



# Ooh la la

## From chaos to chic in Whitmore Park

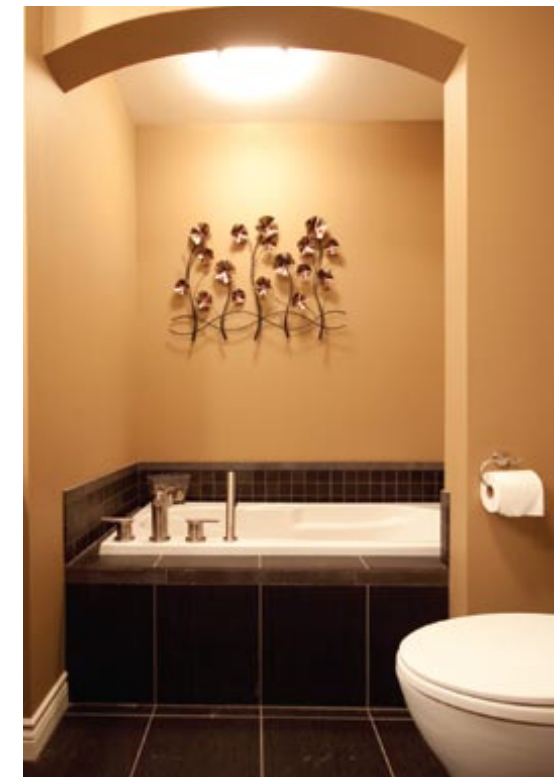
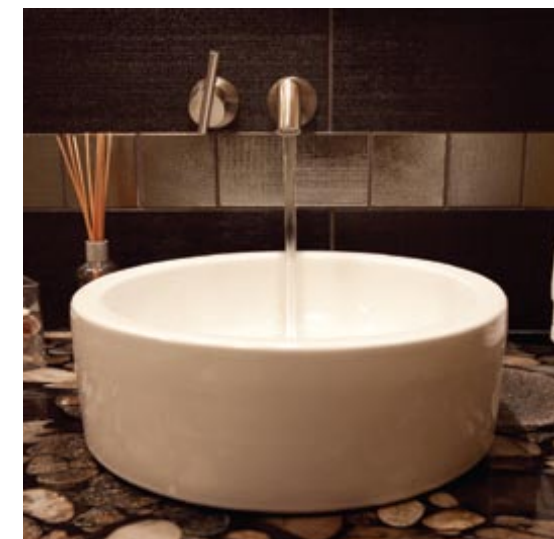
BY **HOLLI APPELQUIST OF HOLLIBERRIES INTERIORS INC**  
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**PICTURED ON PAGE XX**  
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**PICTURED TOP**  
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**PICTURED TOP**  
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**DARLENE AND JAMES LOVED THEIR BAY LOCATION IN WHITMORE PARK BUT DIDN'T** love what their bungalow had become – tired and cramped. With four active children, the front door was often an obstacle course full of sports bags and back packs, along with a mountain of shoes, coats, and hats. It was the need for a real mud room that kick started plans to add on and renovate their existing home.

The couple engaged a local contractor to plan the initial footprint of the addition and discuss layout changes to the remainder of their existing home. Plans included gutting the main floor to open up the existing L-shaped living room/dining room/kitchen area. A sizeable addition with full basement was added to accommodate a new large kitchen and huge mud room on the main floor with more bedrooms in the basement. The main and ensuite bathrooms would be gutted and reconfigured and more storage added to the master bedroom.

### Ohhhhhh the Kitchen...

To say Darlene's new kitchen is impressive is like saying we've had a "bit" of rain lately. Ha! I know at least ten women who would cut off their right arm for Darlene's kitchen! It features a 60" wide stainless steel fridge and upright freezer. It also has double wall ovens, large gas cooktop, two sinks, and more importantly, two dishwashers! An eat-up island for 6 with a prep sink centers the kitchen while large windows infuse the entire space in natural light. Lit upper glass cabinets add style while the computer desk/homework station/organizational area adds a layer of function. Two different types of granite were installed in the kitchen including a conversation starter on the island called "Jurassic Black". Lighting in the kitchen features pot lighting in traffic pathways and drum style pendant lighting above the island, supplied through Richardson Lighting.

### Ahhhhhh the Mudroom...

Darlene's mudroom includes lockers for everyone in the family with hooks at accessible heights for the children, an upholstered bench seat with storage below, and a full size closet. Many of these features have become standard in new mudrooms, but here's one you likely haven't heard before: a "ball wall." The "ball wall" is an open, custom made storage unit for all types of balls, sports equipment and accessories. "It's been a lifesaver for us," says Darlene. "It gives structure to chaos!"

### Ooh La La... The Finishing...

Darlene and I worked together to select all finishes, colours, and fixtures. Making finishing decisions can be one of the most stressful parts of the renovation. Using a design professional helps to take the guesswork out of the renovation process and instills the confidence needed to take design risks without fear of disappointment. The floor tile decision in the mudroom and washrooms was one such "design risk". The tiles look and feel like tire treads, providing a modern texture but with a practical twist. The texture actually helps to disguise visible floor debris.

One of the most critical decisions was what to do with the original oak hardwood flooring. James and Darlene chose to sand and refinish the existing hardwood floors and add reclaimed oak flooring to the addition area to match the original hardwood. The reclaimed planks were painstakingly mixed with the original oak planks to create a perfectly seamless hardwood floor. Wascana Floors did a fabulous job sanding, staining and refinishing the final product.

### Renovation Advice...

"The best thing we ever did was move out first" says Darlene as she reflects on the renovation process. "We could not have lived through the changes otherwise." The family of six moved into a rental house nearby for 6 of the 8 month long project. While this added cost to the project, it was a necessary life line to ensure the happiness and sense of normalcy for the kids throughout the process.

"Plan, plan, plan" says Darlene. "Use magazine photos to show tradespeople and contractors what you expect things to look like in the end". Many home owners are unsure of the correct terminology to use when describing what they want but a picture says a thousand words!

While exterior work on the garage continues, the interior work is now complete. Life is much easier in the "sweet here after". The family of six now enjoys more floor space, storage space, as well as the "oohs", "ahhs" and "ooh-la-la's" from visiting friends and family. ☺

### HOLLI APPELQUIST

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#### PICTURED ABOVE

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#### TRADES & SUPPLIERS

##### Decor

Holliberries Interiors  
[www.holliberriesinteriors.com](http://www.holliberriesinteriors.com)

##### S & C Lighting by Artcraft

Richardson Lighting  
[www.richardsonlighting.com](http://www.richardsonlighting.com)

##### Hardwood re-staining

Wascana Floors  
306.789.5537

##### Jeld-Wen Windows

Fries Tallman Lumber  
<http://ftlmbqlx.sasktelwebhosting.com>