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# ONTARIO LIVING

London streetscapes—this issue, Piccadilly • Decorating trends  
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Why's he laughing? It's a great house; inside, other architect designs



INSIDE:  
Builders'  
Showcase



## Paul Skinner

*Celebration of style: This light-filled home, designed by Paul Skinner, has an open and unusual look.*

**M**ore and more people seem to be seeking that help. Nicholson says there has been a growing demand for his residential work, both in renovations and new homes, since returning to his native London from Vancouver four years ago. Just as the prosperous late 1980s created a market for upscale cars, trips and audio-video toys, there's been a move towards architecturally designed homes.

As a result, London is becoming more design conscious, says Nicholson. In fact, he helped convince the city to

promote this trend by establishing the Urban Design Awards Program.

Rather than the avant-garde, however, expect contemporary treatment of traditional styles when on the lookout for custom design in London. Architect Paul Skinner, responsible for London landmarks such as the court house, Victoria Hospital and the new Victoria Park band shell, believes "architecture is very pragmatic. You have to design for the clientele."

What follows is a peek at what that clientele is choosing.

### ► Paul Skinner

Paul Skinner doesn't mince words. Driving through some of London's newer neighborhoods, he delivers a running commentary which, if the walls had ears, would reduce most suburban homes to rubble.

Skinner objects to what he considers an unexciting, box-like appearance characteristic of many new houses. Lavishing his own designs with natural building materials, he also quarrels with the artificial sidings and trim which clad even the more expensive new homes.