



BUILDING CHARACTER

Heritage-inspired infill home blends right in

BY HILARY KLASSEN
PHOTOS BY ELAINE MARK D & M IMAGES

Beautiful mature trees, a gorgeous river view, walking paths and a sense of history are enough to make Saskatoon's newest infill project eminently desirable. Add its location on Spadina Crescent East, one of the city's most prestigious neighborhoods, and you've got a rare winner.

The bigger story is the stunning dwelling itself. Built by Westridge Homes, the stately

white exterior evokes a grand style. "The house was designed with the understanding we wanted to fit in with the character of the neighborhood, not be overwhelming to the street," says Rogan Taveling, co-owner of Westridge Homes.

The interior opens to a spectacular blend of traditional and modern design elements. "Ultimately our goal for most of our homes is that timeless feel. This house will continue to look classic in years to come," says Taveling.

Homeowner Lesley Behl worked closely with Westridge on the project. She's been

intrigued by home design since she was eight years old, when she first started doodling house plans. "I love older homes, the high ceilings and intricate moldings. I wanted the house to feel appropriate for the space but still have a bit of a modern, kind of a youthful feel to it as well."

Standing in the front foyer, you first sense that interior sight lines are very important. To the right, a spacious den hints at comfortable seclusion. A paneled grand central hall leads to other zones including the back of the home, and the main living area to the left. The



This Spadina Crescent house stood for over a century before making way for new development. A beautiful new home by Westridge Homes makes better proportional use of the lot, expands living space considerably and does a fine job of harmonizing with the neighbourhood.

PHOTO: WESTRIDGE HOMES

living room, kitchen and dining room form a progression from front to back.

"We wanted to allow for the views as much as possible," says Tarradg. "Here, you have the river views from the dining room, the living room, the kitchen and the den."

The classic feel is achieved by keeping the palette fairly neutral, he says. The main floor features 10-foot ceilings and eight-foot doors. The living room is anchored by a large traditional fireplace and offers views in three directions. Kitchen cabinets are painted white maple, a big item on Bell's wish list. A marble tile backsplash is complemented by marble-look quartz countertops. Integrated flush appliances – a six-burner stove, double oven and Sub-Zero refrigerator – disappear within the cabinets. The return of gold is seen in matte gold accents and cabinet pulls. A bar area sits in for a butler's pantry, separated from a second matching hatch by an opening to the central hall.

The city has stopped allowing driveways on the front of Spadina Crescent homes, so a new double detached garage was added to the back. A huge mudroom accessible from the rear of the home is sufficed with natural light and offers plenty of storage.

A number of unique custom details, like the solid wood stairway and banister, reflect Bell's abundant clippings from Pinterest and other design sources. Matte-finish red oak hardwood floors extend throughout the home. Each of the three spacious upper bedrooms has a walk-in closet and views of the treetops. Two have river views. A raised ceiling elevates the master bedroom.

Dual sinks are separated by a central washer tub in the luxurious master ensuite, while a couple of windowless once-again extend sight lines from all areas including the jetted shower.



Westridge Homes created a spectacular blend of traditional and modern design elements, in keeping with the homeowner's vision for the property. The home has a timeless beauty that can be enjoyed for decades to come.





"It's part of the design, so in every direction you're always looking toward natural light, and seeing something in the distance," says Tarneling. The master walk-in closet's deep built-in cabinetry is designed to encompass and frame the hanging clothes and give a clean, organized feel.

A laundry room next to the master bedroom accesses the walk-in closet as well as the upper hall. This second entry to the master suite can allow one person to get up and get ready without waking the other person. "We find master bedrooms are getting smaller. The master is becoming more of a sleeping space and that's it," says Tarneling. "Closets are becoming dressing rooms so those areas are getting bigger."

The basement holds a huge family room, exercise area, potential future wine cellar and a couple of additional large bedrooms. It could function as a nanny-zone. Home audio and temperature throughout the house can be controlled remotely through your smart phone.

Behl's vision incorporated unique design elements, like different floor tiles, lighting fixtures and furniture pieces in different areas, while retaining the flow and unity of the home. "I love that mix of the traditional and mid-century modern styles, so I tried to source lighting with more of a mid-century modern feel to it." The home isn't trying to be trendy but could easily be punched up by pops of colour.

Tarneling and Westridge Homes interior designer Tara Lefebvre help clients keep the total picture in mind. "Our goal is to bring the customer's vision to life." Both take time to hear customers, not just check the right boxes. "The more time we spend with you the better sense we have of who you are and the closer we'll get to exactly what you want," says Tarneling.

The infill project didn't present any special challenges. As is their custom, Westridge Homes makes every effort to be respectful of neighbours. City policies determined setbacks and certain design limits. Big old underground lead pipes had to be replaced and upgraded. New underground electrical and gas services were run to the home to update for today's standards. "With infills, there are always areas that require special attention but we are used to it," Tarneling says. "Things went very smoothly."

For more information on this stately, yet fresh and liveable home, contact Regan Tarneling at regan.t@westridge.ca. 

