

# SUN **HOMES** AND **DECOR**

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## Reno adds Scandinavian flair to dated townhouse

Designer 'helped us step outside our comfort zone'

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Their 2,000-square-foot townhouse boasts nine-foot ceilings on the main floor and is nestled in a desirable mature area in downtown Milton. But David Moore and Tabitha DaCosta were at odds: should they renovate it to make it their own or purchase a new home?

In the end, the couple decided to renovate and put their trust in Lisa Kooistra, the creative director and principal designer of Lisa Kooistra Design (LKD), a multi-disciplinary and award-winning design firm based in Burlington.

"They wanted a very neutral and calming design approach. They are a busy family with two kids in sports and are both always busy themselves," Kooistra says. "We were able to put a design together that really fit with their lifestyle and growing needs. The idea of working with this smaller space to achieve their goals was very rewarding."

The renovation, completed by York Renovation & Design Inc., also based in Burlington, included gutting the main floor and installing a large support beam to create an open-concept and multi-zone living area.

The kitchen offers plenty of room to prepare meals, a pantry for extra storage and a desk area. The main floor also boasts a living space with wall mouldings and a small dining space decked out with a round table and stunning chandelier.

The second floor ensuite washroom features a double-sink white oak vanity with quartz countertop and gold fixtures. The homeowners also opted to finish the basement.

The staircase treads were refinished to match the new white oak flooring and simple black spindles



Lisa Kooistra, creative director and principal designer of Lisa Kooistra Design. *STEPHANI BUSHMAN, COURTESY OF LISA KOOISTRA DESIGN*

were added. Rattan light fixtures illuminate the hallway.

"This property was a great example of investing your money back into your home and using experts to make it work for them and their lifestyle," Kooistra says. "We worked with some local and sustainable products and produced a light and bright Scandinavian-inspired space for the family."

The homeowners lived in the basement during the year-long renovation. "From beginning to end, Lisa walked right beside us, hand in hand, working tirelessly to make our house our new home," Moore and DaCosta say.

"Lisa selected and designed every element of our new space. We trusted

Lisa so much that we gave her full reign to select, design and purchase items that she felt worked best in the space. She always asked for our opinions but in the end, we let her work her magic...She helped us step outside our comfort zone and recognize the essence of true design."

The overall look is a timeless neutral palette with Scandinavian flair. Kooistra describes the open-concept main floor as "the best part of the renovation."

The kitchen has double wall ovens and a six-burner gas range top with a pot filler. It features off-white upper cabinetry with flat cut white oak lowers and gold hardware.

The off-white island has a sink and hidden cabinets for additional storage. The chiselled stone porcelain tile backsplash complements the quartz countertop.

A void space by the kitchen was transformed into a walk-in pantry with a natural pine door.

The townhouse was constructed in the 2000s and had never been previously renovated. The homeowners made just a few minor changes from the original design and a contingency fund covered some add-ons.

The homeowners "were beyond thrilled" with the results, says Kooistra. "Our firm strives for this with every project. We always love seeing happy clients. It makes us proud and enjoy what we do."

Her advice to anyone considering a large renovation? "Make sure to hire a professional design team as well as a trusted contractor. This way everything is figured out for you and your investment will be in good hands," she says.

"Above all, ensure that you have an initial meeting to make sure all parties will be able to co-exist and be a good match."



The existing staircase treads were refinished to match the new white oak flooring.



The renovation created an open-concept, multi-zone living area.



The ensuite washroom features a white oak vanity with quartz countertop.