

HOMES

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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

‘What makes a place homey is finishing, not footage’



A celebration of style on the home front



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Writer Grania Litwin and photographer Frances Litman are known for their sense of style and knowledge of outstanding design. They tour homes around the south island, talking to homeowners, interior designers, architects and artists who influence the way we live.



Bigger has never meant better to this high-energy couple, and that was especially true when it came to designing their retirement home on Cloake Hill, in North Saanich. “We didn’t want a starter castle,” joked David, even though many nearby homes are much larger.

He and Jennifer, who asked to keep their last name private, retired here from Hong Kong five years ago and had no interest in a mini-mansion. As a result, their 2,700-square-foot home is brilliantly unpretentious and comfortable, yet spacious feeling and meticulously finished inside.

Whenever faced with a choice, they selected quality over quantity, simplicity over supersizing and, with the help of architect Brian Morris and builder Rob Parsons, they achieved it at Chygwyth — which means “Home on the hill” in old Cornish.

While not a castle, the house does have a short bridge that leads across a tiny moat to their front door, but David explains that was because of the demanding site.

“A huge effort was necessary because this lot is very steep; there is a big rock outcrop over there, a huge hollow here ...” A sheer gully on the property was transformed into a long interior staircase and the