

Taking in a lot of the Credit

A CUSTOM HOME ON THE CREDIT RIVER IN GLEN WILLIAMS, SHOWS THE MASTERY OF OMEGA BUILDING GROUP

By Matthew Strader

In December 2021, Caledon based Omega Building Group turned over a gorgeous modern farmhouse in Glen Williams.

The property is a stunning piece of land perched upon the Credit River.

“A blended stone exterior with both natural and man-made elements give it a particular look the client desired, as well as an artistic representation of the architect’s vision. The metal standing seam roof gives it a modern touch, and the cape cod shake and board & batten on the exterior lend to the farmhouse tradition.” said Tyler Dettbarn, owner and operator at Omega Building Group. “This house has a lot of the features our architect is well known for, such as floor to ceiling windows - allowing for great sightlines. The views of the Credit River are particularly noticeable. They really stand out.”

The architectural direction and style of the home was to be transitional. It is a two storey modern farmhouse with a large detached garage. And yet, so much more.

“We positioned the home in order to capture the dramatic river views, natural wildlife and view points over the vast property. This was extremely important to the home owners. Private bedroom balconies and a large wrap around main floor deck allow the natural views to be enjoyed from many vantage points.” said architect, Richard Kossak from New Age Designs.

Every custom home build is unique. This home in Glen Williams was particularly unique because of its position in relation to the Credit River, Dettbarn explained. A variety of flood plain controls had to be worked through. A common occurrence in the Caledon and Halton Hills areas is to have to engineer around flood plain controls with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority or the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority. So, while the overall quality of the build is simply stunning in itself, the homes most interesting aspect may be its foundation. »

«The sheer amount of engineering; and the expertise of it in this house is impressive in itself.» said Dettbarn.

Once the placement of the home was established and the views were captured, the architectural and engineering work moved forward. One key element in the design of the foundation was to ensure the anchoring of the home was well established. To achieve this, a super-sized footing system was engineered as the anchoring base for the home. A foundation wall system was also engineered as an integral part of the footing system.

“The foundation is a massive structure of concrete, and has custom engineered counter weights weighing the house down underground. This way if the flood plain rises, the house is properly weighed down and would never rise up and float away.” said Kossak.

The whole house is built to measure above energy star standards. While there are multiple components to achieving high energy efficiencies, the windows play a major role. The windows that were selected for this home were high efficiency triple pane allowing for energy conservation as well as noise cancelling in regards to exterior noise; traffic, and more. A custom high efficiency furnace was installed, as was a hot water on demand system – reducing the wasted water while waiting for the shower to warm up. The home was also successfully built with the highest air tightness ratio in mind.

“An airtight home is more energy efficient and therefore is less costly to heat and cool. It also means that the home will be more comfortable, healthier, safer and more durable.” said Dettbarn.

Omega Building Group is a family run business incorporated in 1991 by Joe Dettbarn. But the company has a longer history in the home building world. The grassroots of Omega really stemmed from a new and proprietary energy efficient wall panel system in the early 1980s. They shipped this product all through Ontario, Alberta,





Eastern USA and Japan. As they built and shipped countless wall systems, customers loved the quality and asked if they could do more - to build their homes from start to finish. Around 1995 Omega began to transform from being a manufacturer and installer into building custom homes for their clients.

By 2015, Tyler Dettbarn had spent 10 years in Alberta working for big builders, constructing 250 homes a year, multi-family, row housing and custom homes. He decided to return to Ontario and take over the family business.

Tyler reinvented the company and rebranded the business. And such was the evolution of Omega Building Group. It was then that they really started to focus on more custom home building as well as the project management side of business.

Omega now considers themselves a boutique builder. They focus on two to four projects at a time.

“We aren’t going after volume, we’re going after quality,” Dettbarn said. “Our team takes pride in the fact that we are able to build any residential style or construction specification. We also love doing historical restorations and preserving some of those elements. We get involved with projects where we are aligned with the customers overall direction and vision.”

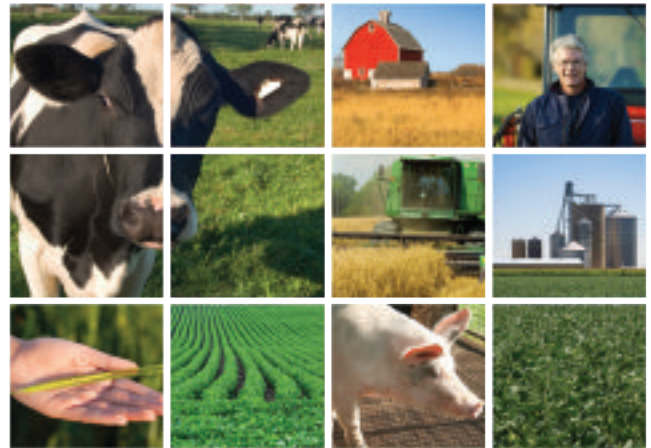
Dettbarn has assembled a team of project managers, site superintendents, field technicians, interior designers and selections coordinators and office admin staff as well as an array of trade partners that Omega works with on a regular basis.

“We have a direct professional and credited team as well as multiple preferred trade partners we team up with for our projects. We help our customers with architectural drawings, permits, budgets, project scheduling, interior and exterior selections with an interior designer. We take responsibility of the construction and site management, making sure the project is executed to our customer’s needs.”

