



This Dendor home makes an immediate statement with unique custom charcoal brick on the exterior. It certainly sets the tone for what's inside.

A NEW BY M. CAROLYN BLACK // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY *beginning*

Several years ago, when Mike and Denise decided to build a home for the first time, they had a definite sense of what that home would need to include. Having purchased and renovated several homes, they wanted to build because they hadn't yet found a dwelling that met all of their needs.

Denise, an interior decorator, says, "We've always had very specific ideas of what we wanted – big windows, lots of natural light, high ceilings." The builder they'd eventually work with needed to be able to meet their high expectations. **Dendor Fine Homes** not only met, but exceeded those expectations and the homeowners can't recommend the company highly enough.

"We were living out west when we first saw the Dendor show home in Shanty Bay," Denise says. "The workmanship, the quality; we were very impressed. The contacts – the Jacksons – were fantastic to deal with and kept in touch with us after we returned to Calgary." The couple eventually decided to purchase a 3,700 sq. ft. house with an attached three-car garage on a large pie-shaped lot that extends into a forested ravine near Minesing. Denise says of the location, "You're living outside the city and there's that feel, that element we wanted for our lifestyle, however, the amenities are just a five or 10 minute drive away."

The distinctive custom-made charcoal brick makes their house stand out from the other homes on this lovely, quiet cul-de-sac. Both Mike and Denise wanted something a little different. Denise laughs and says, "Our friends always say we think outside the box, and that's our goal – to push ourselves outside our comfort zone a little." **FBI Farr Brothers** installed the exterior stone and the interior finish on the soaring double-sided fireplace on the main floor. **Paragon Wall Finishing** completed the exterior stucco that complemented the brick work and the couple couldn't be more pleased with the result. Outside, **Piotrowski Landscaping** installed all the stonework on the front walkway and created a beautiful patio out back.

Dendor Fine Homes embraced the homeowners' beautiful décor choices, inside and out. "We knew that we had the flexibility to be able to put our choices and our particular requirements in," Denise says. "We said 'this is what we want' and (Dendor) worked with us and we got exactly what we wanted." *Continued on page 57*

This elegant home was designed and built for a busy young family. The open foyer leads left into the dining room, right to the office and master suite and straight ahead into the fabulous great room. **RIGHT:** The formal dining room at the front has easy access to a butler's pantry.

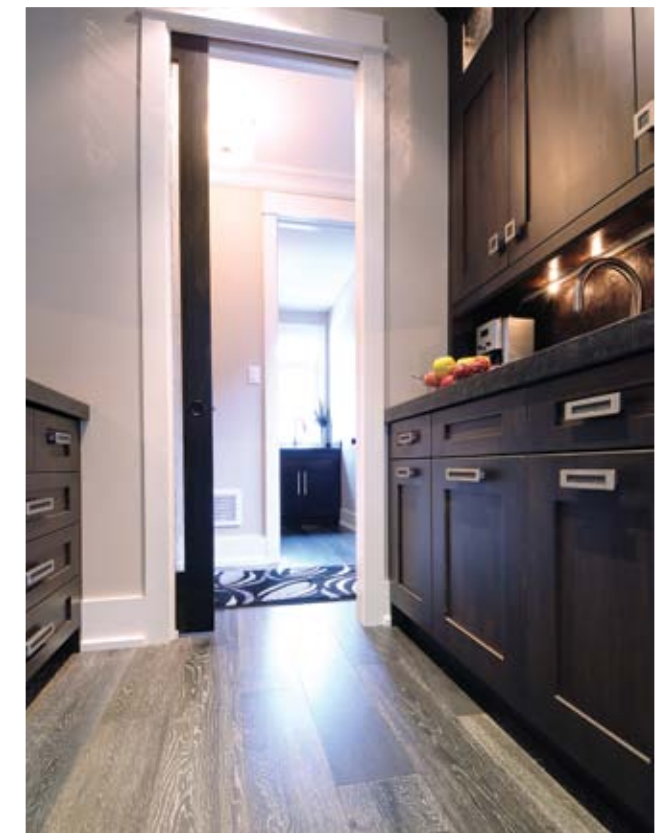


Philippe Lamadeleine of **Custom CADD** helped create the floor plan and pulled together all the ideas Mike and Denise had collected over the years. "Phil was also an inspiration to our son, who wants to be an architect," Denise says. The floor plan includes unique details, like the curved window in the dining room, two double-sided fireplaces and the soaring ceilings and windows.

Astro Kitchens supplied the cabinetry in the fabulous kitchen, laundry room, butler's pantry and in all bathrooms. "Robin and Cassie were fantastic to work with and the end products are beautiful and Dave did the actual installation," Denise says gratefully. All appliances, including the Jenn-Air products in the kitchen, were purchased at **TA Appliance**.

