

DESIGNING WAYS

Those in the know weigh in with the answers to frequently asked design questions. PHOTOGRAPHY **NICK LAFONTAINE**



TRISH STANKE, *OWNER* WITH BUDDY & PEDRO *Hampton Paints*

What design question are you asked most often? People want to know what colours to choose so they work together and flow from one room to another. There's no short answer to this, there are so many variables and each case is so different. That's why we advise people to consult with us.

What should people understand about the service and products you offer? Because we offer personalized service, we spend time with you to try to help you with your projects, whether it's suggestions for colour selection or how to complete the job. Also, we like to remind people that quality paints give richer, truer colours that last longer and are more durable.

What's the most important design tip you would offer? We suggest you take the colour sample, or even better, use a sample tin of paint in the space and have a look at different times of the day to see how the light affects the colour.



ANDRE LEFEBVRE & RICHARD THIBERT *OWNERS* *Mirror Works Inc.*

What questions are you asked most often? The most common design questions we get for showers, railings and mirrors are about layout, available styles, costs, hardware colour, glass types and turnaround time.

What should people understand about the service and products you offer? Mirror Works takes pride in delivering products in a

timely fashion, at a fair price and servicing our products. We deal solely with suppliers that are dependable and stand by their products.

What's the most important design tip you would offer? My suggestion to clients would be to decide early in the process what design or look they are interested in as this will not limit their choice of products. *Continued on page 72*



ROLDAN GUERRERO, PRESIDENT, **JERUSA GUERRERO**, DIRECTOR & **DHIEGO LOPES**, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION
TGI – The Granite Importer Inc.

What design question are you asked most often? People want to know the difference between granite and quartz. Granite is porous, needs to be sealed to protect against stains and is heat resistant. Quartz is manmade, generally from 93 per cent quartz and stone dust and seven per cent resin. Quartz doesn't need to be sealed, it's maintenance-free but should not be exposed to high temperatures.

What should people understand about the work you do? TGI specializes in custom fabrication of kitchen

countertops, vanity tops and many other projects using stone slabs (granite, quartz, marble, etc). TGI focuses on excellence in quality and customer service, using modern equipment, up-to-date technology and eco-friendly fabrication processes.

What's the most important design tip you would offer? Verify how your supplier is rated with the Better Business Bureau (BBB); go online, read their Google reviews and check references. This is very important when inviting any company to do work in your home.



SHIVA GUPTA, PRESIDENT
7J Design

What design question are you asked most often? People often ask, "Where do you get your design inspiration and ideas?" Much as an artist is inspired by their materials or surroundings, a client's space and their needs become my canvas. I use my creativity and artistic expression to create functional spaces that reflect the client's personality and draw inspiration from sculptural elements within the space.

What should people understand about the work you do? People see a beautiful space and want their home to be just like it. But design has to fit each client's space. I want people to have spaces that speak to them while also taking their needs, requirements and budget into consideration.

What's the most important design tip you would offer? Less is more! Design simplicity can make key elements in your space come to life. Think about what you really use or has meaning; minimizing accessories and clutter can really highlight the work you have had done. *Continued on page 74*

**WAYNE FORSYTH
& CLIVE BADCOE**

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Harding The Fireplace Ltd.

What design question are you asked most often? People most often ask, can I put a television or entertainment centre above the fireplace? It can be done and we can help you get the look you want by offering designs that protect your electronics from heat.

What should people understand about the work you do? We wish people understood how much more challenging it is to achieve the fireplace design they envision within a lived-in home as opposed to a design incorporated into a blueprint during the construction process.

What's the most important design tip you would offer? We suggest people do some homework beforehand by visiting design showrooms and look at magazines and web sites that feature fireplace installations. The better prepared a client is, the more accurate we can be with an estimate. So much is available in finishing materials that having a plan in place will help us come up with a realistic budget. **OH**



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