



Home Redesign Part II

by Adrienne Zvacek, BID Provisional IDAS

Scott and Susan McCrae contacted Studio 2.0 when they decided it was time for a redesign of their main living areas. After many consultations spent solidifying the layout and the best products for the space it was now time for the physical changes to begin. During this second part of the three part series Susan will be writing about her perspective as a homeowner going through a major renovation.

A Homeowner's Perspective

-by Susan McCrae, Client of Studio 2.0

So, here we are, "half way" through the big renovation... AAARRRGGGHHH!!!!!!

Were any of you anticipating reading of the joys and smooth sailing of an average home renovation? Silly you! There's no such thing as an 'average' home renovation, for one thing there are few joys. At this time, the 'seas' in my home appear very much on the 'surfers beware' side of the reef!

Let's back up the truck here a minute and begin from the beginning. I had said last time that designer Adrienne Zvacek of Studio 2.0 was indispensable to us. Her experience, insight and third eye are necessary to approach a renovation project of any sort. Little did she know she would also need a degree in psychology for client meetings! This all sounds very encouraging, I know, but the end result will be worth it (short-term pain, long-term gain, right?).

Lately Saskatoon has been at the mercy of the boom in the renovation and building industry that has EVERYONE playing the waiting game. Therefore, at the beginning of this "easy summer project", our

cabinets were to be installed in July – no – make that the end of August. Wait! I meant October – LATE October. Unfortunately there were machinery malfunctions and, later, upgrades that pushed it even further back; therefore, the latest news is November 21. Perhaps by the time you're reading this article, I actually will have cabinets placed in my new kitchen, which at the moment is a deserted 1950's shell (don't you just love faux wood linoleum tile?). So, without cabinets, there's really no point in beginning demo and remodeling is there? Unless, of course, you are bigger fans of eating off of the freezer in the basement than I am, never say we're not adventurous!

So what HAS happened then?

We finally set a demolition start date of October 1, which was, due to the building boom, pushed back to October 9. The construction crew walked in and 5 hours later I was without walls in the kitchen/dining room/living room and I had a massive 26 foot beam lying across the floor and down the hall. We enjoyed the behemoth fluorescent orange obstacle course for a few more days before they could install it. Still, I couldn't believe how efficiently the team worked!

At present, half of our existing living space on the main floor is an echo chamber for the express use and enjoyment of our children, one of which enjoys throwing objects we adults used to believe valuable into the holes left by missing vent covers. Note to all homeowners – they put vent covers there not for looks, but to save you from fishing out your tools and underwear!). We have since erected a baby gate blocking off direct access to the area, which really hampers no one but Scott and me as we trip over it trying to answer the front door in the dark (no power in this area anymore!).

Next, the drywall framers appeared who tried desperately to level the framework against an unlevel house. This took about 3 days of calls between the designer, contractor and me as well as on-again-off-again work until it was all made right. Nicely done, and with no inconvenience to us. At one point we had all the kids in the neighborhood lined up against the baby gate watching the guy on stilts perform an intricate "dance" while telling them stories about climbing ladders in them – who needs a circus?!).

Electrical was next. These guys were fabulous! Their attention to detail was unexpected to say the



During

least. Our electrician, Don, wasn't satisfied until all of the lighting plans had been checked and rechecked against our planned layout and placement. We analyzed not only fixture placement, but switches, outlets, size, bulb types, colours – you name it! I hadn't really thought much about it, but without Don's concern and questions, he may have been called back here to "fix" mistakes that as homeowners we hadn't thought to check before. Neither of us would have been excited about that, let me tell you. Mind you, Adrienne takes very good care of us so I'm sure she would have mentioned anything amiss. Don brought along his apprentice so we both got an education as I listened to Don's expectations and explanations – he's tough! All-in-all, they were only in our house for 3 days. Aside from the drilling through

my basement ceiling and them having to jump the baby gate (and our attentive boxer, Flash) every time they needed to pull wire in the basement, it was smooth sailing. But remember- my main living space and kitchen are in the basement. Imagine sawdust raining down on your living room and playroom carpets, people walking through your "dining room" pulling wires while you try to get your kids to eat, and people using your workout equipment as stepstools and tool holsters because, really, how and where are you going to move it? I'm not complaining, just stating fact!

Next it was drywall time and we all had to figure out what to do with the old, crumbling plasterboard ceiling with that oh-so-fresh cottage cheese topping. As I write, we've all talked back and forth and have come to the conclusion that we should cover the whole ceiling over (kitchen, dining area, living room and down the hall) with new drywall and save them the agony of scraping and sanding all that lovely cottage cheese. At least, that's what I thought. Turns out new drywall is at least as time consuming and messy as the alternative. The pros came to our rescue with a full explanation of the pros and cons of either process. I immediately had

visions of a ceiling-version of a really bad comb-over. Discoloration, ripples in the plaster... Suffice it to say, I'm happy to save any future regrets by putting a fresh drywall layer up throughout. I may even get that artistically framed hallway attic hatch relocated in the process! Yay me!

So, as I write, I am awaiting the joyous days of drywall dust, taping and mudding. I'll just pretend it's snowing and we'll go make dust angels on the hallway floor!

McCrae Renovation Team

Interior Designer: Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants - Adrienne Zvacek
262 6884

Contractor: Ridge Crest Developments
Ron Rhode - 230 1999

Millwork: Superior Cabinets
Shanna McDonald - 667 6652

Flooring: Western Carpet One
Don Storey - 665 6640

Quartz Countertops: Innovative Stoneworks - Susan Douglas - 343 4888

Concrete Countertops & Fireplace Face:
Sand & Stone - Bruce Remple 374 6505

Backsplash: Creative Glass & Mirror
Terry Hrabok - 664 9744

Lighting Fixtures: Richardson Lighting
933 4777



Adrienne Zvacek is the Principle Designer of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants. She has her Bachelor of Applied Interior Design degree from Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta. Once graduating from college she moved back to Saskatchewan to start her design career. Adrienne desires to give her clients what they've always dreamed of, a space that defines them.



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