

better than **ALL THE REST**

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AS SEASONED BUILDERS AND RENOVATORS WITH MORE THAN 10 OF THEIR OWN HOMES UNDER THEIR BELTS, RANDY AND MICHELENE SMITH KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT DESIGN, AND HOW TO MAKE A HOUSE FEEL LIKE A HOME.

In Randy and Michelene Smith's living room, prairie-style transom doors open to a leafy backyard, a popular stopover for wild birds. My Heritage Furniture supplied the leather sofa and armchairs. **BELOW:** Dark grey stone clads the exterior of their new Lakefield home.



B Before purchasing the land where their Lakefield home now sits, the couple discussed the features that would best suit their lives and their list of must-haves – they set about choosing a location that could accommodate all of the above. “Since we’d been through the process so many times before, we were able to quickly determine what we wanted for this home,” Randy says. “We’re emptynesters and knew this would be our last house, so we made sure to incorporate all of our wish-list items and select a location that would be one we’d enjoy living in for years to come.”

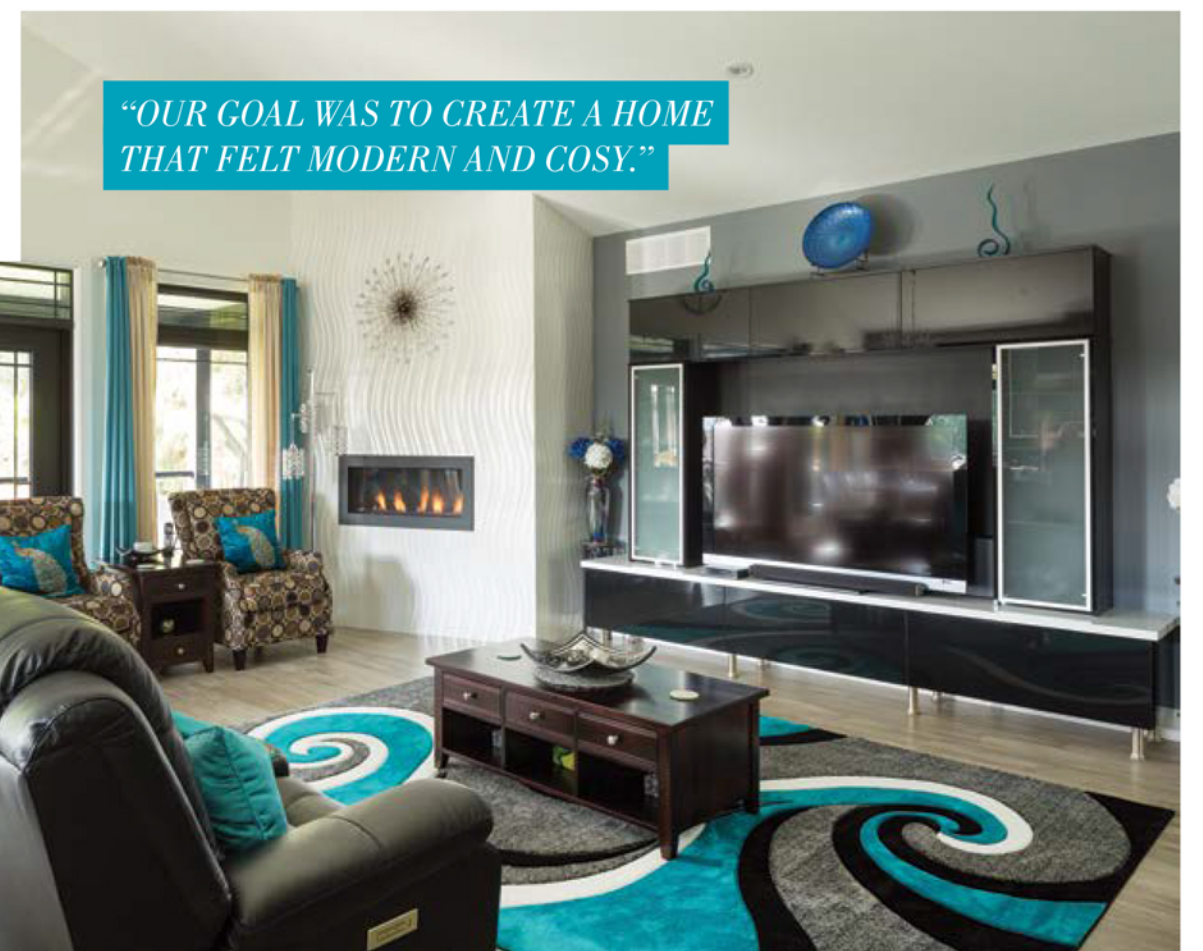
After procuring the land, construction began in July 2018. Randy is the founder and CEO of **R & M Smith Contracting Ltd.**, an award-winning residential design

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FAR LEFT: AyA Kitchen Designs furnished the glossy black cabinetry for the kitchen, where bevelled glass forms the backsplash. **LEFT:** The dinner table with matching supple chairs came from Cozy Living Inc. **BELOW:** A swirl of turquoise in a carpet from Florida adds a splash of colour and inspiration to the modern living space.



