynda Reeves, Trish Johnston and Amanda Smith; mirrors, BoBo Intriguing Objects; Safari Camp chairs, pillows, Ralph Lauren Home; side tables, West Elm; floor lamps, Elte; coffee table, Michel Zelnik; bowls (on table), Indigo and Chapters; olive jars, Crate & Barrel; wall treatment, Premium Plus Texture Paint, Behr; trim colour, Diamond (B451-4), Para Paints.

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It was September 2010, the day after the doors opened at the fourth annual showhouse for the Princess Margaret Hospital fall lottery, that we began to dream about this one. To design and build a custom house from the ground up in less than a year is ambitious, to say the least. Add the pressure of decorating it down to the duvets and dishes and panic soon sets in.

When my team and I saw the empty lot that was to be the site of the new house, we were thrilled to discover it was the best one yet. Mature trees enclosed the entire backyard, which was a generous 111 x 148 feet. To me, a great house conveys a sense of place and feels at home in its surroundings. Oakville, Ont., is a residential area on Lake Ontario that's steeped in the charm of a historic town. I couldn't imagine wanting anything other than a house with a country vibe and great spaces for entertaining, with large windows and french doors that let the garden be an integral part of the house.

With a clear concept in mind, we went into action. Our talented team included PCM Project & Construction Management; principal architect Keith MacDonald, Gordon Ridgely Architects and Associates; Ronald Holbrook & Associates Landscape Architects; Coivic Contracting; and H&H's in-house design and expediting team, Trish Johnston, Amanda Smith and Sheri Graham Delagran.

If you've followed our showhomes from year to year, you know our version of country has taken many forms. Last year, we created the "Hamptons beach house," with a wide veranda and a soaring great room. The year before, we designed a "European farmhouse," which felt rustic and romantic, with a fireplace in the front hall and a huge live-in kitchen. The inspiration for this house was wine country. Imagine a Spanish-style casa in California's Napa Valley, an estancia in the wine region of Argentina, a stone and stucco house in a vineyard in Tuscany.

Like most dreams, mine was over the top. How could these lofty aspirations of grand rooms with the patina of centuries translate to a newly built house for a modern family? A trip to New York to see the California Romantic collection at the Ralph Lauren Home store on Madison Avenue gave us our springboard. The collection featured a great mix of the Navajo-inspired prints that Ralph is famous for, rustic brown reproduction furniture with a Spanish feel and amazing leather butterfly chairs.





TOP: The view from the library toward the limestone fireplace. Fireplace mantel, Tartaruga Design; fireplace screen, The Fireplace Shop; artwork, Daniel Schneider; candlesticks, Hollace Cluny. ABOVE: A custom-upholstered sectional from Crate & Barrel looks dramatic against the blond-wood chevron floor. Pillows, Cocoon; throw, Ralph Lauren Home; fireplace mantel, Statements; wall colour, Dove Wing (OC-18), Benjamin Moore. RIGHT: Electronics like this LG 47" Blu-ray TV and sound system from Radiant Audio Design make the house truly state of the art. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe designed the original Barcelona table in 1930. It's still as fresh today as it was then. The table and custom glass-fronted cabinets with antique cremone bolt hardware give the room its sparkle. Coffee table, Elte; bookcases, Rettie Restoration; hardware, The Door Store; framed artwork (middle shelf), Elsha Leventis; books, Indigo and Chapters.

"The library, with its classic bones and modern furniture, is my favourite room" – LYNDA REEVES







The inspiration for the grand dining room was John Derian's romantic Faience dishes. We made a paper pattern of each one and taped them to the wall before hanging the plates. Plates, John Derian; dresser, Cocoon. LEFT: In the dining room, the painted interior of the hutch plays off the blues in the Faience dishes and the indigo and cream linen drapes. Hutch, Boo Boo & Lefty; dishes, Crate & Barrel; sconces, Universal Lighting.

We chose the dining table for its oval ends and the extra leaf. Burlap pendants hung low create a relaxed intimacy. Table, chairs, pendants, Restoration Hardware; drape fabric, Kerry Joyce Textiles through Primavera; drape hardware, Dynamic Iron; candleholders, HomeSense; vase, Pottery Barn; wall treatment, Premium Plus Texture Paint, Behr; trim colour, Diamond (B451-4), Para Paints.



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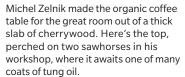
BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP



It takes some imagination to picture the finished house. At the moment it's just a plywood box, but soon enough, the exterior cladding, custom windows, applied to a stucco finish. Victor (our shutters, doors and beautiful landscaping will transform it into the polished vision shown above.



Choosing an exterior colour is critical, especially for stucco; the colour on a paint chip will look very different when on-site supervisor) holds up sample board after sample board so we can pick the perfect shade.



Slabs of creamy white Thassos marble were a gift from Moscone Tile & Marble to help us create our dream shower for two. Here it is, after a pair of nickelplated Victorian exposed shower fixtures from Ginger's Bath had been installed.



The mudroom and servery at the back door are visually joined by yellow toile-papered walls. Lockers, Restoration Hardware; baskets, Ikea; bench, Elte; wallpaper, Thibaut; artwork, Danielle Hession. OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: A pea-gravel terrace designed by Ron Holbrook is a charming addition to the backyard. Landscape architect, Ron Holbrook; Iandscaping, Coivic Contracting; table, chairs, The Sign of the Skier; stucco colour, Sandy Brown (CC-150), Benjamin Moore; shutter and trim colour, Antique White (SW6119), Sherwin-Williams. TOP RIGHT: Custom-built doors lead down the hall to a servery that sits between the kitchen and the mudroom. This apothecary cabinet from Restoration Hardware fits perfectly in the space.











PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER



Furniture is largely planned far ahead, as much of it is custom-designed and -upholstered. There is little room for error, but our last week is spent trying out bits and pieces from every generous retailer we know.



IPAD EXCLUSIVE Download the October 2011 issue from our iPad app on Sept. 3 to see a video tour with Lynda!



All of our hard work finally leads up to the photo shoot and then the taping for House & Home Online TV. Here, our art director, Mandy Milks, helps photographer Michael Graydon, Amanda and me choose the best angle. Everyone weighs in.



room, red and white wallpaper creates a feature wall.

Steaming linens takes days of work! Here, Amanda works on the twin beds so they'll look perfect for the photo shoot and opening day. On the windows, custom shutters in black are a dramatic addition.

all the fabrics and textures - AMANDA SMITH



Trish found this vintage leather bench, inspired by the original Mies van der Rohe Barcelona bench designed in 1929. Hung at eye level, three framed ink drawings by John Ens make a graphic statement in the long front hall. Bench, Camilla House Imports.





tub from Ginger's. The walls are papered in Thibaut's toile de louv. Tub filler. Roman Bath Centre: chair. Elte; sconce, Sescolite; artwork by Deborah Pearce, In2Art; marble tiles, Moscone Tile & Marble.

The new restaurant-inspired Cavavin Majestika wine fridges were a gift from The Wine Establishment and turn the downstairs lounge into a wine-tasting cellar. Table, armchair, Ikea; dining chairs, Camilla House Imports; baskets, West Elm.

On the lower level is a treasure: a room for laundry, ironing, sewing, wrapping and craft projects. The huge work table is topped in polished concrete and has six drawers and

ample storage below. Chair, Ikea; pendant

lights, Currey & Company; island, Heritage

Kitchens; flooring, Stone Tile.

The LG Large Capacity Steam washer with LED display and Stylish Steam dryer combo in graphite does the work while you watch LG's 3-D TV! We always try to equip our laundry rooms with products we use, so the lucky winner will get a Rowenta steamer (not shown) and iron. Shelves, cabinets, sink, faucet, small baskets, Ikea; large basket, West Elm; sewing Judy, Restoration Hardware.

Radiant Audio Design components and an LG Electronics 52" Blu-ray TV. Furniture, accessories, Ikea; fireplace surround, Century Architexture; flooring, Ceratec; artwork, John Queenan; wall colour, Cloud White (OC-130), Benjamin Moore.



The lower-level guest suite offers a private haven, perfect for a young adult. Like most of the furniture and fittings on this floor, the bed, chest and chair are courtesy of kea. A bold modern Pierre Frey damask-print wallpaper inspired the room's raspberry accents.

SEE SOURCE GUIDE



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The 2011 showhome would not have been possible without the generous support of the following companies. For a complete list of suppliers to the house, please see Source Guide on page 232.

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SHOW & TELL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 147

Seeing the model rooms helped us focus our dream into 6,500 square feet with great flow and dramatic sight lines. We decided on a blend of country antiques and reproductions, plus hits of the rough artisanal pieces that are so big these days. Some modern moments create a mix we hope you'll love as much as we do.

When designing a room from scratch, it helps to have a few key elements in mind that you can go back to over and over again. Ours were chevron wood floors, rough plaster walls and beams, plantationstyle shutters, stone tiles laid in a brick pattern, hits of mustard yellow and black iron, french doors, toile de Jouy fabrics and woven Mexican serape rugs and throws. I also like to find one or two signature pieces for the house something that's memorable and unique. This year, it's a pair of leather butterfly chairs with black iron frames that bring a safari vibe to the living room and a coffee table made by hand from a two-inch-thick slab of cherrywood. The live edge reminds us of the forest and the artisan behind the design, both inspiring images. And one more: our matte black CornuFé stove from La Cornue/Aga Marvel that says country and is so darn handsome that I love just looking at it.

Building a house from the foundation up always brings challenges, especially when time's limited. The endless rain delayed stuccoing the exterior and made landscaping impossible for the entire spring. But perhaps the biggest bump in the road was me. I seem to want things that are hard to find these days. like real working exterior shutters for the french doors that actually open and close. Or traditional French cremone hardware for the custom bookcases in the library. We cheered the day Trish found two sets of antique ones in the perfect size. The fireplace in the great room couldn't be wood-burning, as I wanted (we had two gas fireplaces in the house already). Instead, I decided to install one of the new 24" ethanol log sets from InFlame. Clean and odourless with a real flickering flame, this eco solution is a fantastic option that happened by accident. CONTINUED ON PAGE 218



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SHOW & TELL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 216



These are only a few of the many hiccups that make the process ... interesting. The best part of it all is not hearing the winner of this house screaming on the phone when their name is announced or listening to people touring the house, already making plans for their move-in day; the best part is when Paul Alofs, president and CEO of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, gives us the final ticket tally. Last year, the entire fall lottery, with all its great prizes, including the house, contributed over \$7 million to help find a cure for cancer.

To say that we depend on our advertisers, suppliers, retailers and the long list of tradespeople who help us, year after year, would be a huge understatement. Thank you, thank you. These houses would not be possible without you.

This year, for the first time, the house will be open for visitors when this story appears in print and while our video tours are airing on House & Home Online TV. It's all part of a plan to give you total access to the house while lottery tickets are on sale. We hope you fall in love with the house and buy a chance to win and support vital cancer research at one of the world's leading hospitals. Sometimes, it pays to dream big.

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