

# THE FUTURE OF FAMILY FUNCTION

STORY ANNE TAIT | STYLING SARA MARTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

On any given weekend, you might find eight adults, five children under the age of five, and three large dogs in residence. This is the new reality for Angela and Jim Greenway in their second home near the Orchard chair at the base of Blue Mountain. With some strategic planning, a drop zone for gear, mandatory family suites and a kid pit, they are ready for it.



Angela Greenway (second from the left), and her family, including five grandchildren, gather in the great room to chat and enjoy the wood-burning fireplace.

The idea for the move began five years ago. With three adult children, the Greenways wondered if a weekend property would appeal to their expanding family. It did, but they were soon “bulging at the seams” in a townhome at Blue Mountain, says Angela.

They had always wanted to build, and after checking out resale properties, found a likely candidate – a wooded lot within walking distance of the Orchard ski area and a quick zip to town. With such high usage anticipated, they brought in **Black Tusk Development Group Ltd.**, known in local circles for thoughtful planning, William (Bill) Brown, who started Black Tusk 30 years ago as a design firm at B.C.’s Whistler Mountain, is the architectural designer/builder for the projects and Barbara Patton-Brown, coming on board 10 years ago, handles interior design.

“We were looking for a firm with the ability to support us through every step of this build,” says Angela. “Bill and Barb got it right away. Asking about our day-to-day lifestyle and listening to our ideas, Bill presented a sketch that proved he could translate our vision into a beautiful home for our growing family. Eighty per cent of what he conceptualized is in this house today,” says Angela. “We knew he was the right fit for us.”

“There is always fear of the unknown with new builds,” says Bill, “so we wanted to ensure an exciting, positive experience. Angela and Jim jumped right in.”

Adds Barb, “Angela and Jim are very forward-thinking and immediately looked for direction. We developed a great working relationship and easily became friends.”

The project started in 2014 and within a year, they had stepped into a welcoming, functional gathering place for their multi-generational family, without sacrificing anyone’s independence. “Every design decision was based on how the space would be used and who was going to use it,” says Angela. “We honestly believe Bill and Barb designed and built our house with the same care as they would for themselves.” *Continued on page 96*

**TOP RIGHT:** Black Tusk’s William Brown and Barbara Patton-Brown warm up at the home’s front fire pit with homeowner Angela Greenway, accompanied by family dogs, brown Labrador Retriever Stella and Golden Retriever Lucy. **RIGHT:** The front entrance draws in visitors with its cedar shakes and white-trimmed windows and door. A large stone landing gives protection from the elements under a pine-board ceiling supported by large beams.





The home's exterior has a chalet feel, with hints of the carefully-thought-out interior. Inside, in the foyer, a bold standalone fireplace featuring cultured stone with inlaid slabs of black granite and a rift-sawn white-oak mantel with ebony stain, commands attention. "The fireplace serves as an anchor, and is almost an art piece," describes Barb.

The gear room is just off the foyer. This brilliant area directs family members entering through the garage to a drop zone, as Angela calls it, with personalized cubbies. "It's great for coming and going, and handles a large amount of storage for outdoor clothing and equipment," she adds. "It's easy to stay organized."

Family-centred suites were another must-have. Two adult daughters and an adult son, now all with young children, have their own bedrooms, each with an adjoining room separated by pocket doors. One suite is situated on the main level and two on the lower level. The ingenious pocket doors allow the parents to leave the doors open or closed to connect with their children. Later, infant and toddler beds can be replaced with bunk beds. Eventually, the pocket doors can be sealed off when grandchildren are ready for their own privacy. The well-considered lower level bedrooms share a central bathroom off the hallway, with a shower and sink behind one door, and a sink and toilet behind the other.

