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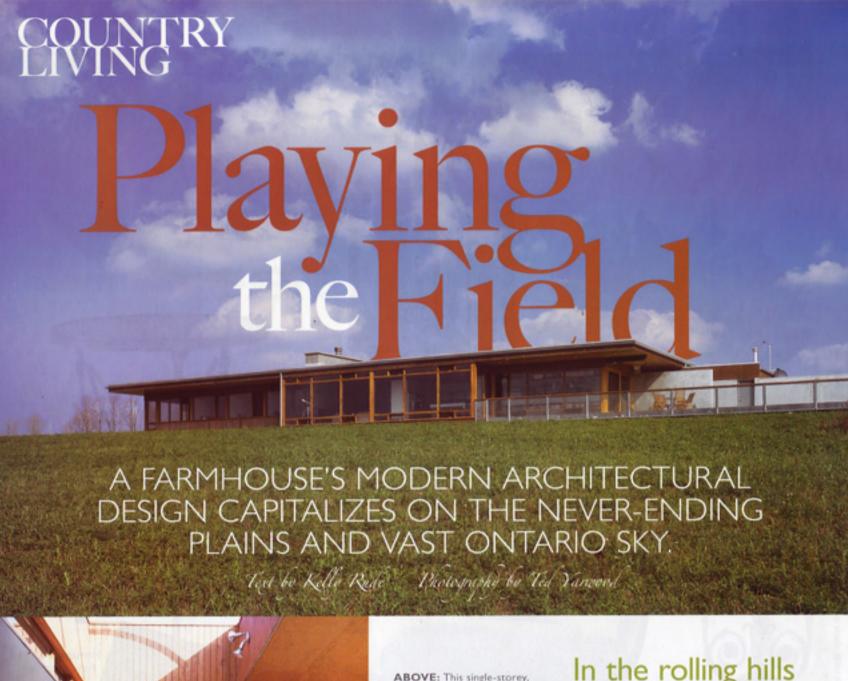
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ABOVE: This single-storey. cedar-and-glass house in Collingwood, Ont., has a flat roof that extends to create sunscreening overhangs. The westfacing spaces include, from left to right, the master bedroom, three kids' rooms, and a protruding sun porch open to the living room and kitchen. The outdoor pool is surrounded by a galvanized steel fence.

LEFT: The main entrance adjacent to the gravel driveway at the back of the house is protected by the cantilevered roof, which has been outfitted with a skylight. The exterior's tongue-and-groove cedar cladding is teamed with cement stucco masonry walls, which are repeated inside.

In the rolling hills

of Collingwood, Ont., farming continues as it has for years, while city folk, longing for a bit of country life, trek here for their weekend getaways. South of Georgian Bay sits a recently constructed four-season, 3,000-square-foot retreat owned by a cinematographer from Toronto, his wife, who is a journalist, and their three children, aged 16, 13 and 10. The family had been renting a circa-1850 "wreck of a homestead" in the area since 1999 and had been looking for an ideal location to build their own place for the last three years. When they found this property, it reminded them of their roots in the Canadian prairies. "My wife and I are



both from Saskatchewan," says the homeowner. Although this outdoor scene of rolling hills is perhaps not quite as flat as the prairie plains from their memory, there's still "lots of sky, and you can see forever," he says.

They enlisted architect Paul Syme, of Toronto's 3rd Uncle Design, to build a modern yet modest concrete, glass and stained-cedar edifice, which hugs the hill in quiet servitude to the landscape and is positioned for the best possible views. With large spans of glass, the flat-roofed, single-storey structure takes full advantage of its surroundings. "To choose the house's location, I put on snowshoes and wandered up and down the highest point of the ridge and videotaped the

ABOVE: From the hallway, three concrete steps with nonslip metal treads lead down to the living room, which features durable, natural materials like the polished concrete floor, cement stucco wall and a fireplace fronted with hot-rolled steel. Contemporary furnishings are inviting and casual, and a recessed screen can be pulled down from the fir-ply ceiling for nights of movie watching. Toss RIGHT: In the sun porch, the fir hardwood floor is a nod to old Ontario cottages and creates the feeling the space was an add-on. Substantial window frames, made of sapele. are outfitted with operable transoms above and below.