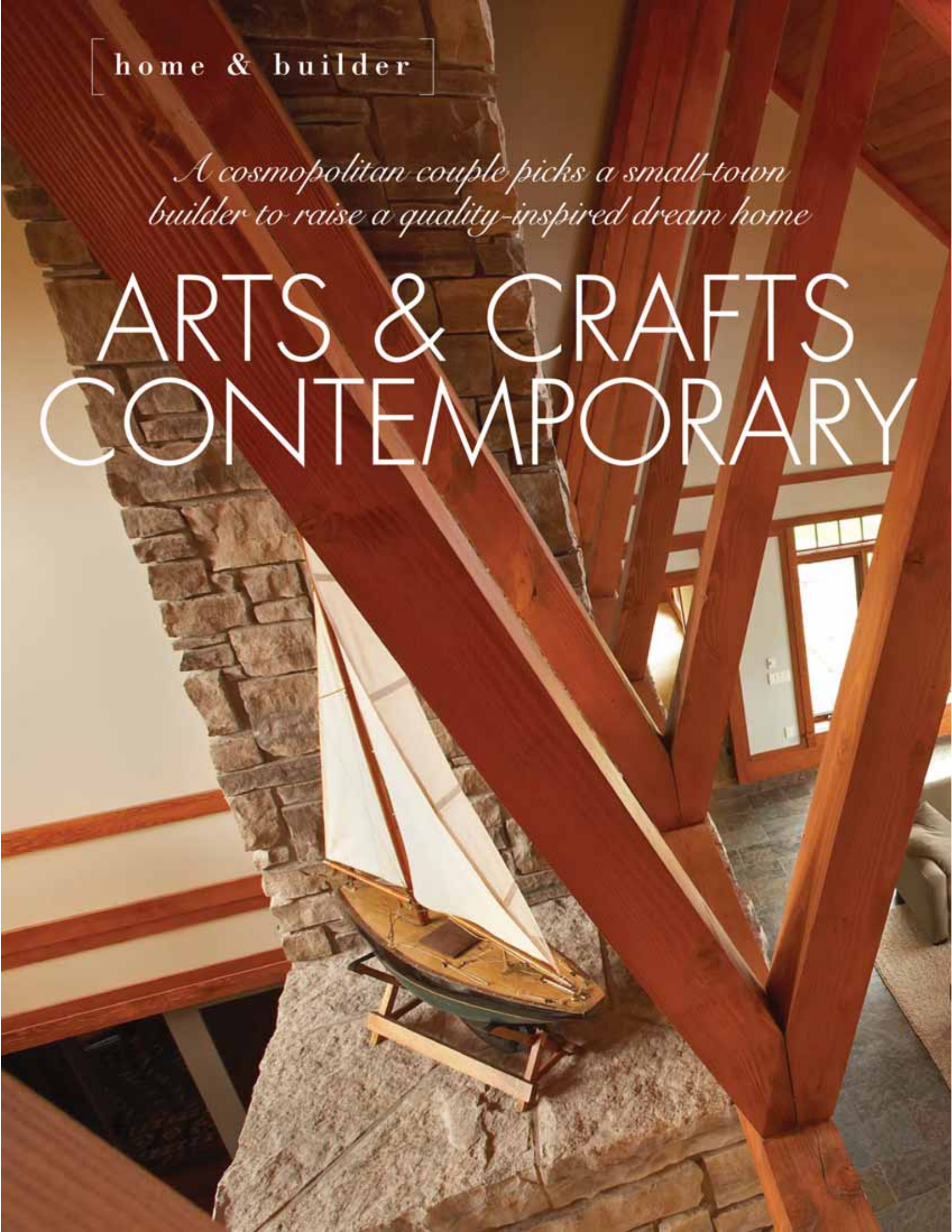


home & builder

A cosmopolitan couple picks a small-town builder to raise a quality-inspired dream home

ARTS & CRAFTS CONTEMPORARY





BY GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH // PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL ORENSTEIN
BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS ENHANCE OUR LIVES and bring us pleasure. This notion of style and attention to detail took hold in England in the 1860s in a movement called Arts and Crafts. It challenged the tastes of the Victorian era and the rise of mass-produced goods, most, at the time, shoddy products of mass production. The movement inspired the construction of entire homes, each detail beautifully designed and crafted.
continued on page 28



This main floor bathroom is simple, yet luxurious. The dark granite-topped vanity with out-of-the-way wall taps adds a handsome contrast to the light subway-tiled walls.
continued on page 30



“The selection of earthy relaxing colours seemed obvious and brought a wonderful sense of the outdoors inside.”

