

FALL 2021

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BARRIE ORILLIA MIDLAND INNISFIL

Sophisticated FOREST RETREAT

FAMILY HIDEAWAY IN SNOW VALLEY

FALL **BLOOMS**

ROOT-VEGGIE
SALAD

WONDERFUL
WICKER

at home with
CHARLIE
OF KOOL MORNINGS

ALL *together* NOW

STORY **KAREN BRIGGS**

PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly dished out plenty of challenges, but there have been some hidden opportunities as well.

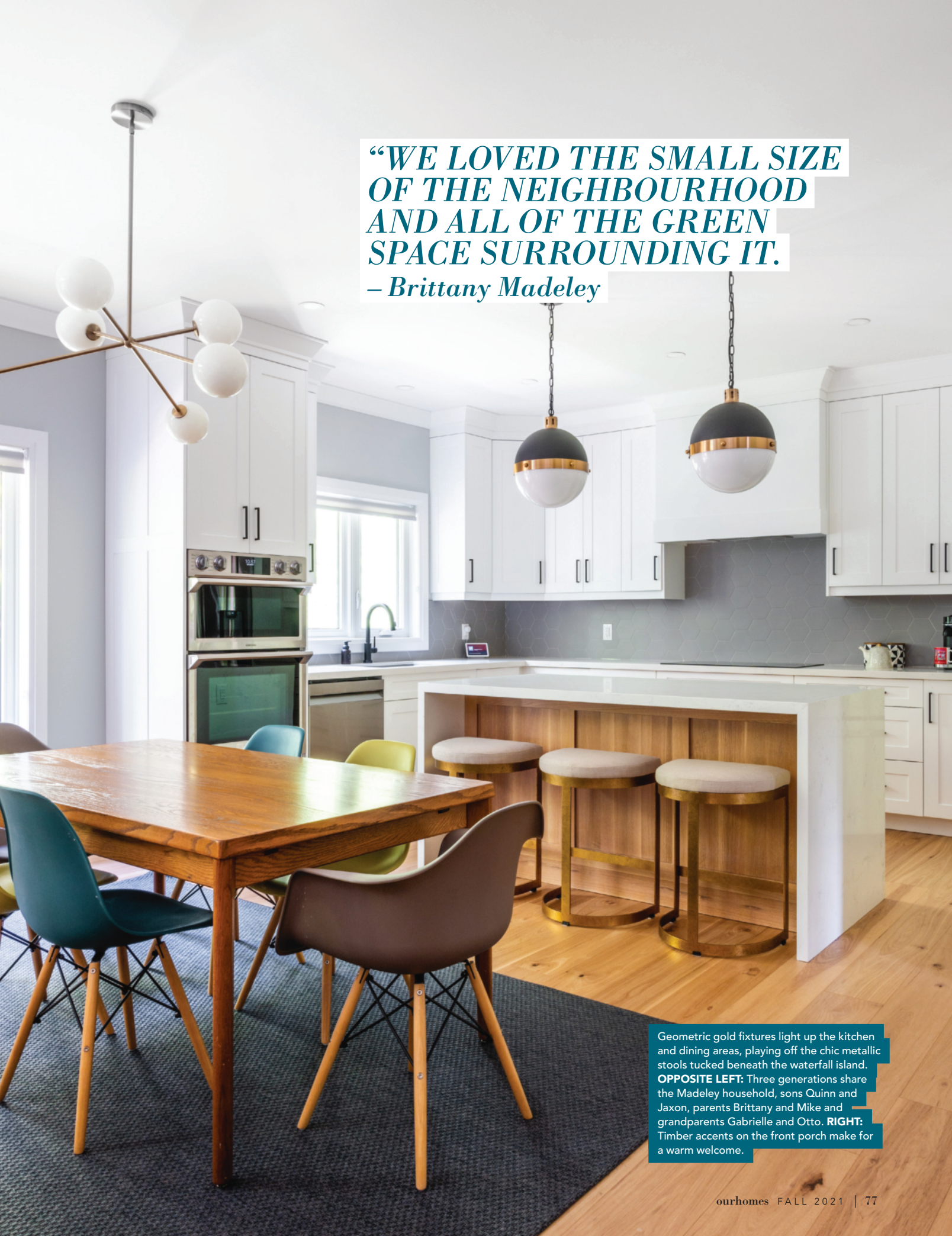
Barrie residents Mike and Brittany Madeley and their two young sons, Quinn and Jaxon, weren't really looking to relocate. However, during the worst of the pandemic, they got into the habit of taking country drives. On one such drive, they stumbled across a neighbourhood in Snow Valley, close to the family-friendly Snow Valley Ski Resort, and were instantly charmed.

