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Coming up the brick driveway of Elaine and Wilf Lang's home, the first thing you notice is the front entrance; large double doors framed by two pillars and a half-circle window above. The house is set back further from the road than other homes in the area. The garage is turned sideways so the doors face the driveway. This configuration was no accident - Elaine Lang wanted to ensure the front entrance, and not the garage, would be the focal point from the road.

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Retire IN STYLE

THE LANGS BUILD A HOME FOR THEIR GOLDEN YEARS

BY ANDREA STENBERG // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

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The back garden can be seen from the kitchen, the great room and the master bedroom. A patio leads out of each of these rooms to a large pond, complete with fish and a waterfall.

This is the second home the Langs have built, both in the same Walkerton neighbourhood. When the stairs in their previous home started to become too much, they decided to build a dream retirement home that could accommodate them for many years to come. Elaine worked in a nursing home and noticed many residents could have remained in their homes longer if the houses could have accommodated a walker or wheelchair. Elaine kept this in mind when designing her home, keeping everything on one level and allowing for wider than usual hallways.

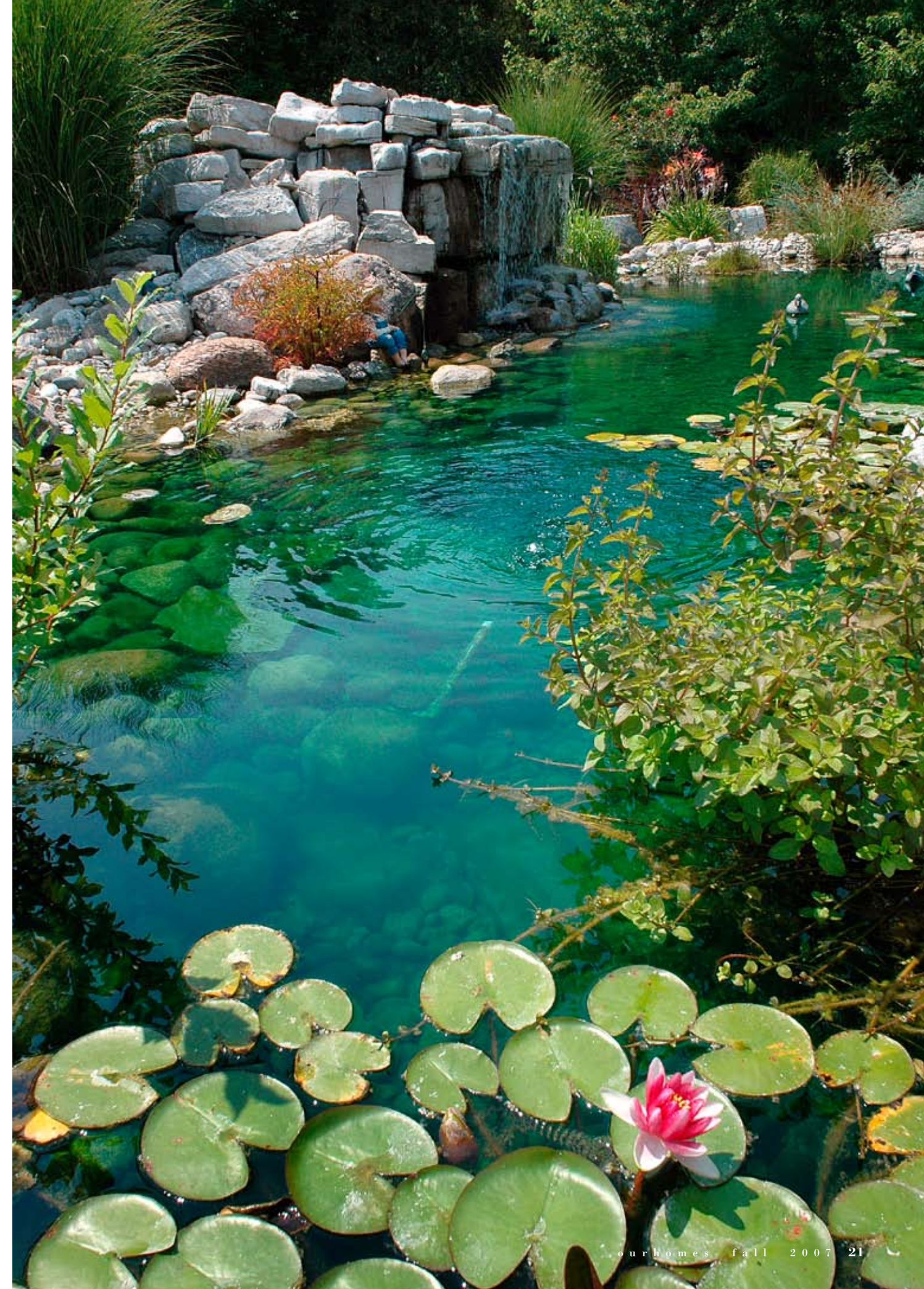
When designing their home, the Langs bought books and magazines and toured model homes in Newmarket and Kitchener to get ideas. "When we saw something we liked, we took a picture," says Elaine. They took all their favourite ideas and started on the design. Elaine created a drawing of what she wanted the house to look like while

