

RENOVATIONS

HOME IMPROVEMENT & DESIGN

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SERVING UP
**KITCHEN
MAKEOVERS**

Bathing in luxury

**MY HOUSE DESIGN/
BUILD TEAM**

PLANNING IS THE KEY

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BY **SUSAN M BOYCE**

Pssst. Wanna know the secret of getting the most from your home renovation? How to ensure your renovation fits your vision and lifestyle perfectly? The answer's simple: have a plan. And the key to the plan is hiring the right team to help you.

"Maybe you're only taking on a small project right now — say refinishing a bathroom or energy upgrades like a new furnace or Low-E windows," says Graeme Huguet, president of the award-winning My House Design/Build Team. "But if you're considering more extensive renovations anytime in the next few years, you should first develop an overall plan that considers your house as a whole entity — inside and out — then break your plan into different steps according to your time and budgetary requirements."

First Things First

"Our design team — architectural, interior design, and cabinetry planning — start by helping a client develop three lists: must have, want to have, and a wish list," Graeme explains adding this process generally takes place sitting right in their home — usually around the kitchen table. "Next we help them focus on their priorities so together we can develop an overall design concept to fit their specific likes, needs, and budget."

Finally, the My House team designs a selection of floor plan options and perspective drawings to illustrate a range of different possibilities. "Often people think they need an addition when, in fact, they may just need to change the way they use their present space and think outside the box," Graeme says. "For example, windows, doors, even walls are often very easily moved to create the open, larger floor plans today's families want, and natural light from skylights or a sky-roof always adds a tremendous feeling of depth and openness."

Team Approach to the WOW Factor


“Some projects only need a facelift, others need re-constructive surgery,” Graeme says with a good natured smile. “But whether large or small, the benefits of having a team of experts look at your renovation plans from a fresh perspective can make a huge difference in the end result. Proper planning not only saves valuable money and time but protects the investment you’re making in your home by ensuring your choices are quality decisions.”

Case in point, he says, is the Fraser Heights West Coast-style home on this issue’s cover. Working within the existing floor plan, the My House team removed interior walls to convert the boxy living room, dining room, and kitchen into a single, open great room that also connects to a new, more usable outdoor living/deck area. A dramatic sky-roof allows natural light to stream into the middle of the home where it highlights the cherrywood kitchen with granite countertops and centre island. “From the spectacular new master suite to the new media room and entertainment areas, this home was reinvented to achieve its true potential and meet the needs of its owner,” Graeme says.



Above and Beyond

And My House doesn’t stop with just design and construction. “We assist our clients to get the renovation tax rebates and energy efficiency grants they are eligible for, show them how to avoid letting the new HST affect their project, and handle everything from permits and engineering to applying the final coat of paint,” Graeme says. “It’s all about the convenience of one stop shopping.”

A two-time 2008 National SAM awards finalists, My House was also a five-time 2008 Georgie Award finalist including British Columbia’s Residential Renovator of the Year. They are a certified Built Green BC builder and designated Canadian Home Builders Association RenoMark professionals. 

Contact the My House experts at 604-MY-HOUSE (694-6873) or visit www.myhousedesignbuild.com.



WINDOWS, DOORS, EVEN WALLS ARE OFTEN VERY EASILY MOVED TO CREATE THE OPEN, LARGER FLOOR PLANS TODAY’S FAMILIES WANT.

GRAEME HUGUET

