



By Jane Lockhart,  
B.A.A.I.D.  
Intern, ARIDO



FROM  
CONFINED  
AND  
TIRED TO

# Refined and Admired

In this main-floor makeover, Jane Lockhart takes her cue from the clients' favourite colour and their hometown architectural style to create a fresh contemporary family home.

**R**enovating one room is disruptive and challenging enough. But renovating an entire main floor, at the same time, including the kitchen, can be overwhelming for any family. In this case, with these clients, all the inconvenience and patience was well worth it, and the results are truly amazing!

For our busy, working parents of three

kids there really wasn't a good time to squeeze in a large-scale renovation. They realized, however, that it made sense to tackle the job and only go through the mess and chaos once. Having lived in the house for some years, they loved the neighbourhood. Plus, the school is nearby, so moving wasn't an option. The decision was made to update the old wallpaper, worn broadloom and tired colours.

The kitchen was especially old looking with inefficient appliances and lighting, and dated cabinetry.

A very style-conscious family, the new look had to reflect their personal taste. The couple had been raised in Stratford, Ont., surrounded by the charming, English-country-style architecture. They wanted to achieve a similar look and feel, but with a contemporary flare. One key



design component was that their favourite colour – blue – had to be featured in every room. The challenge was not to overwhelm with one colour, but to create a classic and timeless space.

### SMALL KITCHEN CHALLENGE

First, we tackled the size of the rooms, in particular the kitchen. Because baking and cooking is a primary function for this family, it is the most important room in the house. Measuring only 10 feet by 11 feet, the kitchen was restricted to the back corner of the house, wedged behind a lovely circular staircase.

Ultimately, this meant that the kitchen couldn't be made larger. It would have to be cleverly and efficiently laid out to maximize storage, and provide ample space for new appliances and modern conveniences. The treatment of this room would set the style direction for all of the other spaces, despite its small size.

We began by taking the kitchen walls back as far as possible to gain any extra space. To keep the room warm and library-like, all of the appliances were panelled. Several main features make this tiny space unique, despite its pint-sized square footage.

### IT'S IN THE DETAILS

The large range hood emphasizes the cooking area, and it is detailed with a mantel for plate and decorative display. The stunning blue range adds the English country style they desired, with a modern touch. The Viking professional oven and cooktop become a very interesting element in the space, drawing attention away from the small size.

The custom-coloured, diamond-cut cork floor tiles are not only resistant to mildew and fungus, they're warm under foot, and comfy to stand on for long periods of time. The colouring and layout of the warm, resilient cork give the appearance of an elegant travertine stone tile.

Picking up the tones of the natural walnut hardwood in the adjacent dining room, the highly durable, easy-to-maintain quartz countertops look like dark stone and add contrast. For a softer look, the beige Blanco stone-series sink was



chosen to complement the colouring in the countertops.

A separate nook, with a solid maple table in a dark walnut stain, adds a convenient dining area for the family. It overlooks the lovely back garden.

### UPDATED DINING ROOM

Next, we tackled the dining and living rooms, situated just off the kitchen. Separate from one another, each room opens into a main hallway, remodelled with white wainscoting, to add architectural detail, and glowing walnut hardwood flooring.

The small dining room required serious decorating attention, from top to bottom. First, the unsightly, stippled ceiling was smoothed and painted in a grey-blue hue, and new walnut hardwood floors were installed. The classic, English-country-style, wall-to-wall cabinet, with space-saving sliding glass

doors, matches the kitchen cabinetry. The built-in unit was designed to maximize storage in the small room and offer a place to display the homeowners' collection of creamy white antique cake plates and china.

A round pedestal dining table in dark wood features six parsons chairs upholstered in pale blue, easy-to-clean eco microfiber. Silk drapes, which combine all the room's colours from blue to brown, frame the bay window of this quaint dining space. An elegant pendant light with sheer shade and crystal drops, and an area rug in muted neutral tones, soften the room.

### A REAL SHOWSTOPPER

Now we come to the real showstopper of this house — the two-storey living room. Before the addition of the fireplace, the room was a blank canvas – a big empty box with no architectural detail. We kept





The built-in unit optimizes storage, with a place to display antique china.





the original hardwood floors, since they were in good shape. Plus, they didn't connect directly with the hallway, due to an existing step-down into the living room. We really needed a strong element to balance the height of the room and make it feel intimate when entertaining.

A dramatic focal point was created with a clean-burning fireplace, fitted with an open-gas insert and large cast-stone

surround and mantel; it sets the tone for this elegant room. Here, three large bright windows face the street, dressed simply with sheer blinds and fixed silk drapery panels in a warm neutral colour. Pot lights, wall sconces, candles and table lamps offer flexible lighting, to instantly create just the right ambience.

Blue was brought into this room as an accent rather than the feature hue. This allows the room to remain neutral,

with the opportunity to accept other subtle accessory colours in the future. Contemporary furniture with ultra-luxe seating and fabric make this a wonderful room to spend time in, as well as an excellent space for entertaining friends and family.

Blue is certainly the colour that connects the traditional layout of the main floor; however, it is the family that keeps each of these rooms alive. ■

---

*Designer, spokesperson, author, and host of W Network's Colour Confidential, Jane Lockhart creates interiors with a breathtaking sense of colour. Jane is principal of Jane Lockhart Interior Design, and brings more than 18 years of experience to her projects. To learn more, or to inquire about products used in this design, e-mail Jane at [info@janelockhart.com](mailto:info@janelockhart.com), or visit [janelockhart.com](http://janelockhart.com)*