

MOVATO HOME PRESENTS Vancouver HOME

DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • LIFESTYLE

THE KITCHEN ISSUE

**IRON CHEF
ROB FEENIE**

finesses food at

**CACTUS
CLUB CAFE**

**ULTIMATE
KITCHEN TOOLS**

Our guide to what you need now

TINY TILES

Mosaics create unique design

**SLICING
AND DICING**

Imported high-end kitchen knives
are a chef's best friend

\$7.99 www.movatohome.com



6 1
Display until June 30th 2016

JOIE DE VIVRE

A major reworking of a Dundarave home reflects its owners' zest for life

BY JANE AUSTER
PHOTOGRAPHY: BOB YOUNG

DESIGN

“We take a holistic approach to projects, from conception to completion.”



DUNDARAVE, A PICTURESQUE SEASIDE VILLAGE in West Vancouver, is known for its spectacular views of English Bay and Stanley Park. So it made sense for the new owners of a 12-year-old home in the heart of Dundarave to want to make the most of this setting.

The problem was that their house was bland when it needed to sparkle and it was dull where it needed to shine. The three-storey 6,000-square-foot house was more like a builder’s spec home inside, with basic oak floors and staircase, ordinary fireplaces, plain wooden kitchen cabinets, dated five-inch recessed lights throughout, and a boring colour palette. Worst of all, the house seemed closed off to the spectacular panoramic views out front.

The owners had a vision of what the property could be and chose My House Design/Build/Team, a finalist for nine 2016 Georgie Awards, including Renovator of the Year, to realize that vision—a total transformation rather than simply a renovation.

“We take a holistic approach to projects, from conception to completion,” says My House Design/Build/Team’s president Graeme Huguet. “We are not just interested in how you finish the project—the lipstick—but how the whole house functions structurally and mechanically. In this case, the clients wanted to establish a house in Vancouver as their long-term residence. Not only did they buy a house, but they bought a view.”

When lead designer Linda Jones and architectural designer John Kits first toured the house, they knew the staircase had to go. The traditional winding oak structure seemed “heavy” and presented an awkward access to the backyard via a landing. The design team replaced the staircase with a structural steel spine by Xtreme EffeX Custom Design & Fabrication, thick maple treads matching the hardwood throughout the house, and glass railings by Acadian Glass. A glass bridge connects the stairs to the top floor.

The homeowners were keen to showcase their art, including the colourful floral painting. The challenge in the entranceway was that the ceiling – only eight feet high – felt low and compressed. To make it appear higher, the design team added Swarovski crystals. The effect is a series of star-like patterns shooting light across the room.





Designing to maximize views became the challenge for lead designer Linda Jones and her team, which included architectural designer John Kits, millwork designer Vanessa Palframan and construction manager Karl Penner. They started work in December 2013 and completed the project some 17 months later. The owners, who were closely involved at every step of the process, made specific

requests. They wanted to link their dining area to the front-facing deck. So where there was originally a bay window, the design team added a folding-door system to connect the dining room to the deck and enhance the indoor-outdoor flow. The owners also sought more of an open concept throughout the ground floor. Achieving that goal was a challenge for My House Design/

Build/Team because it involved the removal of a structural post in the open area between the dining and living rooms. “Fortunately, we were able to have the engineering done to remove it,” says Jones, “but that meant beefing up the support for the second floor, then digging out a big portion of the basement floor to put in a footing for the new point load to carry it all. I can’t imagine now having that post in the middle of the space.”

The kitchen was moved from the back to the front of the house to take advantage of the breathtaking view. Kitchen designer Vanessa Palframan replaced the dated wooden cabinets with sleek grey-toned, minimalist cabinetry from Nickels Cabinets. The homeowners were set on having a quartz table as the kitchen’s showpiece. According to construction manager Karl Penner, the 6,000-pound, 10-foot-by-four-foot slab of Cambria Quartz had to be specially engineered, and the floor joists were bolstered to support the table. The kitchen features a retractable hood fan, and a door leads to a second kitchen directly behind the main kitchen, which accommodates the cooking of spicy, aromatic foods.



On the owners’ wish list was a sleek new kitchen with a door leading to a second kitchen right behind it for their spicy-food cooking, so the odours could be well-ventilated to the outside. The design team, with an eye to taking advantage of the spectacular view, moved the kitchen from the back to the front of the house while also replacing the dated wooden cabinetry with modern, European-styled cabinets in a high-gloss finish.