Wilf decided on things like the furnace and the radiant heat in the floor.

Once satisfied with their plans, they took them to Lewis Zettel of **Zettel Fischer Contracting** to draw up the blueprints. Zettel worked with the Langs and suggested improvements to their plans. The curved entryway was Zettel's idea. In construction of their previous home Wilf acted as the general contractor. This time they let Zettel take on that job.

The back garden can be seen from the kitchen, the great room and the master bedroom. A patio leads out of each of these rooms to a large pond, complete with fish and a waterfall. The Lang's have many fond memories of their grandchildren playing happily in the pond. The gardens, designed by Wilf, spread out from the pond, with flower beds and a vegetable garden out back. Behind the yard is a forest with a creek that leads to the Saugeen River. The backyard is

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so private you'd never know they were part of a subdivision. It's perfect for a couple who love hiking through the woods, or skiing to the railroad tracks in the winter.

With cabinets by **Hanover Kitchens**, Elaine designed the kitchen to be functional and beautiful. It is both, and the large room is the household's busiest. People often congregate, leaning on the counters to talk, or Elaine will sit in the chair to read while looking out on the gardens.

The ceilings are a unique feature of the home. Each room has a slightly different pattern in the plaster. The effect is subtle but adds a bit of charm and character to each room.

The décor and furnishings throughout were chosen by Elaine with some help from local businesses. Patti Robertson of **Classic Interiors** in Wingham helped Elaine choose the colour scheme throughout. "Patti suggested darker colours in the bedrooms," Elaine says. The choices are beautiful. Deeper colours complement the woodwork and the bright windows.

When choosing furnishings, Elaine was able to reuse some of their existing furniture. In the master bedroom she just changed the bedding and the furniture fit right in. With other rooms, Elaine got help from Cindy Rowbotham of **Smitty's Furniture** in Hanover. Cindy came to the house and helped Elaine with her selections.

The dining room is off the foyer and the great room and is framed by tall, white pillars, giving the area some added privacy but a relaxing view of the back garden. The ceiling in the dining room is slightly more elaborate than the other rooms with the addition of some mouldings, by **Sassy Drywall and Decorating**, to the custom plaster. The dining table, from Smitty's, is the centerpiece of the room and was built to spec. "We chose the base, the edging, the colour," explains Elaine. The table seats eight, but has two additional leaves hidden underneath so it can spread out to accommodate the entire family.

This past year the Lang's added a retractable awning over the great room window. "It's the best thing we ever did," Elaine says happily. The awning protects the great room from the summer sun and allows for the back patio's continued use even when it's raining. The awning looks like it was built with the house and when retracted is almost invisible.

The Lang home is a beautiful home that was meant to be lived in. "If we had to do it over again, we wouldn't change much," she says. And when it comes to building your dream home, you can't do much better than that. **OH**



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TIMBR MART

BENJ ART
LANDSCAPING

CRATE
DESIGNS

TILE TIME