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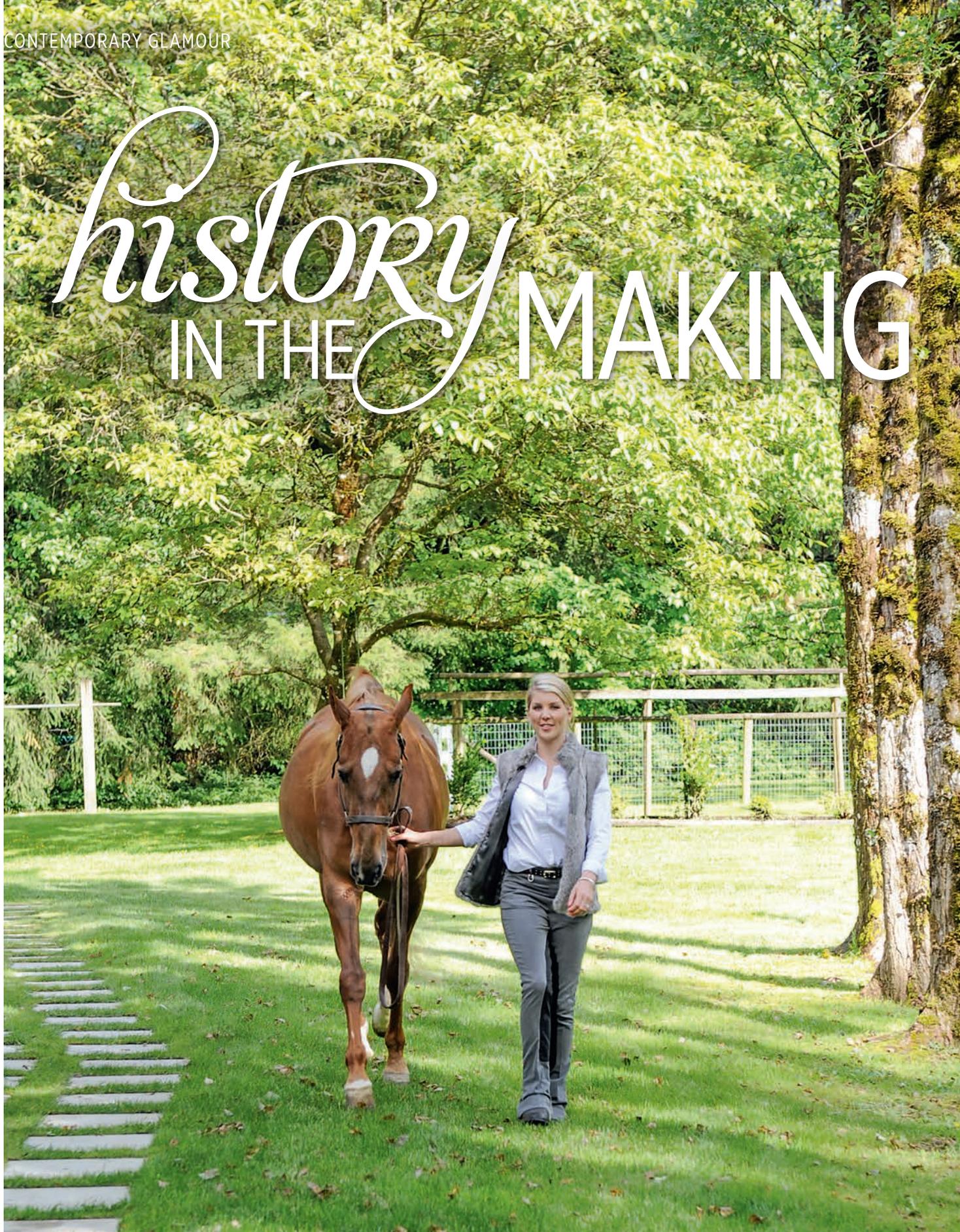


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How a stylish couple and a talented designer created a simple yet sophisticated Hamptons-style retreat near Fort Langley, B.C., that honours its picturesque surroundings.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON

OPPOSITE Homeowner Rashell Gouwenberg with her American Saddlebred, Miss Impressive.

ABOVE & RIGHT A trip to Martha's Vineyard inspired the East Coast style of the shingled house. "The foyer was built to look like a little house to create a more dramatic entryway," says Rashell. A delicate crystal chandelier and Moroccan-style hand-carved wood bench suit the grand scale of the space.

DESIGN, Peridot Decorative Homewear, peridot.ca; **ARCHITECTURE**, 3G Architecture; **CONTRACTING, FLOORING** (throughout), Carerra Projects; Silver Satin OC-26 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **BENCH, CHANDELIER, TOSS CUSHIONS**, Peridot Decorative Homewear.

TOP RIGHT A chunky wood table and shimmery linen chairs create an inviting look in the dining area.

DISHWARE, VASE, hammam **HAND TOWELS**, crystal **CANDLESTICKS**, Peridot Decorative Homewear.



