



## PERSONAL STYLE



Homeowner  
Sylvie Gosselin.

# GOING GREEN

Two city dwellers embrace country life and bring the outdoors into their modern lakehouse.

Text by **KRISTEN KOCH**

Photography by **ANGUS MCRITCHIE**

**S**ome design schemes grow out of a piece of furniture, a style or a colour palette. Sylvie Gosselin's lakehouse began with a grove of trees. Sylvie, who co-owns Montreal clothing shop Poème, and her husband, Robert, were eager to find a cottage where they could escape from the city and entertain friends and family. After a few visits to existing houses proved uninspiring, the couple called architect Eric Tremblay and designer Mario Januario, with whom they'd worked on the renovation of their Montreal condo. Tremblay led Sylvie and Robert to a lot on Gate Lake in Harrington, Que., where all three had, as Tremblay puts it, a "coup de coeur" over the lake views and the cluster of cedar trees that became the inspiration for the house.

Not only did Tremblay and Januario incorporate the trees — in stretches of wood panelling that

envelop both interior and exterior — they drew from the land itself when designing and furnishing the house. The slope of the roofline follows the property's gentle incline down to the water, and the rock underpinning the site found its way onto a stone terrace and stone-like polished-concrete floors. And, of course, they maximized the outdoor views. A wall of windows in the foyer gives a sight line straight through the house, so you can see the lake from the front door, and the living and dining rooms were set on the spot where Sylvie and Robert fell in love with the property.

The finished house has converted the devoted city dwellers. "We weren't sure at first if we would like the place — we're a very urban couple," says Sylvie. "But every time we can, we go! We kayak and canoe, take photographs, spend time on the dock and have barbecues and sit around the firepit. We love it."

**WHO:** Sylvie Gosselin and her husband, Robert  
**WHAT:** A 4,500-square-foot lakehouse  
**WHERE:** The Laurentians, Que.  
**STYLE:** Modern chalet



### AN OPEN PLAN

Though the staircase divides the living spaces, a glass banister and painted spruce slats keep sight lines open. "You can see the interplay of the spaces of the house," says architect Eric Tremblay. Mod lounge chairs are just as pretty viewed from the kitchen or living room, and leafy green gives a shot of outdoor colour.

**Staircase, banister,** Battig Design; **upholstery** (throughout), *Siècle en Siècle*; **white panelling,** Maibec; **chairs** by Thayer Coggin, *Ambienti Design*; **rug,** Crate & Barrel.

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*THE LIVING AND DINING ROOMS WERE SET ON THE SPOT WHERE SYLVIE AND ROBERT FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PROPERTY*

### < WRAPPED UP

Dark engineered-cedar panelling rises from the fireplace and stretches over the living room to create a snug, well-defined space for relaxing or taking in views of the cedar trees through the wall of windows opposite the sofa. **Panelling**, Prorez; **sofa**, Roche Bobois; **coffee table**, Maison Corbeil; **throw pillows**, Christian Lacroix; diptych **artwork**, Gate Lake by Eric Godin, Galerie Roccia.

### < SET IN STONE

The striking green and grey bamboo verde stone on the living room fireplace surround has the look of rippled water and reflects the greenery and rocks outside. A built-in cubby for logs under the hearth neatly solves a storage problem. **Stone**, ItalNord; **fireplace**, Stuv.

### > ROOM WITH A VIEW

Windows on three walls of the dining room give the feeling of an outdoor room without the bugs or rain. "In the Laurentians, there are lots of insects, so you can't really eat outside, especially in the early summer," explains Sylvie. She and Robert almost always have breakfast and dinner here, even when they're by themselves, but the farmhouse-style table and settee-inspired end chairs can also seat large groups without feeling crowded. **Table design**, Mario Januario and Eric Tremblay; **table fabrication**, Atelier Boistek; **green settees**, Mario Januario Design; **chairs**, Roche Bobois; **chandelier**, Lumigroup.

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### > IN PLAIN SIGHT

"With such a large house, the challenge for me was to make it as minimalist and integrated with the landscape as possible," says Tremblay. He scaled back the exterior to just three materials: the zinc-finished steel of the roof, which wraps around the façade, natural stone and the same engineered-wood panelling used indoors. Slate tiles in the covered entryway continue inside for a seamless transition. **Contracting**, Bois & Nature Construction; **panelling**, Prorez; **steel**, MAC Métal Architectural; **slate**, Italnord; **windows, doors**, Alumilex.



### STANDING TALL

The entrance is on the upper level, so guests descend an open staircase to reach the main living areas, following the slope of the land. Vertical panelling in the cube-like central hall echoes the lines of the trees, and an ethereal collection of tube lights plays up the space's height. **Sculpture**, Épilogue by André Desjardins, Galerie Roccia; **light fixtures** (throughout), Lumigroup.



**A WALL OF WINDOWS  
IN THE FOYER GIVES  
A SIGHT LINE STRAIGHT  
THROUGH THE HOUSE**



### ^ KEEP IT SIMPLE

The island's partial waterfall countertop in Costa Esmeralda granite repeats the L-shaped element on the living room ceiling and brings in a hint of colour. Swivelling stools by Arteriors that Januario found at Ambienti Design add a little industrial edge against the smooth stone and flat-front cabinets. **Countertops**, Italnord; **faucet**, Batimat; **cabinets**, Atelier Boisteck.



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✓ GATHER ROUND

The firepit on the terrace is a favourite spot for barbecues come summertime. Irregular slabs of stone inspired the more modern concrete floors in the dining room, kitchen and living room. “It’s alive!” says Sylvie of the concrete. “I love it — it’s heated, it’s comfortable and very good-looking.”

**Stone**, Centre de Pierres Mirabel; **concrete flooring**, Couvre Plancher Pierre Corbeil.



HIDE AWAY

Though the principal bedroom is connected to the outdoors by a wall of windows, it also feels secluded, thanks to a tall fabric-lined headboard that cocoons the bed. Low-slung minimalist daybeds and a glass railing on the private terrace (above) don’t interfere with the bedroom’s lake views.

**Sconces**, Au Courant; **pillow fabric**, Kravet; **headboard**, **bed base**, Mario Januario Design; **bed upholstery**, Siècle en Siècle; **rug**, Crate & Barrel; **wood flooring**, Lauzon.