

NAVIGATOR

Primer..... P. 90

The List..... P. 92

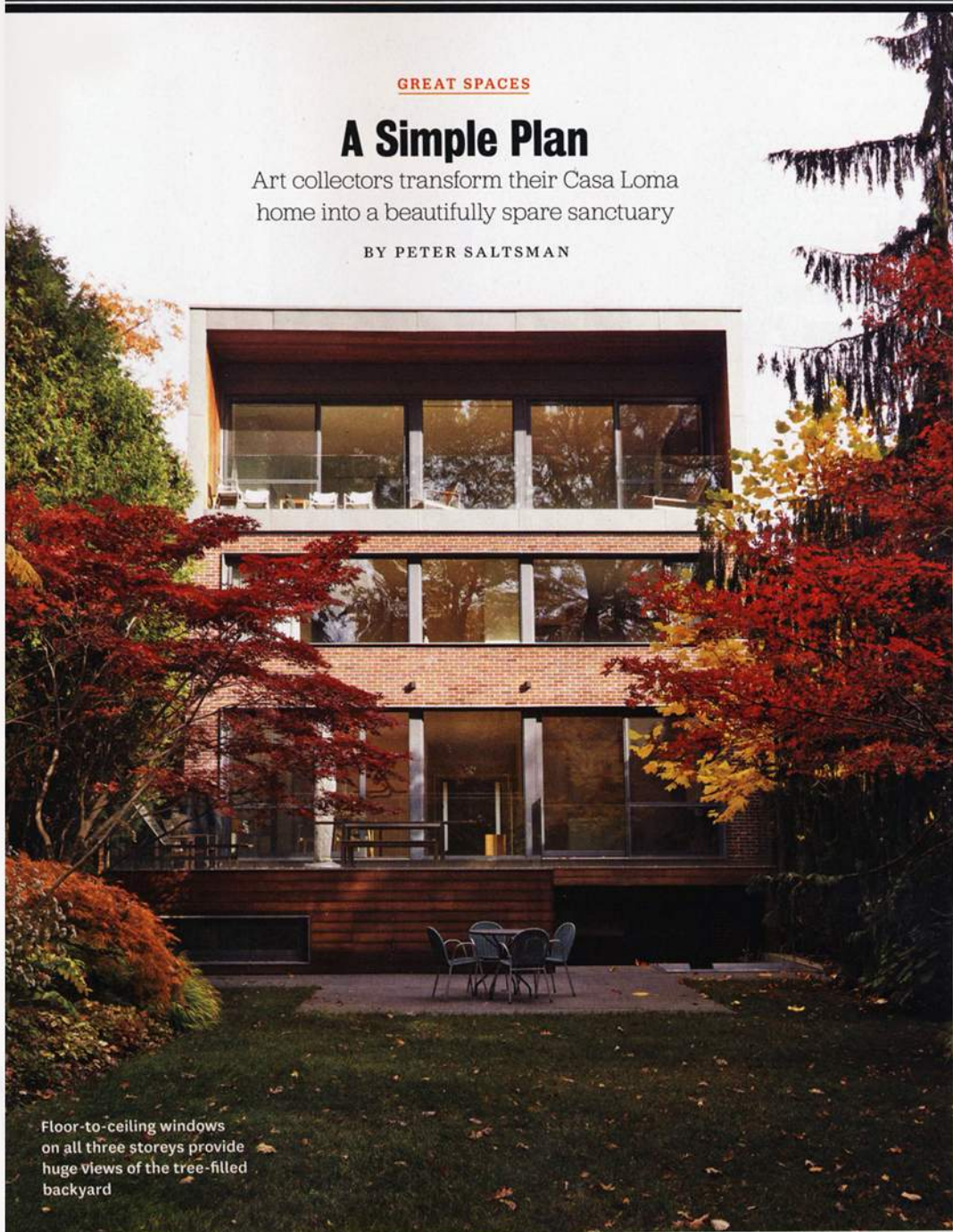
The Sell..... P. 94

GREAT SPACES

A Simple Plan

Art collectors transform their Casa Loma home into a beautifully spare sanctuary

BY PETER SALTSMAN



Floor-to-ceiling windows on all three storeys provide huge views of the tree-filled backyard



Carol Weinbaum and Nigel Schuster spent almost two decades planning the perfect reno. The couple, who are both partners in the rental management company WJ Properties, bought their sprawling faux-Georgian home in 1994, when their main concern was having enough room for their three rambunctious sons (Callum, Luke and Tom, all now in their 20s). The place hadn't been updated since the '80s, and they immediately started thinking about everything they wanted to change. In 2008, when Callum left for university, they went for it. Working with the architects at Atelier Kastelic Buffey, they drew up plans for an ultra-minimalist living space inspired by the Japanese concept of *nōtan* (roughly translated as "light-dark harmony"). Over the next two years, while the family camped out in a rental apartment nearby, the house was stripped to its foundation and rebuilt as a stark modern masterpiece with huge windows, a sophisticated lighting design (ideal for showing off Weinbaum and Schuster's contemporary art collection) and a new third-floor aerie overlooking the neighbourhood treeline. Every room is bright and uncluttered, making the place ideal for the couple's frequent parties. "There's an amazing feeling of space," says Weinbaum, "even when we're entertaining 100 friends." She's loving life as a born-again minimalist, though it does take some discipline. "I'm determined not to be a pack rat," she says. "But I do have to edit every now and then."





1 The couple considered hiding the Bang and Olufsen flat-screen in a cabinet but decided to just own up to the fact that they watch TV.

2 The settees are by the Parisian designer Christophe Delcourt.

3 The walls of the master bath are lined with Calacatta marble from Milestone Marble on Jane Street.

4 They use the new third floor for yoga, watching TV or just hanging out. The cushy beanbag chairs, purchased at Avenue Road, are from the Italian brand Ivano Redaelli.

5 They own 24 of these Hans Wegner Elbow chairs, used throughout the house at desks and tables.



6 MCM did all the millwork in the house, including the built-in bed and shelves.



7 The 12 square photographs are by the Guinean-Swiss artist Namsa Leuba.



8 They bought this Troy Abbott piece, called *Latte*, at Art Basel Miami. The video of the bird plays on a three-hour loop (the bottom of the cage is strewn with old computer parts).