CHALET MAKEOVER

HOSPITABLE HISTORIC HOME

POLISHED APRÈS SKI

AT HOME WITH TODD BROOKER

3 inspiring MUDROOMS

MONOCHROMATIC ACCENTS RECLAIMED & REFRESHED BASEMENT BONUS
The home had a great location, but only a modest kitchen and dining space. “That’s when I knew we were on the same page,” says the homeowner about her home’s gorgeous redesign and dining room addition. “Marina and I are both Italian, and it’s all about having a space to get together with family and friends.”

“But where are you going to put a dining room table?” asked designer Marina Farrow of Farrow Arcaro Design (FAD) during a walk-through of a traditional pine interior, Pan Adobe chalet near Osler Bluff Ski Club.

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The owners, a Toronto couple, had been renting in the Blue Mountain area for seven years and the family was ready for a weekend place of their own. Exhausting their search of suitable resales, the couple went ahead and purchased a vacant lot with intentions to build. But that all changed in summer 2014. “Sometimes the best purchases happen when you’re not looking for them,” says the homeowner. In Collingwood for her daughter’s soccer game, the homeowner received word of a newly listed property in the Collingwoodlands neighbourhood — she checked it out while in town and immediately saw the potential. Contacting her husband, things moved quickly, and 24 hours later the property was theirs.

Switching gears from new build to renovation mode, the couple sat down with Marina and custom builder and renovator Blake Farrow of Blake Farrow Project Management Inc. “Marina is great at designating spaces according to function, and I appreciated that,” says the owner. Blake could craft their designs into fruition.

Blake describes, “Marina adds the layers on top and I create the backdrop to put it on.” Marina and her business partner Katherine Arcaro work from the FAD retail storefront in Collingwood and offer a full range of interior and exterior design services. The homeowners were inspired, and the project team was in place.

Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac, the home exudes a cabin-in-the-woods feel. But inside, guests now experience a reinterpretation of the classic chalet. Gone is the tongue-in-groove ceiling and pine trim, replaced with a new warmth — this time of hemlock — and the sophistication and personal style of this active family of five.

The couple wanted a larger space for entertaining in their weekend retreat. Something not too formal or sterile. “I like a clean feel anchored with accent pieces and signature detailing,” says the homeowner. Continued on page 55

Steel bands cover the joints between the original room and the new addition.

Black shaker-style cabinets keep the kitchen clean and simple and that in turn lets the hand-painted concrete backsplash pop. A leather stool on the kicthen side of the island gives the chef a place to look at recipes and take a load off.

OPOPOSITE, TOP: Floor-to-ceiling bar seats at the white waterfall island have sight lines into the living room. Pendant lights from FAD illuminate the huge island beautifully.

BOTTOM: Surrounded by windows, the dining table is on wheels and can seat 10 comfortably. Parsons chairs are covered in the same linen as the island stools. An oval fixture hung by thick chains was custom designed by Marina Farrow and is lit by Edison bulbs.
Reclaimed hemlock is a signature throughout the home. In the living room, a hemlock feature wall plays off the traditional stone fireplace.
“There was a lot of wood inside,” says Blake. “It was competing for attention the same way it might if someone were wearing a plaid shirt with plaid pants and a plaid jacket. We wanted to balance that and achieve an inviting, modern chalet, allowing the wood to be a highlight.”

With December fast approaching, it became clear they couldn’t do it all before the holidays, so the renovation was done in two phases. Phase one from September to December focused on the second floor and some main-floor spaces. A transformed master bedroom and en suite offer a private retreat for the homeowners. Minimal space in the three kids’ bedrooms didn’t rule out comfort, with queen-size beds on wheels tucked into the sloped walls. A full family bath and a family room with a fireplace complete the second floor.

Phase two from January to April was what everyone was waiting for – Blake’s bump-out to extend the kitchen and dining area, allowing it to become the real hub of the home. “We saw the kitchen and dining area as one unit, separate yet connected in an open-concept design,” says the homeowner.
“We used a 24-foot beam to support the second floor,” says Blake, “and then extended the exposed beams in the kitchen over the dining space, connecting the two with steel joints so that the space appears seamless.” Black shaker-style cabinets, white Caesarstone countertops, island and island lighting were designed by FAD. The homeowner was at first unsure about the blue, hand-painted, concrete-tile backsplash, but trusted Marina and now has no regrets. “The kitchen simplicity was on purpose,” adds the homeowner. “I didn’t want any obstruction to the backyard view.” Clean working areas and a built-in panelled fridge add to the serene space. The host’s barstool on the serving side of the island allows the chef to be part of the action. The owners were determined to bring the outdoors in, accomplished by a wall of accordion glass doors and a pull-down screen across the full width of the dining room addition. A custom chandelier from FAD anchors the family-sized table, bringing proportion to the space.

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Back inside the Pan Abode, wood and steel rule the custom work by Blake. Reclaimed hemlock is a signature throughout the home. In the front foyer, the hemlock wall boldly complements the staircase that was moved during the project and replaced with stunning open treads. The hemlock again appears on barn doors that close off the mudroom. In the living room, a hemlock feature wall plays off the traditional fireplace, while in the kitchen, the reclaimed wood wraps around the island.

Steel is introduced as a dramatic departure from the home’s original wood moulding. The doorway between the foyer and mudroom is wrapped in steel, as is the connection to the living room.

“The homeowners trusted us and we were able to take this chalet to the next level,” says Blake, of the collaboration with FAD. “Marina and I don’t always work together, but when we do, there is no passing the buck – we’re each the bottom line. We challenge each other in a significant way.”

With six bunks carefully measured to fit, this bunkie is fun and functional. Knit bedding and painted shiplap walls help to not overwhelm the space. A red door slides open to the bathroom. Above: A guest bedroom is tucked under the sloping roof upstairs in the home.