

# FROM START TO FINISHES

## CHARLESWOOD HOME RENEWED AND REFRESHED

By Margaret Anne Fehr | Photography by Duality Photographic

**TAMMY AND VERN HAVE BEEN** in their Charleswood home for over 10 years. The couple was happy with their 1360 square foot bungalow but the 70's style finishes needed to be addressed, and sooner rather than later.

Tammy and Vern have made the decision to age in place and have no plans to move. "Since we've made that decision, we want to live in a space that we can enjoy and feel comfortable in, so the time was right to bring in the experts," says Vern.

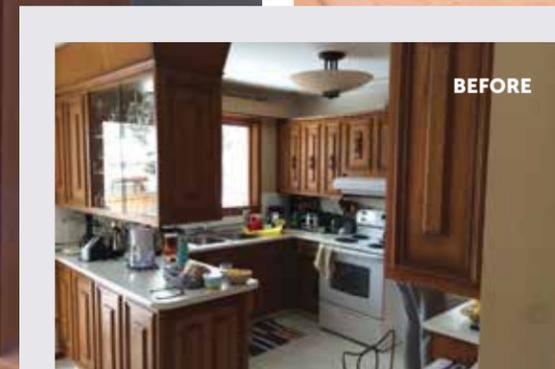
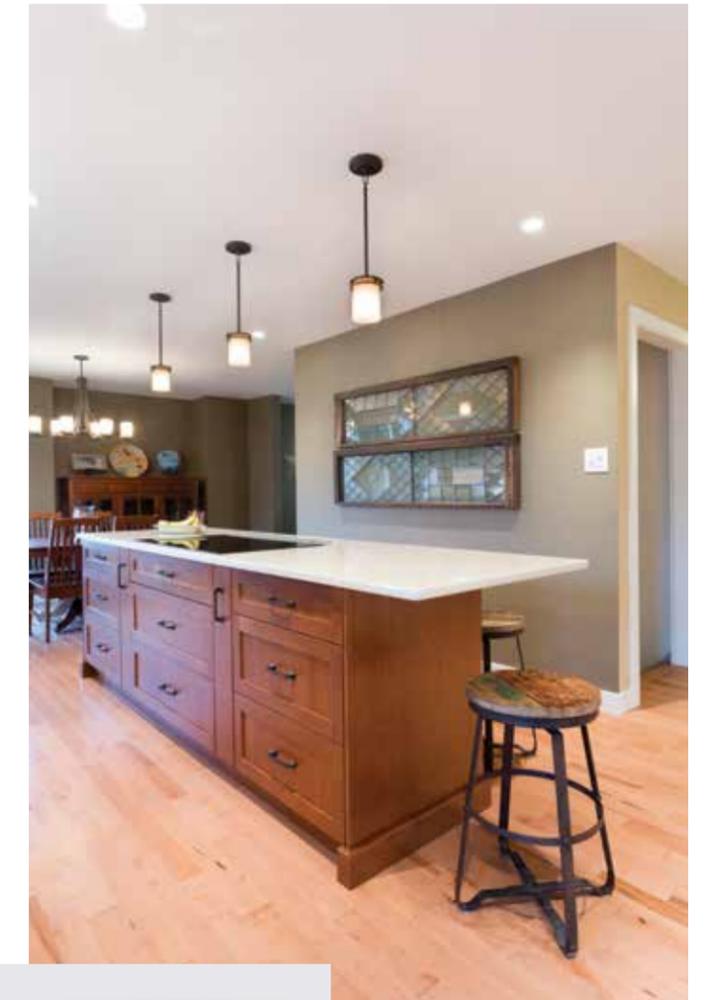
Vern credits Tammy for doing the necessary research that brought them to Doreen Gauthier, president of Make It Home LTD. at [www.makeithome.ca](http://www.makeithome.ca). "We gave Doreen an idea of what we wanted and she came back with three drawings and, of

course, we chose the most expensive one!" Vern quips.

Doreen has an established procedure when it comes to taking on home renovation projects. "For the first consultation, I go to the house and there's no charge for that. After that we get into the planning phase and there is a fee involved. We do the layout work to see how we can change the house plan to make it more current."

The next stage is the trade inspection. "That means that all the trades who are involved with the project, and I, meet at the house and review the scope of work identified on the design drawings.

There are many advantages to this approach says Doreen.



BEFORE

Shaker-style MDF cabinetry in matte white for the uppers fostered a light-filled ambiance, while lower cabinets and the centre island constructed of stained rift-cut oak relate to the couple's darker furniture pieces.



"It means; we're trying to identify the things that might not be obvious. For example, the electrician will make sure there's sufficient capacity at the panel; the flooring people will look for what's underneath the existing flooring. Everyone essentially needs to see what they're dealing with before they come up with their pricing."

Doreen's plan for Vern and Tammy included removal of the wall between the kitchen and the dining room and after conducting a structural assessment showing the wall was non-load bearing, it came down to create an instant open-concept space.

