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A ROOM WITH A VIEW

WHAT A **MILLION DOLLARS** WILL BUY

INNOVATIVE BEFORE & AFTER REDESIGNS

HOMES TO REMEMBER: CLASSIC, DECO & CONTEMPORARY

HIGH STYLE **MUST-HAVES**



The living room is a perfect spot for family gatherings: warm, open and conversational. The eight-foot extension now serves as a dining area. Left: Donna Scott and Hugh Farrell. This extraordinary couple are truly at home in their home.

COTTAGE LIVING AT ITS BEST

A Niagara-on-the-Lake couple has blended past and present to add tradition and warmth in their grand family home

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WHEN DONNA SCOTT AND HUGH FARRELL bought the property at 486 Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake 15 years ago, they intended to tear down the cottage that stood on the land. "It was deplorable, and very distressed," notes Scott, "... complete with a plastic moose head and all." Whether it was Scott's 'flare' for a challenge or the couple's foresight in blending the past and the present, they opted to preserve the 1871 bungalow.

Today, it's a world-class waterfront property on 1.5 acres of land boasting 5,000 square feet of renovated living space. As you enter the home, you're immediately treated to an open-concept living room, dining room and kitchen combination, with walls that follow the natural roofline. "Having the kitchen open to the great room was a design struggle at first," says Scott, the founder and former publisher of Flare Magazine. "Now, I absolutely adore it. The house just seems to flow, and it is perfect for parties."

The foyer opens into a beautifully renovated main level showcasing hardwood floors that flow throughout. An angular wall in the kitchen depicts the exterior of the original cottage. Completely gutted from that apex, the house was pushed forward eight feet to extend both living space and expansive windows across the front of the home. Traditional in style, this design is open and friendly, inviting and warm, and mixes the old with the new to tell a story. »



CLASSIC



Above top left: The guest bedroom is the only room with original floors and ceiling. It is both spacious and tastefully appointed. Above right: Luxurious is the only term for this bathroom: the perfect spot for pampering. Middle left: The furniture placement, colour palette and textures all work together for this sitting area in the living room. Middle right: This grand dining room boasts the perfect space for entertaining with french doors that open to the magnificent property. Bottom: Tucked away in a quiet corner of the home is this striking bedroom with its sweeping waterfront view.

From preparing intimate breakfasts for two, to hosting dinner parties for 200, the time-honoured kitchen offers everything for unmatched functionality and exquisite beauty. The dark wood makes the cabinets look more like furniture, as they blend into the landscape of the overall house. The long centre island serves as the kitchen's hub. "We were very pleased with Ken Martens of Brooklite Homes in St. Catharines," Scott adds. "It was his wonderful idea to push the house out – and during the eight months of renovations, he sent us printouts daily to be able to monitor the progress."

The original knotty pine walls and ceilings carry through the home, which has been seamlessly matched in the renovated areas. Substantial beams and intimate track lighting follow throughout. The flow continues past the great room to an open sunroom and a covered lanai, where the couple spends a great deal of their time. Both front and rear gardens of this magnificent property have been sympathetically landscaped to blend in with the character of the building.

Down the hall and quaint by comparison is the guest bedroom. It's also the only room with the original floors and ceiling. It's artistic and stylish and achieves a true sense of intimacy. Each room's décor is classic and warm. This helps make the space look even larger with an uninterrupted, harmonious flow throughout the living area, while allowing varied use of oversized furniture in both the living and dining rooms.

The large adjacent dining room runs 40 feet long and 10 feet wide, and is open to the great room and kitchen via an arched pass-through. "Hidden in the walls, is an old fireplace," Scott adds. "We chose to keep it, but not use it as it cast too much heat in the room itself."

The private corner master bedroom suite includes his and her walk-in closets, a garden tub and glass shower in the master bath. There's a sitting area overlooking the front garden with a spectacular view of Lake Ontario. On a clear day, they can see forever [Toronto]!

"One of the things we love about this home is its privacy and the light which filters in from all four sides of the house," says Scott. In 2005, they received a special commendation from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a "Heritage Certificate for Sensitive Renovations."

In a setting of extraordinary natural beauty, this select couple enjoys an exquisite lifestyle. But they have managed to keep it warm and inviting by blending past and present in this grand family home. NMI