—Marilyn Joel



LEFT: Clean lines and muted grey cabinetry enhance the beauty and function of this kitchen, which includes a stainless steel Viking gas range and a wine fridge. All the lighting was custom-made to match the Arts and Crafts design. **THIS PAGE:** This stairway leads to the office and bedrooms. The view from the top landing down into the great room is spectacular.

A perfect example of a contemporary Arts and Crafts home sits on the shores of Georgian Bay near Thornbury. The owners are true believers in taking the time to do it right and chose a builder whose philosophy matched theirs—**Doug Abbott** of **Village Builders** in Creemore.

Abbott's clients, a soon-to-be retired, urban couple with three grown children, vacationed for nine years in a cottage on the site before the time was right to bulldoze and start afresh on the home of their dreams.

"We met about a year before construction started to discuss the project in a sort of meet and greet," Abbott remembers. "They were more concerned about quality than anything else."

The owners have nothing but praise for Abbott and the process that created the stunning home. Village Builders, in business for 26 years, was one of two companies bidding on the project.

The owners asked **Paul Roth** of **Roth Knibb Architects Inc.**, of Toronto, to design the home before handing the drawings to Abbott at Village Builders.

Interior Designer **Marylyn Joel**, of Collingwood, helped fine-tune the floor plan and select the interior style.

The feel inside the 4,000 sq. ft. home is calm and serene, a testament to the aesthetic qualities, which come from the use of natural materials throughout.

The outside walls of the four-bedroom home were constructed using insulated concrete forms (ICF), a technology Abbott has been using in many of his homes for 12 years. "For a nominal increase in cost you get a home that is sound-proof and super-insulated. The technology will save you a lot of money on your heating and cooling costs," he says.

The focal point of the home is the large open-concept kitchen and great room. The large family room features cathedral ceilings with exposed Douglas fir beams constructed

continued on page 32



This custom dining set was made with large gatherings in mind. There's even more seating along the banquette where sunsets are a big attraction.
continued on page 34



Portuguese Waterdogs Oz and Zeke stand guard on the back terrace overlooking the water.

by Abbott in a V-shaped formation. The mahogany stain is used on Abbott's exceptional millwork throughout the home. A breathtaking floor-to ceiling fireplace, running the length of the room, was built using ledge rock from Wiarnton and holds the roof in place.

An embellished archway separates the kitchen and family room, ensuring a natural flow between the two rooms.

The sleek custom kitchen, expertly crafted by **Nottawa Kitchens**, lies to the left of the family room and provides an airy, elegant yet informal space to cook and entertain. A long casual, granite-topped island separates the kitchen from the eating area, which features a dining table made especially for the family by **Charles Davies Custom Fine Furniture** in Meaford.

Inspired by a picture of a pioneer Sawbuck table, Davies reworked the design and construction to mesh with the clients' tastes and their need for a high-use dining table. The table and chairs are made of solid quarter sawn white oak and custom stained with a mix of brown-black. Davies used the same wood to craft five Japanese-style bar stools for the island.

A cushioned banquette stretching beneath a wall of win-

dows overlooking the outdoor terrace provides additional seating for a large gathering. At a recent celebration, more than 20 people gathered along the banquette.

The muted colour-palette, from **Desiron** of Thornbury, blends seamlessly into the natural setting of the home.

"The selection of earthy relaxing colours seemed obvious and brought a wonderful sense of the outdoors inside," Joel explains.

The exterior of the home is finished in Maibec siding painted dark grey. The trim around the Loewen windows is painted cranberry red. The roof is capped using EnviroShake recycled rubber, which looks just like weathered cedar shakes. It is more expensive but Abbott says it won't absorb water and is guaranteed to last 50 years.

Abbott says it took 14 months to build the home, completed in June of this year, with no major roadblocks to overcome, although truckloads of fill were needed to stabilize the ground before construction started.

"When we start a home, we stay until it's finished," he says. "I use the same trades for each home I build to maintain the quality the client demands." **OH**