

UPWARD

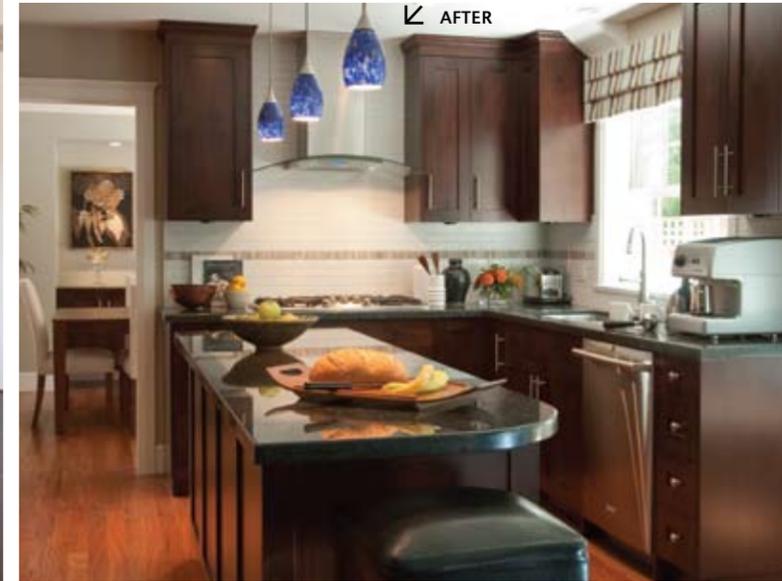
CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION

Achieving lofty goals

BY TRACEY RAYSON PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROSS



BEFORE



AFTER

WHEN A COMPANY BY VIRTUE OF THEIR SURNAME EVOKES THE SENTIMENT of their mission statement, and in this case “upward,” to mean toward a higher place, level, or position — you know they are out to impart premium services. Upward Construction & Renovation offers a level of service that will exceed your expectations. They maintain the highest level of quality and allow their employees the opportunity to grow and prosper and strive to instill confidence with all parties by professionally managing all aspects of every project. This upward momentum is akin to their philosophy and is clearly carried out in the Headland Drive renovation.

English art critic and social thinker John Ruskin once said, “Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort.” Upward took this knowledge to heart and rejuvenated the Gilchrist residence; they transformed a tired, old ‘70s five-bedroom home with approximately 3,500 sq. ft. into a brand new functional and comfortable living environment.

“The entire house was gutted to the bone, right down to the 2x4s,” says Michael Upward, founder and project manager. “The homeowner was inspired to stay in the location because of the view and proximity to local shopping but she wasn’t comfortable with the existing house. We refitted the entire home with new electrical wiring and brought it up above code requirements, which makes it very efficient. With some structural changes to the walls, we provided an open concept atmosphere and incorporated all the attributes of a new home.” Additional energy-efficient upgrades include a two-stage furnace system, windows, Roxsul insulation, and thermostats on each floor for designated heat/air conditioning control.

DESIGN BALANCE THROUGH FORM AND FUNCTION

Every part of the original house was renovated to become more functional. The kitchen was opened up by removing a wall and the back stairway was taken out, which enabled an increase in floor space on the upper level. “Initially there were two staircases in the house

and we removed one of them allowing a huge opening on the upper floor to create a second master suite with an ensuite,” reveals Upward. “It was the same size space, we just used it differently. Additionally, the client preferred built-in cabinetry, which made everything more functional and space saving.”

Entertaining is made easier for the homeowner with the rearranged space, allowing better flow and movement within the kitchen and a new gathering spot around the multi-functional island that integrates drawers for cookware and a built-in microwave. Placement of appliances and lighting were integral in achieving the function of the space.

“It is hard to choose a favourite room,” confesses homeowner Shona Gilchrist. “However, the fireplace in the living room is a spectacular feature bringing together a great space for relaxing and entertaining.”

EXTERIOR TRANSFORMATION

One of the most dramatic features is the



12-ft. sliding glass custom door, which prompts accessible indoor/outdoor living. “This 12 foot opening from the family room opens onto the backyard, complete with a paving stone patio and green space,” says Upward. “The indoors come out and the outdoors come in, not to mention we also provided all the landscaping services.”

Significant exterior modifications include ledgestone masonry, new paint, a rebuilt concrete entrance, stairway, sidewalk and fences, new drainage, rubber roof, and stone pavers in a grid system for the slope driveway.

INTEGRITY AND QUALITY DEDICATION

“We devote time to talk to our clients to establish exactly what they want to achieve,” says Upward. “With our experience and knowledge of construction innovation, we can avoid the ‘cookie cutter’ approach and develop solutions that fit homeowners’ unique needs. We provide advice about design options, materials, the project complexity, possible costs, and we guarantee our work.” Their carpenters are ticketed professionals and Upward offers an apprenticeship program. “We are big on education and we share that with our clients throughout the renovation and the quality of our work.”

For more information call: 778.340.1355
or visit upwardconstruction.ca