

rustic REVIVAL

With its cedar shake soffits, rough-hewn beams and chunky stone fireplace, this waterfront home was the perfect place to rediscover the charms of rustic. At least that's what happened to homeowners Vicki and Scott Mahler.

"We were looking for something on the water," Vicki remembers, "but this style of home was quite different from the more modern, contemporary house we were living in." Nevertheless, the views, the natural materials and the home's rustic warmth and charm drew the couple in. "We kind of fell in love with it," they admit. "We knew we needed to make a few changes, but we were up for the challenge so we bought the property four years ago and hired **Jodi Mason** from **Urban Home** to help us make it our own." *Continued on page 41*

PHOTOGRAPHY **MAX WEDGE**
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STYLING **URBAN HOME WINDSOR**



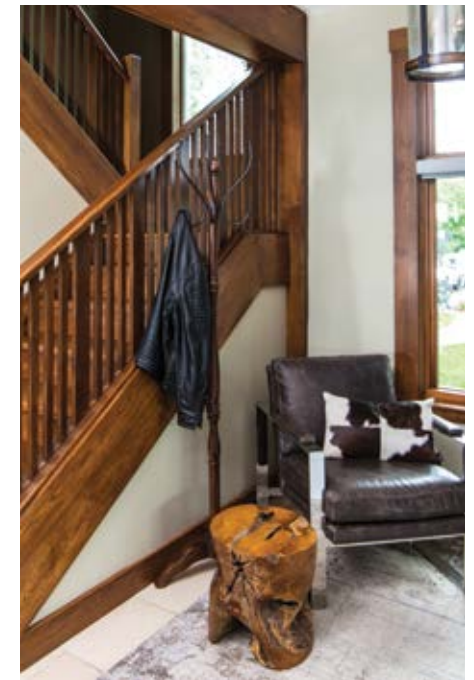
Two driftwood sculptures add another organic touch to the home. They look like flames and perfectly complement the fireplace.



Jodi Mason of Urban Home chose a hardwearing sisal area rug for the family room. "It's good for a busy family on the water," she says. **OPPOSITE:** The warmth of the brick and stone along with the lakefront location attracted the homeowners to this rustic beauty.



TOP LEFT: The freestanding island from Urban Home enhances the kitchen design. **TOP RIGHT:** The travertine marble on the foyer floor adds another organic layer. **BELOW:** Philip Chouinard and Jodi Mason from Urban Home.



Jodi jumped right into the project. Her first order of business was to redo the kitchen and family room. The home has a magnificent view of Lake St. Clair and the most lived-in part of the house needed to be as spectacular as its setting.

"Working with Jodi," says Vicki, "was fantastic. We felt our old furniture wasn't doing the house justice and we wanted décor that would bring out the woodwork, the beams and to make it feel homier. The kitchen and living room didn't fit together the way we wanted them to. We love to entertain and wanted to bring some cohesion to the two areas."

To accomplish the homeowner's goals, Jodi furnished the family room with an oversize, extra-deep, down-filled, vintage leather sofa to accommodate their large, bustling family (the couple has four children, ranging in age from 19 to 10 and a dog named Rio). Another of Jodi's clever design choices is a set of multipurpose chairs. They are part of the family room but they also swivel to face the kitchen when the homeowners are entertaining.

The oversize beech wood coffee table has a contemporary chrome base. Its block style not only anchors the room, it also provides a nice large area for displaying family treasures and for food and drinks when entertaining. In a cosy corner beside the fireplace, a leather lounge chair with ottoman and a tripod marine lamp is the ideal spot for reading. The fireplace and mantel were Scott's personal projects. He tore out the old drywall himself, built the tower for the new fireplace (which was clad in a classic limestone from [Marquis Tile & Fireplaces](#)),

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The abstract art is the sitting room's dramatic focal point. The brushed pewter frame, the copper base of the side lamps and the soft gold of the tables represent one of fall's biggest trends: mixing metals.



the bulkheads and added the pot lights. "I found the mantel in an old storage place in Harrow where we store our boat," he says. "It's a hand-chopped beam from a barn dating back to the late 1800s." It's a perfect fit in this arts-and-crafts-inspired home and adds a touch of historical interest to a home built in the last decade.

Floor-to-ceiling windows offer up fabulous water views and a sliding door opens onto the rustic stone-covered patio where the massive fireplace keeps the family warm when lake breezes start to blow. The cedar-plank, propeller ceiling fan and mini kitchen ensures this sensational outdoor living space gets used three seasons of the year.

In the kitchen, Jodi redid the countertops, choosing a black granite with caramel quartz veining (**Dimanti Stoneworks**). One side of the counter is a smooth edge while she opted for a raw, chiseled edge on the bar side. Jodi cleverly chose a free-standing, unfitted island from Urban Home to increase functionality. Its industrial look complements the home's rustic feel and its built-in wine rack provides the ideal solution for displaying the homeowner's wine collection.

The charcoal grey backsplash was an unexpected selection according to Jodi. "Because we wanted a rugged casual look with an old brick feel, the grey colour jumped out at us. It turned out to be perfect with their cabinets."

The rustic kitchen table (**Essex Home Furnishings**) was carefully thought out because the extra-high bar height allows the family to enjoy their view while dining.

Just off the foyer, Jodi created an elegant yet rustic sitting room. Vicki jokingly calls it the "red room" because their original furniture was red. "That's where we go to sit after dinner," Scott says. "We can turn down the lights and have a more peaceful conversation."

Jodi reinvented the "red room" to tie in with the home's new look. Using mirror-image sofas in ivory leather with tufted backs and arms, she gave the space a boutique-hotel-meets-hunting-lodge ambience. The entire room mirrors itself. There are doubles of everything. Like the sofas, the antlers on the wall repeat themselves. The amazing coffee table is a true statement piece. It is a one-of-a-kind teak root table in a

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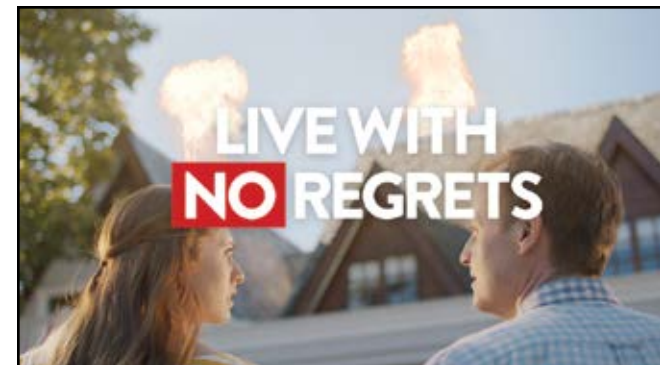
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The outdoor patio is one of the home's most used spaces three seasons of the year.



The guest suite above the garage makes visiting this welcoming, rustic retreat a real attraction.

warm caramel tone that picks up the soft greys and caramel in the cowhide area rug. "Organic and animal elements are very on-trend for fall," Jodi says and she has made liberal use of their rustic appeal throughout the home.

Case in point is the foyer, which is also furnished with organic and natural elements. There is a side table that is another one-of-a-kind teak root. A beefy, chocolate vintage leather chair with rugged chrome arms and a cowhide toss cushion completes the look.

The exterior of the home with its cedar shakes and stone elements is exceptionally charming. There is also a guest suite above the garage – perfect for when family and friends come for the weekend.

"We've loved making this house our home," they say. "We rediscovered the charm of rustic and we couldn't be happier." **OH**

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