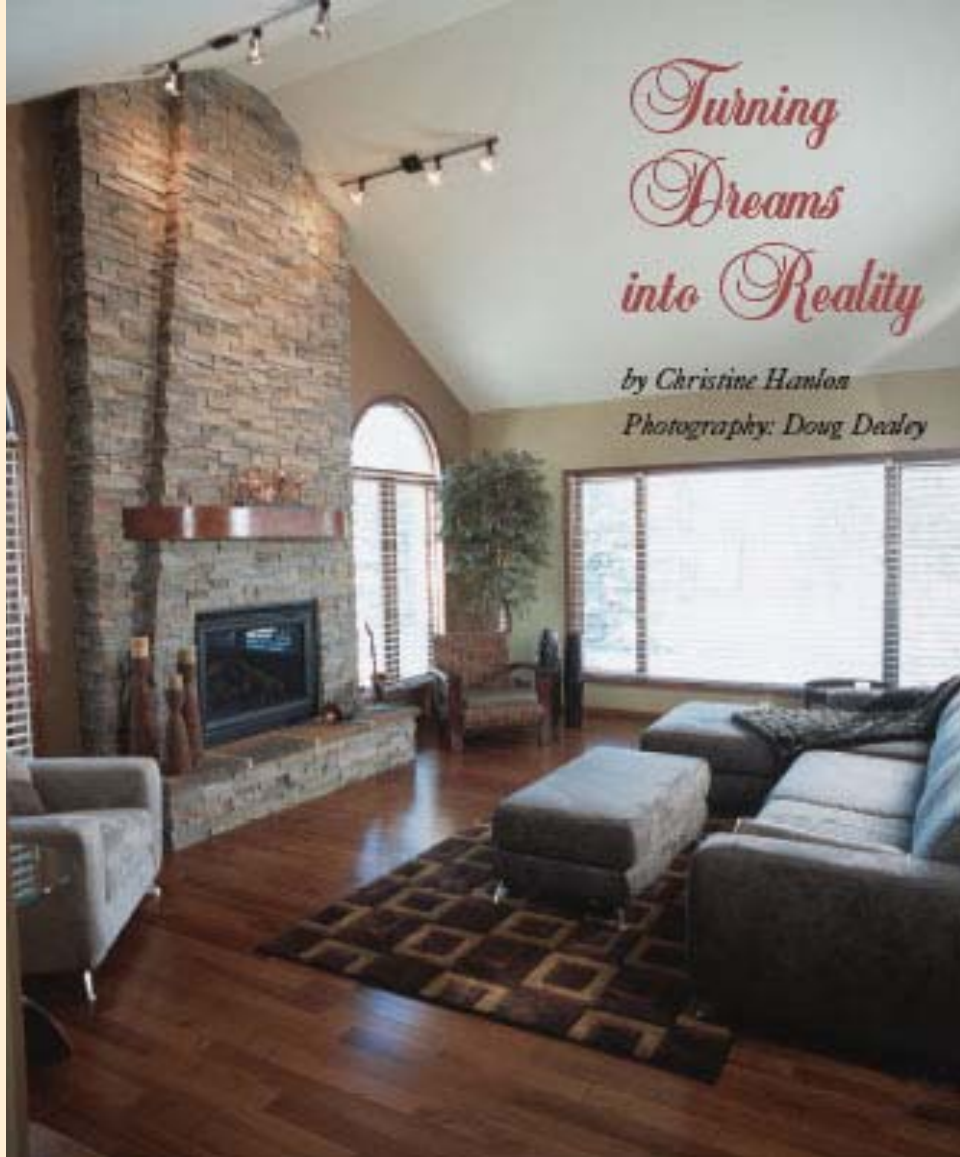


Design and Decor

Ray and Kathy Dansereau were searching the market for a lake or river lot to build a custom home that would meet their lifestyle and taste for modern design. When the couple found an eight-year old, 2,200-square-foot home located on a splendid park-like river lot in prestigious Assiniboine Woods, they knew this was the perfect location to set down roots. Build or renovate? That was the question facing the Dansereaus. The couple finally decided to call on Interior Illusions to help them take the home into the 21st century. At the same time, they brought in KDR Design Builders Inc. to implement the transformation. "I wanted them to turn my dreams into reality," says Ray Dansereau.



