

Condos as a retirement strategy, page 6 ■ **Holmes on Homes, page 11**

HOMES & CONDOS

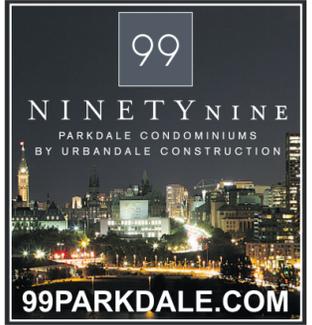
Be on trend with green

Liven up your space with small touches of this year's colour, **page 5**



Lighten up for spring

Simple, inexpensive tricks to change your seasonal decor, **page 2**



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DESIGN DOMINANCE

Kitchen and bath industry honours its best at annual awards

This stunning kitchen renovation is a repeat winner for Friedemann Weinhardt of Design First Interiors, taking prizes at both the Ottawa and Ontario housing awards as well as recently being named a regional winner for Eastern Canada in the prestigious Sub Zero kitchen design contest, qualifying it to move on to the international competition.

ANITA MURRAY
OTTAWA CITIZEN

It was a good night for designer Friedemann Weinhardt. The owner of Design First Interiors dominated the winners list at the recent Ottawa NK-BA Design Awards.

Recognized by judges and the public alike, Weinhardt took top honours in seven of 10 categories, leaving just three for others to take the lead — with one of those being a student category. He also picked up three second-place honours. Not bad for an evening's outing.

"It was amazing" said an ecstatic Weinhardt, a veteran of Ottawa's design scene and multiple winner of local accolades.

Beaming from ear to ear, he was quick to share the credit with his staff. "I have a few ideas," he said, "but I have great assistants."

He then threw out a challenge to other designers to "be fearless; do good design ... knock me off the stage."

At a glitzy awards gala at the Brookstreet Hotel on April 5, more than 100 gathered to recognize outstanding work in Ottawa's kitchen and bath industry at

the third annual event. It was also a fundraiser to support the kitchen and bath program at Algonquin College, which was set up in 2010 in conjunction with the local chapter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association as a way to increase education among both students and professionals in the industry.

From dozens of entries by the group's members, a trio of judges narrowed the choices using the guidelines of the association's U.S.-based parent. While realizing that each entry had to be designed to meet client expectations, judges looked at whether they conformed to strict tech-

nical rules — things like safety and ergonomics, principles of design, functionality and design planning — but creativity was also key.

"I was really looking for that as well because that's terribly vague in our industry," says judge Shannon Callaghan, a past winner and a designer at Copperstone Kitchens.

See **AWARDS** on page 2

Winners list: See the full list of winners, page 3



Task lighting, plenty of cabinetry and fun water drops painted on the wall add to the appeal of the laundry room in CHEO's 2012 Dream of a Lifetime lottery grand prize home.

Escaping the dungeon

Consigned to the basement no more, laundry rooms are going upscale and upstairs

PATRICK LANGSTON
OTTAWA CITIZEN

Back in the day, doing the weekly wash was a test of endurance. "Laundry rooms were in the basement with concrete floors," recalls Ottawa interior designer Penny Southam. "You'd stare at the foundation walls. It was dismal."

No more. Laundry rooms — mostly on main or even second floors — are now bright, stylish places spot-

lighting efficiency and the clever use of space.

Along with built-in cabinetry and gleaming tile floors, Southam says she's doing everything from designing pullout drying racks for sweaters to specifying drop-in stainless-steel sinks with chic faucets. Art work, often the children's, adorns gaily painted walls. Small, flip-out televisions are the latest must-have.

"It's about making laundry rooms nice environments to be in. Doing

laundry isn't a (prison) sentence anymore — or at least now it's in a nice place."

Builders have upgraded as well. "Light, bright, airy," is how Greg Graham, Cardel Homes' Ottawa president, describes contemporary laundry rooms. Convenient, too. In Cardel's Inverness 2 model, for instance, the second-floor laundry can be directly accessed from the hall (perfect for the children) or from the walk-in closet in the master bedroom.

The odd builder still consigns the laundry room to the basement, he says, but that seems retrograde.

See **LAUNDRY** on page 10

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HOMES & CONDOS

Awards: Theme of balance, symmetry

LARGE KITCHEN



The framed cabinetry in this design by Colin Andrew Meredith of Kitchen Craft adds a feeling of timelessness.

Continued from page 1

For Weinhardt, that creativity showed through in a consistent theme of balance and symmetry, found in projects that ranged from a small powder room that took two awards to a luxurious ensuite bath that also took two awards and an eye-popping kitchen that previously won at both the Ottawa and Ontario housing awards.

"Most of us actually had to pick our jaws up off the floor," Callaghan says of Weinhardt's Rideau Canal kitchen, which was named the Show Stopper. "He's lucky enough to have clients who have the money to do this stuff ... it's a huge kitchen, but at the same time it's not cold and clinical."

