

Bright & Beautiful



Two local renovators delight their clients with these stunning transformations



Eurodale
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Don Mills

Even before signing the contract, the client warned us that they would settle for nothing less than perfection. We acted as both designer and builder for the project. From a design side, we created the architectural plans and also brought in Laura Thornton to consult from an interior design perspective. As a result of the collaboration, we integrated the backyard with the inside of the home. Permits were a slight challenge – lots of trips to the Committee of Adjustments. But given the guidance in design and presentation at the hearing, the Committee members and neighbours agreed to support the project.



Bravehart Building
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Upper Forest Hill

Originally, the main floor had two living rooms, a dining room and a kitchen. Because one living room featured a formal fireplace and wainscoting, it was decided that this would be “repurposed” as the new dining room. Subsequently, the original dining room and kitchen were turned into an eat-in, lounge-in, work-in kitchen.

A wall was removed between the two spaces and some wall surfaces were replaced as required, along with new flooring. Other improvements included a fireplace with mantel, built-ins, and a handy desk for mom. A small workstation area sits on one side of the fireplace and a music centre, with stereo and discs, was added to the other side.

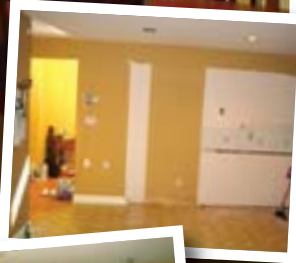
We configured the kitchen with a huge range and plenty of counter space along one sightline. The island, with sink, dishwasher and garbage/recycle bins, runs parallel to the cooking zone. The family’s casual dining table runs parallel to the island. This configuration allows for

cookery and dishes removed from the table and conveniently assembled on the centre island for rinsing before loading into the dishwasher.

The microwave was positioned on the end of the island, facing the kitchen aspect that features the fridge, cupboards and drawers for dishes, and a large dry pantry. The lighting plan for the entire space can be lit for specific tasks and can be modified to a dimmed environment for relaxing evenings.

As a point of interest, we relocated the laundry centre from the second floor to behind the kitchen. Now it faces the back door where the kids with dirty clothes enter the house.

This kitchen project was fairly simple. We worked within existing space only removing one wall, which divided the original dining room and kitchen. The wall was the only barrier standing in the way of a large, relaxing, multipurpose cook/dine/lounge/work zone. Perfect for a family that likes to gather in the kitchen.



The existing space was segmented and the goal was to create an eat-in kitchen, open to a new living room, and tied into the dining room. The owners also wanted to tie the landscaping into the new addition in order to develop a true connection between the inside of the home and the outside. This meant large windows and doors and even larger support beams to create the desired effect.

The result was a two-storey addition, which created the main-floor space required. A complex web of steel allowed for the removal of the load bearing rear walls of the house. This opened up the

view to the rear yard, so it can be seen from the dining and family rooms at the front of the home. Decorative columns accent the major structural changes, providing architectural elements and texture in the home. Banquette seating allows family and visitors a place to sit without compromising the kitchen workspace, which was updated with a new furniture-quality island in contrasting dark tones.

The living room, just off from the pool, is covered with water-friendly heated stone floors to safeguard wet bathers dashing through the space. A

new fireplace was installed, allowing for future built-in cabinets when the budget allows. Upstairs, a cathedral ceiling and huge windows bring the feeling of outside inside. A private oasis was created for the parents with a large master bedroom, elegant ensuite, and roomy dressing area. The walk-in closet, outfitted with custom built-in storage ensures even the dressing area is an attractive place to visit. Lastly, the ensuite bath, complete with plasma television is the dream for our television-producing owner. The project budget was \$200,000 and it took six months to complete. ■