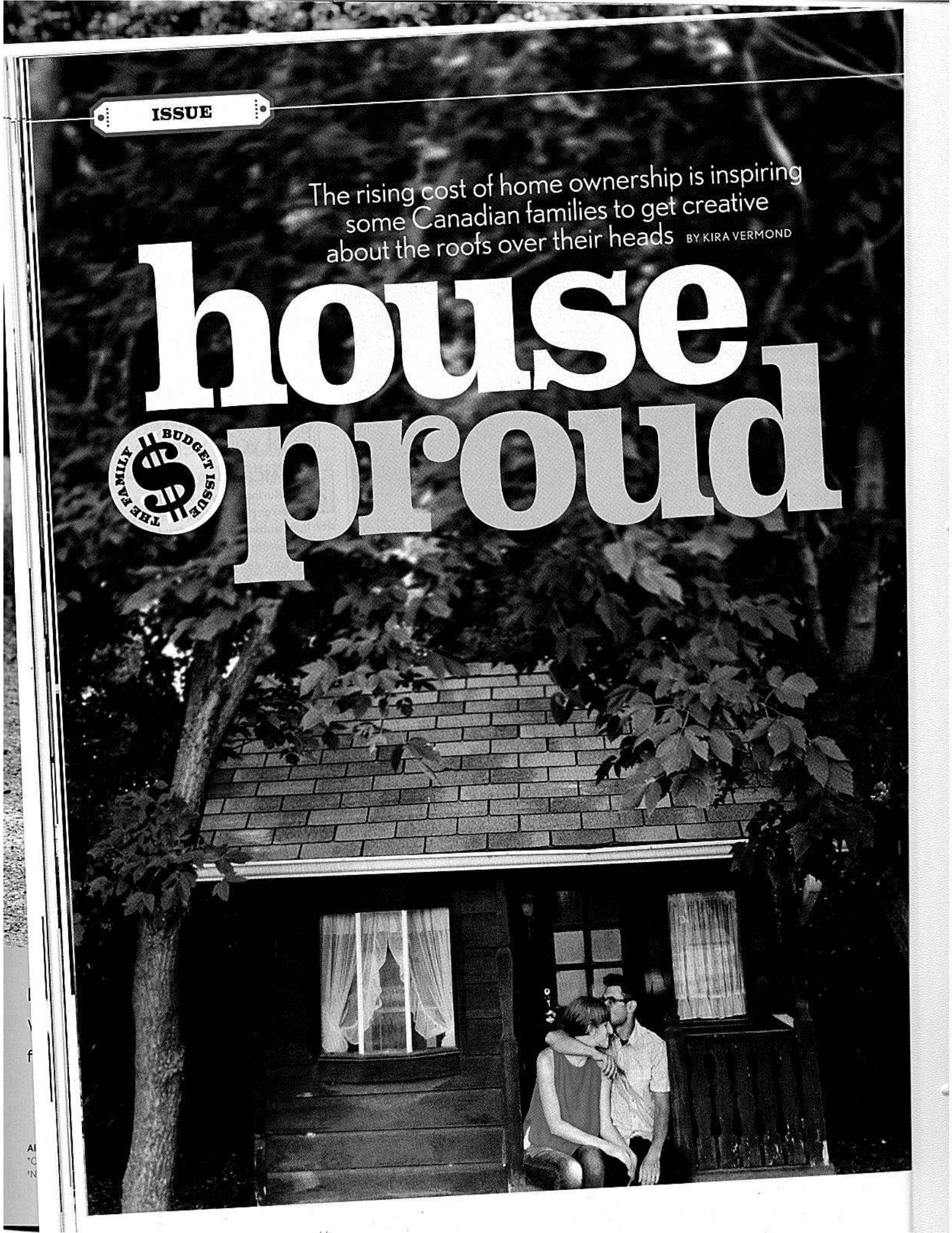



ISSUE

The rising cost of home ownership is inspiring some Canadian families to get creative about the roofs over their heads BY KIRA VERMOND

house proud



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The average price of a Canadian home was \$389,119 last December, up 10.4 percent from the year before. Meanwhile, salaries grew by only 2.5 percent during that time.

years. ♦ **THE DOWNSIDE** The lack of privacy occasionally becomes an issue, but with a four-year-old and a one-year-old in the house, the benefit of having extra sets of loving adult hands—and the peace of mind Saggu finds from knowing his wife and kids aren't alone when he works late—more than makes up for that right now. ♦ **THE VERDICT** Sharing the financial load with family isn't for everybody, particularly if your relationship is rocky, but for others like Saggu, it's the perfect arrangement. They all hope to sell the house in a few years for a profit and use the money to buy separate homes in a small town—mortgage-free. "It's better to live with family for a few years than to live in an unsafe area because that's what you can afford," says Saggu.

WHY BUY IT WHEN YOU CAN BUILD IT? Seth Reidy & Katie Sawyer

PERCHED ON THE MOUNTAIN above Nelson, B.C., Seth Reidy and Katie Sawyer's home has a million-dollar view. Luckily for them, they spent far, far less on the house. With some financial help from Reidy's mother and Sawyer's parents, the couple bought a \$140,000 piece of property and put \$30,000 into renovating a four-car garage that was already there into a livable space. (The property had been part of a larger →

Average 2013 residential housing price in Nelson, B.C.: \$294,152
SOURCE: KOOTENAY REAL ESTATE BOARD

