

The great room in the home is a central gathering area for the whole family.

For The Whole Family

DESIGNERS STEPHANIE REDMOND & SANDRA MACGILLIVRAY COLLABORATE WITH ARCHITECT BRAD ABBOTT ON AN UNASSUMING CRAIGLEITH HOME FOR THE FAMILY TREE.

BY STEPHANIE REDMOND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

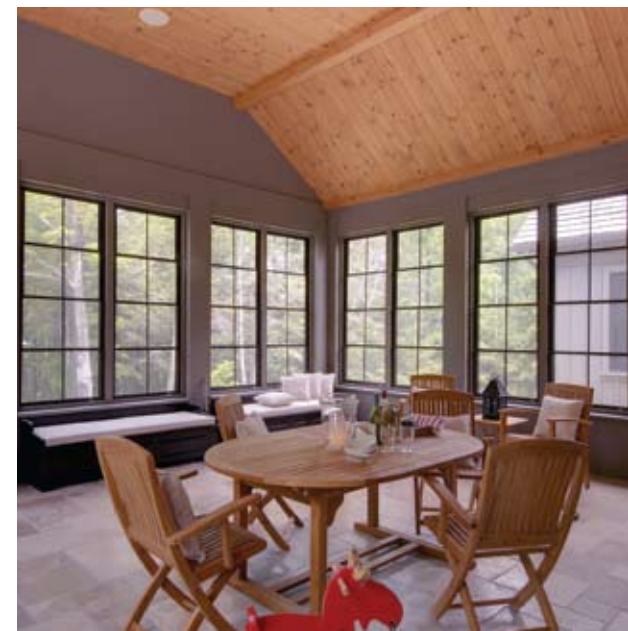


OPPOSITE PAGE: Custom sofas and Lee leather chairs on a textural wool carpet lend intimacy to the open concept living space.

TOP LEFT: Grey washed cabinetry and granite countertops give weight to the kitchen to balance the height of the ceilings.

BOTTOM LEFT: Folding glass panels and an outdoor fireplace extend life on the screened-in porch well into the colder seasons.

MIDDLE: The turret is an elegant link to the children's wing with access to the side garden and outdoor hot tub.



BRAD ABBOTT ON ARCHITECTURE

The homeowners are active grandparents who wanted to create an escarpment escape that would accommodate three generations. The idea was not uncommon for the area. The senior members of the family wish to provide a retreat for the younger generations on weekends and holidays. Fortunately, they already had the two most important assets: a bushel of fun-loving grandchildren and a fabulous lot.

The essence of the design was to imagine the home as a "mini village" and to make it feel as if it had grown up on this spot over a long period of time.

The main family gathering space with living, dining and kitchen became the stone "schoolhouse" anchoring the "village." Linked by glass-enclosed bridges are three other buildings dressed in board-and-batten siding. One is the mudroom and art studio; another is the master suite with an office and home gym below; and the third is a two-storey building with two junior master suites and four bedrooms for the grandchildren. *Continued on page 47*



LEFT: The front porch resembles an old farmhouse complete with swallows nesting overhead.

BELOW: The position of the home takes advantage of the double-wide treed lot. The stone patio with fire pit is a place to enjoy company with a striking view of the bay.

RIGHT: The patio with fire pit.

Apart from the romantic “village” storyboard, there were four tangible benefits to splitting the home into the four buildings: The first was the outdoor spaces created between the buildings. Two very private courtyards resulted. The second was the generous access to natural light by way of large double hung windows. The third was that each building is separately zoned for heating and cooling and can be independently shut down when not in use. Finally, by splitting the home into smaller buildings, we kept each section to a manageable and human scale. The design successfully disguises its 9,200 sq. ft.

Today the home is buzzing with activity. No one complains as each person has a place of their own to escape to. The owners, in concert with builder **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen**, have succeeded in creating a place where everyone wants to be. *Continued on page 48*





LEFT: A brightly-striped carpet in cotton and woven stools keep the feeling casual and young in one of the master bedrooms in the children's wing.

ABOVE: With a two-tone maple vanity and white stone top, the light palette keeps the bath clean and contemporary.

RIGHT: A creative den on the main floor. The paint studio is a popular gathering spot for everyone.



STEPHANIE REDMOND ON INTERIOR DESIGN

The homeowners are architecturally savvy and challenged design decisions with educated opinions. It was important to them to create warmth so the space did not overwhelm. It needed to be user-friendly for the grandchildren and relaxing for the parents.

In the centre of the home, the stage was set for years of gathering. All of the built-ins were designed with **Bernard Rioux** of **Rioux Cabinetry**. The shaker-style kitchen, island and bar are made of grey washed hemlock

and walnut. In the centre of this space is a dining table made of reclaimed wood surrounded by red paysanne chairs from Quebec – a whimsical nod to the red knobs on the stainless cook top.

The house evokes a sense of casual tradition. The paints are rich and subtle, the fabrics textural. A floral Cowtan and Tout linen on a William Birch chair sits in the corner of the master bedroom as a cosy reading nook. The space has an overall sense of calm.

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feature



LEFT: Library lights above navy blue headboards for late night reading in one of the grandchildren's rooms.

MIDDLE: The small pantry is a tiny gem off the entry with farm sink for washing potatoes or potting plants.

BOTTOM: The grandchildren arrive for a visit.



Although large, the children's wing feels like a big bunkie. The stair is carpeted in a wool Missoni runner that won't show a spec of dirt. Features include navy blue headboards, crisp white sheets, a large-scale leaf from Brunschwig and Fils, textural neutrals and a multi-colored striped headboard.

The paint studio is where "granny" paints and the grandchildren learn. The finger joints on the cabinetry and the overall design were a huge success. The pantry is a nothing little space that was transformed with a sink and a vision – a place to wash potatoes and cut flowers from the garden.

The day these photos were taken, I saw the house in full swing: grandchildren running about, cookbooks open on the kitchen counter and one camera-shy grandfather watching golf in the family room. A well used home. And a job well done. **OH**