









pproaching Jodi and Sal Napolitano's welcoming retreat on the western shore of Lake Simcoe, Ontario, you would be forgiven for thinking it had been there for many generations. But, in fact, this traditional white-andgrey painted Cape Cod-style home was built only two years ago.

The Napolitanos had been looking for a bolthole as an antidote to their busy lives in Toronto when they came across a brick bungalow on a well-presented plot just an hour's drive north of their home. Equally suited to long summer escapes as to winter skiing at nearby Mount St Louis Moonstone, the location was ideal, but the building was less appealing. 'We had already self-built our existing home,

so we weren't too fazed by the idea of knocking down and starting again,' says Jodi, a corporate procurement specialist and mother to Maria, 8, and Jack, 6.

Together with architect and interior designer Lidia van Zyl, Jodi and her husband, Sal, who owns a print and packaging business, cooked up a design for a cottage-style home with traditional elements such as tongue-and-groove finishes, exposed beams, a front porch, a generous raised stone deck at the rear and a floor-to-ceiling fireplace. But first, they were keen to make sure nothing from the orginal building went to waste. 'We donated most of the fittings, including the windows, doors, kitchen, fireplace and appliances, to Habitat for Humanity, a charitable organisation,' says









Jodi. 'Then we built a new home where the views of the lake were the main focus.'

The result is a property with a generous but welcoming family space at its centre, comprising sitting room, kitchen and dining area. Huge apex glass windows maximise the view and a tonal white palette prevails throughout for a restful feel. 'We chose ship lap walls to add architectural interest, a blonde wood floor for warmth and black accents for contrast,' explains Jodi. 'Even though the interiors appear to feature the same tone, we opted for several different shades of white for subtle variation.'

While the living space and master suite are housed on the ground floor, the basement accommodates a guest suite and playroom, and the rest of the bedrooms

and bathrooms are on the first floor. Practicality is key. With young children and a Samoyed dog called Sammy, furniture has to withstand wear and tear. 'We opted for outdoor sofa fabrics by Restoration Hardware because they're washable,' says Jodi, 'and we chose the wood floors for easy maintenance, too.'

Life at this bolthole is all about relaxing. 'We love to walk the dog, go to the beach, water-ski, ride our bikes, build outdoor fires and toast marshmallows,' reflects Jodi. But the best thing about the Napolitanos' home is its appreciation of the lakeside setting. 'I love that we can stand at the front door and see straight through to the water at the rear,' she says. 'This really is our dream escape and we plan to enjoy it for many years to come.'

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