

# IT'S GOT *rhythm*

*“RHYTHM IS THE PATTERN OF REGULAR OR IRREGULAR PULSES CAUSED IN MUSIC, THE ARRANGEMENT OF SOUNDS AS THEY MOVE THROUGH TIME.”* Continued on page 92

Cabinets by Wood Concepts line a wall in the open-plan main floor. Contrasting backsplashes and varying counters separate kitchen areas. The section on the left is used as a bar and serving table for dinner parties. The counter on the dining island is made from recycled glass and concrete.

STORY **RICH SHURMAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**





**ABOVE:** The front facade of this modern saltbox home. The large windows allow light to flow from the front to the back of the house. Blue siding blends the home into the summer sky and honours the water beyond. Roofing was sourced at Rona J.E. Hodgins Lumber Ltd. **RIGHT:** The boardwalk to the beach draws the eye to the water and protects the natural vegetation. **FAR RIGHT:** Brad and Heather Amlin and Joel Bartlett stand on the stairs to the rear deck. **OPPOSITE:** The LED pendant fixture found on Etsy takes advantage of the opening to the second level. Simply White by Benjamin Moore was used throughout. Electrical was completed by Sepoy Wiring Ltd.



With rhythm as the guiding principle, Heather and Brad Amlin – in concert with architect and friend **Joel Bartlett** – set off on the pursuit of their dream home on the shores of Lake Huron.

The property in Amberley was originally purchased by Heather’s great grandfather in 1947 and it was always a treasured spot for their family. When Heather’s grandfather approached the couple in 2006 about selling, Heather’s immediate thought was, “We can’t afford to buy it.” Brad countered with, “We can’t afford not to.” They knew this was absolutely where they wanted to be and ultimately, to their good fortune, they took the dive. They sold their home in Oakville, purchased a small condominium in Kitchener and the cottage construction plan was underway. *Continued on page 94*



**BLUE DETAILS  
THROUGHOUT KEEP  
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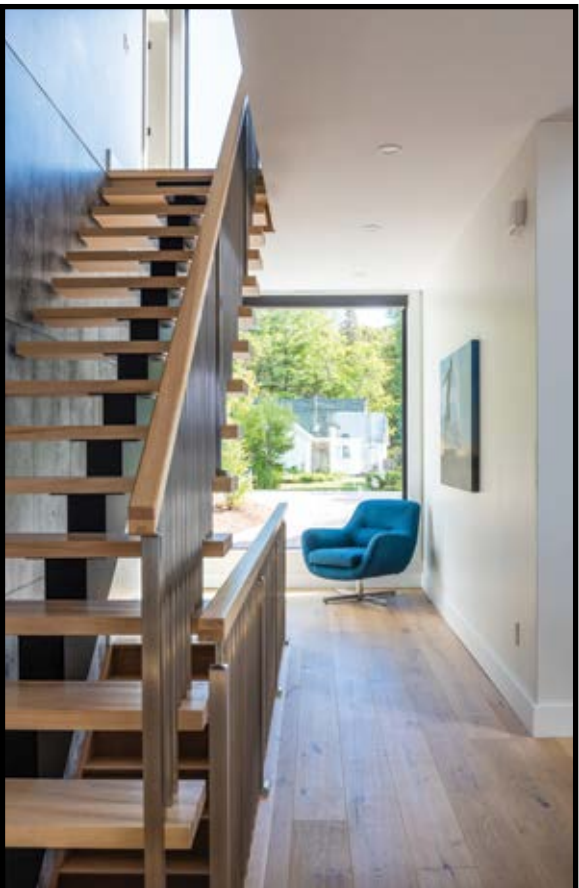


The original cottage was a small, post-war, clapboard affair that had served the family well for more than 60 years, but if this site was to be their full-time residence, a new structure was absolutely essential. “I wanted a Malibu beach house design with large windows and open space,” reflects Brad. “I was interested in a more traditional Cape Cod maritime feel,” offers Heather. As it turned out, in collaboration with Joel, of **Joel Bartlett Architect Inc.**, they met squarely in the middle.