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and construction management team. With decades of building experience, it's little wonder that the process took a mere five months to complete. “There were as many as 25 people in the house at one time,” he says, chuckling. “Having the experience that we do, we tried to be purposeful about planning and scheduling tradespeople as efficiently as possible. It was chaotic at times, but the result is worth it.”

Affectionately dubbed their “HGTV home,” this space is very different from their past abodes in that their design focus here has been more fine-tuned than ever before, the couple says. “Our goal was to create a home that felt modern and cosy, but not cold,” Randy says. “My role in the building process was to oversee the planning and project as a whole, while Michelene has always taken the lead

in our homes when it comes to décor. She was meticulous about planning the finishes for each room – and in making the décor throughout the home feel like a cohesive unit – and we love that the end product is so liveable and modern.”

That planning process began with choosing local suppliers that could accommodate the style the Smiths were hoping to achieve. All of the lumber for the build was supplied by **Kingdon Timber Mart**, while **Cavan Designer Stone & Building Supplies** provided the striking dark grey stone on the home's exterior. Black windows and doors throughout the house were all supplied by **Alf Curtis Home Improvements**, with the windows featuring a unique finish. “What we really appreciate about these is that many black windows are

trimmed with white on the interior, but these have the full dark finish,” says Randy. “It's a design detail we loved that added to the contemporary style of the home.”

Throughout the main floor, the couple selected wide-plank engineered flooring from **Whelan's Flooring Centre** in a neutral brown-grey shade. They painted their walls in a soft, light-grey hue, and featured many bold and unique lighting fixtures from **Lighting Interiors & More** and **Living Lighting** that were carefully selected for each space.

In the living room, a show-stopping multi-hued rug found in Clearwater, Florida, sets the décor tone. “We loved the varying colours in it and knew the turquoise shade would serve as a great base to design the rest of the room around,” says Randy. Equally as stunning in this space is the tile-clad gas fireplace wall,

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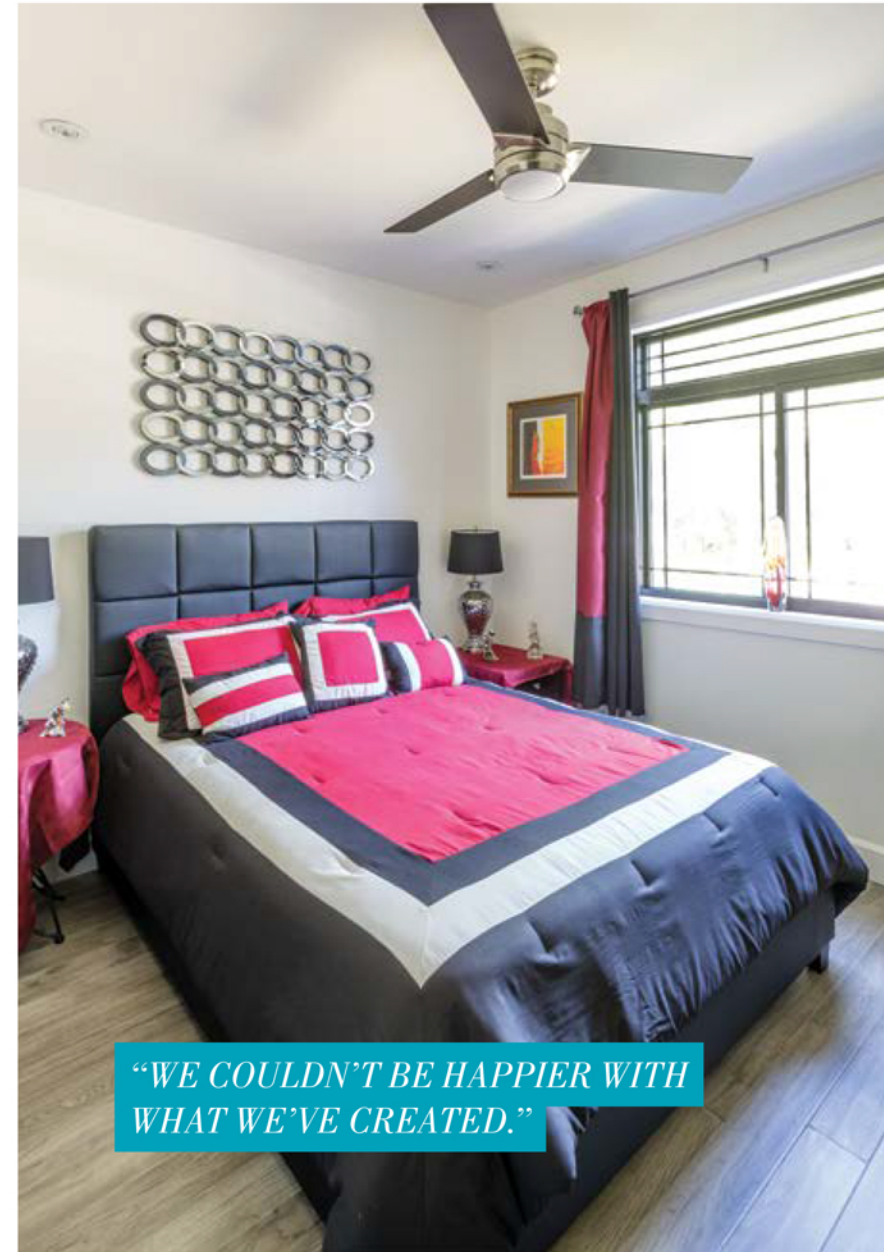
RIGHT: Hanging lamps around the soaker tub augment natural light in the en suite. **BELOW:** Windows frame the padded headrest in the master bedroom where nightstands and dressers have a high-gloss acrylic finish.

