

SUMMER 2011

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

# our homes

WELLINGTON COUNTY ORANGEVILLE CALEDON

*cottage  
comfort*  
AT HOME

*View* BY  
DESIGN  
IN HOCKLEY VALLEY

INSIDE  
**great living**  
*Music, Ribs and Art*  
IN FLORA, ORANGEVILLE & ERIN

LOCAL ARTISTS AMAZE

*plus*  
LANDSCAPING 101  
OUTDOOR LIGHTING  
MOUTHWATERING  
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feature

# POINT OF *View*

BY LIZABETH PIRSTL // PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPLIED BY H.M. LAY & C. HAINS

When you first encounter this one-of-a-kind country home against the expansive Hockley Valley landscape, you're struck by the unusual arrowhead-shaped roof design that characterizes the layout of the entire home, as well as the breathtaking views.

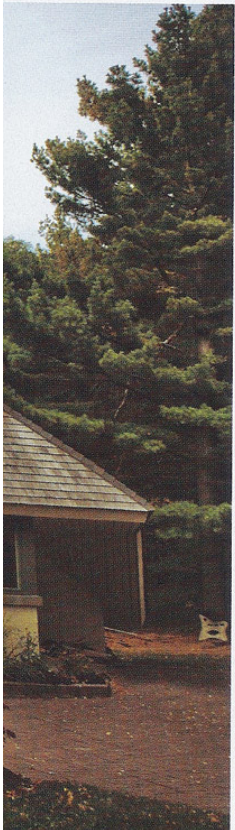
But for the homeowners, it's all about family life. Step inside the intimate and welcoming vestibule and you're immediately drawn into their warm and inviting family home.

"It's a quiet, peaceful spot to relax and regroup after a busy week," the homeowners say. "We enjoy our home with family and friends and also as a couple. We enjoy walking through the different parts of the land - the fields, pasture, woods and along the streams and edge of the pond where the huge snapping turtle lives."

The homeowners purchased the sweeping property and its existing 1970s home in 2006. The property was originally a pioneer farm and there's still a working farm on the land, complete with a barn and separate farmhouse. While they fell in love with the land, the home lacked focus and didn't include many opportunities to enjoy the views.

They consulted with Architect **Harry M. Lay** and Interior Designer **Christine Hains of Environment by Design**, who immediately saw the home's unexplored potential. *Continued on page 50*





Architect Harry M. Lay worked with Interior Designer Christine Hains to redesign this 1970s home to take advantage of the spectacular Hockley Valley views. The unique appearance with arrowhead-shaped roof offers a valid indication of the interior layout.

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The large, open kitchen offers views of both the front and back landscapes and serves as the focal point of the home. **TOP RIGHT:** An acid-etched, back-painted, soft green backsplash gives the kitchen some colour and complements the dark, Eucalyptus-stained cabinetry. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A beautiful banquette and honed limestone breakfast table designed by Hains. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** An elegant dining room in a soft palette is a bright and airy space to entertain guests.

"They had a perfect piece of land with a house whose potential had yet to be realized," says Lay. "Our goal was to open up the home and bring more light in, to accentuate the views and to make it a family space.

Harry worked alongside **Randy Brummell**, the owner of **Henderson Construction** in Orangeville. Together, they turned almost every room inside out.

"The roof goes up and down like a mountain range. Where it comes down, the floor levels drop and where it goes up, the floor levels rise. We created multiple levels that flow from one to the other. For example, the master suite is up a half level from the study. The former attic was converted to a loft that is a half level up from the master suite," explains Lay.

"Every time you turn a corner you're given a choice of either moving up or down and in any one of a number of different directions. The

building very carefully manipulates level changes depending on the views to the outside. The best example of this is the bathtub in the master bathroom. The tub is perched on its own interior terrace that gives a view of the landscape."

Traditionally, the dining room or family room has been the epicentre of many homes, but modern family life has evolved and the kitchen is now the focal point for family life.

"We planned the kitchen with as open a plan as possible with views of the front and back of the house," says Lay. "We combined the functional requirements of a busy kitchen with the need to seat the family of six."

Christine custom designed a stunning banquette and breakfast table and Lay is right in saying, "the boat-shaped limestone breakfast table is jaw-dropping gorgeous." *Continued on page 52*



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The kitchen tabletop is a St. Marc crosscut, honed limestone slab on brushed steel bases from Jana Stone and the fabrication is by **Milan Marble** in Orangeville.

“The banquette upholstery is steel blue faux leather because the homeowners wanted everything comfortable, easy to maintain and durable,” explains Hains. “The simplicity of the acid-etched, back-painted, soft green slabs of glass provide not only interesting texture and colour, but practicality once again. The homeowner doesn’t have to deal with the maintenance of cleaning grout for example.”

The family room boasts cathedral ceilings. Where there were no windows, Lay and Brummell opened up the roof with dormers that add light and character.

“The living room is massive with a storey-and-a-half ceilings,” says Hains. “You look out to the pond and countryside beyond, and it is truly

magnificent! You get this feeling of the outside coming in and a total feeling of spaciousness.”

In choosing the colours and textures for the home, Hains let nature and the homeowners’ simple yet elegant style guide her.

“The design is very gender neutral – no frills, no fuss and clean lines. It’s simple but very elegant,” she explains. “Warm and earthy textures were very important to the site because the natural setting of the valley is intrinsic to the home. The inside and the outside melt together.”

The hardwood floors are quarter sawn white oak, stained a walnut colour and show off two large, custom hemp area rugs from Elte. The kitchen and hallway feature 12-by-24-inch Lagos blue honed limestone floors that beautifully complement the eucalyptus-stained kitchen cabinets built by Louie Katsis of Olympic Kitchens. *Continued on page 54*



The contemporary living room affords magnificent views of the pond and countryside beyond the back of the property. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A Muskoka-like sunroom is a cosy spot to relax year-round. **BELOW:** Cathedral ceilings and wall-to-wall windows open up the main living area.



## feature

"We like the soft neutral palette. It allows the artwork and nature to be the main focus," say the homeowners. "The natural colours and materials are consistent throughout the house, which ties everything together. The blue, green and grey tones of the stone floors and counters are reflected in the fabrics and again in the view through the windows."

"We're pleased with how the art fits so nicely with everything Christine and Harry did. For example, the apple green lights in the kitchen over the blue leather banquette go so well with the café scene painting."

The homeowners have an abiding interest in the green movement and were very eager to integrate green technology within the home.

They installed more efficient doors and windows and constructed an in-ground geothermal system and tied it to the heating and cooling. They also retrofitted the insulation. Finally, they incorporated as many materials local to the area as possible. The heating and cooling system is from **Bryan's Fuel** in Orangeville.

This Hockley Valley home is architecturally unique, stunningly decorated and incorporates several elements of green technology. But at the end of the day, it's a beautiful family home that reflects the homeowners' desire to be close to nature and to spend quality time with their children. **OH**



Like the roof, the floor levels go up and down like a "mountain range," but flow seamlessly from one to another. The master bedroom is situated half a level up from the study and the bathtub in the master en suite sits on its own little terrace, with yet another stunning view.