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GRAND BEND *Beach house*

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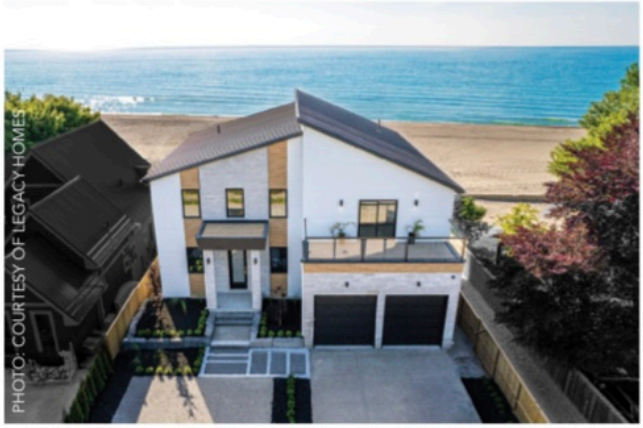
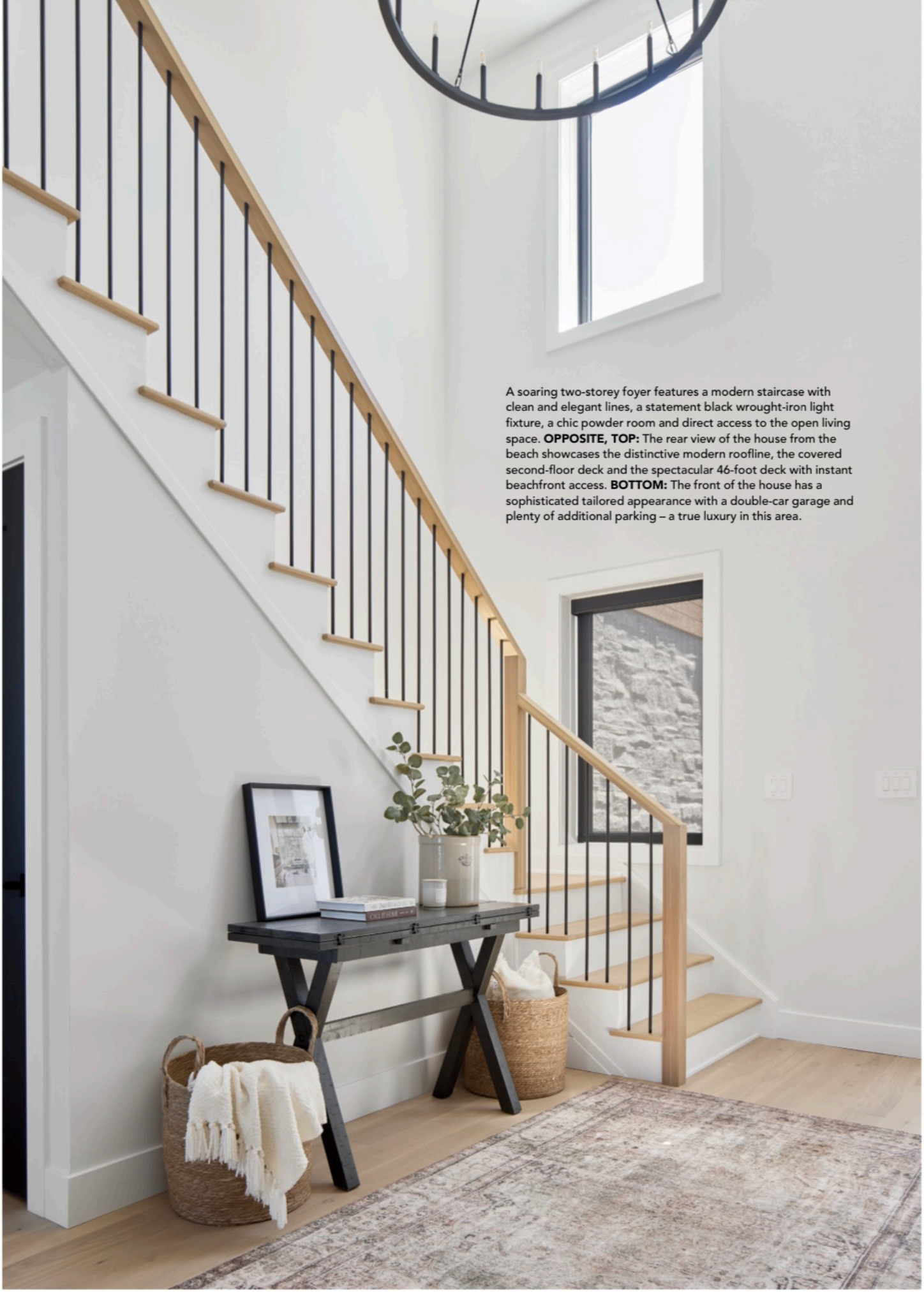


PHOTO: COURTESY OF LEGACY HOMES

THE SECOND YOU PULL INTO THE MANICURED DRIVE OF THIS CUSTOM GRAND BEND BEACH HOUSE, YOU KNOW YOU'VE ARRIVED SOMEPLACE SPECIAL.

