

HOME TO
stay

LEFT: Decorated for fall, the home is warm and welcoming - perfect for the couple's housewarming party. **BELOW:** The double garage doors are crafted to look old-fashioned, complete with metal hinged hardware.

BY LINDSEY RIVAIT // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX WEDGE // STYLED BY JODI MASON

Neighbours and strangers often stop to ask Nancy and Andrew Taylor of LaSalle about their home, and it's easy to see why.

The unique crushed-concrete exterior gives it the appearance of stone and exudes old-world warmth and charm without sacrificing modern conveniences. It's the exact combination Nancy and Andrew were searching for.

The Taylors first saw the house while attending a dinner party down the street. "We were attracted to the façade because it seemed to be a very different design," says Andrew. "Most expensive dinner party ever!"

The house was **Timberland Homes'** first model home in five years. "I don't even think we showed it for more than three weekends and it was no longer a model home," laughs Gino Piccioni, owner of Timberland Homes.

Working with the Taylors was almost too easy says Piccioni. When they purchased the house in 2010, it was already 75 per cent complete. "They had some opportunities to make choices and they chose to leave it in our hands," he says. "We finished the house the way we planned to from the beginning and they loved it. They trust me implicitly and I trust them back. When you get a relationship like that you want to do nothing but the best for them."

Aside from the home's truly-unique exterior, the biggest appeal for the Taylors was the property, which backs onto a conservation area - something the Timberland design showcases to its fullest advantage. A large window in the open plan kitchen/dining area provides peaceful woodland views in all seasons.

After moving in, one of the first projects the Taylors tackled was the backyard, installing a heated salt-water pool and eight-seat hot tub (**Sunrise Pools**). Both have proven to be a big attraction - especially since the patio is wired with surround sound (**Factory Auto Sound**), making it perfect for entertaining. In addition to the natural backdrop provided by the conservation area, the Taylors enjoy a lush green yard beautifully accentuated with low-maintenance plants and trees (**Lakeshore Landscaping**). *Continued on page 41*





ABOVE LEFT: Bright punches of crimson give the table an autumnal flavour. Light floods the room in all seasons. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The homeowners love accessorizing with red. The bevelled glass mirrors and vases unify the décor and add a touch of glamour. **RIGHT:** Fruits and vegetables - ready for the chef's touch. **FAR RIGHT:** Nancy and Andrew Taylor enjoy a glass of wine.



In the foyer, high ceilings with tray lighting provide a soft and sophisticated glow above the eye-catching rectangular yellow-and-black light fixture (**The Lighting Boutique & Appliance Shoppe**). The entrance leads into an open floor plan that is gracious as well as practical.

In the great room, hand-scraped maple hardwood floors (**Rose City Tile**), installed on a 45-degree angle, create harmony with the dark wood baseboards. Crown moulding on the ceiling defines each of the nine square inset panels.

To accentuate the beauty of the home, the Taylors chose to keep their décor simple. Red accents are placed strategically in the form of placemats and toss pillows, offering a pop of colour amidst the earthy tones. Windows are covered with Hunter Douglas blinds (**Vertical Concepts**) and left open to take advantage of the natural light. "We loved being able to look into our backyard and enjoy the view. That's part of the reason we moved here," explains Nancy.

The home's open-concept makes it easy for the Taylors to cook dinner while talking with friends who often congregate on the chic stainless steel

and black barstools at the island (**Bertoni Chairs & Things**) or around the 50-inch linear fireplace in the great room (**Forest Glade Fireplaces**).

Three cone-shaped pendant lights (**The Lighting Boutique and Appliance Shoppe**) illuminate the granite counter (**Europa Marble & Granite**) and small pot lights dot the ceiling. Pull-out spice racks on each side of the Thermador stove provide ample room for Andrew, an enthusiastic home cook, to indulge his passion. A spacious custom-built pantry (**Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry**) and wine fridge make the kitchen a gourmet's dream.