One of her favourite entries, though, was another kitchen of Weinhardt's that took both the Small Kitchen and Best in Kitchen honours.

"It's extremely good use of space," she says. "I think that's one of his strongest points. He's able to fit everything in in a nice, tidy way that satisfies the client but still makes

it look fantastic."

Weinhardt also swept the bathroom categories, winning for both powder room and large bathroom and taking second for another large bathroom. (There was no winner in the small bathroom category nor a second place for powder room.)

And his luxurious ensuite bathroom overlooking the Ottawa River was deemed the public's favourite, taking the People's Choice award after voting at Mondeau Bathroom & Kitchen's Algoma Road location.

"The People's Choice award, I find, is what the buying public is telling you that they like versus the industry professionals," says NKBA Ottawa chapter president Giuseppe Castrucci of Laurysen Kitchens. "It's two different perspectives."

The student category was a first this year, challenging participants in Algonquin's kitchen and bath program to create a concept kitchen from the same set of criteria.

Continued on next page



Friedemann Weinhardt of Design First Interiors celebrates his company's strong showing along with staff Megan Lewis, left, and Nicole Hubert.

POWDER ROOM & BEST IN BATHROOM



A clean, elegant design by Friedemann Weinhardt of Design First Interiors.

The best of spring decor on a budget

Changing your home's look to celebrate the season doesn't have to break the bank

LISA EVANS
OTTAWA CITIZEN

Transforming the look of your home to inject a hit of spring doesn't have to be an expensive endeavour; simple tricks such as lightening up textures, adding bright colours, de-cluttering and introducing greenery can change the look of your home without breaking your budget.

COLOUR ACCENTS

The arrival of spring and summer has us dressing and decorating in lighter, brighter colours, but Ottawa interior designer Linda Nolan says making small temporary colour changes is the best way to transition through the seasons.

"Instead of applying the colour on the walls and on the fixed elements like the sofa; work in neutrals and then add pops of colour in area carpets, throw cushions and artwork, so that it's really easy to change (with the seasons)," says Nolan (lindanolan-interiors.com).

In the bedroom, a white duvet cover can act as a base throughout the year, while you alter between dark-coloured wool throw pillows in the winter to brightly coloured light cotton ones in the spring.

In the living room, a neutral grey palette with accessories in popular orange, green, turquoise or pink tones is a great way to freshen up your living space or give it a whole new look that's as easy to change as your wardrobe.

Mixing bright colours together with geometric or contemporary floral patterns can give the room the look of a lively garden, bringing the beauty of the outdoors in, says decorator Donna Hargrove (thetbbs.com/donna-hargrove).



Nothing says spring more than a bouquet of cut flowers.

LIGHTEN UP ON TEXTURE

While dark, textured wool pillows and blankets made your home warm and cosy throughout the long, cold winter; spring requires a lightening up of decor. Swap dark colours for bright, wool blankets for linen and heavy area rugs for sisal to add an instant breezy, summer beach house feel to your living space.

GET RID OF CLUTTER

Clutter goes against the breezy feel you want in spring.

"When people walk into the room, you don't want them to focus on clutter, you want their eye to stop on certain focal points," says Nolan. Knick-knacks, piles of paper or toys get in the way, distracting the eye from the stone fireplace or beautiful piece of artwork that you want to highlight.

WINDOW DRESSING

Windows can gather a lot of dirt on the outside and dust on the inside over winter. Giving windows a thorough cleaning allows more light to shine through and can instantly

make the room look and feel brighter.

Another cost-effective way to brighten up your living space is to lighten up drapery panels. Swapping thick drapery for sheer linens can allow more light to flow into the living space.

"The cost of ready-made drapes is so inexpensive now, on average about \$50 a panel," says Nolan.

Add a side panel on each end to frame the window and give it dimension.

BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

Nothing says spring like fresh-cut flowers. While planting flowers in a garden or filling empty containers such as wheelbarrows, wagons or baskets can easily spruce up your outdoor space, bringing the outdoors in with a fragrant bouquet of flowers or greenery is a great way to freshen the air in your home and lighten up the space.

Grow a herb garden on your windowsill or add fresh-cut flowers to a dining room, coffee or end table. When choosing flowers, Hargrove says to go with the colours that complement the colour scheme of your home.

"(They should be) either complementary or contrasting colours so that they stand out," says Hargrove. Easy-to-maintain plants such as spider plants or philodendrons are not only beautiful; they're also air purifiers.

SHAKE IT UP

"Coming out of the winter, people are ready to embrace change and they want something new and something brighter," says Hargrove. Moving your furniture around or making some small design changes gives the room a fresh look and feel.

Hargrove does this seasonally in her own home, altering the position of the sofa throughout the seasons. "Spring is all about new beginnings and that's a really easy way to change the look of your home."

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HOMES & CONDOS

Continued from page 2

"More or less what we're judging them on is how they interpret that criteria and how successful it was," says Callaghan, who excused herself from judging the category as she is a teacher in the program.