The first clue is the exterior – a dramatic combination of horizontal ChamClad sun-bleached oak faux-wood slats, a textured creamy-coloured Arriscraft stone and rectangular white Hardie board panels. Two low-pitched rooflines add modern flair and durable black steel roofing (**Fehr Renovations Ltd.**) is both energy-efficient and stylish. *Continued on page 32*



A soaring two-storey foyer features a modern staircase with clean and elegant lines, a statement black wrought-iron light fixture, a chic powder room and direct access to the open living space. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The rear view of the house from the beach showcases the distinctive modern roofline, the covered second-floor deck and the spectacular 46-foot deck with instant beachfront access. **BOTTOM:** The front of the house has a sophisticated tailored appearance with a double-car garage and plenty of additional parking – a true luxury in this area.

Next comes the light-filled foyer with a 20-foot ceiling and a stunning staircase (**London Stair & Railing Co. Ltd.**), immediately followed by the jaw-dropping view – a vast expanse of water, sand and sky seen through a back wall of windows and sliding glass doors (**Dashwood Industries Inc.**).

This custom home, meticulously crafted by **Legacy Homes**, definitely puts the "grand" in Grand Bend. It's a family affair and each of the three principals have a clearly-defined role. Designer **Nicole Giakoumatos** oversees all design elements of each project and is the first point of contact for clients. Her brother **Mike Goncalves** serves as the on-site manager, deals with the trades, oversees quality control and keeps projects on track. Nicole's husband **Gerry Giakoumatos**, a detail-oriented CPA by trade, joined Legacy to manage the day-to-day business, but his role has evolved to now include land acquisitions, as well as assisting Mike with on-site management.

Nicole and Mike grew up in the business. Their father, Carlos Goncalves, owned Westhaven Homes, and routinely took his children to visit the company's building sites. Later, they spent their summers working with the company's construction crews and helped prep newly-built homes for sale. Their father encouraged and supported the launch of Legacy Homes and is proud of what his children and son-in-law have achieved. *Continued on page 35*

BOTTOM LEFT: The inviting kitchen is serene with an understated elegance. The custom white range hood is visually extended with open shelving. A tall arched doorway provides entry to the spacious pantry. **LEFT:** The versatile kitchen workstation has a built-in cutting board and colander. **BELOW:** The built-in bar area is ideal for brewing morning coffee or mixing evening cocktails. Textured vertical black tile adds drama.

The comfortable living room has seating for a crowd and is equally inviting for an afternoon in front of the fire with a good book. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The dining room lets the views take centre stage and provides easy access to and from the deck. **BOTTOM:** There's effortless flow between the living, dining and kitchen areas. Carefully-curated textures in a neutral palette reflect the natural outdoor setting.

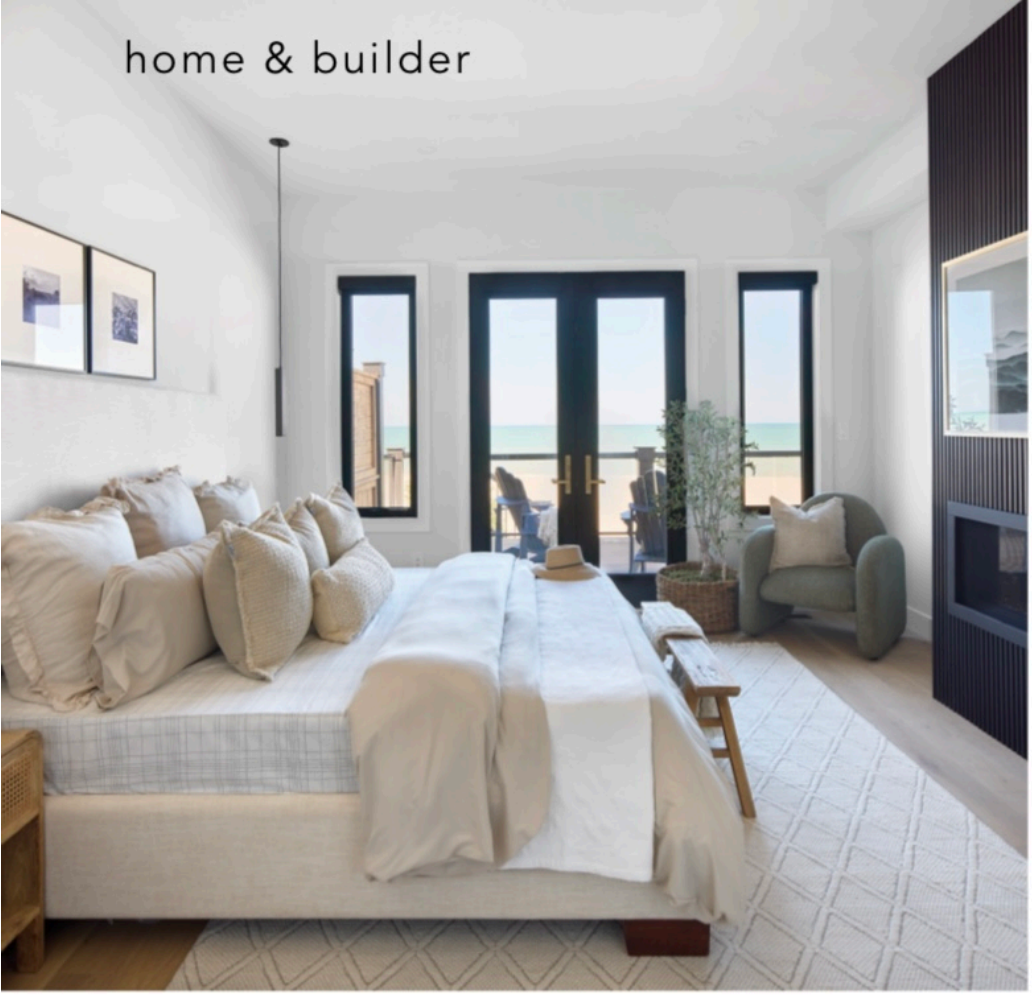
"WE WANTED TO CREATE A MODERN, ORGANIC FEEL FOR THE SPACE WITH A HOMEY VIBE."

