

Reinvented

STORY **SARAH HOY**
PHOTOGRAPHY
GORDON KING

The kitchen and family room have free-flowing sightlines and open spaces, perfect for entertaining.

HOME DESIGN IN THE 1980s FAVOURED SEPARATE ROOMS. THE MODERN-DAY RENOVATION OF THIS NEPEAN HOME BY SINGHKO DESIGN BUILD REMODEL MOVED BEYOND THOSE DEFINED SPACES OF THE ERA AND RESULTED IN AN OPEN-CONCEPT MAIN FLOOR, PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING AND SOCIABLE FAMILY LIVING.

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BELOW: Gary Singh, owner of Singhko Design Build Remodel, enjoyed the renovation, particularly the way he was able to collaborate with the homeowner on design. **RIGHT:** The stacked stone fireplace is accented by a wood block mantel. Built-in shelves feature ribbon lighting. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Traffic flow was a major influence in this kitchen's design. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The open, L-shaped main floor extends through the dining room to the living room.



“The best part was that we had a client who had a vision of what they wanted and we had the ability to do it,” says **Gary Singh**, owner of **Singhko Design Build Remodel**.

Before the renovation, this home was your typical “80s chalk home.” The spaces were clearly defined with a hallway, living room, dining room and kitchen; it was structured. This style of home is rarely built. “People don’t really have defined spaces now,” says Gary.

With three grandchildren ranging from five- to-nine years old, the homeowner was keen to have a space that the family could enjoy. “The staircase was a full wall and the kitchen was small and boxed in. Taking the walls out made such a difference,” says the homeowner.

Gary tackled the project head-on and made one big open space, knocking down walls and facing the challenges of moving what’s behind those walls, including electrical and plumbing, all while creating a brand-new living space.

The homeowner and builder worked well together. They smile as they discuss their easy collaboration. Gary cites the homeowner as co-designer.

The fireplace, for example, was removed from the centre of the room when the homeowner expressed her desire to reintroduce a fireplace to the family room area. The decision gave them a chance to have some fun and source stunning reclaimed wood for the mantel, stack stone for the surround, and ultimately be creative with the design. Lights are embedded under the mantel – a unique touch. *Continued on page 76*



RIGHT: The homeowner wanted finishes that were both neutral and warm. A built-in wine rack is a nice touch. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Small changes make a big impact to create a sense of space, opening up the staircase.



“We could grow with the process,” says Gary. “The quality of the materials the client selected meant we could do some really great things.” “Gary gave lots of good suggestions,” says the homeowner.

The entire space is open, full of light, texture and warmth. The main floor has a functional flow with clean lines and a traditional, yet modern, feel. The open-concept provides the homeowner with a view of the whole space when entertaining family and friends.

The staircase was opened up using railings from **Ottawa Valley Handrailing Company Ltd.**, replacing the previously existing wall, making the area seem bigger. Light cascades through the front window into the living room, dining area, kitchen and to the back, where it bounces off the beautiful hardwood floors from **Alexanian Carpet and Flooring**.

Into the kitchen, designed by **Kitchen Interiors**, the homeowner chose varying colours. Not all cabinets are the same colour; the dark contrasts with the light and the built-in elements complement this perfectly.

There are all kinds of little touches, including a mix of handles on the kitchen cabinets, and the dining room cabinets, which separate the areas, yet tie them together in a stylish way. “It’s neutral and modern at the same time,” says Gary.

The countertop boasts brownish tones, allowing browns or greys to complement the stylish island and other surfaces.

The kitchen, situated at the corner of the L-shaped main-floor looks in to the family room and the dining/living area at the front of the house. “I’ve had big groups of people here and it’s nice to see everyone,” says the homeowner. “I love the island, it’s ideal for entertaining.”

Up the newly renovated stairs, Singhko worked on the bathrooms and sourced materials from **Tego Bathroom Solutions**. The master en suite has double sinks on the left-hand side and a unique shower. Gary created a barrier-free shower, a favourite piece for the homeowner.

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After undergoing knee replacements, the homeowner finds the shower practical, yet clean and contemporary. No curb creates clean lines. “The floor flows straight, it makes it look bigger,” says the homeowner. “It’s a seamless look and also provides for easy living in the future,” adds Gary.

The main bathroom is decorated in grey tones and the homeowner conveys her love for the accent strip that runs through the middle of the back wall, making the area pop. The mix of neutrals gives it a timeless look.

Trim and mouldings from **Classic Wood Mouldings** finish the home with a sleek style and the homeowner has added pops of red that complement the brown and grey hues used throughout.

This home is an example of how to take an older build and create something fresh and new that will last for years to come. Perhaps most importantly, it is an example of how a great partnership can form between builder and homeowner. **OH**

TOP LEFT: The bathroom is brought into the modern day with sleek quartz countertops and contemporary lighting. **TOP RIGHT:** A subtle contrast in size and colour of the shower tiles is pleasing to the eye.

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