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LEFT The bar area's weathered cabinet sets it apart from the rest of the kitchen. The built-in wine rack and beverage fridge are convenient features.

Glass **CLOCHE**, faux **POTTED PLANTS**, Elte; white **GLASSES**, IKEA.

BELOW "Everything in the living room was based on comfort first, and then style," says Natalie. "The family enjoys reading, watching movies and having singalongs together, so I made sure there was plenty of seating."

BOTTOM LEFT Handcrafted from reclaimed northern Ontario wood, the base of the dining room table channels its Georgian Bay setting. Natalie chose woven chairs for the sides of the table because "the tropical material exudes a beachy feel." Sphere-shaped pendant lights provide intriguing pattern and a soft counterpoint to the dining area's straight lines and angles.

DINING TABLE, Kimberley Jackson; woven DINING CHAIRS, Pier 1 Imports; slipcovered DINING CHAIRS, Restoration Hardware; SIDEBOARD, Phil'z 20th Century Design; RUG, ARTWORK, HUR-RICANES, Elte; PENDANT LIGHTS, EQ3; TABLE LAMPS, Crate and Barrel.





RIGHT, BOTTOM The bear tiles from the old cottage were integrated into the new upstairs bath for a sentimental touch.

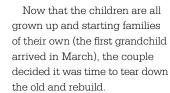
FAR RIGHT Designed for

RUGS, Target; SCONCES, Visual IONS, Tonic Living; whale TOSS CUSHION, Thomaspaul; striped

BOTTOM RIGHT In one of the bedrooms, a beautifully

HEADBOARD, NIGHTSTAND, RUG, West Elm; BEDDING, TOSS CUSHIONS, Feather Factory; LIGHT FIXTURE, Sescolite; TABLE LAMPS,

Chong of Nest Design Studio.



They enlisted architectural designer Michael Kelly to expand the footprint (it's now 4,400 square feet) and contractor Pat Clark to finish the space with natural materials, including aged hemlock for the floors.

With the ideal structure in place, the focus turned to the interior. "I needed help decorating," says the homeowner, "so when the owners of a bedding store I've frequented for more than 20 years highly recommended a designer, I didn't hesitate." That designer, Natalie Chong of Nest Design Studio, expanded upon the cottage's existing airy white-on-white aesthetic.

"When I first met my clients, the wife showed me her inspirational tears from decor magazines," says Natalie. "I went through all of them and said to her, 'You don't want a Muskoka cottage, you want a beach house.' She agreed entirely."

To achieve the look, Natalie judiciously chose furnishings that would complement the main floor's paint colour (Benjamin Moore's Cloud White) and create a welcoming feel. "When using white, it's important to fend off any starkness by incorporating warm shades, soft textures and accents that aren't too rigid," she says, referencing the cottage's tone-on-tone furniture and rounded shapes on display.

Of the pale look she brought to the space, Natalie says, "It's like a seaside escape and totally different from the cottage they previously had." The couple couldn't agree more, although there's one thing they didn't outgrow. "My fatherin-law painstakingly chiselled the bear tiles from the old place so they could be installed in the new upstairs bathroom," says the homeowner. "I like that continuity."

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



future grandkids and fondly known as "the bunk bed room," the cottage's fifth bedroom features two twin-over-double bunk beds so it can accommodate six comfortably. Inventively positioned sconces provide lighting to each bunk.

Comfort & Co.; floral TOSS CUSH-BLANKET, Feather Factory.

dressed bed elevates humble wood-panelled walls. "With a cottage, it's important to mix in refined pieces," says Natalie.

PADDLE, HomeSense **BELOW** Designer Natalie