Delux Surfaces provided all the countertop and backsplashes and the homeowners say the selection offered by Ivan Zhelvakov was far beyond what they'd expected. They chose a matrix leather finish on their granite and backsplash in the kitchen and butler's pantry. A smoother finish on the same granite in the basement wet bar shows many variations in the stone. Numerous furniture pieces came from **Aboda Decor**.

Many light fixtures, including the Murry Feiss chandeliers in the kitchen, were supplied by **Glass Lighting Gallery and Home Finishings**. "Ray and Kyla's customer service is excellent," says Denise. "We had started the process of selecting lights with a supplier we have in the U.S. and we were so excited when Glass Lighting opened their doors here. They are a local business that had products available of the same calibre we desired." *Continued on page 61*



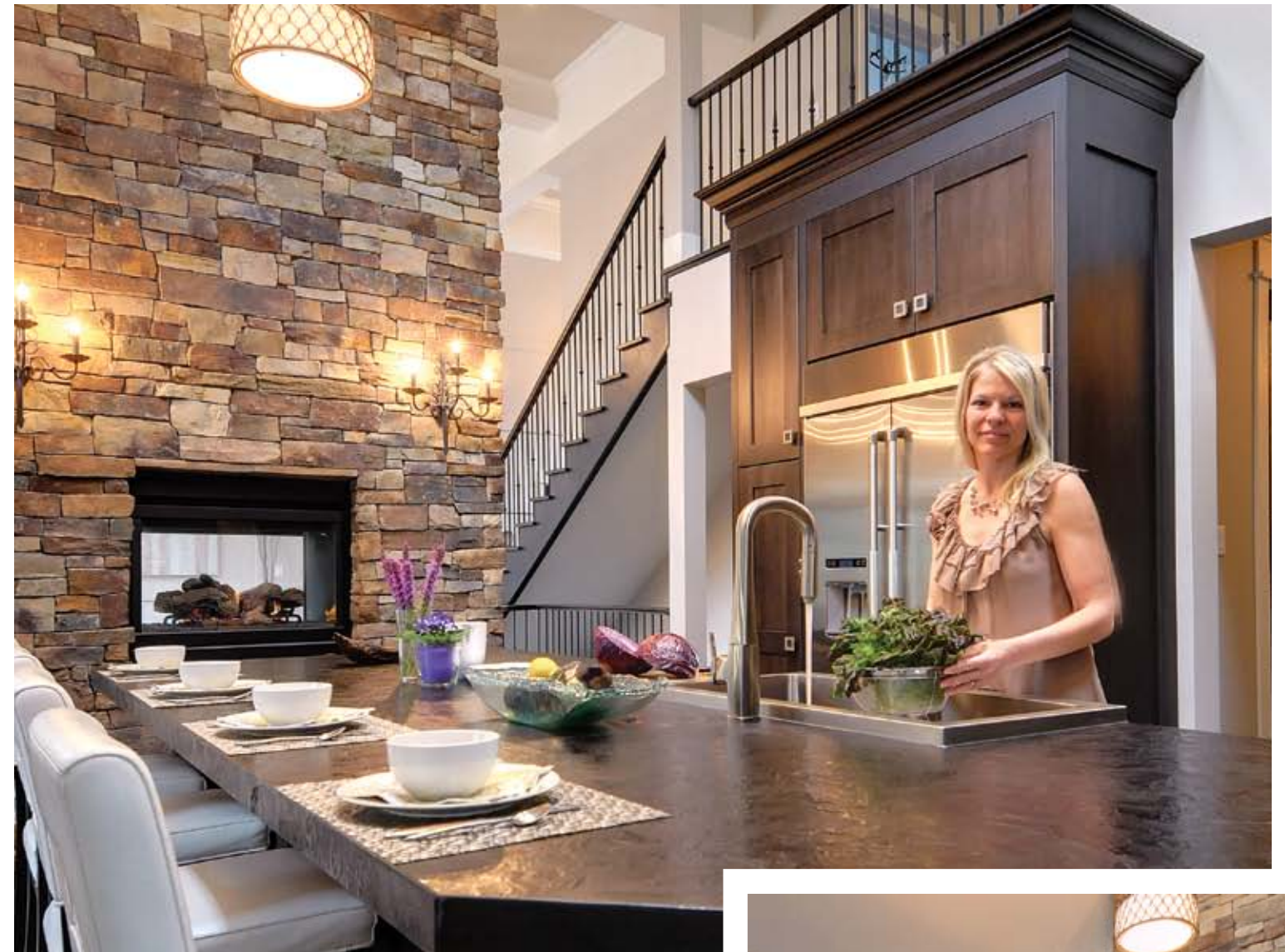
home & builder

TOP LEFT: This sitting room is located off the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** A soaring coffered ceiling complements the architectural detail on the living room wall. **BOTTOM:** A stacked stone, double-sided fireplace adds a spark to both the kitchen and living room. **OPPOSITE:** Denise selected neutral finishes, paint colours and furniture, adding colour seasonally with accessories.