One of the owners – himself an artist – had dreamed of having a large quartz table in the kitchen. The 6,000-pound piece had to be specially engineered, with floor joists installed to support it. The table features solid-coloured quartz on the base and a stronger patterned stone on the top. The top itself is six inches thick and contains a skeletal steel structure sandwiched between the two layers of quartz. “It took eight guys to carry it in,” says Jones.

(Opposite) By removing the original oak staircase, the design team was able to create a nook for the grand piano and a better playing area for the daughter of the house, who is an accomplished pianist. The area leading from the front entranceway to the dining room is accented by three “poufy” lights that the owners sourced from Inform Interiors.



A new interior wall extends from the main floor right up to the second floor. The wall, which is 20 feet tall and features two overlapping vertical layers of quartzite from Adera Natural Stone Supply, lights up with a vertical line of LED lighting.



The sleek ensuite bathroom's vanity is topped by a three-inch thick piece of quartz. To create the master suite, the design team eliminated a small bedroom, originally situated behind this bathroom. The shower and toilet have taken the place of what used to be a small closet.





A gas firetable on the deck allows the owners to use the outdoor space in cool weather.



Perhaps the most spectacular addition is the new front-hall staircase, which replaces the clunky, traditional oak stairway. The original access to the backyard was by an awkwardly placed patio door on the landing of the staircase. The design team created an exit to the backyard via a new home office on the main floor so they could make room for a stunning new staircase. It features a structural steel spine with thick maple wood treads to match the flooring throughout the house. Taking two turns from the basement to the main floor and another two from the main to the second floor, the staircase appears to float through space.

One of the highlights of the project is a new interior wall—20 feet of quartzite stone that Jones designed, which extends to the second storey with a vertical line of LED lighting concealed where the two layers of stone overlap each other.

Lighting turned out to be a shining element in the transformation of the home. Eighteen Swarovski crystal accent lights sparkle like stars in the ceiling, while strategically placed LED lights and fixtures add interest throughout the house, and a couple of chandeliers lend a note of whimsy.

“This couple had joie de vivre, a zest for life,” says Jones. “I sense their spirit now throughout the house.”

INSIDE OUT

Award-winning renovation opens this kitchen to the outdoors

BY JULIE GEDEON • PHOTOGRAPHY: PATRICK BARTA

THE RENOVATION of this Coquitlam kitchen to create a seamlessness between the indoors and outdoors has transformed the lives of the homeowners. The parents often sip their coffee in the lounge area where they can keep an eye on their two youngsters running in and out of the house and swimming pool. “NanaWall doors open the kitchen onto a covered deck that’s enjoyed year-round,” says the project’s interior design lead, Linda Jones of My House/Design/Build/Team. “In the evening, the family hears a gurgling creek that runs through the bordering green-belt ravine. It’s like being in a forest.”

A dual Wolf range, Sub-Zero fridge-freezer and two Miele dishwashers were all chosen not only for their convenience but for energy-efficiency.

“It’s like being in a forest.”

VH

SPECIAL KITCHEN ISSUE

WINTER 2016



“The kitchen forms the heart of this project...”

NanaWall doors open the kitchen onto a covered patio that has a few steps down to the pool. The couple often watch their children swim while they relax in their white Natuzzi chairs.

The company’s president, Graeme Huguet, says My House Design/Build/Team took advantage of the densely treed backyard to create an urban escape. “The kitchen forms the heart of this project and provides wonderful privacy to the pool, located a few feet lower,” he says.

Jones chose solid ash flooring and quarter-cut walnut cabinetry to blend with the subtle concrete columns and glulam (glued laminated timber) beams that have become so popular in West Coast homes.

A skylight provides natural brightness over the island throughout the day, while cable lighting does the same at night. A row of meshed globes add a touch of dazzle onto the quartz countertop. “The articulating faucet can be moved in all sorts of directions and resembles the stove’s pot-filler,” Jones adds.

VH
SPECIAL KITCHEN ISSUE
WINTER 2016



Maxim Lighting's Swizzle chandelier adds glam to the dining set and is complemented by the meshed globe lights over the Caesarstone quartz countertop island.

VH
SPECIAL KITCHEN ISSUE
WINTER 2016

Low-back stools keep the view through the custom anodized aluminum windows unobstructed, while the efficient workspace features an elongated sink, fridge-freezer, dual range, and two dishwashers all within arm's reach. The microwave sits within the end of the island facing the patio for quick reheating of side dishes to accompany a barbecue.

A display case on the other end separates the workspace from the dining area where the beverage centre and china buffet share the same Willow shade of paint.

Lighting, heating, sound and security were integrated throughout the home.

The project won the company several awards, including a Georgie for Best Renovation and a national SAM award for best Built Green renovation. ➤

