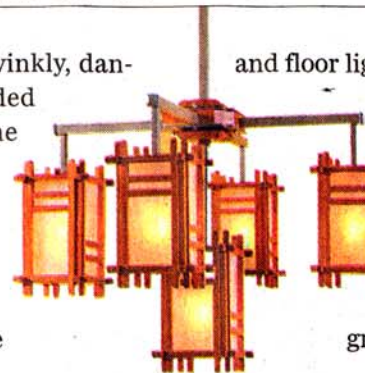


## PRODUCTS

## A wooden spin on trendy crystal chandeliers hits design showroom

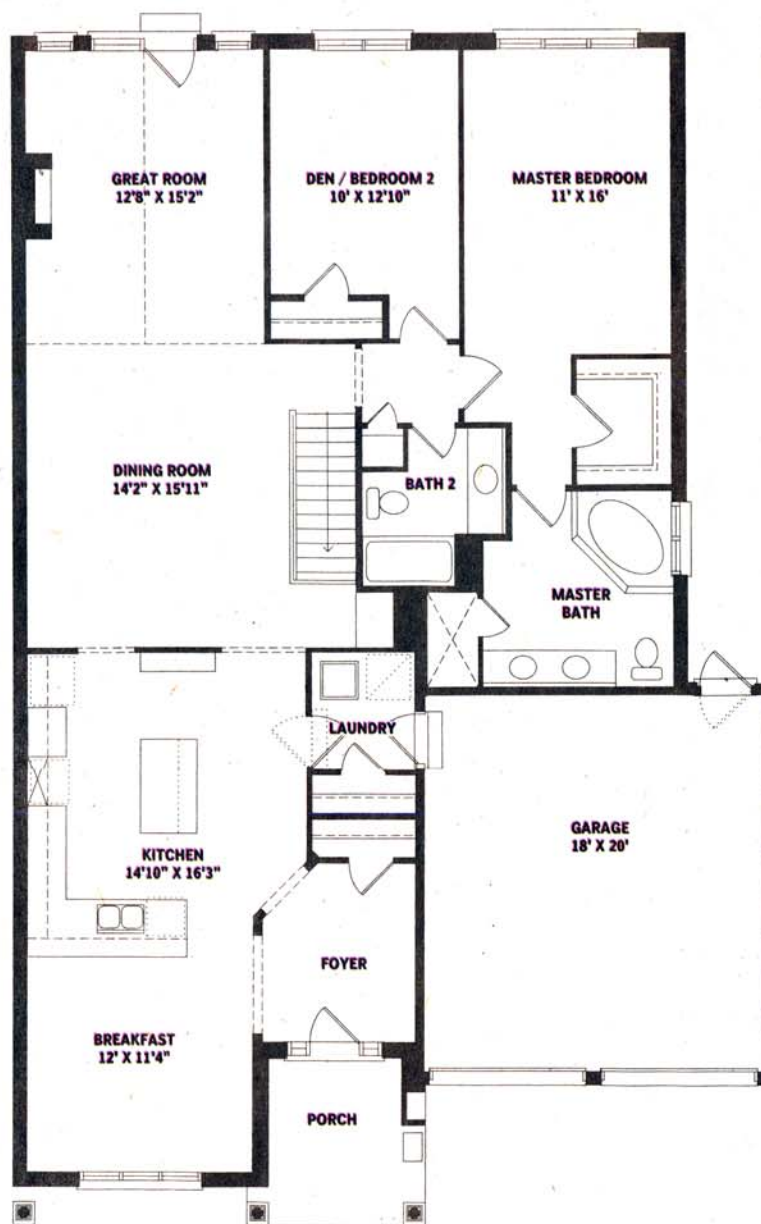
**Opulent chandeliers** festooned with twinkly, dangling crystals are everywhere: suspended over kitchen counters, strung up in the bathroom, dangling over beds. Now Greentea Design, specialists of reclaimed furniture before reclaimed furniture was trendy, have stocked their 6,000-square-foot Asian-inspired Riverdale showroom with handcrafted table



and floor lighting — lamps, pendants, chandeliers and sconces — by Cherry Tree Design. If your home is outfitted in Japanese decor, lighting fixtures made of wood are a good way to round out the room. Greentea has also introduced chunky, marvelous Maru dining tables made of century-old Korean flooring. For info, visit [greenteadesign.com](http://greenteadesign.com). *National Post*

## CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Three design experts analyze a layout for a 2,391 square-foot single storey of a house



**JEFFREY DOUGLAS**  
*Interior designer*



I can see the logic in placing the kitchen at the front, with living space facing the backyard, but in this plan the path to the living/dining

room passes by the mudroom/laundry area: It feels a little like entering a restaurant through the kitchen's back door. I'd shift the mudroom/laundry area behind the garage and open a wide hall with a long closet along the garage wall to connect the front door to the living dining area. I'd enclose the kitchen more (are you always a tidy cook?), allowing for more cupboard space, but it could be left open for a more "lofty" space. The shifted mudroom/laundry area takes some room away from the master ensuite, but I find the layout is inefficient anyway. Should the tub take twice as much space as the shower? I'd align the tub and a larger shower along the outside wall and arrange the vanity and toilet opposite. Finally, I'm bothered by the use of the term "great room." It's too small for such a grand label, and I don't think anyone is fooled by the pretense. Let's just call it a living or family room where great things happen.

■ Jeffrey Douglas, head of Toronto's Douglas Design Studio, creates homes that tightly integrate architecture and interior design.

**HEATHER DUBBELDAM**  
*Architect*



Is this a bungalow or part of a townhouse? (Who builds bungalows these days?) This is a generally well-organized floor plan considering

that the two-car garage occupies such a dominant corner and that all rooms are located on one level. There is a nice division between public and private and an interesting reversal of conventional planning with kitchen and breakfast room at the front of the house. While interesting, perhaps not very successful in this case, as the flow and sight lines feel compromised, and the great room is too small relative to the size of the other rooms. This plan may have been more successful with a smaller porch and foyer giving more width for a great room at the front instead, followed by the dining room that is connected to the kitchen by an island counter. Relocating and shrinking the breakfast room to the back will lend more room to one or both of the bedrooms. Assuming the roof line can be changed, fireplace and vaulted ceiling can be moved to the front great room. The sequence of rooms then makes sense to be getting smaller as you move through the space to the more intimate breakfast room at the back.

■ Heather Dubbeldam is principal of Dubbeldam Design Architects in Toronto.

**DEE DEE TAYLOR HANNAH**  
*Architect, interior designer*



Almost 2,500 square feet of space and you have to go through the kitchen to get into the house. The kitchen better be a really nice space

because you are going to get sick of it by the end of the day. Or better, you can go through the garage then the laundry and then the kitchen to reach the dining room and after that you can go to your bedroom.

This plan is awful. To begin with, start with a clean slate and learn how people function. Divide up these uses and place them in adjacencies. Now develop some design sense.

This plan has achieved one objective and removed almost all corridors. This can be a positive thing such as the boxcar apartments in New York where a room leads to another room in a natural progression. For example: living room to library to dining room to kitchen to bedrooms. Not kitchen first!

The other issue is the garage taking up so much of the plan. We are in an environmental state of affairs so we can do better and use garage elevators as well as carports.

The final note is the three columns to mark entrance: Watch out for that breakfast room window; it may break on impact.

■ Dee Dee Taylor Hannah operates Taylor Hannah Architect and is a partner in Montclair Construction.