

STORY  
GINA MAKKAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
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**LEFT:** Custom built-ins and contemporary furnishings give the dining room a stately feel. **BELOW:** The entrance received an update with new modern doors.



# THE WALL

## *Comes Tumbling Down*

When Norma and Dan were transferred to Toronto from Calgary almost 20 years ago, they chose a stately, two-storey red brick beauty in Lorne Park to call home.

They loved the location, but the home was in need of a few updates. “There was a huge wall, and my husband said then ‘that’s the first thing that needs to go,’” says Norma. “We moved in the summer, and I love to garden, so when it finally came time to discuss taking down the wall, he had changed his mind and it was a no. Everyone said it had to come down, but my husband dug his heels in. From then on I teased him that if he goes before me, my last words to him would be ‘and the wall is coming down.’ Then, one day, he just blew me over when he said ‘Okay Norma, here’s your budget. Take the wall down.’” *Continued on page 56*

feature



Jackie's attention to detail resulted in beautiful sightlines from the kitchen to the dining room.



The couple had worked with **Jackie Connolly** of **Parsons Interiors** on a previous living room project, where she blended the old with the new, incorporating modern elements with vintage pieces that had been kept in the family for years. "We reupholstered a lot of pieces that are heritage pieces that are important to Norma," says Jackie.

A wingback chair with curved legs was given new life with contemporary striped fabric. "It's sentimental to me," says Norma. "It was my grandmother's. She was married in 1913, and it was given to her by her Sunday school class. It's the most comfortable chair in the world." New rugs and artwork were added to complement the more contemporary stylings. From there, the redesign continued into the dining room.

French doors that once enclosed the space were removed to create an open flow between the living and dining rooms. Where the typical dining suite and hutch once stood, Jackie designed beautiful built-ins. Glass doors with a simple mullion detail add elegance. A wood ledge that runs the length of the built-in was stained to match the new dining table, tying them together. Cream chairs and a luxe, glimmering chandelier that Jackie sourced from **Concept Lighting** completes the space.

When Norma got the green light to remove the wall between the kitchen and family room, she called on Jackie, who brought **Marquis Estates Ltd.** on board to handle the construction. "We clicked with Marquis right away," says Norma. "They are an absolutely amazing company to work with." *Continued on page 58*

**OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Opening the walls created a better flow from kitchen to family room. **TOP RIGHT:** The powder room was relocated and updated with fine finishes. **BOTTOM:** Old and new blend seamlessly in the family room.



Designer Jackie Connolly of Parsons Interiors took the family's wish list and brought the renovation to life.



The original floor plan included two sets of sliding patio doors, one in the kitchen and the other in the family room. The doors in the family room were removed and a window was added. The kitchen patio doors were swapped for larger, nine-foot sliders. The entryway between the kitchen and the family room was opened up, and the kitchen made larger. The powder room, once tucked in the centre of the home, was relocated to the front entry and made pretty with marble floors in a chevron pattern and a vanity with brushed nickel cup pulls.

In the kitchen, fresh white shaker-style cabinetry with a bevelled edge takes centre stage. A stacked stone backsplash adds dimension. Integrated appliances sourced by Jackie from **Appliance Canada** are beautiful and functional. Two islands allow for plenty of work space and multiple areas to spread out when the couple entertains. The dark finish on the second island helps to delineate the kitchen from the family room.

In the family room, the carpet, chosen at an earlier stage, was a starting point for the redesign. "This carpet was one of the original carpets, and it was customized for Norma," says Jackie. "We picked all the wool swatches and had it designed to coordinate with other things she had." The newer pillows and drapes were carefully selected, drawing on hints of the existing colour scheme to blend seamlessly.

A sectional was chosen for its simple, clean lines and treated to Crypton fabric, sure to withstand almost anything that's thrown at it. Norma's love of doors was incorporated in the artwork hanging above the seating area. Crushed red velvet chairs that were once in Norma's parent's home, were updated with silky fabric in a crosshatch design.

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A glass enclosed shower brings in light. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The family can dine al fresco just steps from their kitchen door. **TOP RIGHT:** The tub's streamlined shape makes good use of the corner. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Some of Norma's much-loved pieces were incorporated with newer additions.

feature



*The master en suite was also reconfigured – the total effect is Zen and tranquil.*

Norma's vision for a tranquil master retreat was realized with the addition of a makeup vanity and fresh white finishes.



The front entry of the home was also given new life. A single door with sidelights was removed, and larger double doors with glass panels were added. The area is now flooded with light.

In the upper level, the renovation continues. The flooring was stained to match the newer flooring throughout the rest of the home.

In the second bathroom, an awkward pony wall that jutted into the space was removed. A freestanding tub and his-and-hers sinks were added.

The master en suite was also reconfigured. Separate Jack-and-Jill sinks on opposite sides of the room were removed. The standard corner tub was traded in favour of a soaker tub. A makeup vanity was added, and one of Norma's much loved chairs was reupholstered to match its new surroundings. The total effect is Zen and tranquil.

Norma says from start to finish, Jackie was a partner every step of the way. "Jackie and I did it together. The beauty of Jackie is that she can read a customer's taste instantly, but she never imposes her taste or what she thinks. If she thought I was straying too far off the beaten path, she'd kind of pull me back. She was a great guide." With Jackie's keen eye and attention to detail, she was able to create a space that the couple love to come home to. **OH**

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