

SPRING 2026

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

ourhomes

PARRY SOUND MUSKOKA HUNTSVILLE HALIBURTON

THE BARLOCHAN COTTAGE

FEATURED IN

*Heated
Rivalry*

whimsical design
ON LAKE OF BAYS

LAKE HOUSE
MAKEOVER

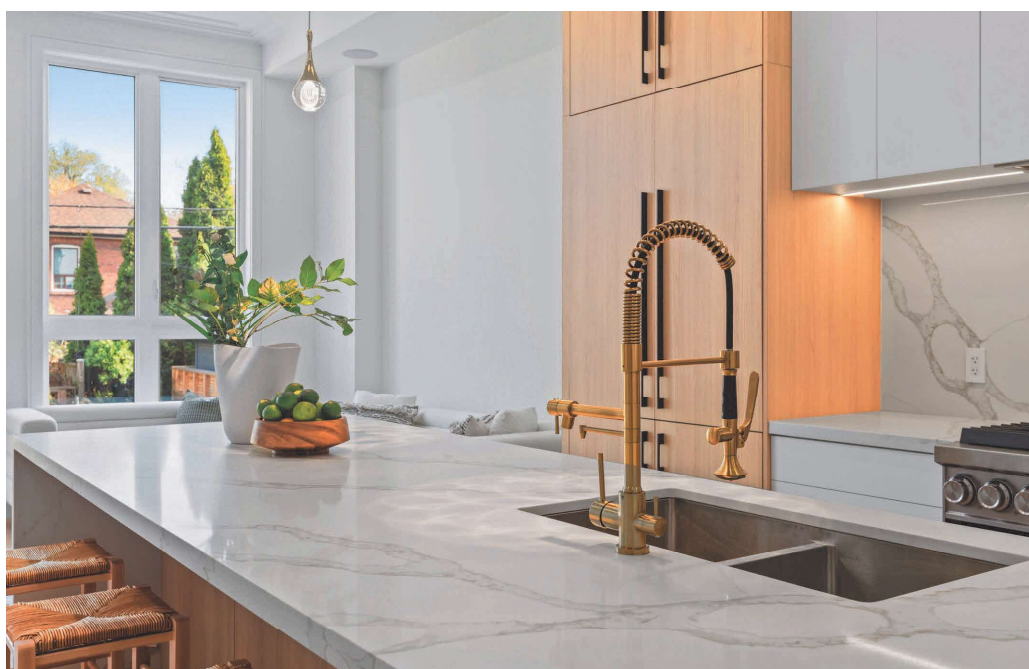
ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
STRUCTURAL
BEAUTY

SPRING
CLEANING

UPGRADE YOUR
GARDEN GEAR

design ideas

In kitchens, the conversation shifts slightly. Functionality is still paramount, but durability becomes the deciding factor. In this kitchen project, the goal was to create a luminous, clean-lined space that blends warmth with modernity. This crisp, white stone with elegant grey veining provides a surface that feels bright and timeless, but has personality. Paired with light-oak cabinetry and bold hardware, the stone serves as both a neutral foundation and a subtle statement piece.



One of the most common questions is whether to choose natural stone like marble or engineered materials such as quartz or porcelain. The answer depends on lifestyle and expectations. Marble is unmatched in elegance; its veining has a depth and softness that man-made surfaces can only approximate. But marble is porous and prone to etching from acidic ingredients like lemon juice or vinegar. For some, that patina is part of the charm. For others, it's a source of daily stress.

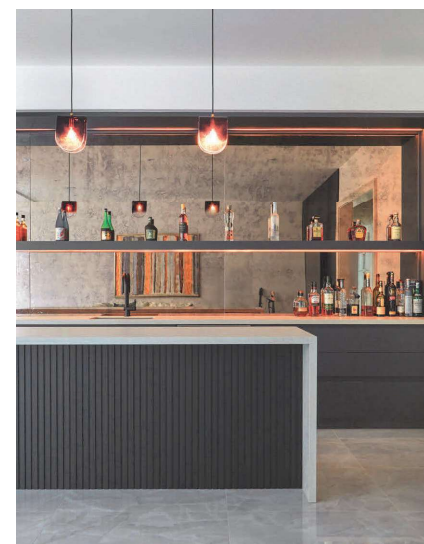
For those who want that refined look without compromising on durability, quartz and porcelain are good solutions, offering remarkable durability with far less maintenance. They are stain-resistant, don't require sealing, and hold up well under the pressure of daily use.

Stone selection also involves thoughtful coordination with surrounding materials. Wood tones, metal finishes and paint colours can dramatically affect the stone's appearance.

When choosing your stone, always consider its undertone. A white stone may lean blue, grey, cream or blush. Matching undertones across cabinetry, fixtures and tile creates that seamless, high-end feel.

Lighting also plays a critical role in the stone's appearance. For example, LED strips beneath upper cabinets illuminate a kitchen countertop beautifully, while in the bathroom, overhead lighting enhances the depth and movement of the shower stone, almost like a spotlight on art. Proper lighting doesn't change the stone, but it reveals its full beauty.

Ultimately, the perfect stone is the one that aligns with how you want to feel in your space. Whether serene, dramatic, modern or classic, there is a stone that can evoke that emotion. The role of a designer is to interpret those desires, refine the options, and ensure the final selection is both breathtaking and practical. **OH**



DESIGNER TIP: Hold samples up vertically in natural light. Stone reads very differently on a countertop than it does in a slab yard. Viewing it the way you'll see it once installed, especially as a backsplash, helps ensure you love it from every angle.

Olivia Bailey is the creative director and principal of Olivia Bailey Interiors, a Toronto-based design studio celebrated for its refined, contemporary aesthetic.