The open-concept family room, dining area and kitchen exemplify the comfortable, airy aesthetic of Rashell's East Coast-inspired house. "It's all about keeping the shell of your inspiration and then putting in those pieces that create a unique space," says designer Leah Balderson. For example, the dining area's sculptural chandelier and floor-to-ceiling fireplace surround made of iridescent glass mosaic tiles serve as show-stopping focal points.

Custom **SOFA**, **DINING TABLE**, custom **DINING CHAIRS**, Ghost-style **END CHAIRS**, **SIDEBOARD**, **BAR CART**, **FIREPLACE**

SURROUND WALL TILES, cowhide **RUG**, etched-wood **WALL PANEL**, *Peony Garden* **ARTWORK** by Kim Johnston, **CHANDELIER**, **TABLE LAMPS**, **TOSS CUSHIONS**, white resin **TRAY** (with candles), Peridot Decorative Homewear; gas **FIREPLACE**, Carerra Projects.

OPPOSITE, FAR RIGHT Rashell found a pair of Louis XV-style armchairs, originally a green colour, at an antiques store. She had them painted white and reupholstered in linen. They now flank the glass coffee table in the living room, which takes up little visual space.

COFFEE TABLE, Peridot Decorative Homewear; **RUG**, East India Carpets.





“This is a really special place,”

says homeowner Rashell Gouwenberg, as she lovingly describes the five-acre parcel of land where she and her husband had their Hamptons-style dream home built three years ago. The idyllic acreage on the outskirts of Fort Langley, B.C., neighbours a conservation area and boasts spectacular forest and mountain views.

After purchasing the private oasis, the couple embarked on constructing a five-bedroom 3,400-square-foot home that would complement the tranquility of its surroundings. The exterior’s classic East Coast vibe was inspired by a trip to Martha’s Vineyard. “It’s a traditional-looking home from the outside,” says Rashell. But the inside, with its more contemporary aesthetic, is a bit of a surprise. “I wanted it to feel very modern and fresh when you walked through the front door.”

To help her attain this look, Rashell enlisted Leah Balderson of Vancouver’s Peridot Decorative Homewear. (The pair worked so well together that Rashell made a career change and now co-owns the popular housewares store with Leah.)

The row of windows was the jumping-off point for the design of the bright, white kitchen. "I really wanted to have these big windows that overlooked the barn and the plains and the pond," says Rashell.

Custom **CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, BACK-SPLASH, SINK, FAUCET**, Carrera Projects; **DISH-WASHER, Asko**; **STOOLS, PENDANT LIGHTS**, Peridot Decorative Homewear.



Inspired by the 24-foot-high ceiling, large picture windows and open-concept main floor, Leah decided to enhance the house's airiness by injecting it with a dose of white-on-white luxury. "I find a soft palette very soothing and relaxing," she says.

Creating a modern yet inviting look in the distinctively white home involved mixing together champagne- and grey-toned elements, warm metals, organic and textural accents and standout statement pieces. The show-stopping light fixtures, for instance, lend drama, but "since they each have an organic quality to them, they also add a little bit of softness and uniqueness to the spaces," says Leah.

Taking less than a year to build, the house marked the next chapter for both the land and the couple. "There's a small cabin on the property where we lived for six months while the construction was underway," says Rashell. "That year, we also got married and went to South Africa for a month because I was on the Canadian Saddle Seat World Cup team. I said: 'If our marriage can survive this, we can survive anything!'" We can't predict what lies ahead, but we're confident these two will continue to complement each other as well as their new dream home complements them.



OPPOSITE, RIGHT The kitchen's Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz countertops, marble backsplash and striped stools create a timeless look that is juxtaposed with unexpected elements like the pierced-resin pendant lights, brass hardware and distressed mirror.

RANGE, WALL OVEN, Sub-Zero and Wolf; **MICROWAVE**, Panasonic; **MIRROR**, Peridot Decorative Homewear; **CABINETRY HARDWARE**, Lee Valley Tools.

ABOVE, LEFT When combined with clean-lined furnishings and a neutral palette, the 73-inch-high brushed-brass table lamp makes a dramatic statement in the master bedroom.

Candice Olson **WALLPAPER, BED FRAME, NIGHTSTAND, BEDDING, TABLE LAMP, TOSS CUSHION, THROW**, Peridot Decorative Homewear; **RUG**, East India Carpets.

ABOVE The stunning hand-painted mercury glass pendant light anchoring the bathtub in the master bathroom complements the natural surroundings.

BATHTUB, FAUCET, Carerra Projects; **MIRROR, PENDANT LIGHT**, Peridot Decorative Homewear.

LEFT The croc velvet cushions on the faux leather slipper chair in the master bedroom add a luxe touch.

DRESSER, custom **SLIPPER CHAIR**, Lily Pond **ARTWORK** by Kim Johnston, Peridot Decorative Homewear.

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