Finding balance between traditional and modern/cosy and chic was important to the Taylors. With the design expertise of **Jodi Mason** from **Urban Home** they were able to create the look they were hoping for. "You walk into some homes and feel like you shouldn't sit on the furniture because you don't want to dirty it," Nancy says. "We want people to feel very comfortable. Come in, sit down, throw your feet up on the couch, don't worry about it." *Continued on page 42*



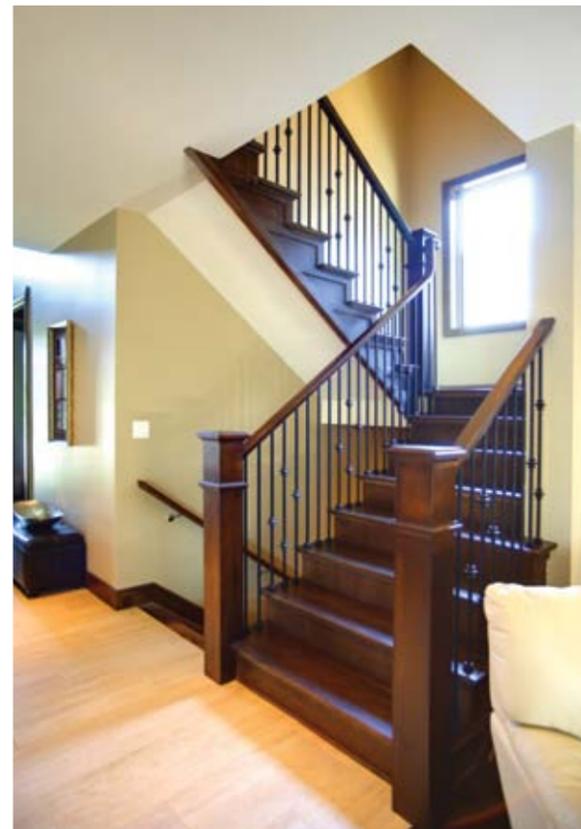
ABOVE: The master bedroom is cosy and elegant thanks to its tranquil colour scheme of taupe and turquoise. **RIGHT:** The staircase with its generous proportions and landing create a graciousness that is in keeping with the home's traditional design elements.

And they do keep it comfortable. Friday nights are movie nights when the family gathers in the cosy basement and watches films together. The heated laminate flooring keeps the basement warm no matter the weather.

The second floor comprises the master bedroom, the couple's six-year-old son Patrick's room, a music room and office, and a spare room. Although Patrick's space is more superhero themed, Piccioni's design choices are everywhere: Patrick has his own linen closet, walk-in closet, and a full bathroom with a pebble backplash.

As you step up the two extra stairs into the master bedroom, the oversize window provides a restful view of the backyard and the forested conservation area beyond. Tray lighting and a gas fireplace installed below the flat screen TV create a serene bedroom retreat.

The master bathroom features a large glass-encased shower (**LaSalle Glass**) with a rainfall shower and air tub that produces the ultimate bathing experience. Above the crushed quartz vanity, lighted mirrors and his-and-her floating rectangular sinks are elegant and functional (**Windsor Factory Supply**). *Continued on page 44*



Tones of brown, taupe and turquoise set the tone for the entire second floor. **ABOVE LEFT:** Dark hardwood floors are warm and luxurious. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The second floor bathroom's air tub provides a soothing and continuous massaging sensation - perfect after a busy day.

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Two custom closets are a huge attraction in the master bedroom (Cremasco Fine Cabinetry). Andrew's has a European flair with an extra open shelf at the bottom. Nancy's closet, with its dark wood detailing and built-in shelving, offers endless storage solutions. Nancy also has her own separate vanity area, which has the added benefit of allowing for an uncluttered bedroom and bathroom.

The Taylors couldn't be more elated about their home or their time spent working with Piccioni. As Nancy puts it, "We love being home, whether it's family movie night, hanging out with Patrick and reading books with him, or Andrew and I having a glass of wine, we love being home. We're here for good." **OH**



TOP: Jodi Mason of Urban Home helped style the home for the shoot. She accomplished her wizardry by using "polished chrome accent pieces and bevelled mirrors." The homeowners love ruby red - so she incorporated this colour into the accent pieces. Texture in the cushions provided some extra punch. "Keeping colour choices consistent helped tie the rooms together," Mason says. "Using a fall fruit in the same colour palette added a fun seasonal element... we used pomegranates." **ABOVE:** The couple enjoys music. Andrew is an accomplished guitarist and plays the piano from time to time. **LEFT:** Patrick enjoys creating with his Legos.

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