The great room, with its crisp, up-country chic, contemporary lines, sets the balance of function and style for the rest of the home. Barb and Angela collaborated on the continuity of finishes throughout. Two Benjamin Moore paint tones – Thunder for the walls and Cloud Nine for the ceilings and trim – offer a soft, calming, monochromatic palette. Hardwood flooring, heated tiles and wool carpeting flow seamlessly underfoot. Custom window coverings are by **Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters**. *Continued on page 98*

**TOP LEFT:** The stone fireplace anchors the home. From the great room, a black granite panel tops the fire and a black mantel runs around all four sides of the column. The hearth doubles as a bench seat and stores firewood underneath. **FAR LEFT:** From the front foyer, the column has a repeated black granite panel. Tile flooring laid in a decorative pattern complements the stone. **LEFT:** In the mudroom, a drop zone gives each family member a basket with their name on it to store mitts and hats, and offers plenty of room for boots and coats. The heated floors not only warm the space but help to dry wet gear.



Cousins play on a pair of toddler's beds on the kids' side of a family suite. **TOP LEFT:** Inside one of the family suites, the parents' side shows a pocket door ready to close for privacy. **TOP RIGHT:** A double vanity in the main level bathroom serves guests upstairs. **LEFT:** Angela's daughter and granddaughter get settled in another family suite with a crib.





Touches of red in a grey chef's kitchen catch the eye. Custom benches and a stool tucked around the end allow many people to sit around the large island. The kids enjoy chocolate milk and grilled cheese sandwiches. **LEFT:** Sight lines from the great room to the dining table and kitchen mean that conversations can be continued through the home.

The hub of the home is the open kitchen. Angela loves to cook and is happiest with family and friends close by. With no barriers to conversation, she can be a full-time participant in any activity. The shaker-style, flat-panel cabinetry is painted in Benjamin Moore Coachman's Cape and fitted with stainless steel ladder-rail hardware. Fairy White Quartz was used for the countertops, backsplash, and bathrooms.

Custom bench seating for the island and dining area works well for any age. Big family dinners are important to Angela, and bringing a piece of history with her, she treasures dining room chairs once selected by her father.

Dramatic light fixtures punctuate and add character. The large living room chandelier reflects off the black granite fireplace face in the main living area.

**Shelagh Fox's** stunning nature-inspired painting by the dining table has a story of its own. "I admired this piece for a long time," recalls Angela, "and the day the artist delivered it, a deer ran into our yard, stopped, and looked back. We both agreed it was meant to be!"

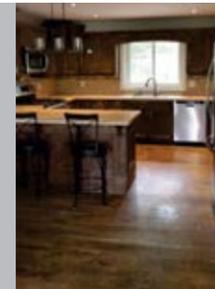
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The master bedroom is a tranquil space where Jim and Angela can relax. A built-in vanity offers a place to catch up on e-mail or prepare for the day.



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**LEFT:** The master en suite's double under-counter sinks keep the lines clean. Lighting with white drums, crystals and berries provides an organic touch throughout the master suite. **ABOVE:** Grey glass subway tile shines in the en suite shower. **RIGHT:** At the foot of the master bed is a reading nook beside large windows overlooking the birch trees in the backyard.



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**LEFT:** Tucked below the home's split-level entry is a spot with the perfect height for child's play. Sliding barn doors contain the toys when playtime is over.  
**BOTTOM LEFT:** The grandchildren love the Kid Pit, finished with black-and-white tiles and potlights.  
**BELOW:** The lower level family room offers a pool table, games area and sectional sofa to cosy up for movie night.



A spacious backyard allows dogs and kids to play, while adults enjoy the large patio, deck and hot tub. Two fire pits (front and back) are popular retreats to watch the sun set. Outdoor work was done by KDP Landscaping Inc.

This home has thoughtful spaces for everyone who steps through the doors. The lower level includes a surprise, as well as the bedroom suites and spacious entertainment area. The "Kid Pit" makes use of a low-ceilinged space, originally tagged for storage. With a teepee and toys galore, all three generations have something to love in the Greenway Getaway. **OH**



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