~JILLIAN SUMMERS

This stunning home is Legacy's third project in Grand Bend and the most ambitious to date. Beachfront property is scarce, so in 2023, when an opportunity to purchase a small cottage on a 55-by-138-foot lot with unobstructed views of Lake Huron came up, the trio acted decisively. There are only 11 properties on Beach Lane, making this lot even more unique and desirable.

The open-concept main floor flows into a generous living room with a feature wall of custom white oak slats and a gas fireplace. The adjacent dining room has room for a crowd, as well as access to a deck that runs 46 feet along the back of the house. White oak flooring (**Moore Flooring + Design**) is installed throughout, visually connecting the interior spaces.

The kitchen by **London Kitchen Studio** has all the finery. It features bar seating on a large Silestone-topped island that faces a counter with a striking porcelain Italstone backsplash in Macchia Vecchia matte. High-end appliances from **London Major Appliances** include a Dacor 48-inch range and Dacor 42-inch column fridge and freezer. The kitchen also has a stylish House of Rohl chef workstation, with a stainless-steel sink, bamboo cutting board, colander, rolling drying rack and a basket strainer. The large walk-in pantry provides storage and additional prep space, as well as a beverage and pantry fridge. *Continued on page 36*



Furnishings are understated with clean lines. **Jillian Summers** of **Upstaging Limited** wanted to keep the focus squarely on the views, so she utilized a variety of neutral colours and textures such as wood, linen and cotton. "We wanted to create a modern, organic feel for the space with a homey vibe," says Jillian.

A handsome coffee bar off the kitchen is situated under a large arch, a visual theme echoed throughout the house. "Arches are having a moment," says Nicole. "They instantly add visual interest and architectural detail to a room."

The main-floor primary suite offers a spectacular refuge to relax and recharge. The sleek fireplace (**Continental Comfort Fireplace** installed by **Legend Air Mechanical**) provides a romantic focal point and the black wall grounds the space while adding drama.

The primary bathroom has 24-by-24-inch matte white porcelain floor tiles and 13-by-40-inch Ribbonwood matte ceramic tile in Camel on the shower and bathroom walls installed by Moore Flooring + Design. A stand-alone white acrylic tub, dual sinks with Riobel fixtures (**The Water Closet**), and two arched mirrors complete the space. A luxe custom walk-in closet, tucked off the bathroom, has a stackable washer and dryer and a convenient coffee bar/beverage centre. *Continued on page 38*

TOP LEFT: Anchored by a tone-on-tone rug in a subtle diamond lattice pattern, the primary bedroom is elevated further with sumptuous, layered linens in neutral tones, a grey bouclé chair, and a cosy linear fireplace, all tied together with stellar lakefront views. **TOP & BOTTOM RIGHT:** Sand tones dominate the primary bathroom and are integrated into tile work, flooring and the double maple vanity from London Kitchen Studio.

LEFT: The powder room may be small but it packs a style punch. **ABOVE & RIGHT:** The vaulted flex space has endless potential and serves as a second-floor hub. It is connected to the four upstairs bedrooms, second laundry room and two decks.

"You have everything you need all in one private area of your home," says Nicole. "Imagine waking up on a chilly fall morning, throwing on a robe, making a latte and stepping out on the balcony to enjoy the beauty of it all. To me, that is pure luxury."

There's a central loft flex space upstairs, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, two large decks and a second laundry room. All in all, this 3,720 sq. ft. modern beach house is the perfect place to make lasting memories with family and friends. **OH**