

Make It Home Ltd. creates home-to-stay

✦ *Wildwood couple happy to stay put*

By Margaret Anne Fehr | Photography by Duality Photographic



ONCE A WILDWOOD PARK resident, always a Wildwood Park resident seems to be the refrain. This was especially true for Jon and Lucille who count many happy years in the area. Both retired, the couple were considering a move to a condo, but leaving their neighbourhood just didn't sit right.

That's when they enlisted Doreen Gauthier, President of Make it Home Ltd. to explore options for their house that was built in 1953.

Jon found the Make It Home Ltd. website www.makeithome.ca and liked what he saw.

ABOVE
Jon and Lucille made the bold choice to bring down the dividing and load-bearing walls between kitchen, dining room and living room.

The first meeting went well and the couple had Doreen do an initial design to see what they were getting into. "We could stop there if that's all we wanted," says Jon but after reviewing the plan, the couple decided full steam ahead was the way to go.

What resulted was a complete reno says Doreen. "We gutted the walls in the kitchen, dining, living room to remove the original insulation. We replaced all the doors, frames, casings, baseboards, new drywall ceilings and walls, refinished the hardwood, new lighting, fireplace and paint colors, and renovated the kitchen and bathroom.

"These clients are quite modern in their taste, so we used beautiful finishes such as Cambria countertops in Newport White in kitchen and bathroom, Calacatta polished porcelain kitchen backsplash and flat profiled matte white vinyl wrap cabinets with aluminium and glass doors."

Jon and Lucille made the bold choice to bring down the dividing and load-bearing walls between kitchen, dining room and living room. "Major structural work followed with a 20' LVL beam to replace the original load-bearing walls. This structural work also required the addition of a new telepost and concrete footing in the basement," says Doreen.

With the dividing walls down, the existing hardwood flooring needed attention to create a seamless effect. "We laced new hardwood into the



ABOVE
Cambria countertops in Newport White contributed to the bathroom's transformation.



LEFT
The wall colours are two shades of warm grey, one of which is exactly matched to the IKI 12" x 24" tile fireplace surround.

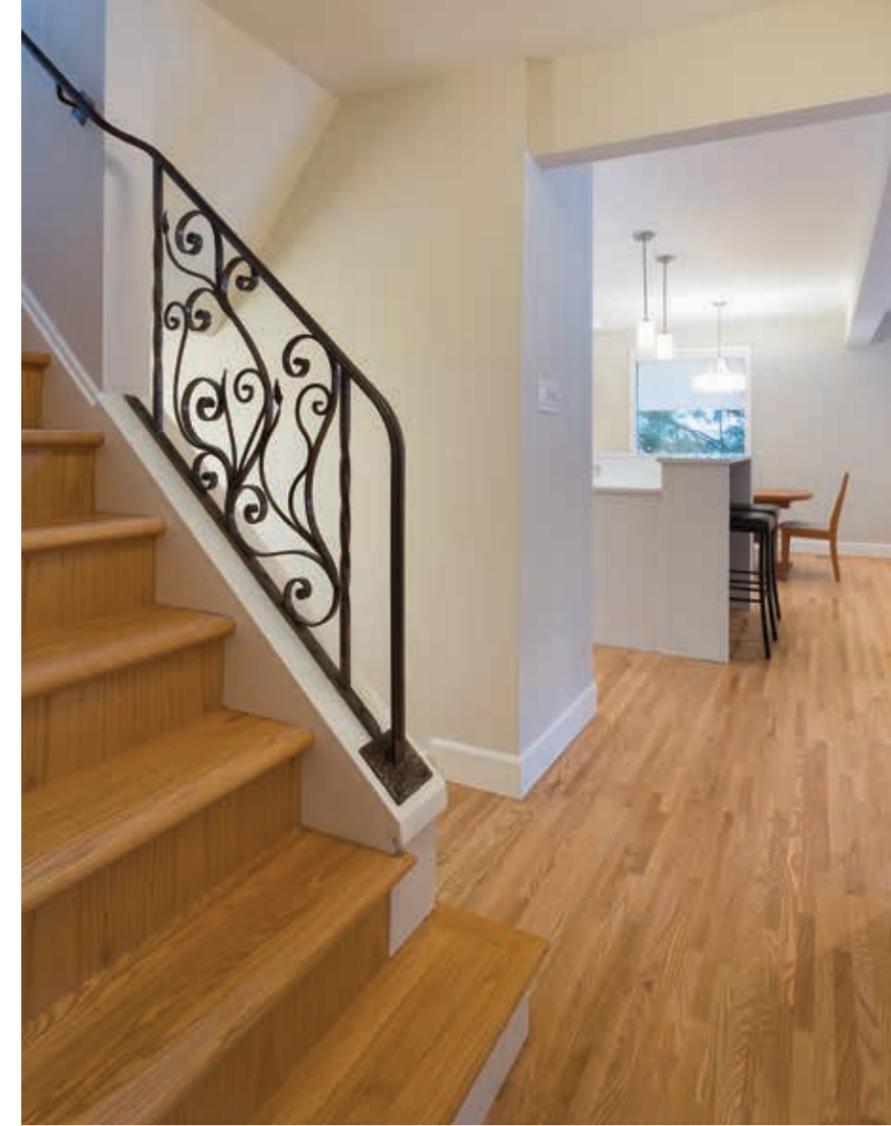


kitchen space then re-finished the whole thing," says Doreen. "Our flooring folks did a great job to make the installation look uniform even though some of the wood floors were over 60 years old." Elements of the house were retained including the hardwood, stairs and metal fretwork banister. "Now that the walls were removed you can see the original banister from the living space," says Doreen. "It's very pretty, so no reason to change it." Care was taken to create a subtle aesthetic. The wall colours are two shades of warm grey, one of which is exactly matched to the IKI 12" x 24" tile fireplace surround. "We wanted a very cohesive, inviting space, and using only a few colors adds to the calmness. The maple wood accents in raspberry stain on the closet doors, island and fireplace add some contrast."

The Wildwood home is typical of Make It Home's design build renovation package. "All our projects start with a planning fee to nail down the scope of work and produce layout drawings," says Doreen. "Once this is established, we become the general contractor and manage all the trades and suppliers. We are a one-stop-shop for the complete project. We work very closely with our clients for all the final selections of materials and are involved every step of the way on every decision. As a design-build renovation company, Make It Home Ltd. considers every project to be unique and is developed appropriately to the tastes and preferences of our clients."

Time was a factor for the couple with Lucille hoping to be able prepare Christmas dinner in the new space. "Our clients moved into their basement during the 4 month reno and were very patient as we experienced product delays. There were moments when we questioned whether Christmas dinner would be a go, but it all worked out and everything was ready in time!"

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Doreen always learns from each Make It Home Ltd. project. "This time I learned a lot about the Wildwood area. Jon and Lucille are long-time residents that had no intention of leaving their neighborhood. I'm always grateful for clients who want to create a new lifestyle in their current home versus moving to a new home."

Doreen is pleased that Make It Home Ltd. has been nominated for the upcoming Renomark Awards 2015 in the Whole Home category for the Wildwood project. Make It Home Ltd. is a Master Renovator - a designation offered to those who abide by high standards outlined by the Manitoba Home Builders Association.

Doreen brings stellar credentials to every project she takes on having completed the Master Renovator course offered by the Manitoba Home Builders Association as well as attaining the CHP (Certified Home Professional) designation. Make it Home Ltd is also a member of NKBA, BBB, MHBA and Renomark associations.

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

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