Cultured stone complements the architectural design, while a curved mantel softens the lines of the fireplace and mimics the eyebrows of the windows.

Magda Zelickson of Interior Illusions notes that the couple had a very good sense of what they wanted to achieve. They supplied her with a wish list and magazine clippings exemplifying the look they wanted. "Magda was able to guide us in the right direction," says Dansereau. "She can visualize how things will look before they are placed. She knows what works."

The Dansereaus relied on the experience and insight of Interior Illusions combined with KDR's years of construction knowledge, design sense and reliability to renovate the entire space in a timely manner. "This was a collaborative effort," says Diego Vassallo, owner of KDR Design Builders Inc, adding that the acronym KDR stands for knowledge, design sense and reliability.



KDR removed the old four by four foot island and arranged for Kitchen Craft to install a luxurious two-tiered island with a bar sink and built-in wine rack.

Dansereau wanted to give the kitchen a new look without replacing all existing cabinetry. A beautiful island with a raised breakfast bar, undermount bar sink and range replaced the former unit. The light box was exchanged for pendant lighting. Black laminate countertops were replaced with granite that worked well with the décor. Instead of redoing the entire backsplash, the black diamond details were ingeniously covered with thin granite cutouts. Final touches included exchanging the solid pantry door with a glass French door to lighten the space, and adding a crown moulding to match with the flooring. Existing window treatments were replaced by Hunter Douglas Alouettes, a louver blind system that combines the look and function of shutters with the

softness of fabric. A valance encompasses all the elements of the kitchen and adjoining great room.

In the great room, a new remote-controlled gas fireplace replaces the former wood-burning unit. The Dansereaus wanted a fireplace that veered upwards and inwards towards the peak of the cathedral ceiling. "Luckily, we found two people who had vision to take our ideas and make them work," says Ray Dansereau.

"Stepping out the fireplace creates a powerful architectural look," adds Diego Vassallo. The cultured stone was selected to coordinate with the warm, inviting colour palette. To further soften the room, a curved mantel echoes the eyebrows on the windows.



KDR created an open concept bathroom with tile selected by Interior Illusions to create a sleek look.

Redoing the master bedroom and ensuite was another priority on the couple's wish list. They wanted a gas fireplace, a corner tub, a frameless shower and doors to the deck. "This was very challenging with the limited space we had to work with," says Diego Vassallo, who designed an open concept to the ensuite using a three-sided fireplace and a state of the art corner air tub with the tile deck extending into the frameless shower to create a seat. The bedroom window was replaced with functional sidelights and garden doors. "It's a great feeling to wake up and walk onto the deck from our bedroom to take in the river view before our hectic day begins," say the Dansereaus.

Meanwhile, Interior Illusions tackled other challenges. To continue the clean, uncluttered design in the bedroom, Magda Zelickson selected a Vertiglide window treatment with enough appeal to stand on its own. Vertiglide provides the maximum darkening necessary for Kathy Dansereau's shift work schedule.

For the dining room, Interior Illusions selected a sophisticated bamboo-type Roman shade that maintains the subtle Oriental theme of the room. A Zen-style mural by Larry Rich was painted on the adjacent wall. All lighting in the home was replaced and puck lights were added to the alcove to create ambience above the existing built-in buffet. Despite several challenges, the builder was able to meet the six-week project schedule, all the while fulfilling his motto: ...Imagine it ...Build it. Dansereau can attest to the veracity of this maxim. "It's just as I imagined it," he says. "The renovations more than lived up to my dreams."



A bamboo Hunter Douglas's Allustra Roman shade complements the Oriental elements of the space.