



Kindred CREATIVITY

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Who says families can't work together?

If running two successful local décor and art businesses – **Kathie Jordan Design** in New Hamburg and **ArtHaus150** in Kitchener – wasn't enough, the Jordan family – Kathie, John, Mackenzie and Shelbie – recently renovated an outdated and under-loved home close to downtown Kitchener together. And they survived.

The result: a top-to-bottom restoration that has preserved an old home's former glory while adding modern and desirable new features. *Continued on page 22*



FAR LEFT: Mackenzie, Shelbie, Kathie and John Jordan worked together as a family to renovate this home top to bottom and prepare it for sale. **LEFT:** Auction and garage sale finds, painted furniture and original art are all Jordan family signatures. **ABOVE:** A heavy pocket door separates the front room from the foyer, so the warmth from the fireplace can be contained. **OPPOSITE:** Built-in shelving and an electric fireplace are the focus in the front sitting room.



"These stools just fit with the house," says John of the seating at the bowling-alley floor island. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** An armoire adds instant storage to an awkward space. Sliding loft doors to the powder room and mudroom space tuck in neatly behind it. **TOP RIGHT:** The Jordans took every detail into account, including scouring the province for the right wood flooring and then laboriously painting and staining it for consistency. **BOTTOM:** A small mudroom adds storage at the side entrance. The Jordans added this during their renovations as well as a main-floor powder room.

Purchased last September, the Jordans worked on the three-bedroom, two-and-a-half storey home for nine months before listing it for sale.

During that time, John (also a licensed electrician) updated the electrical, plus they had new plumbing fixtures installed by **Fisher Plumbing & Heating**, installed a new gas furnace, central air and updated ductwork by **Cool Houles** and replaced some of the windows (with help from **Keith Hallman Contracting**). They refinished original hardwood flooring, installed new hardwood and matched the colour where it was required, and cleaned up oak pocket doors, trim and the beautiful details the home already had, such as the transom windows above the bedroom doors.

It was a huge undertaking, but the family was up for it. In fact, this home was exactly what the Jordans had been after for their first whole-home renovation together. "It's definitely an age we like," says Mackenzie of the 105-year-old home. "The style of the house was perfect for our style of decorating."

Located in Kitchener's East Ward on a street lined with beautiful trees, the home already offered a long driveway, full front porch, rear porch and partially fenced yard with a garden shed. The interior was what needed the Jordans' help.

"We looked beyond what it was. The bones were great," says John.

The Jordans' special touch is evident at every turn in the finished product: painted furniture from ArtHaus 150 and Kathie Jordan Design, a custom stained glass window designed by Kathie and Mackenzie and constructed by Mackenzie, plus art by Shelbie, Kathie and Mackenzie.

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RIGHT & BELOW: The master bedroom has a private staircase leading up to this loft area, which the Jordans have imagined as a dressing room, but which could be any kind of extra private getaway. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** This painted blue tub, new flooring, new vanity and fresh fixtures completely update the bathroom. **BOTTOM:** The master bedroom is soft and pretty.



Similarly, “we did a lot of the destruction ourselves,” says John. And that’s just the beginning. This handy and creative family participated in every single step of the renovation process, from gutting the interior to creating the art they eventually hung on the wall – they do it all. When they needed extra help, they brought in general contractor **Brenden McNair**.

The Jordans have a real knack for finding what they need at great prices. “We’re always looking to recycle and reuse,” says John. They scope out Kijiji, auctions, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and other sales. That’s how they acquired everything from the tongue-and-groove pine on the ceiling in the kitchen (which John and Mackenzie installed themselves) to the chandeliers throughout the home, furniture and accessories.

