

# lofty ambitions



Built from scratch, this sleek open-concept space exemplifies stylish family-friendly design

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**B**efore building their current loft-style home, Victoria homeowners Rob and Janice Mickelberry already had a home they loved. The only problem was that with young children and almost no yard, they were running out of space.

Rob, who is a builder and developer with Prodigy Development Services, wanted to custom-build their next house, so he kept an eye open for a

The dining area features clean-lined upholstered chairs and, for a more personal touch, a table that homeowner Rob Mickelberry made himself from salvaged antique floor joists. The living room showcases a colourful painting by Calgary artist Fiona McKean, which adds a graphic element while complementing the brightly striped area rug.



*“Visitors are very curious about the house and rather impressed by the nontraditional layout”*



suitable vacant lot. When one appeared that boasted a park across the street and was within walking distance of the ocean, schools and shops, there was no hesitation: he snapped it up.

Rob teamed up with designer Rus Collins of Zebra Design & Interiors Group to create an expansive house with a modern, loft-style first floor that would offer a backyard view from virtually every window, and allow the children (baby Avery, Ella, 3, and Nicholas, 6) and guests to roam freely from inside the house to the outdoors.

Both Rob and Janice wanted the kitchen to be the heart of their home, so Rob built it on a raised ash platform

**South-facing windows flood the entire first floor with natural light. The living room's coffee table was made by Rob, and its light birch finish gives it a weightless look in the bright, open space. The kitchen sits in the centre of the main floor and blends seamlessly with the adjoining living and dining areas. Built-in storage keeps it looking streamlined.**



*“We love the outdoors, so all of the rooms look south, facing the backyard”*



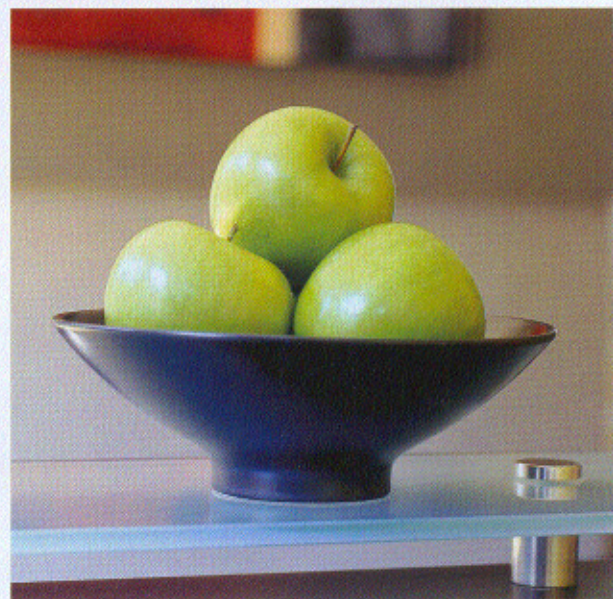
situated in the middle of the main floor. On one side of the kitchen is the dining area, which opens onto a large patio that's great for entertaining and serves as an outdoor room for much of the year. On the other side is the living room, which has a dividing wall separating it from the family room. The family room is doorless to maintain the home's open design. To reinforce the indoor/outdoor feel, all of the rooms face south, overlooking the landscaped backyard.

When it came to planning the

home's decor, Rob collaborated with designer Sandy Nygaard of Nygaard Interior Design. Sandy's input was crucial in selecting colours and in maintaining the balance between the home's

**The U-shape kitchen work area makes food prep and cooking more efficient.**

**The openness allows the owners to keep an eye on the children or chat with guests. Natural accents like a bowl of Granny Smith apples add a punch of colour to the neutral kitchen.**





traditional elements like maple cabinetry, and the not so traditional elements like commercial doors, concrete floors and concrete-coated walls.

"The house has been very well received by friends and family," says Rob, "It works well whether we're having a dinner party or entertaining a dozen kids." **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 166**

**The stainless-steel fridge is nestled into a built-in pantry that provides storage and divides the kitchen from the hallway. Beyond the living room is the family room.**

## where to find it

Vancouver, 604-678-9897; potterybarn.ca for more stores. **Sharp Electronics of Canada:** Mississauga, Ont., 905-890-2100 for retailers; sharp.ca for retailers. **Sony of Canada:** 888-289-7669 for retailers; sonystyle.ca.

### LOFTY AMBITIONS

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**Design:** Rob Mickelberry, Prodigy Development Services, Victoria, 250-384-0999, prodigydevelopments.com; Rus Collins, Zebra Design & Interiors Group, Victoria, 250-360-2144, zebra-group.ca. **Interior**

**design:** Rob Mickelberry (see above); Sandy Nygaard, Nygaard Interior Design, Victoria, 250-592-4320, nygaarddesign.ca. **Paint:** Revere Pewter HC-172 (walls), Rockport Gray HC-105 (trim), Overcoat R-9989 (door trim), Amazon Soil 2115-30 (pantry), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898 for retailers; benjaminmoore.ca. **Concrete floors:** RADA Resurfacing, Victoria, 250-391-9919; radaresurfacing.com. **DINING ROOM Table:** Rob Mickelberry (see above).

**Chairs:** The Bay, select stores only; thebay.com. **LIVING ROOM Sofa:** Designhouse, Victoria, 250-383-3569; Vancouver, 604-681-2800; designhouse.ca. **Artwork:** Fiona McKean, Calgary, 403-726-0277. **Coffee table:** Rob Mickelberry (see above). Tullsta leather **chairs:** IKEA, ikea.ca for stores. **KITCHEN Air King**



**range hood, Frigidaire fridge, microwave:** Coast Wholesale Appliances, Victoria, 250-475-0277; coastappliances.com. **KitchenAid range/oven:** Sears Furniture and Appliances Stores, across Canada; sears.ca. **Cabinetry, countertops, glass countertop shelf:** Successful Visions Group, Victoria, 250-384-5711. **Bitnik cabinetry handles:** IKEA (see above).

### HOLIDAY GLOW

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**ENTRANCE** Ladysmith birch **side table** with antique walnut stain: Liberty, 800-599-9289; Vancouver, 604-682-7499; libertyinside.com. **DINING ROOM** Ornate silver-band crystal