

TRADE *secrets*

Learn a trick or two from some of Ottawa's skilled trades people.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DEEKS



◀ Peter Magee

Magee Electric

SPECIALTY:

Challenging jobs that require creativity

FAVOURITE TOOL:

Makita impact screw gun

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

The city is small enough that word of mouth makes for good advertising.

BEST ADVICE:

Flickering lights or plugs are signs that should not be ignored.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Making a large harvest table



◀ Paul St-Germain

House of Fine Carpentry

SPECIALTY:

Architectural detailing through woodworking

FAVOURITE TOOL:

Altendorf panel saw

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

The great people and the interesting projects

BEST ADVICE:

Spend money on trim work, it will pay off in spades when you sell your home.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Refinishing our great room

Peppi LaRicca ▶

Pure Reno Inc.

SPECIALTY:

Renovations and design

FAVOURITE TOOL:

Stiletto framing hammer

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

The range of historical to ultra modern architecture

BEST ADVICE:

Take the time to do it right and also consider adding a little extra detail to your project.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

A basement reno



Daniel Smith ▶

Strokes of Genius Painting

SPECIALTY:

Interior and exterior painting

FAVOURITE TOOL:

High quality, low-VOC paint

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

The people; it has a small-town feel, despite its size.

BEST ADVICE:

As pros, we don't use tape, but if you plan to DIY and you want crisp lines, make sure to remove tape after each coat while paint is still wet.

Continued on page 56



people

Guy St-Pierre ►

**Belanger Plumbing
& Heating Ltd.**

SPECIALTY:

Renovations and repairs

FAVOURITE TOOL:

I like them all

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

The people are great to work for.

BEST ADVICE:

Qualified and certified contractors may cost a little more but the job will be done right.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Painting and redecorating our main floor



◀ Don Garvey

E.N. Blue Ltd.

Heating & Air Conditioning

SPECIALTY:

Custom sheet metal fittings

FAVOURITE TOOL:

Cordless hand drill

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN OTTAWA:

It's a diverse community with a fairly stable local economy.

BEST ADVICE:

Invest in an energy efficient furnace or air conditioner.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Finishing up a kitchen renovation **OH**

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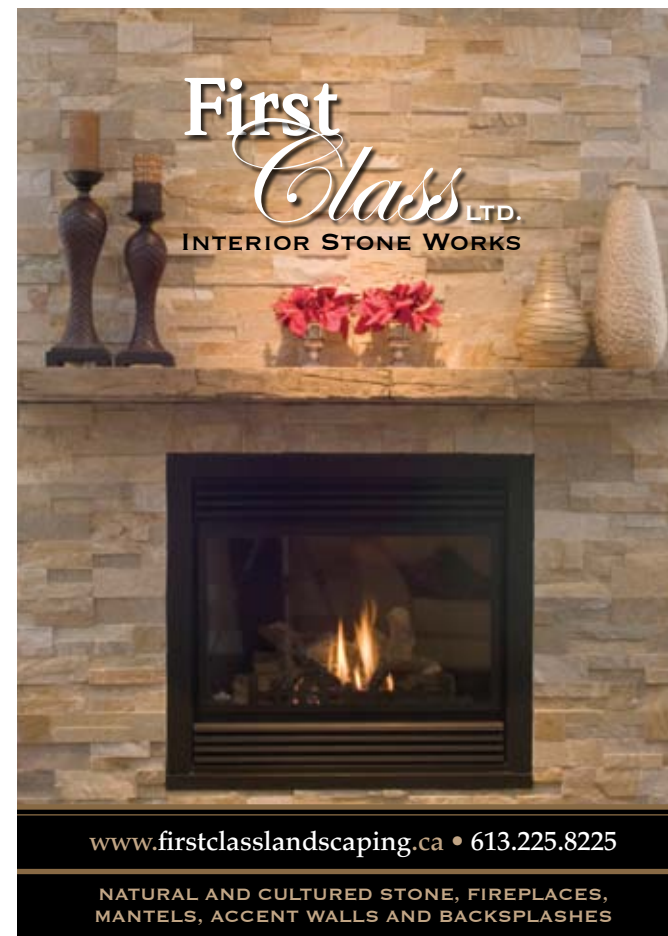
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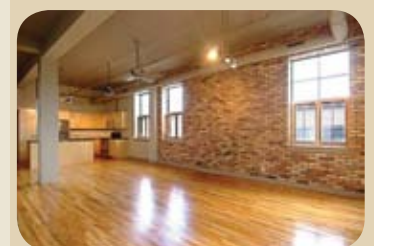
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