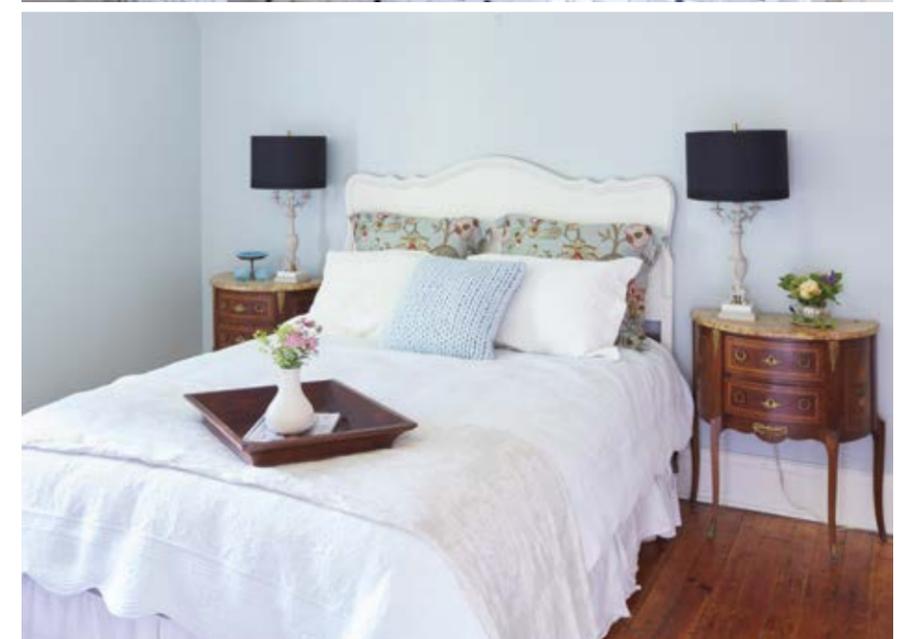
For the kitchen, the Jordans found a full set of cherry cabinetry that would fit in their space – with some to spare – at an auction. They called on cabinetmaker **David Bisch** to help them fit everything into the space seamlessly. They painted everything out white to make it look cohesive. “We were able to unify the whole kitchen with paint,” says Mackenzie.

They painted all of the woodwork and cabinetry with Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan, the family’s preferred product for furniture, too. Their wall paint is a variety of custom colours mixed at local **Home Hardware** stores.

To top off their new kitchen island, the Jordans opted for something a bit different: wood from the lanes of a bowling alley was fitted to the top by ArtHaus150’s artisan **Marko Barakoski**. Otherwise, the granite counters are from **KW Countertop**.

“Old homes are notorious for having zero storage space,” says Kathie – but that doesn’t mean their reno lacks storage and cabinetry. In the kitchen, a huge armoire acts as a statement pantry. It is flanked by sliding barn doors that close off the powder room and mudroom space the Jordans worked into the plan.

A sliding pocket door divides the kitchen from the main floor living room, where the Jordans installed built-in bookcases around an electric fireplace, which they purchased from **Howling Dog Home Products**. Two tub chairs flank the fireplace, one reupholstered by John and Kathie, the other by **Don’s Upholstery**. *Continued on page 28*



feature



RIGHT: Transoms over the bedroom doors all still function. **FAR RIGHT:** The Jordans are experts in painted furniture. The spare bedrooms in this home are furnished with as much care as the master. **BELOW:** A day bed and small desk make the most of a small room typical in an older home.



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feature

Upstairs, the Jordans put their special touch on three bedrooms and a full bath. The shared washroom features a rain shower, refinished cast-iron claw foot tub and basket-weave marble flooring.

The bedrooms are soft and pretty, full of painted furniture and the Jordans' signature style and art. The master has its own staircase that leads up to a loft space, perfect for a private sitting room, dressing area or office.

Surprisingly, this home also features a finished basement space, which the Jordans transformed into a comfortable family lounge area. It connects to the laundry room, cellar and storage spaces.

"She's a quirky lady, this house," laughs Kathie. And after nine months together, she knows it well and says it's going to be tough for her to let it go to new owners, but also looks forward to her family's next project, whatever it may be. They all learned a lot through this renovation process.

"Just because we don't know how to do something doesn't mean we aren't going to do it," laughs Kathie. "We'll keep going until it's right!" **OH**



RIGHT: Kathie and Mackenzie designed and created the stained glass window in the staircase. **BELOW:** A finished basement space in an older home is a huge bonus. Here, the Jordans have created a cool and easygoing rec room.



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