

OPEN TO change

by JANINE MACKIE

To launch stylish redo, INTERMIND DESIGN demolishes dividing walls and creates great family gathering entertainment space



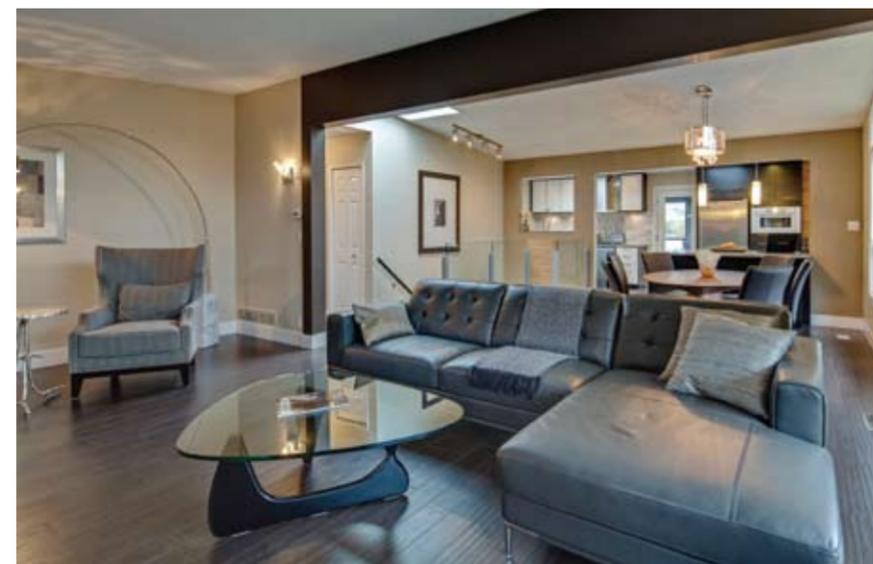
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BEFORE SHOT OF THE RENOVATION

HAPPINESS IS SEEING YOUR CLIENT DANCE WITH joy in her new space. Just like a mother who forgets the arduous hours of labour when she feasts her eyes on her new born babe, so Mila Djuras, renowned renovator and principal of Intermind Design, lives for the moment when she first sees a family back in their home after months of strenuous renovation.

This fall Intermind Design completed the remodel of the Bifano family's house in the Deer Lake neighbourhood of Burnaby. With professional careers on full throttle and a busy household with two teenage sons, this couple was looking for a competent renovator whom they could award full creative license to transform their home into a modern expression of the way they live.

"They look so good in that space," reflects Mila as she works backwards and describes the current scene as though the months of removing walls and installing new cabinetry are overshadowed by the families' current state of bliss. "I stopped in after work to see the husband relaxing in the armchair, one of the boys lying on the sectional watching TV, the other on his laptop at the kitchen, and the mom happily moving about the house and admiring the artistic black and white photographs I chose for the home."

For Mila, who merges the philosophy that home is not just physical, but emotional, spiritual, intellectual and



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OWNER INTERMIND DESIGN

interactive, this scene was a resounding compliment of a job well done, and proof that it's possible to both modernize and customize a home. "For me designing this home was very much about finding a way to build into the clean look of modern design with a sufficient amount of warmth and an overall look that is timeless," describes Mila. "We pretty much created a new tradition which is neither too casual, nor too formal, but well suited for the house itself, its location and just right for this lovely family."

Exterior makes a statement on the street while mirroring its modern interior

The owners, Paul and Konstanze Bifano wanted to completely recreate their home stylistically, and to make a design statement that sat comfortably in its neighbourhood, but also exuded a distinctly modern expression. Intermind Design set to work, removing the

old deck, sliding doors and iron railings and replacing them with a contemporary facade featuring smooth cedar tongue and groove detailing, black fascia around the retrofitted windows and a front door which makes a bold design statement.

The families' biggest wish was to open the kitchen to the dining room. Intermind Design took that dream and expanded the space even more by removing the wall to the living room to create a space that commands the home.

Fire engine red cabinets have now been replaced with a gorgeous customized Ikea kitchen, accentuated with zebra wood accents, sandstone countertops, laminate flooring with solid wood treads and modern stainless steel appliances.

Emphasis on architecture and palette is evident in the living room

Cold greys and warm neutrals are at play, flowing from the soft leather furnishings, to the walnut veneer dining table and then painted on accent walls to create a subtle divide between spaces. Mila's professionalism and keen design sense certainly doesn't go unnoticed as she brings the space together with metallic accents, unique sculptural items and a statement-making Noguchi coffee table.

"Mila has the gift of understanding her clients," says Konstanze Bifano. "She's a good listener and pays attention to details. Her crew treats the client's home like they would their own, which leaves great comfort."

Continually exceeding expectations, Intermind Design is recognized in the industry with numerous awards including Gold Georgies in the Best Residential Renovation category, Best Kitchen and Best Condo Renovation.

Visit online at IntermindDesign.ca or call Mila Djuras personally at 604.338.9936.