

FALL 2022

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STORY JOYCE GIONET | PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANI BUCHMAN

GET YOUNG PARENTS CHATTING ABOUT HOME AND THEY OFTEN COMMISERATE OVER THREE THINGS: LACK OF SPACE, LACK OF STORAGE AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE STYLISH, KID-PROOF INTERIORS.

“Parents tend to buy furniture in materials that wipe down easily and colours that won’t show dirt,” says **Staci Edwards of Staci Edwards Interior Design**. Their choices are economical, but not necessarily because of budget. Who wants to spend money on a sensational white fabric sofa to see it ruined by a two-year-old’s enthusiastic black Sharpie marker session? When it comes to renos, families often wait until the kids are older. It doesn’t have to be that way.

Believe it or not, good style starts with organized spaces. From start to finish, this reno took just under two years. There were no major structural changes. That’s unusual. “Let’s take down a wall” is the battle cry of most renos nowadays. Initially, Steven and Karen wanted to take down the wall between the kitchen and what’s now the storage room. Now they’re glad they kept it. They ended up with a well-configured space that allows them to do more of what they love – entertain. The wall between the kitchen and living room was expanded by five feet, allowing for a beautiful length of custom cabinetry. Between the kitchen and storage room, Staci created a solo cabinet she dubbed the “entertainment cabinet.” It holds everything Karen and Steven need when entertaining. In the storage room, cabinets run to the ceiling. *Continued on page 77*

The new kitchen is simple and elegant. Blending dark cabinetry with lighter countertops and adding hints of gold creates a luxe but comfortable surrounding. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The soft blue in the original stained glass inspired the great room aesthetic. **BOTTOM:** The elegant furnishings are spillproof! Just wipe and sticky messes are gone.



“STACI BECAME PART OF OUR HOME’S ANTHEM AND HER IMPACT ECHOES THROUGH EVERY ROOM. KAREN AND I LOVE THE ENTIRE PROJECT, BUT WE’RE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR THE NEW KITCHEN.” –Steven

Moving the wall five feet allowed for additional cabinetry. A sweet solo cabinet between the rooms houses entertaining needs. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The couple love to entertain, so space to prep and cook was a priority. **BOTTOM:** Rows of cabinets can often look austere. Open shelving softens a darker cabinet hue and adds interest.

Maximizing space and storage was a major theme in this reno. Karen and Steven have a pool and guests use the full main-floor bathroom to change or dry off. The original vanity was tiny, so a bigger one was designed with an open shelf to stack towels. A small thing, perhaps, but a huge thing when you entertain regularly in the summer.

Steven and Karen often work from home so an organized office with a “love-to-work-at-home” vibe was important. It now has gorgeous built-ins, a custom desk with space for two and a chaise that pulls out to a bed. In the foyer, a long console “gives clutter a place to live,” as Staci puts it. The art was sourced from Minted.

The primary bedroom also needed more storage. The design was a bit of a challenge because closets tuck right into the side of the roofline. Staci’s team designed a cabinet that functions as an armoire and gives Karen and Steven more room for hanging clothes, with loads of drawer space below.



Staci’s style files

In the kitchen, flooring, trim, countertops, backsplash, sink and faucets, lighting, cabinet hardware and furniture are new. The floor is engineered white oak. “I didn’t go too light on the stain because trends go back and forth between light and dark. The floors are a mid-tone. Already, I see the trend for darker floors emerging, but nothing here will look dated when dark floors start showing up on Instagram,” says Staci.

The waterfall island in the kitchen is Caesarstone. Staci mixes metals when accessorizing. Like flooring, metal trends change. The dark grey cabinets, white stone counters and backsplashes are warmed by satin-brass hardware and gold pendant lights. Notice the metal detail in the range hood. Stools from West Elm tie in nicely with wood floors and wipe easily, which is important because the island is a favourite perch for the kids. Light fixtures are from **Cocoon**. Fresh flowers and greens are from **Fiori**.

Continued on page 78

home & designer

As with many modern homes, the dining area is part of the kitchen, but Staci still wanted it to feel special. She hunted for a fabulous light fixture – “this one allows the space to have its own moment.” Typically, kitchens have many hard surfaces, so upholstered dining chairs add warmth. The couple love the new sliding glass doors. Originally a door and window combo, the door provides easy access to the backyard.

In the great room, the two stained-glass windows are original to the home. Their exquisite, watery-blue glass was the springboard for the room’s aesthetic. Furniture and window treatments add softness and layering. Parents take note!



Entertaining needs are beautifully displayed and accessible just off the kitchen.



Furniture fabrics are 100 per cent spill proof; a little soap and water will remove juice, coffee, wine and permanent marker. An animal print rug livens things up and helps hide dirt. Chairs are from Cocoon. Coffee tables are from Crate and Barrel. The scale of the fireplace wasn't changed, but the surround was refaced, and elegant built-ins were added. All construction, including detail and finishing work was done by **TRUBuild Custom Homes & Renovations** and **J&K Cabinetry**.
Continued on page 80

ABOVE LEFT & RIGHT: The full main-floor bathroom was redesigned with pool guests in mind. It now houses an open shelf at the bottom for towels rather than having them on the countertop. **LEFT & RIGHT:** With a young family, storage was the word of the day. Staci incorporated plenty of places to keep things neatly tucked away. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Staci sourced a beautiful chandelier to give the dining room its own special moment. **BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT:** No space was wasted. Cabinetry provides additional storage but also knits the open spaces together.



Steven and Karen like neutrals, but in the primary bedroom they wanted to go bold. Blue patterned wallpaper adds a lively touch of movement. The sloped ceiling posed a bit of a challenge, so the team built a luxurious velvet custom headboard to fit. “We layered the bed with luxury fabrics and varied hues of blue on pillows and curtains. I think of blue as a neutral, it goes with almost everything and is always on trend,” says Staci. To step things up, she added a touch of gold. *Continued on page 82*



ABOVE: The sloped space was creatively addressed by adding wallpaper and fabricating a custom headboard. Now the bed looks like it was always meant to be there. **FAR LEFT:** Soothing neutrals exude elegance and relaxation in the primary bedroom. **LEFT:** The contrast of the darker hue allows the gold accents to shimmer and reflect.



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LEFT: A chaise instead of a traditional lounge chair is a cosy space to stretch out and read. **BELOW:** The office is fresh and light to encourage the “work from home” vibe.

“INTERIOR DESIGN AND DECORATING SERVICES HELP YOU LIVE LIFE BEAUTIFULLY.”
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So how do Karen and Steven feel about working with a pro? “Doing a renovation with a designer gets you exactly what you want, and you’re guided by someone who knows exactly what you need and how to deliver it,” says Steven. “Staci became part of our home’s anthem and her impact echoes through every room. Karen and I love the entire project, but we’re particularly grateful for the new kitchen. It’s where the best energy in our family comes out, where the laughter happens most often and where everyone’s activities – cooking, homework, crafts, games or conversation – bring us closer together.”

Moral of this story? Parents, take heart! Don’t wait until the kids are older to elevate the style of your space. But try to hire a professional designer, if possible. A designer sees the big picture while most of us are mired in the weeds because the decisions during a reno can get overwhelming. A designer will also work within your budget. Staci’s business messaging is simple, “Interior design and decorating services help you live life beautifully.” And living life beautifully with kids is possible. This project is the proof. **OH**

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