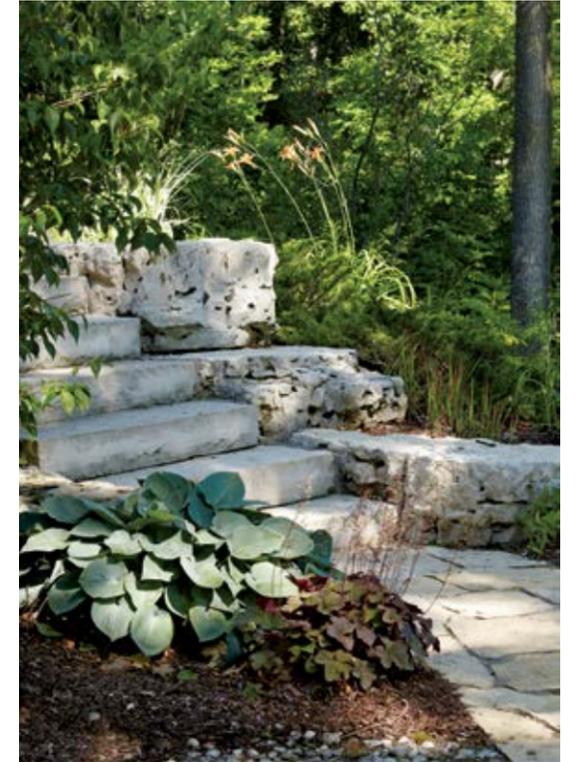




OPPOSITE TOP: A water feature in the front gardens. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The picture window in the stately living room brings the outdoors in. **RIGHT:** High ceilings throughout give an airiness to this home. **FAR RIGHT:** The landscaping is in harmony with natural surroundings. **BELOW:** A large deck overlooks the Niagara River at the back of the house.



rooms with a view



STORY **AMANDA MOORE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KELLY HORKOFF** | FLOWERS **THE WATERING CAN**



If one thing stands out about this house, it's the location. Nestled on a curve in the Niagara River, this luxury bungalow offers a three-point view of waterfront and wildlife.

The homeowners spent a year looking for the perfect piece of waterfront and when an opportunity came up, they jumped on it. Land on this scenic road, which winds through wine country and a heritage-flecked section of "Canada's prettiest town," doesn't come on the market often.

"It was ideal and we quickly and confidently made the decision to purchase," says the homeowner, whose wife noticed the listing for a dated and boxy waterfront bungalow in a realtor's window while running errands. A few days later, they became owners of their dream property.

"We knew what we wanted, which was the property, and we knew it was going to be a renovation."

The couple moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1999, first settling in a condo at King's Point before securing their ideal spot. They retired here, drawn to the charm and culture of the small, tourist town. They became even more enchanted with the people and place once they called it home. Present-day amenities collide with history. World-class theatre at the Shaw Festival, which they regularly attend, upscale shops, gourmet restaurants and award-winning wineries abound.

Continued on page 24

home & builder

“This town is the most wonderful place we’ve ever lived,” say the couple, who enjoy having friends stay the weekend to take in the culture and relax on their large, multi-level deck, which ebbs and flows with the river’s edge.

It was clear, after six years in the condo, that they had downsized too much and began their search for something new. “But we had to be on the water, that’s why it took so long.”

The house, which is a major overhaul of the one that was on the property, is very much the homeowners’ dream brought to life by former builder **Frank Grimshaw**, and architect **Wayne Murray** of **Chapman Murray Associates Architects**.

“The house itself is very unique with lots of glass, super high ceilings and great exposure to the river,” Grimshaw says. “This is what the homeowners called a retirement bungalow, but it’s an absolutely phenomenal bungalow.”

The homeowners were very particular about how the house should look. They wanted a lower-level walkout only visible



LEFT: The master bedroom overlooks the stunning Niagara River. **BELOW:** The bathtub is positioned near windows to give the bathroom a treehouse feel. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Rich cherry cabinetry makes the kitchen both a decadent and functional space. **BOTTOM FAR LEFT:** A Rumford fireplace gives extra grandeur to a warm dining room. **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** Jack DeKorte of DeKorte’s Landscaping completed the grounds. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Leyla Toker of EFES Tile, which installed Turkish and mosaic tile in the home’s entrance and bathrooms.



on the river side. The house had to feel open, taking advantage of the magnificent views. It was important the home also fit in with the land.

“It’s built along the Frank Lloyd Wright theme,” the homeowner says, referring to the American architect. Wright, who coined organic architecture and designed his structures to fit with the natural landscape, was known for using glass in his designs to bring the outdoors in – a feature that makes this house ideal for living and entertaining.

With a particular design in mind, the homeowners sought quality to make their vision a reality, which is why they chose Niagara-based custom homebuilder **Lifestyle Homes** and Grimshaw.

The setting made this house a standout for Grimshaw, who recently retired after nearly 40 years in the business. This project stood out for several reasons, he recalls. “It’s a phenomenal location with close proximity to the escarpment and the edge of the Niagara River [plus] the quality we were allowed to use for this build,” he says.

Solid cherry cabinetry crafted by Luxor in Quebec and granite countertops from **Custom Granite & Marble Ltd.** in Stoney Creek make up the impressive, open kitchen. There’s plenty of space to prepare and entertain, a feature the homeowners wanted throughout the house, with the exception of the three bedrooms.

Even with cherry wood cabinets installed by **Elmwood Kitchens**, the room is bright, thanks to the large windows with views to the river through the living room in the back, and of vibrant gardens by **DeKorte’s Landscaping** to the front. The custom range

hood was crafted to match the Rumford fireplace, built by **Randy Lepp Carpentry** to separate the living and dining rooms. Inspired by an image in a magazine, the homeowners hired a restoration expert to custom finish the hearth.

The living room off the kitchen is painted with Benjamin Moore’s Benington Gray, which is used throughout the house, and features the same maple floors and trim, leading to staircases by **Amber Stairs & Railings** at either end of the home. The room offers the second-best view of the Niagara River, framed by a massive picture window. The furniture was carefully selected for the room, with many pieces coming from Elizabeth Interiors. An impressionist painting of the Niagara Escarpment, by local artist **Henry Beckman**, offers a scene mirroring the view.

The best panorama of the river is found in the couple’s luxurious master suite. “It’s like being in a treehouse,” they say.

Large windows skew the lines between inside and out. The expansive fur rug and wall fireplace add the right amount of cosiness. Bright white linens from The Feathered Bed keep it light.



The en suite is modern, with Turkish tile purchased through **EFES Tile** in Stoney Creek, and fixtures from **Bathworks** in St. Catharines. Both companies outfitted the two lower-level guest baths, one featuring a tub and the other a shower to give visitors an option.

The cherry cabinetry featured in the kitchen is also in one of the most practical rooms of the house: a main floor laundry room, which the homeowners absolutely love.

“It’s a very livable house,” they say. “We use everything. It suits every possible need we could ever ask of it.” **OH**