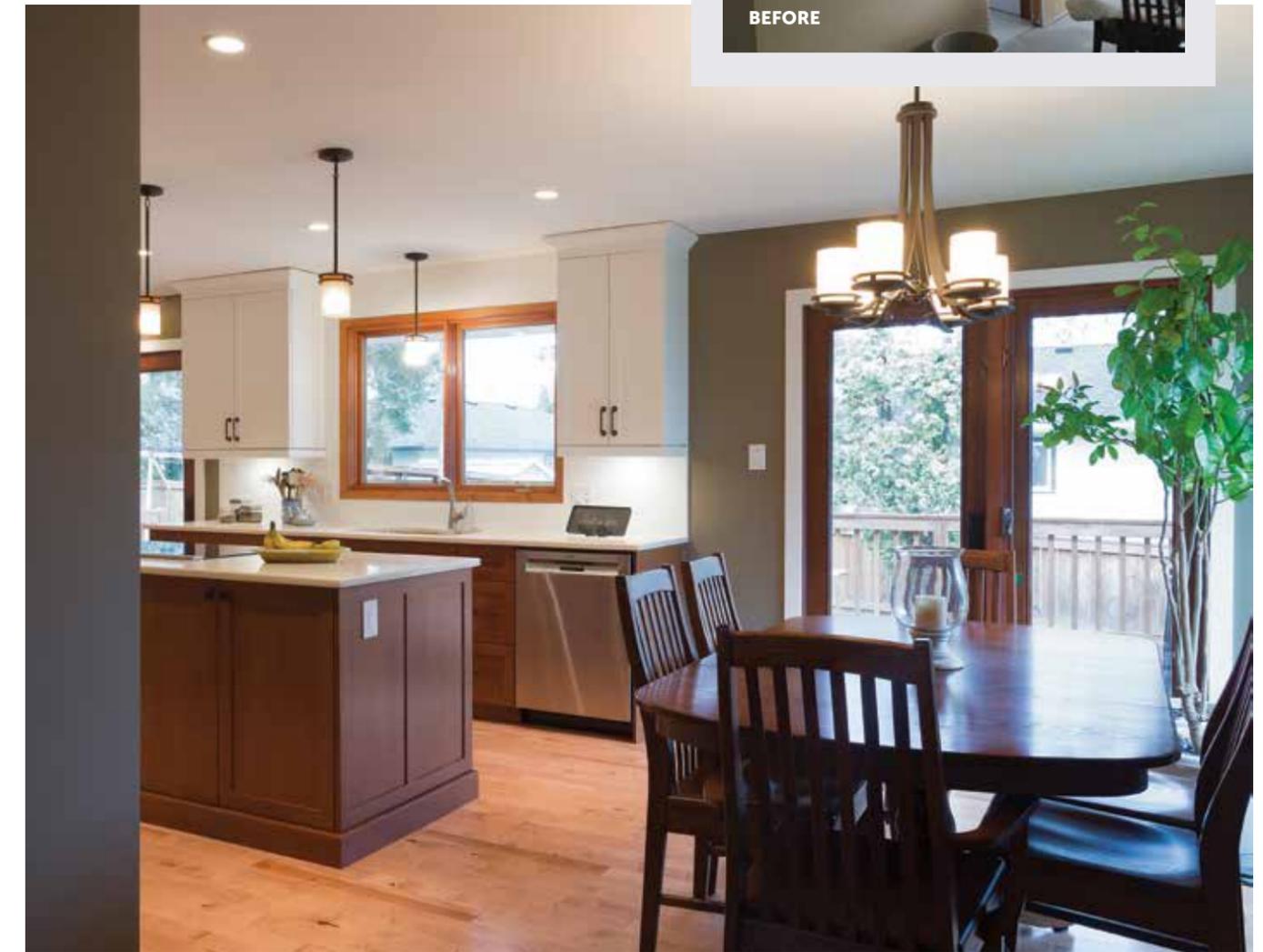
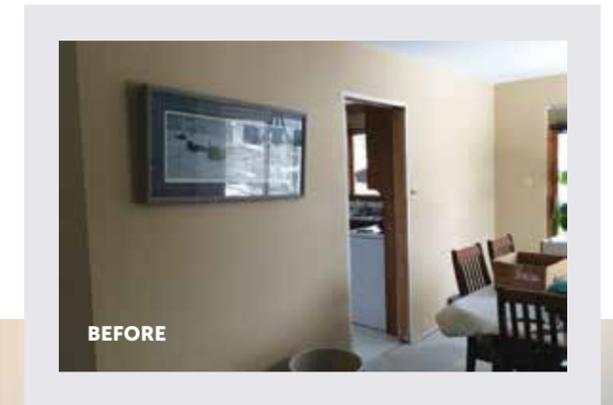
"Nine out of 10 projects that we do have some kind of wall removal. You want to bring the home up to current style and the homes of the 60's and 70's that had designated rooms for separate functions aren't built anymore. There are always two or three functions within a larger space, so a big part of our business is about removing walls."

The two patio doors were replaced. "The kitchen's patio door

was changed to a garden door giving us more room for the entire appliance wall. As soon as we reduced that large opening, there were way more layout options."

Once the layout was established, and the materials selected, the finishing work began in earnest. Shaker-style MDF cabinetry in matte white for the uppers fostered a light-filled ambiance, while lower cabinets and the centre island constructed of stained rift-cut oak relate to the couple's darker furniture pieces. Countertops are Quantra quartz in Bottochino colour and the kitchen backsplash is comprised of reflective 4" by 16" matte white tiles. Northplank maple hardwood was installed in the kitchen, living room and dining room.

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The main bath and master ensuite were up-dated with Avonite solid surface counters, glass accent tile including random watercolour strips for the backsplashes, and porcelain tilework in 12" by 24" gloss white for the shower walls. The floors were re-done in 6" by 24" tiles that impart a wood plank effect. As well, doors, trims, lighting and plumbing fixtures were all replaced creating a consistent style upgrade.

It's been over a year since their home has been given a new lease on life, but the couple are still digesting the changes, enjoying it and finding new 'awes' in it.

"We would highly recommend Doreen and Make it Home LTD to other people," says Vern. And if they don't choose her, they're really missing something. She and her team are simply awesome!"



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