



THE *model home*

Just minutes away from antique markets, the 401 and beautiful countryside, this homebuilder found paradise in one of his own creations in the heart of Wellington County. BY LAURA LAROCCA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Rising from the soils of what was once a 19th century farmstead is a modern home with many classic touches. Set in the quiet community of Aberfoyle, five minutes from Guelph, **Timberworx Custom Homes** president Shawn Marsh knew he had found the perfect retreat while working on his latest subdivision located near the home.

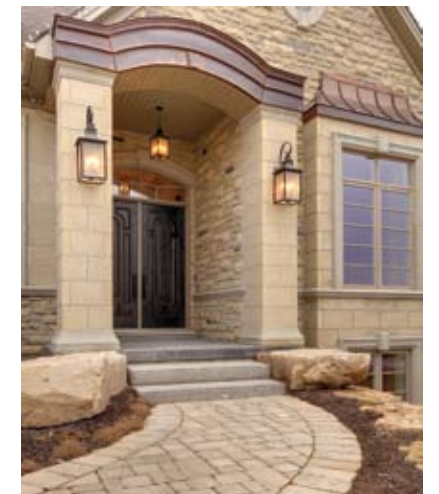
Marsh has always preferred to take a hands-on approach to projects and decided to move into his custom-built home rather than continue the daily commute. While the two-storey, stone and brick house looks every bit the showroom it is, it was designed to be lived in. “We wanted to avoid that big boxy feeling,” says Marsh. “Even though it’s a larger home, we wanted an intimate feel. We want it to be comfortable.”

Elements such as the Shaw hand-scraped, engineered hardwood flooring, from **Ferra Flooring Carpet One Floor & Home**, that covers much of the main floor, were chosen as much for their functionality and ease of maintenance as for their elegance and quality. The hand scraping adds texture and old-world charm to the flooring, so there’s no worry about dropping things and ruining the finish.

Just off the main entrance guests will find the office, filled with treasures showing the personal connection Marsh has to this home. The bookcases hold antique tools including rulers and woodworking hand tools, similar to those the original farmers on the land may have used to build furniture.

“We work hard with the designer to bring in elements of an older home into a transitional home,” says project manager, **Eve Claxton**. Details like wide baseboards and mouldings, both by **Ace Carpentry**, and high ceilings give the home a sense of traditional character. With that kind of attention to detail, it’s easy to see why Timberworx was named a finalist for a national award – the 2011 Canadian Home Builders’ Association SAM award.

“We consider ourselves forward thinking in terms of home features and finishes,” says Claxton. “We are always looking for new innovations and designs that correspond to our changing and varied lifestyles.” *Continued on page 51*



OPPOSITE: Gorgeous wood floors and light colours make a bold statement in the dining space.
TOP: Antiques on the shelves of the office add a touch of the past.
ABOVE: Magnificent double doors greet visitors as they enter the home from the stone pathway.
LEFT: An open concept creates an inviting space to live and work.



ABOVE: A leathered-finish granite countertop creates a beautiful and functional workspace in the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** The large laundry room is filled with exceptional storage space. **RIGHT:** Stainless steel appliances create a chef's paradise in the kitchen. **FAR RIGHT:** The open kitchen space features a built-in fridge, wine rack and ample counter space.



When the farmhouse originally stood on this property, the kitchen would have been the hub of family and social life. This tradition continues in the current kitchen, which is laid out to be both functional and stylish.

Top-of-the-line appliances from **AMG Appliances**, including a six-burner range, microwave drawer and wine fridge, make preparing a multiple-course meal effortless. The latest fixtures, including a touch faucet from **The EnSuite**, give this kitchen a contemporary feel.

The black custom cabinetry by **Barzotti Woodworking Ltd.** provides a stunning contrast to the stainless-steel appliances and the custom-finished maple island.

The Saturnia leathered-finish granite countertop by **Stonex Granite & Quartz** is built to withstand the rigours of daily cooking, while the adjoining butler's pantry, also by Barzotti, with its wet bar and easy access to both the formal dining room and the great room, means the hosts can still be part of the party while they're freshening drinks for guests.

A butler's pantry and laundry room are located just off the kitchen area making serving and cleaning up quick and simple.

Among the touches of yesterday is a hand-carved bowl which graces the centre of the kitchen table, from **A Sense of Style**, taking guests back to a simpler time.