After being introduced by common musician friends, Heather, Brad and Joel hit it off and the project was a natural fit.

“Because of their love for music, I felt that a play on rhythm and patterns was the way to approach the design,” offers Joel. “It was all about intentionally building moments into spaces and transitioning from one room to the next by having a compressed space leading to another with volume and openness, much like a composition.”

A wonderful example of this design approach is represented by the catwalk on the second floor that leads to the master bedroom. “The master bedroom is the crescendo after the bridge, musically speaking,” says Joel.



**TOP:** Paint left over from the build was used by a friend to create the art hanging over the live-edge console table. Radiant in-floor heat keeps toes warm in cooler months and was installed by Montgomery's Comfort Centre Ltd. **ABOVE:** The front hall closet is tucked into this niche just inside the front door. **LEFT:** The hand-blown pendant lights echo the colour of the water just beyond the Lepage windows. The flooring throughout is sustainably-sourced engineered hardwood by Nadurra, from their rustic Neue collection in Danube.

The entire home has this delightful sense of rhythm and beat and these undeniable feelings move seamlessly from indoors to outdoors. They flow from the beach, along the boardwalk, on to the welcoming facade of the structure and then naturally into the light, airy interior. “This is what it’s all about – the open concept, views of the beach everywhere and the light feeling that embraces you throughout,” says Brad. “I love to wake up, open the blinds and see the lake,” says Heather. “It was exactly what we had in mind, and Joel nailed it.”

The home has a modern saltbox feeling. It is clean and purposeful with simple angles and form, offset by inspired cladding materials, quality electrical service, installed by **Sepoy Wiring Ltd.**, large windows and doors from **Bavarian Window Works**, radiant in-floor heating by **Montgomery's Comfort Centre Ltd.**, and splashes of colour for contrast. “The Amlins had a vision of what they wanted and I brought some of my own to the equation,” adds Joel. “I am there to facilitate the process. Apart from the design elements, I also bring a passive and holistic

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**ABOVE:** A wormy maple live-edge coffee table grounds the living area of the main floor. Matching deep sofas are comfortable for relaxing and listening to music. **LEFT:** Open treads on the custom (Arise Stairs) stairway keep sight lines unobstructed. A quiet reading spot has a view to the front of the home.



**RIGHT:** At the top of the stairs to the second level is a desk area and intimate seating to watch movies. Glass railings float over the main floor. **BELOW:** The catwalk to the master bedroom. The cords of the dining pendant light appear as a sculpture. **BOTTOM:** A guest bedroom on the second level. Window coverings are Sun Glow roller shades from Blissful Blinds.



sensibility to the build. Things like a tight thermal building envelope, efficiencies to reduce energy costs, orientation of the building and maximizing the best use of the site itself.” Interior decorator Claire Malterer worked in association with Heather, Brad and Joel. “This was absolutely a collaborative effort and Claire brought the colours, finishes and furnishings that perfectly paralleled the intent of the design,” says Heather. “She really understood what we wanted and more

importantly, what was needed.” Blue details throughout keep the flow moving from the shoreline to the interior without missing a beat. The entire space feels like it is floating, from the open comfort of the main floor and on up the feature staircase by **Arise Stairs**, to the spectacular bedroom level. “The music is always on in the place,” offers Brad. “We have wireless speakers throughout the house and it is a constant. Besides the beach, the water and the views, music is a large part of the allure for

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us here. I play guitar, and through musician friends we met Joel, who is also a player.” So it comes as no surprise that the design and the flow of the home reflects that shared affection. As it happens, Brad is recently retired and Heather can work from just about anywhere, so making this lovely cottage their permanent residence has definitely struck all the right chords **OH**

**TOP:** The view that greets Brad and Heather as they enter the master bedroom. Arctic Gray on the walls by Benjamin Moore adds a calmness to the room. **ABOVE:** A cork-lined feature wall acts as the headboard for the master bed. The clean aesthetic in this room reinforces what Claire Malterer, the designer, felt was needed and added nothing extra. **RIGHT:** In the master en suite a floating vanity holds a single vessel sink. The corner window captures the view.

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