Omega provides their clients superior service at every stage of the design build process.

“As an interior designer, I take pride in getting to know each of our clients. The design brief is a tool used to understand a clients’ requirements so every last detail can be efficiently managed,” said Omega’s Interior Designer, Colleen Broadhurst. »

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“It is gorgeous” ... “The placement of the house is very strategic. We made sure it was utilizing the lay of the land with the Credit River, so that the homeowner could capitalize on the stunning views.”

— TYLER DETTBARN

« “During the design brief for Glen Williams, key objectives and stylistic preferences were established for this project. The clients wanted a comfortable, relaxed style while incorporating modern touches. The interior was to be warm and inviting, simplistic in styling and strategic in incorporating timeless details. We established that with reclaimed wood, shiplap details and neutral colours were preferred which led to creating a modern farmhouse interior.”

Millwork and architectural details are another way to help establish a specific design style. The ceilings were identified as key areas to bring in some architectural details typical of a modern farmhouse while adding a sense of drama to the interior. Shiplap was added to the ceilings in the kitchen, dining room and bedrooms while a simplistic coffered ceiling enhanced the family room.

One of the design principals of a farmhouse interior is to use salvaged or organic materials. The clients had some very old beams from a family barn that were integrated throughout the space.

The beams were repurposed and used to trim the decorative fan hood in the kitchen, they were featured as a mantel on the stone fireplace, they became the counter top in the powder room and were used as a bench in the side entry.

“As its name suggests, we also drew inspiration from the style ‘Industrial Farmhouse’” said Broadhurst. Layering in some mixed metals for the light fixtures, contrasting dark hardware against white painted doors, incorporating black bathroom plumbing fixtures and adding details like metal screening in the kitchen and barn door hardware. All of these details were key elements in helping to bring this home to life.

The fireplace in the great room is an authentic wood burning fireplace. The homeowners use the fireplace often and wanted a solution to have the firewood easily accessible, but out of sight. Omega was able to create an interior storage room for the firewood that was also accessible from outside. They crafted a custom millwork hidden door inside leading to this secret room and adding to the aesthetic of the home – genius. »





«Omega used a wide plank hickory hard wood flooring throughout the house that acts as a simple but elegant base for the majority of the home. The cabinets are designed and fabricated by Lido Cabinets Ltd. Lido specializes in high-end custom cabinetry. All of the cabinets are constructed with a framed style, meaning the doors are built flush with the frame. It's a particular style that is common in OMEGA built homes.

The primary bedroom is a huge suite. The showers are curb-less, so users can just walk in. They all have modern linear drains, and the tile is all Carrera marble. There are modern touches with the hexagon tile on the floor, as well as a blend of chrome and black fixtures. The bathtub is a black standalone soaker tub, and keeping with the transitional theme, modern mirrors are backlit. The walk-in closet off of the bathroom has custom wraparound cabinetry. The walk-in closet has an island feature in the center of the room. Both the soaker tub and walk-in closet island have modern black chandeliers above them.

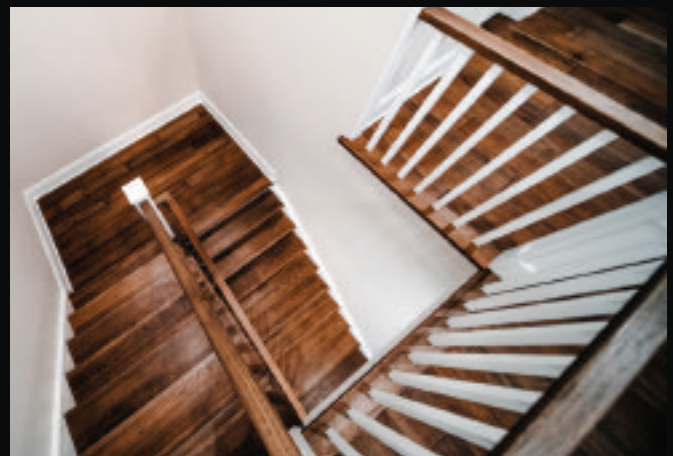
Another element that Dettbarn said is becoming more and more popular in custom homes are elevators.

“People are wanting to be in homes for as long as they can,” he said. “So, this home has an elevator that opens up to the primary walk-in closet. It goes to the main floor kitchen (side entry) and then into the basement. They also have an extra fridge and freezer in the basement with extensions off the kitchen. So, the overall accessibility is quite nice.”

The elevator is parked on the main floor and can act as a passageway into the kitchen from the secondary entrance. The elevator floors and walls are designed to match the kitchen adding to the function of the home and mirroring a hallway at rest.

The primary suite has one of the most stunning views. When lying in bed, the view looks down the Credit River.

“It is gorgeous,” Dettbarn said. “The placement of the house is very strategic. We made sure it was utilizing the lay of the land with the Credit River, so that the homeowner could capitalize on the stunning views.” »





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«Off of the primary suite is an exclusive outdoor deck as well as a hidden coffee bar area, with beverage centre, sink, coffee maker and cabinetry for cups. The homeowners wanted to have everything they needed at their fingertips within their suite. They can enjoy a cup of coffee on the deck in the morning while gazing at the view without needing to venture down into the kitchen. It was one of the important elements of the clients' vision - not only to build a beautiful well built home, but to integrate their lifestyle into everyday elements.

"I believe with this home," Dettbarn said. "We achieved that."

