



Nature Refined

If you're drawn to rugged elements with minimalist, modern decor, this flawless lakeside townhome is for you.

By Lisa van de Geyn
Photography by Gillian Jackson



Organic. Modern.

Clean lines. Natural elements. Warm spaces. Neutral colours. Posh adornments. If you can conceptualize what a place would look like based on this description, you're envisioning the fabulous home of one of the partners of Friday Harbour, a year-round destination in Innisfil, Ont., built to house those who take relaxation seriously and "live every day like it's Friday." The gated high-end resort community on Lake Simcoe has a village-like feel: There's a marina, plenty of shops, restaurants and a boardwalk, as well as a golf course and man-made beach in the summer and ice-fishing in the winter.

With that seaside-living, yacht-club-chic style in mind, Hilda Mohseni, the principal and design director of the Toronto-based firm ONE X ONE DESIGN, and the designer of this exclusive townhouse, wanted ▶

From the centuries-old wood used for the ceiling and the Brazilian taj mahal stone that covers the wall next to the stairs to the view of Lake Simcoe out the window, natural elements are celebrated in this spectacular lakeside home.

LEFT: The showstopping upside-down tree chandelier that hangs from the mezzanine can be seen through the window by passersby.





ABOVE: Lighting plays a big role in this townhome — Mohseni lit up the floor next to the stairs with LED lighting for maximum impact.

to create a very casual yet opulent feel in the space. “The home is on the waterfront but I didn’t want it to feel cottagey. Instead, I wanted that west-coast vibe — a very natural-looking space — mixed with luxury,” she says. The fully automated smart townhome is 5,000 square feet and has a plethora of natural materials. “I connected the beauty of Lake Simcoe with the modernism of life at the resort. I wanted to stay true to the owner’s lifestyle.” To achieve this juxtaposition, Mohseni mixed elements and brought in the outdoors in a lush way. The ceiling on the second floor, for instance, is a head-turner — it’s made from 300-year-old reclaimed elm. And there are live-edge closets done in Canadian black walnut. Another centrepiece is the upside-down tree chandelier that hangs over the mezzanine. “It has such grandeur,” Mohseni says. “The owner wanted it to be seen from the street.”

When seated on the sectional in the living area, the wood-style gas fireplace catches the eye — the Brazilian taj mahal stone was polished for maximum sparkle. It’s the same material that makes up the rest of that wall; the tumbled taj mahal bricks are staggered vertically and kept in its raw, unpolished form to add texture and depth. What’s noteworthy about the floating staircase next to the wall are the lights. “There’s LED lighting in the floor next to the stairs that travels all three floors. I love to play with light — it’s an accessory and gives real dimension, shade and shadow to a space,” says Mohseni.

There are so many more marvellous examples of natural luxury throughout the home, like the extravagant console table on the second floor — it’s an Indonesian tree trunk that weighs 1,000 pounds. “I knew I wanted to use this piece even before we started construction. It’s 13 feet long and we had to reinforce the floor joints before it was carried up.” And, since this place is all about making a statement — and because Mohseni is a master of juxtaposition — there’s an ultra-modern nomadic vacuum elevator in the corner, for good measure. “The home is definitely warm and rich, and with such a great mix of elements, it fits perfectly in this resort village.”



There’s so much to love about the natural kitchen in this townhouse. The cabinetry is oak and blends perfectly with the thick wood planks on the floor. The opulence the designer brought into the space is the chandelier — it’s rich and sparkly.

