



LEFT This world-weary exterior was in dire straits when *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin took matters in hand. A fresh colour scheme, a garage door installed by Automated Garage Doors, new windows and shutters, plus a well-considered gardenscape transform the lot with energy and a cheerful, polished appeal. An often overlooked yet important element of planning a garden is to choose a planting palette that complements the colour and style of your home: the smaller the garden, the more important it is that your plot harmonizes well with the exterior of your home.



Easy street

Classic updates to key details and a fresh foliage makeover transform this suburban semi into a roadside attraction.

TEXT SANDRA MACGREGOR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD



BEFORE

Come June, it's not just our rooms that are in need of summer lovin'. As birds and blooms appear in full force, what better way to welcome the season than to brighten up a seen-better-days façade into a verdant, country-style oasis? That's the question *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin asked herself when faced with the exterior of this suburban semi-detached house she refurbished into a striking gem.

Every masterpiece needs the perfect frame and, as Erin well knows, a house is no different. In this instance, the west-end Toronto family home was in need of some serious TLC. A victim of benign neglect for several years, the

home's façade required some structural changes and a polished new paint scheme to best set off the re-energized yard. Besides new plantings that provide a vibrant burst of colour all season, the list included a pretty Garaga carriage house-style garage door. Erin wanted an electric door with timeless appeal, one that would give personality to the home, as well as a touch of old-world charm reminiscent of a vintage country estate. Garaga's option has a panel of clear panoramic glass along the top, and forged-iron-style knockers, which immediately set the stage for the look of the revamped exterior.

New windows were a necessity, both for

the shopping list

- Insulated steel Townships Collection Eastman Estate **GARAGE DOOR** in Dark Sand with a top row of panoramic glass, 8' x 7', CarGo 700e **DOOR OPENER**, Garaga, garaga.com.
- Lis-style **HINGES** with forged-iron-look knockers, Garaga, garaga.com.
- Extruded-aluminum Energy Star-rated Elite Series Fusion casement **WINDOWS** in Pebble, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Variform rustic polymer shingle **SIDING** in Natural Almond, finished in a random staggered pattern, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Richwood raised-panel **SHUTTERS** in Spanish Moss with advanced UV stabilizers, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.
- Thorny Branch S-H-780 **PAINT** on stairs, porch and latticework, Behr, behr.com.





LEFT Colour plays a large part in the revamped garden. Pink, purple, blue and bright green specimens from Sheridan Nurseries and Proven Winners mix and mingle happily to create an urban cottage feel.

CURB APPEAL IS YOUR HOME'S FIRST IMPRESSION – YOU ALWAYS WANT IT TO BE INVITING.

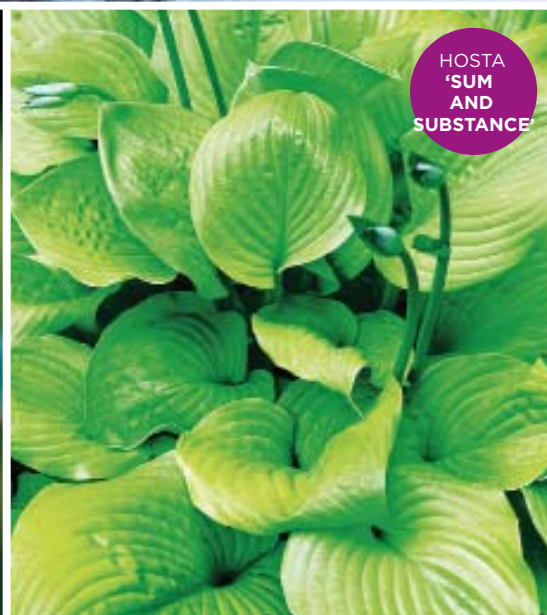
aesthetics and energy efficiency. The pros at Ply Gem recommended their Energy Star-rated Elite Series Fusion casement windows to add to the classic country feel and provide a seamless match to the garage door. The roof was reshingled, and the existing rickety staircase and banister were replaced with sturdy constructs to bring them up to code. Shutters and mullions were added to the windows to complete the casual cottage-in-the-city look. The door was freshly painted for neat and trim appeal, while the stairs and porch were given a coat of Behr's subdued yet stately Thorny Branch S-H-780.

Once those details were complete, Erin turned her attention to the garden. She selected vivid yellows, purples and blues in lobelia, verbena, petunias and phlox to highlight the more restrained, earthy shades of heucheras and hostas. A trailing sweet potato vine leads the eye down to a mass of abundant bright colour – a trademark of a flourishing country garden. "Groundcovers anchor the space," Erin says. "That's especially important when the garden lies on a slope, as this one does." Filling in the gaps are fragrant spearmint, lavender and lemon thyme, with a velvety dark brown mulch from Fafard.

As a finishing touch, flower boxes and hanging baskets overflowing with playful pink impatiens call a cheery hello to passersby. The result is a charming, friendly face turned to the world.



CAPE
MALLOW
SLIGHTLY
STRAWBERRY



HOSTA
'SUM
AND
SUBSTANCE'

Ceramix Versailles **PLANT POT** in Green Leaf, 8", \$11, Garant, garant.com.



HANGING BASKET, 14", \$28 per set of 3, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.



Sunda Stripe outdoor **CUSHIONS** in Pebble, 16" x 16", \$25 each, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.



Estate Marlborough **BENCH**, \$3,436, Gloster, gloster.com.



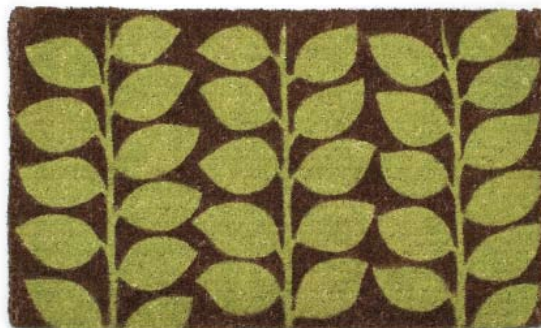
North Hatley carriage-style **GARAGE DOOR** in Claystone with Cascade Claystone clear glass window inserts, standard hinges & handles, \$1,600, Garaga, garaga.com.



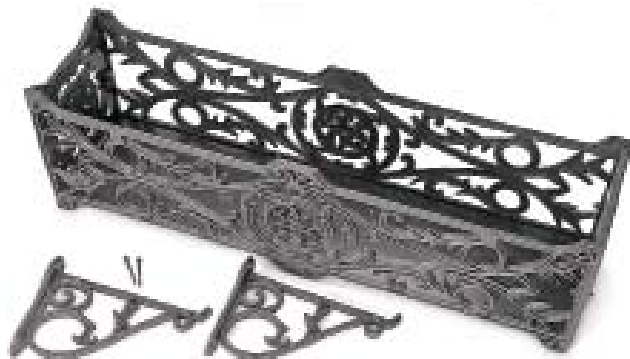
The Ring **DOOR KNOCKER** in Solid Bronze, 5½", \$260, Ginger's, gingersbath.com.

urban cottage

Here's what you need for a striking, well-tailored façade that just begs your neighbours to stop and stare!



Brown-and-green leaf coir **DOORMAT**, \$27, Abbott, abbotcollection.com.



Stratford **PLANTER**, \$49, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.

Richwood by Ply Gem raised-panel **SHUTTER** in Winestone, \$60 US per pair, Ply Gem, plygem.ca.



PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TRANSCONTINENTAL INTERACTIVE (DOOR KNOCKER)