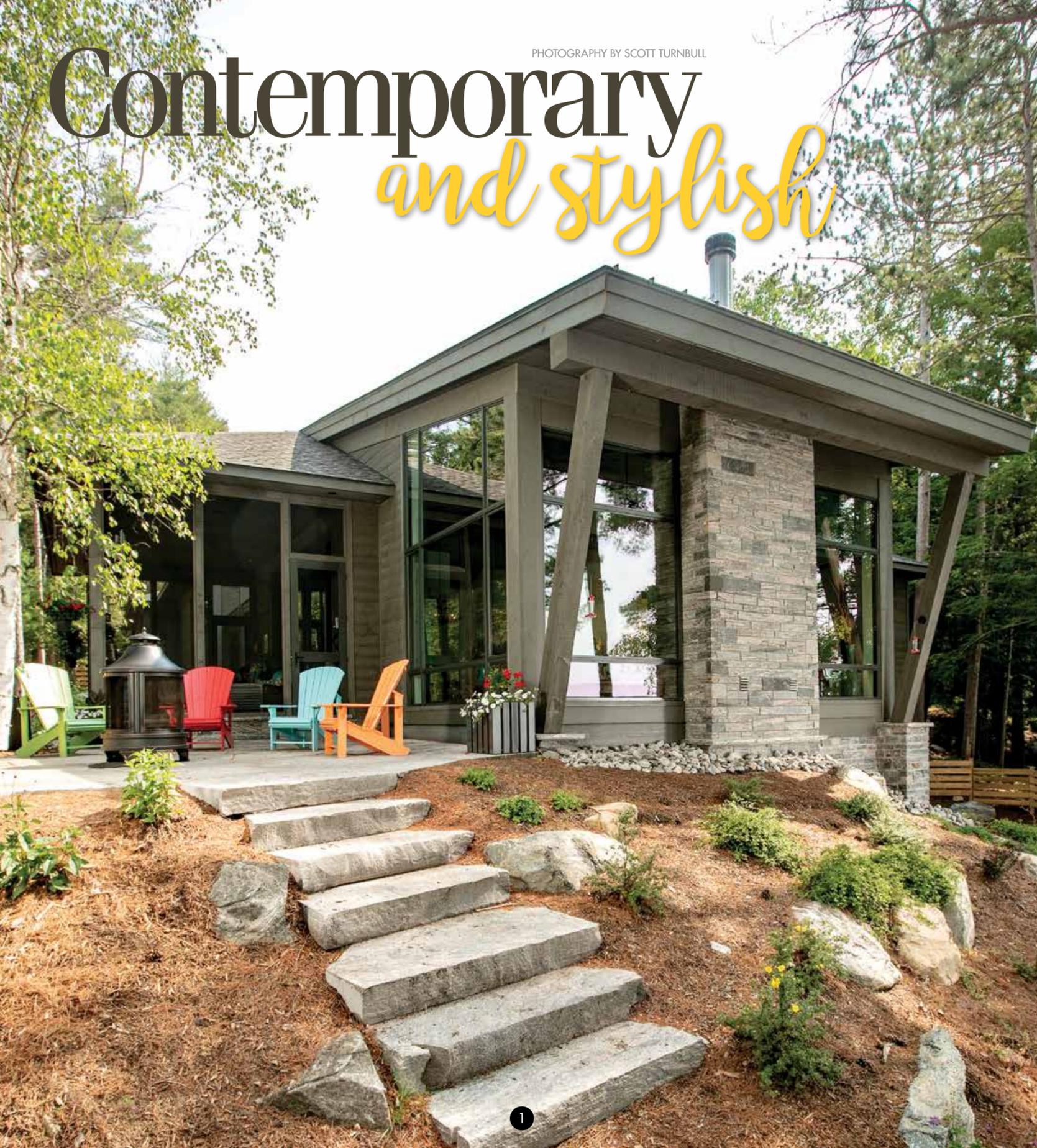


Contemporary and stylish

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT TURNBULL



Modern cottage design blends traditional materials like wood and stone with modern metals and composites. The style comes from industrial and commercial structures, but that doesn't mean the materials should. That's particularly the case with windows and doors.