Winner Andrea Buikema created a U-shaped kitchen, repeating the shape in other areas of the room.

"I didn't think I would win," said a surprised Buikema. "Our class is pretty good." The 21-year-old, who first studied interior decorating before turning to the kitchen and bath program, started with the island, interlocking it like a puzzle with the main counter space and creating an entertainment statement.

"It's kind of funky," Callaghan notes. "It's very clean and concise ... finishes are subdued but appropriate."

Callaghan was very pleased with the student entries as a whole. "They all did a fantastic job," she says. "It would be a very small margin in terms of who didn't win and who did."

'I didn't think I would win.'

ANDREA BUIKEMA
Student category winner

PEOPLE'S CHOICE & LARGE BATHROOM



A luxurious ensuite by Friedemann Weinhardt of Design First Interiors had previously won top honours at both the Ottawa and Ontario housing awards.

2013 NKBA AWARDS

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

SMALL KITCHEN

1st: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

2nd: Darren Walker, Kitchen Craft

MEDIUM KITCHEN

1st: Deirdre Jorsen, Astro Design

2nd: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

LARGE KITCHEN

1st: Colin Andrew Meredith, Kitchen Craft

2nd: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

POWDER ROOM

1st: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

LARGE BATHROOM

1st: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

2nd: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

SHOW STOPPER

1st: Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

STUDENT AWARD

1st: Andrea Buikema

2nd:

Jack Creasy

BEST IN KITCHEN

Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

BEST IN BATHROOM

Friedemann Weinhardt, Design First Interiors

SMALL KITCHEN & BEST IN KITCHEN



This kitchen by Friedemann Weinhardt of Design First Interiors was among judge Shannon Callaghan's favourites.

MEDIUM KITCHEN



This design by Deirdre Jorsen of Astro Design Centre is a study in contrasts and linear lines.

STUDENT AWARD



Andrea Buikema created a clean and concise design with subdued finishes.

Great rooms need ground control

Separate seating areas, eye-catching pieces bring a large living space down to scale

SAMANTHA PYNN
POSTMEDIA NEWS

We bought our dream home outside of the city. We spend most of our time in the great room, but I am having the hardest time finishing our large 26-by-25-foot living room, which I'd like to use for entertaining. I've furnished the room with a big coffee table and sofa set. I know that "sets" are terrible, but I wanted the room to look full. I currently have the set centered in the room because there is no focal point like a fireplace. I thought it would be easier to decorate a big space. Please help.

Congrats on finding the home of your dreams. Wow, you are working with one mammoth room. Your frustration is normal; filling a large room can be more challenging than fitting everything into a small one.

Don't think of your space as one humongous room with only one seating area or you'll drive yourself bananas. The best way to approach a large space is to divide it into zones, depending on how you want

to use the room. Because your living room will be used for entertaining, you will want to create multiple seating areas.

As soon as I read your question, I thought this large and glamorous living room, designed by Sasha Jospovicz of Studio Pyramid, would be a great inspiration photo for you. When designing a large space "grounding a room is a must and attention-grabbing pieces are key," Sasha says. Indeed, the grounding soft-creamy tones of the sofa, rug and walls, mixed with attention-grabbers like the giant gold-framed mirrors, bold art and jewel-toned pillows are what make his spacious design sing.

A large room should always feel balanced, never loaded with furniture nor sparse. Sasha divided the living room right down the middle. There are two almost identical seating areas that mirror one another (but the room is so big that you see only one in the photo!). If you look closely, however, you'll see the same players — sofa, gold lamp, show-wood armchair and blue pillow — reflected in the mirror.

One of my favourite parts of Sasha's design is the unique

placement of the two long coffee tables that parallel one another. The space between the tables allows for easy traffic flow, which is imperative in rooms intended for swanky soirees.

Mirrors are often used in a small space to make a room feel larger; in this case Sasha has used them to reflect the symmetry of the room and furnishings, and make the room feel connected. Sasha also uses a large area rug to keep two seating areas connected.

Multiple rugs work when you are trying to delineate parts of a room that have different functions. For example, you would use one rug in the dining area and another in the living.

When it comes to your living room, you'll want to create at least two seating areas. Start by separating the sofa set. Move the loveseat to one side of the room and the three-seater to the other side. Then, like Sasha, you can add four armchairs that are not an exact match to your sofa. Fabrics and accessories in the same colour will keep the room connected. But don't be afraid to mix things up. You'll notice that Sasha's coffee tables are similar in length but not in style.

If you have room for another conversation area, pair the armchair from your sofa set with another chair that is similar but not identical.

You may also want to consider a large pedestal table like the one in our inspiration photo. A table is a great place to stack books when you're not using the room (this is my secret to making people think I'm smarter) or a collection of vases or family photos. And, when you're throwing a party, a pedestal table is a great place to set up drinks or appetizers.

Happy entertaining!



VIRGINIA MACDONALD

This large room has several defined areas, all of which are connected with the help of a room-size rug.

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