which features white floor-to-ceiling waved-pattern tiles, supplied by Whelan's Flooring Centre. The owners chose these tiles to mimic the wave-like movement of the fireplace flames. An impressive 60-inch overhead propeller-like fan hangs above the space, imbuing all areas of the main living areas with ample air circulation.

Just off the living room, the kitchen and dining room feature bold and shiny black custom cabinets by **AyA Kitchen Designs**. "We love these for a few reasons, but mainly because they look so stylish and modern, and also because they're so easy to maintain," Randy says. The kitchen's bevelled-edge glass backsplash sets off the white marble countertops, while an impressively sized pantry is one of the couple's favourite rooms in the house. "We've never had a pantry before, but we enjoy it so much that we'd never want another house without one."

Rounding out the main floor is the laundry room and garage entrance, featuring a black-and-white ceramic tile finish, and closet doors with automatic on-off lights that activate when opened and shut. There's also a guest room aptly dubbed The Red Room, and a main

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washroom with a bold, black subway tile tub surround and a faucet that changes colour with the water temperature.

The spacious master bedroom is also in this area of the house. The owners say their vision here was to allow as much natural light as possible to flow throughout the space while also creating a statement wall where windows would be placed. "Michelene was able to do that by sourcing a unique wallpaper with some sparkle to it," Randy says. The couple's en suite is equally impressive with black porcelain floor tiles, black granite countertops, a large and contemporary white soaker tub, and a black tiled shower with a custom, built-in window. Their roomy walk-in closet serves as a study in functional, organized design.

"This home was two years in the making, including the time spent designing the floor plan, layout and décor, and we couldn't be happier with what we've created," Randy says. "It's a peaceful and inviting space, and we enjoy knowing it's our forever home." **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

- AyA Kitchen Designs • Alf Curtis Home Improvements • All Service Electrical • Benjamin Moore • Berardi Brothers • Buckhorn Sand & Gravel • Castle Voice Data Communications Inc. • Cavan Designer Stone & Building Supplies • Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre • Cozy Living Inc. • Johnston's Greenhouse & Landscaping • Kavan Building Design & Drafting • Kawartha Stair & Rail • Kingdon Timber Mart • Kriscam Landscape Services • Lighting Interiors & More • Living Lighting • My Heritage Furniture • On Time Roofing • Peterborough Appliances • PJ Johnston Heating & Air Conditioning • Plumbing by Doug Inc. • R & M Smith Contracting Limited • Trent Metals (2012) Limited • Whelan's Flooring Centre



LEFT: Taking their cue from the distinctive décor, the Smiths call their guest room The Red Room. **ABOVE:** A circular mirror frame helps light up this main floor bathroom. AyA Kitchen Designs supplied the home's bathroom vanities.

