



The living room has a country cottage ambience with its comfortable, leather seats arranged in front of a stone-fronted fireplace.

Exposed: High ceilings, big windows make the house seem more spacious

• From Page D1

Exposed cedar beams run across the vaulted ceiling. A large chestnut sofa and armchair cosy around a large coffee table, which John made out of a hatch cover from an old Liberty ship off the United States' Eastern Seaboard. The table still has its original polished hatch handles.

Plaid fabrics complete the comfortable den-like look of the room.

"We have boys," says Barb, "so you won't find any frills, flowers or Laura Ashley in this house."

Quarter-size french doors open to the dining room, which features a teal-toned grey hutch, custom built to fit with the wall's concave camber.

Broad windows look over a terraced garden with a cobblestone patio. Flag-

stone and pebble paths weave around three ponds in which goldfish glide and dart below the floating pads and pink and white blossoms of water lilies.

The original exterior kitchen wall blocked the back yard, so Coulson reconfigured the cabinetry to accommodate a wide bank of windows that drinks in the garden views.

The old kitchen also doubled as a laundry room and entryway, complete with coat rack and all the flotsam and jetsam that Barb wanted to hide from view. Instead of relocating and replumbing the laundry area, Coulson divided the workspaces with a wall set on the diagonal, creating a separate laundry room and a new entryway leading to the carport.

The kitchen island's white and grey-rippled marble top flows in a wave pat-

tern, like water lapping up along a shore.

"We weren't sure if we wanted such an unusual shape, so Dave cut it out in plywood and we tried that on for size," says Barb. "We loved it."

The wall cabinets are topped in marmoleum (composite finish) in a Maltese marble pattern, backed by a sienna and sand tiled backsplash. The rich cedar cabinets are cut in a beadboard style.

The master ensuite features a white clawfoot tub beneath a vaulted cut of ceiling. Light streams in through a south-facing window with teal-grey shutters. A curving, peeled-wood ladder leans up against the corner, serving as a towel rack. The glassed-in shower features grey and white cultured marble. The floor is covered in a rich, mottled seaweed-green ceramic tile.

The cottage look is balanced against

sleek, faux brushed nickel fixtures.

Every item in the home comes with a story. When the couple were looking for a sofa, they went to Sager's furniture store in Victoria, "even though we knew we couldn't afford any of their stuff," says Barb.

They sat down on a large, chestnut leather sofa so they could look at the furniture around them in comfort. As they gazed wistfully around the store, they realized that neither of them wanted to get up from the sofa they were sitting on.

"We were so comfortable, we realized this is the sofa for us," says Barb.

But the price?

Barb says, "We lucked out. It turned out to be on sale."

Online: See more of Coulson's work at www.davidcoulsondesign.com



The ensuite bathroom has odd angles.



The front entrance is built on an angle.



The master bedroom is quiet, comfortable and uncluttered — a very restful environment.

We have boys, so you won't find any frills, flowers or Laura Ashley in this house.