



From A to Z

Dave and Michelle MacRae knew they wanted to renovate the main floor of their Transcona bungalow. But they also knew they wanted someone who could handle the entire project.

“All Canadian Renovations (ACR) took care of everything for us,” says Dave MacRae, “from getting permits to working with us on the design to coordinating all the tradespeople. That was what we wanted.”

Built in the 1960s, the house seriously needed to be modernized. At the same time, it was still a solid home. And the MacRaes liked the neighbourhood. They did not want to move. But they also knew that simply replacing the carpeting in the kitchen with tile—something they initially wanted to do themselves—would not be enough.

“We decided to really get some work done on this house and stay here a long, long time,” recalls MacRae.

Their main focus was the kitchen. Originally, walls separated the cooking, eating and formal dining areas. The family wanted a lot more functional room and a brighter, more open space. At the same time, they still wanted some measure of separation from the living room. The solution was to create a large opening in one wall while removing the others.

This provided an opportunity to bring the electrical system up to code. “That’s another advantage of hiring a company such as All Canadian,” says MacRae, admitting that he might not have thought of doing this if he was doing the work himself. “They know all that.” ACR added an electrical panel and additional breakers. This allowed the installation of an electrical outlet in the new island, as well as under-cabinet lighting. The addition of the island and selection of the

new cabinets were only two of many decisions the MacRaes had to make. But ACR made it easy. “What they do is take you shopping,” explains the homeowner. The first stop was a plumbing distributor to select the sink and faucet, then a place to select the cabinets, and finally, the granite countertops. The last stop was at a tile distributor where the MacRaes chose their flooring and tile backsplash.



In the decorative detail, grey accent tiles pick up the grey in the granite, while the yellow tiles match the wall colour. “ACR had a designer that helped us select and coordinate the colours,” explains MacRae. The rust coloured tiles in the backsplash coordinate with feature walls in the kitchen and living room.

At the same time, the new kitchen deals with some of the functional issues the MacRaes wanted to address. The new built-in desk helps deal with paper clutter; a long drawer by the stove is the perfect place for utensils; and two deep drawers nearby conveniently store pots, pans and storage containers. “It enables us to keep everything nice and neat,” says MacRae.

But renovations did not stop at the kitchen. The MacRaes asked ACR to remove the carpet throughout the main floor and refinish the existing hardwood underneath. Originally, MacRae thought that he might just repaint the doors in the house himself. But after the results proved less than optimal, he asked ACR to replace all the doors, baseboards and casings.

“We’re really pleased with the result,” he says, now that the work is all done. “It was well worth it.”

In fact, the renovation fulfills everything the MacRaes wanted including one special request that Dave communicated to ACR principal Tony Teunis when they first met.

“I told him we wanted a wow factor,” recalls MacRae. “And that’s just what we got.”