Oak floors add to the calm feeling throughout the home. The spacious kitchen includes a large granite-topped island with a luxe matrix leather finish. **OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT:** Denise loves her spacious, well-organized kitchen. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The deep, double stainless-steel apron sink was the right choice for form, function and easy clean-up in the large kitchen.



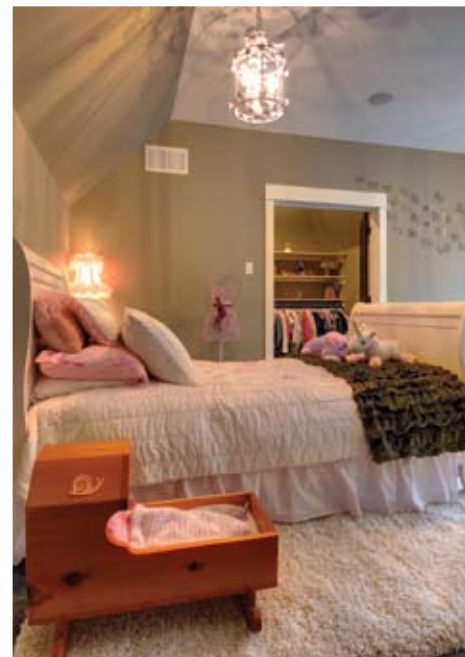
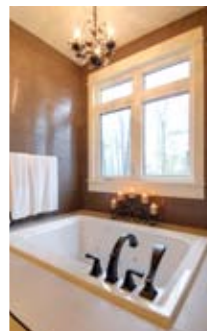
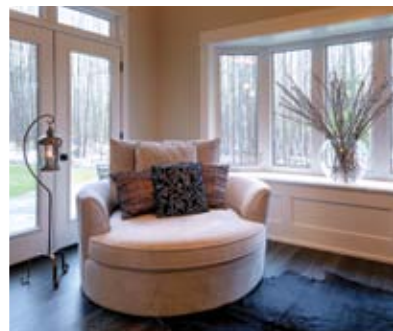
The couple chose Benjamin Moore colours and love the idea of neutrals with grey undertones, accessorizing their home seasonally with colour instead of using it on the walls. Denise says, “We tried to keep the colours neutral, we find it very calming. With the high ceilings in the home I still wanted it to be cosy and comfortable. I find with life being so busy and crazy it’s nice to be able to come home and just have the feel that we have. It’s serene.” All paint was purchased at [Labar Sales & Distribution](#)

Their busy family includes two children, a nine-year-old son and a seven-year-old daughter. “We do family things like biking and walking, camping on the beach – we love being outdoors,” says Denise. The children are involved in sports and music. One of the rooms in the finished basement is currently being used to house instruments like an electric guitar. The whole family is active – another basement room is used for yoga until the gym equipment is set up. The basement also includes a future theatre room, wet bar in a large entertainment room with a double-sided fireplace, a spare bedroom and a large craft room for Denise and the kids. Carpeting in the basement was provided by [Orillia’s Floor Fashion Centre](#). The main floor oak was supplied by [North Country Hardwood Flooring Direct](#). *Continued on page 62*





ABOVE AND RIGHT: A piano window in the master bedroom is a nice touch. The suite also has a sitting area with a gas fireplace and access to the backyard through double doors. The large en suite has a jet tub, a long custom vanity with two sinks and a custom closet. **TOP RIGHT:** Denise and Mike's daughter's room is pink and perfect. **FAR RIGHT:** Their son is a huge Star Wars fan.



This home showcases Denise's talent as a decorator. Denise specializes in design consultations for clients at their homes through her business **Pure Decadence Interiors**. She has also designed several pieces of furniture for her own house in tandem with craftsman **Paul Grenier** of Minesing. She says, "It is amazing seeing something I have designed become a reality, especially when the pieces are made to this calibre."

A typical busy family day might end with Denise and the kids snuggled up with a library book in the master bedroom's sitting area on a comfy, oversized chair. "Carol (Grenier) is absolutely an asset to the **Springwater Library, Minesing Branch** and our community," Denise says. She is a wonderful person and very dedicated to supporting literacy

and creativity." The couple is glad they settled near Minesing because of the strong sense of community and the beautiful forested acre-sized lots. "The atmosphere is great. You have everything available here; community life, all the amenities of a big city nearby without having to live in a big city, it's beautiful and the people are fantastic," Denise says. "It's just a way of life that we wanted to have."

Whether entertaining friends and other families at a backyard summer barbecue or just enjoying a quiet indoor evening, the homeowners are glad they chose Dendor Fine Homes to make their dream home a reality. Says Denise, "Dendor's quality of workmanship and their trades definitely meet the high expectations people have when they're building a home." **OH**

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