

JEN'S DEN

Jennifer Dainard, one of our Project Managers, is often called upon for her expert interior design advice. Jen offers these simple techniques to re-energize your current space.

Colour has an enormous impact within a space. If you have an "open concept" home, it is even more important to create a cohesive colour palette. A simple way to make it look pulled together is to use a limited number of colours, spicing up the odd accent wall to draw your attention from one area to another. This also keeps your options open for "mixing it up" when you get tired of a colour without the need to repaint your whole house! Do all your moldings and other architectural details (like built-in bookcases) in one colour to unify all the spaces. Avoid visually splitting up the spaces by painting opposite colours in adjacent rooms ... instead use both colours in varying amounts within the two areas. Try utilizing one colour as your predominant "base" throughout and tempering it with a dash of one or two accent colours by using throw pillows, art or area carpets. This will carry your eye easily throughout the space and achieve cohesiveness.

Watch for more tips in Jen's Den in our Spring Newsletter.



Jennifer Dainard



Remember the Renovation Tax Credit deadline is February 1, 2010. Check out our website for more information.

FEATURE RENOVATION

"Tranquil Breezes" Conservatory

The rear yard of our client's home is a wonderful, quiet refuge. Unfortunately during bug season it was virtually useless. Pioneer Craftsmen Ltd. was given the opportunity to design and build a safe haven from insects and weather, where our clients could immerse themselves in the beauty of their outdoor surroundings. They envisioned a place where they could escape to read, enjoy meals and gatherings with family and friends.

One of the initial challenges to overcome was to determine the best positioning for the Conservatory. The rear yard is on the north side of the home with a large tree shading the area, therefore strategic placement and window arrangement were key to ensure we captured the maximum amount of sunlight.

The finished product is stunning!

Natural clear cedar is used throughout for warmth. It also highlights the Cathedral ceiling beautifully. Long-lasting stone tile on the floor adds to the natural look while offering durability. The gas fireplace is incorporated beautifully into the window design and it extends the use of the room into the cooler evenings and seasons. Notice how the simple mantel compliments the dramatic window arrangement.

The unique combination of windows is what captures the eye, whether inside or outside. An arrangement of Skylights, Trapezoids and Transom windows blended with a Weatherwall System allows maximum sunlight to fill the room while natural breezes flow throughout. When our clients are looking for complete protection from the elements, it is as simple as closing the Eze-Breeze sliding panels. This is a perfect solution, giving the family the openness of a screened porch with the protection of a sunroom.



The exterior is finished in a natural pine with a dark stain, tying the renovation into the existing home while blending it beautifully into the surrounding wooded area.

Access to this spectacular room from the home is via a protected walkway, complete with skylight and matching Clear Cedar. The multilevel deck for outdoor entertaining is built with maintenance free composite material and support posts clad to match.

Our clients are thrilled with their outdoor oasis.



BUTTERSCOTCH BARS

Base

1/4 cup unsalted butter, room temp.
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 1/4 cups all purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda

Butterscotch

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup dark brown sugar, packed
1/2 cup golden corn syrup
1/4 cup water
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup walnut pieces
3/4 cup unsweetened coconut
3/4 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup whipping cream
2 tsp. vanilla extract

To Assemble

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and line bottom of an 8 inch square pan with parchment paper. In a bowl, cream butter and sugars together. Add eggs and vanilla and beat until fluffy. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Add to butter mixture and stir until evenly blended. Spread batter into prepared pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until an even golden brown. Set aside to cool.

In a saucepot, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in sugars, corn syrup, water and salt and increase heat to medium-high. When mixture reaches a boil, stir in walnut pieces and coconut. Simmer for 7 minutes, stirring often (mixture will become thick and darker in colour). Remove from heat and stir in cream and vanilla (watch for steam). Pour butterscotch over base and sprinkle chocolate chips. Bake for 13 to 16 minutes, until bubbling around the edges. Allow to cool before cutting into squares or bars. Do not refrigerate.

Butterscotch Bars will keep up to 3 weeks in an airtight container.



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1510 Victoria Street North
Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3E2
519-743-4461
www.pioneercraftsmen.com

Remodelers Advantage visits Pioneer Craftsmen Ltd.



Our peer group from the Remodelers Advantage Program is comprised of some of the top renovation companies in North America. We meet twice each year gathering and sharing knowledge to better serve our clients. This past May, Pioneer Craftsmen was proud to host the four days of strategic meetings. We wrapped it up with an exhilarating game of road hockey, followed by a good, old-fashioned, Waterloo County Pig Roast. The RAR members along with the Pioneer staff were great sports. We worked hard, learned lots and a fun time was had by all!!

Pioneer Craftsmen News

Welcome

Since our last Newsletter we have welcomed Annie Dupuis, a graduate of the Architectural Technology program at Fanshawe. Annie is a great support to our Designers and Project Managers. Also joining our team this past Spring is Ilona Breedon. Ilona has proved to us that she is a great candidate for the Apprenticeship program at Conestoga College. Annie and Ilona are eager team members and we're thrilled to have them aboard.



Annie Dupuis



Ilona Breedon



Family

Pioneer Craftsmen's newest addition, George Franklin Meier arrived June 30, 2009. Weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. Congratulations to Paul, Laura and big sister Riley.



2009 Community Project

This year the Pioneer Craftsmen team dedicated their time and funds to the Family Camping Weekend at West Montrose Family Camp in support of Waterloo Region Women's Crisis Centre.

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

This past Summer has brought to life one of my favourite sayings "Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain". I hope you were all able to dance your way through the past few months.

This past Spring we hosted a Remodelers Advantage Roundtable event. Numerous renovators from North America joined us for 4 days. All were impressed with our local community. We sometimes take for granted what we have and hosting such an event helps remind us how blessed we are. Each year we give back to our community and this year we contributed to the Waterloo Region Women's Crisis Centre. Check reverse side for details and picture.

At a time when many investment portfolios have taken a beating, investing in your home continues to be a wise alternative. My wife and I are currently in the midst of a Family Room Addition. More on that in our Spring Newsletter!

I'd like to thank you for placing your trust in us. Our strong team of designers, project managers, carpenters and support staff remains committed to your complete satisfaction.



Jamie Adam
President



GREATER KITCHENER WATERLOO
Chamber of Commerce

