

BY HEATHER WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DEEKS

WHEN TREND MEETS *tradition*

If tradition and trend had an intersection, it might well be within the walls of this three-storey single family home in the Glebe.

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A gas fireplace from Hubert's Heating warms the comfortable family room.

This stately home combines architectural interest, a complete re-purposing of space through major renovations to suit its current inhabitants (two lawyers and their two school-aged children), beguiling décor that provides visual interest through its three floors, and a quiet commitment to honouring the past through design elements.

Originally built in the early 1900s, the house was renovated into a duplex during the 1950s with two separate apartments. When the current homeowners purchased the home in the summer of 2011, they decided to take on the rather arduous task of converting this property back to a single family home.

Beginning with the original wood front door, this home unfolds into the contemporary, with an understated colour palette of greys and blues that suggest depth and warmth. The eye is drawn throughout the space by sleek lines and modern finishes, including dark stained hardwood floors that spread through most of the home (**Gaylord Hardwood Flooring**). Meanwhile, in several rooms in the house are original elements from this home's past, including radiators, stained glass windows and stunning mantel work.

So, how does one go about returning a century-old home to its original use, while embracing its history, but infusing it with a modern touch?



The couple's favourite area. A kitchen, dining and living space sparkles with counters by Empire Marble & Granite Ltd. and white shutters by Custom Blinds Plus. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Mark Patterson and Chuck Mills in the house they built/designed. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The sitting area extends from the kitchen creating a large open space for the family to gather in.



To start, the couple engaged designer Chuck Mills, President of **Chuck Mills Residential Design & Development Inc.**, and builder Mark Patterson, President/Owner of **Patterson Homes**. For these homeowners, the end goal was clear. They wanted space that would be highly functional, welcoming, have clean lines, and be inclusive of the house's history.

To put this into design context, "When the project began, the clients' wish was to have an 'uncluttered, clean line' feel on the interior, while still being sympathetic to the original home's character," says Chuck. "I typically refer to this as a transitional style, which can blend things like a contemporary colour scheme, simpler (i.e. uncluttered) trim and cabinet types with refinished cast-iron radiators, fireplace mantels and repurposed items such as stained glass from the original house."

"I reconfigured the main floor into the core living spaces of kitchen, dining and living rooms as well as required supporting spaces, consisting of a family-sized front vestibule, family room/den, powder room and a new

small vestibule off the kitchen. The second floor, previously the other half of the duplex, was then redesigned into the kids' bedrooms and main bath, along with a large laundry/craft room and a den. Finally the third floor was reshaped from three bedrooms into a private home office and a luxurious master suite consisting of master bedroom, en suite and private sauna."

To say that renovations were extensive is a vast understatement. There was more at stake than just moving walls. The home was basically stripped down to joists; staircases had to be moved and rebuilt; two hydro sources had to be converted back to a single source.

Furthermore, as Mark says when he and his foreman Rick Jacques got to work, they employed care and caution as part of their daily practice. This was particularly evident when it came to moving and rebuilding the staircases (**Frank Building Supplies & Sales Ltd.**) to suit a single family home. "Construction can be rough, so we spent a lot of time protecting the existing structure," Mark explains. "We protected (the staircases) with a real attention to detail." *Continued on page 44*



A slick en suite bathroom with ceramic from Euro Tile & Stone and glass from Mirror Works provides the couple with an inviting room. **BELOW LEFT:** The master bedroom is set on the third floor, tucked away from the rest of the home. **BELOW:** A hidden surprise. The couple's very own sauna is an extension of the en suite.



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For this couple, the favourite area in the home is the open-concept great room, encompassing a dining room, kitchen and living area. The space is wonderfully representative of the fusion between the old and the new, and engages in rich juxtapositions between gleaming finishes, which include granite and marble, sleek kitchen cabinetry by **Peter Dutch Custom Cabinetry**, beautiful eye-catching lighting fixtures from **Marchand Lighting & Electrical** and, tucked off to the side, original radiators.

It is the openness of the space that is most appealing to these homeowners, not just because of its aesthetic appeal, but because of its innately inclusive quality.

The one room that particularly represents the relationship between past, present and future is the sumptuous master bath. With stand-up shower, sauna, deep, angular tub and a state-of-the-art audio system by **S.L. Telecom & Controls Services** piped through from the main floor, this bathroom has all the progressive touches of today. Quietly perched behind the angular bathtub, again, are some of the original radiators. This is symbolic of the way in which this transitional architecture not only includes, but promotes the home's history through this subtlety in design.

In another thematic thread that binds past to present, in the upstairs den sits a fireplace, which is a prominent character in the story this house has to tell. When the homeowners first discovered the mantel, it was like hidden treasure. Its true beauty was buried beneath several layers of white paint. They pulled it out, and read on the back, original instructions regarding the piece dated in 1907. It was a gentle reminder from the house of its roots. The fireplace now sits, brushed in a wise-looking walnut stain, similar in hue to the flooring seen throughout the house.

These homeowners wanted a single family home that supported their lifestyle, and not the other way around. "It's nice to have 'good' space," says the homeowner. "But it isn't the be all and end all. We were focused on a good design for our family but are not hung up on design for its own sake." And seemingly that is exactly what they got, as the couple proudly exclaims: "we actually use every room in this house." **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

B. Vuletic Painting Inc., Chuck Mills Residential Design & Development Inc., Comfort Insulation, Custom Blinds Plus, Eastwood Plumbing Services, Empire Marble & Granite Ltd., Euro Tile & Stone, Frank Building Supplies & Sales Ltd., Gaylord Hardwood Flooring, Golden Windows, Hubert's Heating, Jim and Al's Drywall, L. Coady Carpentry & Contracting Inc., Marchand Lighting & Electrical, Maurizo Caputo, Metcalfe Masonry Ltd, Mirror Works, Mondeau, Parent Heating & Cooling, Patterson Homes, Peter Dutch Custom Cabinetry, Magee Electric, Pierre Lamadelaine, Rick Jacques, Rung & Rail, S. L. Telecom & Control Services, TGB Tile, Universal Appliances.



The traditional fireplace from the early 1900s creates a centerpiece for the second floor den. The fireplace provides a reminder of the house's past – a traditional twist in this modern home. Flowers from Tivoli Florist beautifully decorate the home.

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