Ken and Jo-Ann Patterson, owners of Lakeland Windows and Doors, say there's a much better option than using commercial windows in a residential setting.

"The clean lines and square profiles of commercial aluminum windows are extremely popular," says Ken. "But you can get a better look, with better performance – and at a lower cost – with Pella's Architect Series Contemporary line."

Pella is one of the largest window and door manufacturers in the world, so when they create something new, they pour development resources into it. The result, Ken says, is a line of windows that is unequalled.

Material matters

It starts with the choice of materials. Purely commercial windows are usually made of aluminum inside and out – the material is light, durable, shapes easily, and holds paint well.

"Aluminum is fantastic for the outside of the windows," says Ken. "But inside, there's nothing that beats wood."

Hardwood frames can be stained or painted in a wide range of standard colours – there are three different shades of white alone – or the wood can be custom-coloured. Shades of black or dark grey mimic the look of commercial

aluminum windows, but with an important difference. "There's a warmth, a depth that you get with the wood that you just can't create with metal," Ken says. "It's just perfectly suited to a residential application."

The warmth is more than figurative. All-aluminum windows are notorious for allowing winter's cold air to travel through the frame. Wood is a much less effective conductor of heat, so the wood-aluminum design helps make the windows much more energy efficient.

And in January, Pella became one of the first companies in the market to offer a limited lifetime warranty on wood-clad windows.

Aluminum on the exterior is available in 27 different standard colours to suit any design.

Thin and sleek

The frames and sashes of the windows are designed to be incredibly thin without compromising structural integrity. This is achieved partly thanks to the operating system that opens and closes the windows. "Pella uses the smallest operating system of any contemporary line on the market," says Ken. "They're just an inch-and-three-quarters thick – really sleek, really tiny. The operators almost vanish from view when not in use."

A similar level of care has been given to the operating systems on the Pella doors. "They use Spiere hardware on their doors, and Plazo hardware on the sliding doors," says Ken. "They have very straight, contemporary lines, and of course they function perfectly for years and years."

The doors can be designed to accommodate oversized



Jo-Ann Patterson, Co-Owner of Lakeland Windows and Doors

entrances, with sliding doors available for openings up to 20 feet wide and ten feet high.

While the Pella windows and doors come with a commercial price or delivery timeframe. "Commercial units can take around 20 weeks to be delivered," says Ken. "We can deliver the Pella units in four to five weeks. Their production capacity is absolutely incredible."

While Pella products are among the best on the market, their price is still roughly two-thirds the cost of commercial windows.

Specialty handling

Handling larger doors or windows requires special skills and equipment, says Ken. Which is why Lakeland has invested in specialty delivery equipment, suited to both the demands of Muskoka and the Pella products.

"We now have an oversized high truck to handle the larger units," he explains, adding that it is four-wheel drive to ensure it can handle the rigors of cottage construction sites.

Even the larger truck can't accommodate the tallest windows and doors, though. For those, Lakeland has custom-designed trailers, lightweight units that are designed to fit on to barges.

That may seem like a small detail, but it addresses a problem that many cottage owners aren't even aware of. "If you can't roll the trailer on, then the only option is to unload the units and lay them flat on the barge," Ken explains. "The trailer holds them upright and straight, the way they're supposed to be."

If any on-site assembly is required – joining compound

units together, for example – the Lakeland crew looks after it as part of their regular service.

Lakeland and Pella work together to offer a smooth, sleek system that pleases cottage owners, builders and designers alike.

"People who are building a contemporary cottage are always being presented with commercial solutions," Ken says. "Pella was the first one to come up with an alternative that is really designed to suit residential needs. It's just really sexy, cool-looking stuff." **DS**

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