The kitchen area flows naturally into the great room in this open-concept home, offering plenty of space for entertaining. The limestone fireplace, one of four fireplaces supplied by **Hartwig Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.**, offers a cosy corner for an intimate chat.

The wall of windows, by **Golden Windows Ltd.**, which lines the kitchen area offering a full view of the large landscaped yard, by **Van Oordt Landscaping Ltd.**, and floods the area with light, especially at sunrise. As you peek outside the window you will also capture a glimpse of some of the original stone work from the outbuildings of the original farm. *Continued on page 54*





A large limestone fireplace makes for a cozy space to curl up on cool evenings. **BELOW LEFT:** A large sitting area off the kitchen makes for easy entertaining. **BELOW RIGHT:** Green decorative plants add a touch of spring to the living space.



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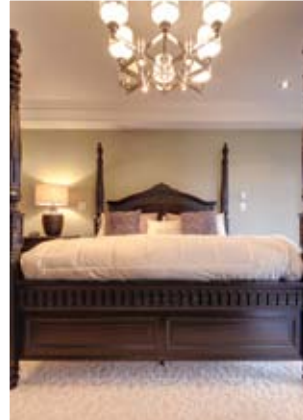
Two pairs of glass doors provide access to the private covered patio, where the homeowners love to entertain, barbecue and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the countryside.

The classic precast by **Bernardi Precast Inc.** surrounds the patio fireplace that keeps guests warm on cool evenings. Decorative stamped concrete, installed by **RCR Concrete**, keeps the patio elegant and low-maintenance.

Another pair of glass doors leads from the patio to the master bedroom's seating area, complete with precast and wood trim fireplace. The bedroom also features a large walk-in closet with ample built-in storage space and an incredible en suite.

Rushton Contract Flooring installed a Flextherm heating system under the mystique marble tile to ensure a comfortable journey to the whirlpool tub.

There's no fighting for room to get ready in the mornings with his and her Barzotti Woodworking Ltd. vanities. Both are topped with large twin mirrors and situated beside the enclosed shower, both by **Creative Glass & Showers**, for easy movement around the space. *Continued on page 56*



LEFT: A whirlpool tub provides the perfect escape after a busy day. **TOP LEFT:** An outdoor fireplace is a great space to enjoy a glass of wine. **TOP RIGHT:** An elegant chandelier hangs above the king-size master bed. **ABOVE:** An en suite features a large walk-in glass shower and heated floors.



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RIGHT: Hardwood floors are found throughout the home, including in the bedrooms. **BELOW:** A sassy shoe chair is the right fit for getting ready in the morning.



A second upstairs bedroom also has an en suite, which is accessible from the rest of the home and functions as the main bath. All bathrooms in the home share the warmth and pleasure of heated marble-tiled floor. When the family is ready to take a break from the stress of the world, comfort and relaxation is easily found in the downstairs recreation area. Large windows and radiant floor heating make the fully-finished basement warm and inviting. This is a standard feature in a Timberworx

home. "We want to avoid the stereotypical dark basement," says Claxton. "We want it to be somewhere you can enjoy." The family often retreats to the basement for a game of pool on the gorgeous black-accented pool table in the recreation room, or to enjoy the cinema experience, created by Station Earth in the poplar-paneled theatre room by Ace Carpentry. "We have everything here," Claxton says with a laugh. "We don't have to leave." *Continued on page 58*

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Guests can enjoy a luxurious night's sleep in one of the two downstairs bedrooms, just off the games area.

Escarpment grey, honed marble tiles cover the entranceway from the attached, underground four-plus car garage. The "plus" leaves plenty of room for a riding lawn mower and other toys.

Every home Timberworx builds is completely custom. Marsh and Claxton work closely with a select group of clients, along with designer Nadine Kautsky of **ElevenFifty Design**, and a professional architect to make sure the homes reflect clients' tastes and lifestyles. Claxton's real estate background allows her to also offer suggestions to maximize clients' investments. "Because building your dream home can be much more involved than most people imagine," she explains adding, this home is certainly a dream come true.

Classic touches, modern efficiency and historic setting are everything a homebuilder could imagine and something both she and Marsh want to capture in every home they build.

"It is so important that the homeowners are just as comfortable with us as we are with them," she says. **OH**

ABOVE: The home theatre features comfy leather chairs and deep wood panelling for an old-world cinema experience. **RIGHT:** The games room is a great place to unwind with a regulation-size pool table and warm fireplace.



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