

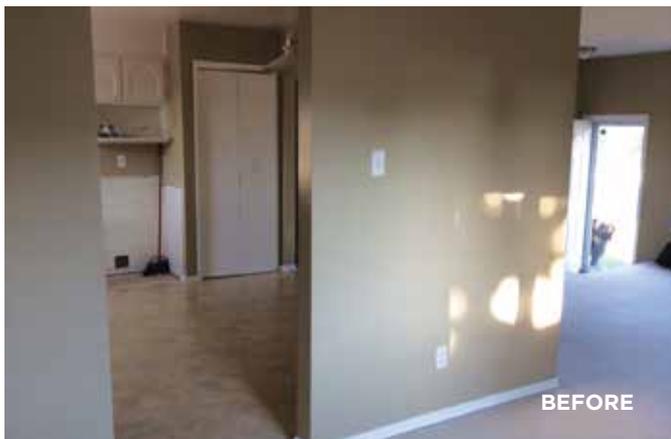
TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE?

Make It Home
makes deciding easy

by **MARGARET ANNE FEHR**
photography by **DUALITY PHOTOGRAPHIC**

It's a conversation that takes place around many a kitchen table when couples weigh the merits of buying another house to accommodate a growing family or take the plunge and do a full-scale renovation to their existing home.

After viewing over 20 homes for sale in their area, Wade and Lynn decided to take the plunge. Turns out, says Wade, "our 1979 bungalow feels like home; it's in a great St. Vital neighbourhood with schools, parks and shopping nearby and familiar so there wasn't a lot to be gained by moving."



VIEW 1

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FEATURE



VIEW 2

The cabinetry is a sophisticated contrast of stained maple shaker doors for the bases and white vinyl wrap uppers. The countertops are Flo Forms Cambria in Torquay colour set against a backsplash of individual tri-colour glass tiles with random staggered pattern.

Once that decision was made, the couple found Doreen Gauthier of Make it Home Ltd on the RenoMark website. We took a look at her website, her philosophy, her 'befores' and 'afters,' and her list of awards from the Manitoba Home Builders Association and were convinced her company was our best choice," says Lynn.

The family decided to hunker down in their finished basement during the course of the four month renovation while the 1150 square foot main floor began its transformation.

By then, Doreen and the couple had a game plan which included removal of walls to set the space within the cramped kitchen free. "Opening up the kitchen was the most dramatic thing along with updating the materials since it was all stuck in 1979," says Wade.

"We had gone in with the idea of taking down the walls, but Doreen helped us decide whether to go with an island or another alternative. We thought of building out into the backyard a little bit but as it turned out, we kept within the original footprint of the house and decided on a peninsula-style kitchen that was the best use of the space. We also were able to allow more of the budget to upgrade finishes as a result."

The cabinetry is a sophisticated contrast of stained maple shaker doors for the bases and white vinyl wrap uppers. The countertops are Flo Forms Cambria in Torquay colour set against a backsplash of individual tri-colour glass tiles with random staggered pattern. The plumbing fixtures were selected from Robinson Bath and lighting from Robinson Lighting. Vinyl plank

“WE’RE VERY HAPPY EVERYTHING AND WOULD DO IT AGAIN,” SAYS WADE. “WE ENJOY THE DESIGN AND THE QUALITY OF THE FINISHING. IT’S A BRAND NEW HOUSE AND IT’S COMFORTABLE, FUNCTIONAL AND UP TO DATE.”

floors were installed throughout, with carpeting reserved for the bedrooms.

Doreen adds, “We removed two non-load bearing walls, which required no additional framing. We only had to relocate some electrical and a fresh air return. The new open space means the beautiful kitchen is viewable from any spot. It also feels larger and the

natural light is always present as there are windows on three sides of the open area.”

“We touched everything on the main floor of this house,” says Doreen. “We did all floors, cabinetry, counters, back splashes, lighting, plumbing fixtures, new drywall ceilings, fireplace insert and surround, flooring with new doors and



VIEW 3

“We touched everything on the main floor of this house,” says Doreen. “We did all floors, cabinetry, counters, back splashes, lighting, plumbing fixtures, new drywall ceilings, fireplace insert and surround, flooring with new doors and frames and trimwork throughout. This is our specialty!”



FEATURE



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VIEW 4

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Four months later, the family took their rightful place on the main floor and is delighted with the results. “We’re very happy everything and would do it again,” says Wade. “We enjoy the design and the quality of the finishing. It’s a brand new house and it’s comfortable, functional and up to date.”

The couple is so glad they chose Doreen “She was excellent! We would come up with problems and her response was never to say no and always to figure out how to say yes,” says Wade. “We definitely would recommend her company.”

Lynn adds, “Doreen guided us the whole way. She was always expressing that she wanted us to be happy with the whole thing, and that came through clearly and repeatedly.”

Doreen is equally happy with the result. “I’m always grateful for clients who are brave enough to take something like this on instead of simply moving to a new house. The rewards are so great! People do this because they are connected to their current homes whether it is the location, great neighbours and so on. For us, it was a great pleasure to help this family do this!”

Make it Home is an accredited member of RenoMark, the Manitoba Home Builders Association, Women Business Owners of Manitoba and the Better Business Bureau.

For further details on Make It Home Ltd, visit <http://www.makeithome.ca> or call (204) 290-8113



VIEW 5

The bathroom received a refreshing update that flowed seamlessly with the rest of the main floor.