

OPEN CONCEPT ACHIEVED

ONE 'LESS' WALL IS DEFINITELY 'MORE'

By Margaret Anne Fehr | Photography by Duality Photographic

A HOME BUILT IN 2000 might not seem a prime candidate for a transformative home renovation but a lot of stylistic changes can happen over the course of 16 years.

That's what Heather and Grant felt about their 1300 square foot raised bungalow in Riverbend. "We were definitely debating our 'move-or-renovate' options," says Heather but factors like keeping their two teenagers in the same school, trading their park location for a tree-less new development along with the rising cost of real estate made this couple elect to stay in the community that was both friendly and familiar.

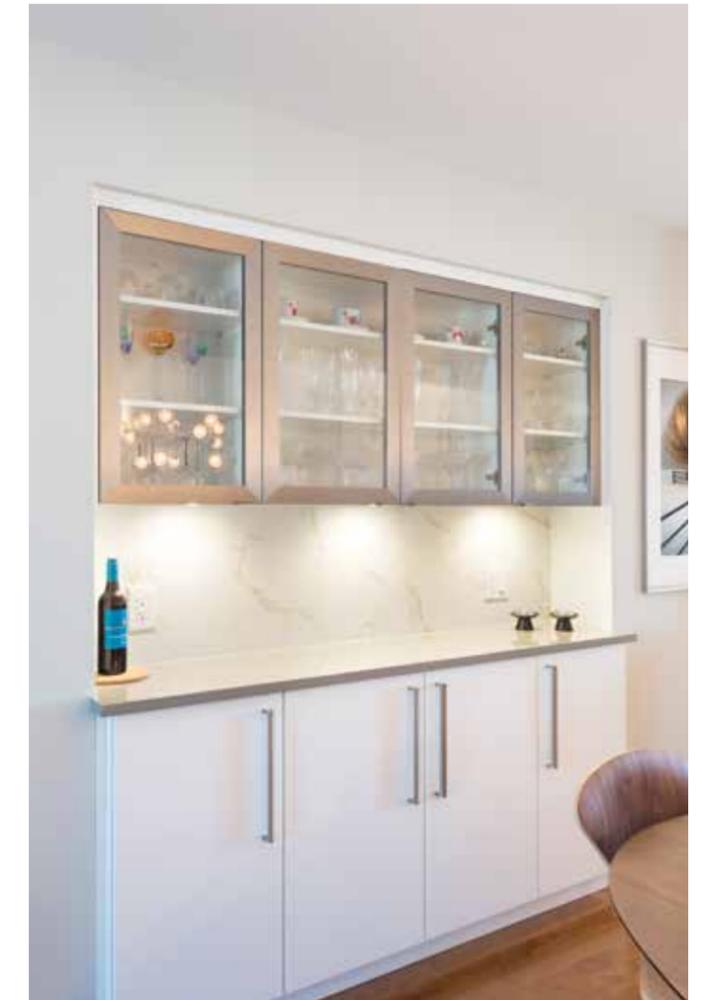
"We were clear on the fact that we wanted to have an open concept but weren't at all sure that our house could pull it off structurally," says Heather. "There was a dividing wall between the

kitchen and our living room/dining room but we never used the space that way. It was just one big room where we watched TV."

The couple realized they really needed some expert advice and after a Google search they found Doreen Gauthier of Make it Home at www.makeithome.ca. Grant said, "We liked her website and liked that she had all the professional sub-contractors for the job including carpenters, electricians and plumbers."

"When I met Doreen, I just knew that she was the right person," says Heather. "It was about how she laid out the plans step-by-step and how she quoted on the job. Once I met her, I didn't bother to call anyone else."

Doreen's first suggestion was to take down the dividing wall to instantly create the open concept the couple were after. "This is



TOP RIGHT
The sleek sophisticated cabinet profile extends into the dining area with a built-in buffet and aluminum-framed frosted glass upper display unit.

LEFT
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a very common floor plan,” says Doreen. “A lot of people might be surprised at how well that layout can be upgraded like we did for Heather and Grant.”

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Details like the stippled ceiling were replaced with smooth drywall and the kitchen cabinetry and island became the strong focal points within the newly liberated space.

High-gloss acrylic cabinetry serves to unify the open kitchen and coupled with stainless steel hardware, the effect is stunning. “It’s a higher-end cabinetry that features slab doors called SoHo with a sturdy MDF core that will maintain its profile and will not be subject to warping,” says Doreen.

The cabinets have been designed as functional stations

with a computer niche established for doing homework and video-game playing. Tucked away in the lower cabinets, the CPU and printer are out of sight, maintaining a seamless, clutter-free look.