"We loved the small size of the neighbourhood and all of the green space surrounding it. We researched the builder, **Oaklea Homes**, and were excited by the possibilities of doing our own custom build," says Brittany, who works as a student advisor at Georgian College.

Ryan Gradziel and **Tyler Brown**, partners at Oaklea Homes, offer semi-custom build options. After selecting one of several floor plans, clients can customize the layout and design, as well as the selected finishes,

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– Brittany Madeley**

Geometric gold fixtures light up the kitchen and dining areas, playing off the chic metallic stools tucked beneath the waterfall island. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Three generations share the Madeley household, sons Quinn and Jaxon, parents Brittany and Mike and grandparents Gabrielle and Otto. **RIGHT:** Timber accents on the front porch make for a warm welcome.

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Wood accents and a large number of windows help create a bright living space perfect for a young family. **ABOVE:** Floral wallpaper and a pink vanity finish a fun powder room. **OPPOSITE FAR LEFT:** Ryan Gradziel of Oaklea Homes.



based on an overall budget. This approach avoids escalating costs while allowing lots of freedom of choice. Brittany, who spearheaded the design decisions in consultation with her husband, took full advantage.

The home was designed by **Justin Nauta** of **Nauta Homes**. The biggest customization for the build was a two-bedroom finished basement to accommodate Brittany's parents, Gabrielle and Otto Koopmans. "My parents have been such a help, and we really wanted the boys to have the opportunity to grow up with their grandparents present in their daily lives," Brittany says.

The pandemic, of course, provided the greatest challenge of all. "We knew it was going to be tough, building within COVID restrictions and completing the project on time," says Ryan. "A lot of the trades we work with were short-staffed, and there were shortages of materials as well."

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home & builder

We had to make sure we ordered them well ahead of time so we could be reasonably sure we'd have everything on hand at the right times. And the build itself was fairly complex because of the basement."

Key suppliers included **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.**, which also handled interior door, hardware, stairs and railings, as well as floor and tile from **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home**. **Logan Canzius** from **Canpro Plumbing** and **Jesse Wiley** from **Maple Electric**, were important members of the build team.

The Madeleys "were dream clients" according to Ryan. "They were so precise about what they wanted. Everything went through Brittany, and because of that, it was so smooth. We didn't always know exactly how her choices were all going to work because they were coming from so many different vendors, but her vision was clear and it all came together beautifully."



LEFT: Four-year-old Quinn's room is filled with motifs of one of his favourite things – trucks. **TOP:** Graphic tile makes the laundry room pop. **BELOW:** An office is tucked away in a quiet corner of the house, filled with objects collected abroad.

The primary bedroom leads to the back deck and features a spa-like en suite, complete with a custom double vanity by Camty Cabinets and a deep soaker tub.



“Considering all the challenges with COVID, it went really smoothly,” Brittany confirms. “Ryan and Tyler kept warning us there would be delays, but they worked their magic and in the end we were finished just a month past the estimate. We moved in on April 22. There are just a few finishing touches left to do.” One such finishing touch was the landscaping, including stonework by **Ray Elkins** at **R Legacy Landscapes**.

Brittany says she just went with her instincts to furnish and decorate their new home. “I like modern, contemporary design and the open-concept floor plan of the house was great for that. I’m not afraid to use a pop of colour, though.” A bright pink powder room, accented with oversize floral wallpaper on one wall is just one of her bold design choices. “It’s a fun space to break up the black, white, grey and gold elsewhere,” she says.

The Madeleys chose some luxe kitchen upgrades for Mike, who does most of the cooking, and installed some eye-catching geometric lighting fixtures. The kitchen cabinetry, as well as laundry and vanities, were completed by **Jeff Mills** of **Camty Cabinets**.

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Most of the furnishings came from their previous home, although the family did invest in new bedroom furniture. “Fortunately, most of what we had works well in this space,” Brittany says. “There are a few special pieces, like the teak sideboard from my Oma that has gone from house to house with us.”

From the Madeleys’ perspective, one of the home’s greatest assets is its surroundings. “My boys absolutely love being outside,” Brittany says. “The house has a mudroom with a separate entrance, which was in the original plans – it’s a smart design for anyone with muddy kids and dogs. All of the ski wear can go there this winter, as well.” The nearby forest and trails are the real attraction for the family.

“We were super lucky and didn’t have to compromise too much on anything, despite the pandemic. It all came together even better than I’d envisioned. My parents are thrilled with their space, and I think we are all ready to settle here for a long time to come.” **OH**

The basement includes a bright kitchen and dining room, as well as a bedroom with en suite, for Brittany’s parents. Pops of gold throughout complement a colour scheme of greys and whites.