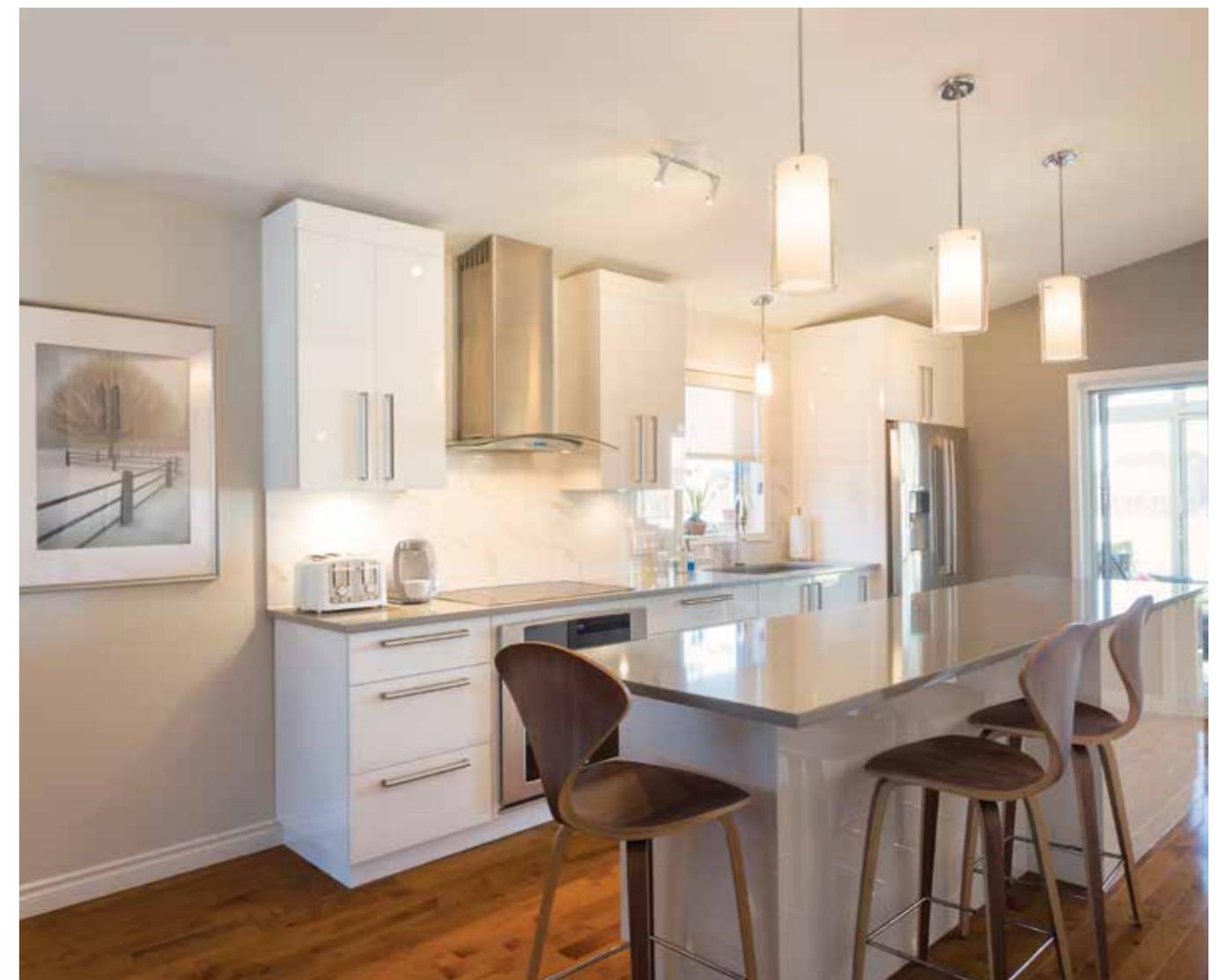
A series of full-size pantries increase the storage capacity in the kitchen with shallow cabinets that keep foodstuffs visible and easy to access.

LEFT

The couple was especially pleased with the central island, a feature they didn’t have in their former kitchen. The island is 9’ long by 3’ wide and can comfortably seat this family of four.

BOTTOM

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The sleek sophisticated cabinet profile extends into the dining area with a built-in buffet and aluminum-framed frosted glass upper display unit. "We never used the previous dining room when the wall was in place," says Heather.

On a roll with the kitchen renovation, Heather and Grant decided that the main bathroom could use a similar upgrade. The original layout was retained and a luxurious soaker tub and brand new porcelain tile in Petrified Wood pattern adds textural interest.

"The bathtub tile dimensions are 12" by 24" and the floor is set in plank-style, a very popular trend right now," says Doreen.

Heather sums up, "It was great working with Doreen and I miss her already! She was very honest with the breakdown of her quote. You knew where you were at all times. If at any time we were unsure of something, she offered ideas, got more samples and made sure it was right."

Grant chimes in, "Everything was dealt with, and not only that, it was all completed a week earlier than projected, and that's pretty much unheard of!"

For more details on Make It Home Ltd, visit www.makeithome.ca or call (204) 290-8113.



TOP

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RIGHT

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