

Torino Tile & Stone

Artisan-style work delights homeowner

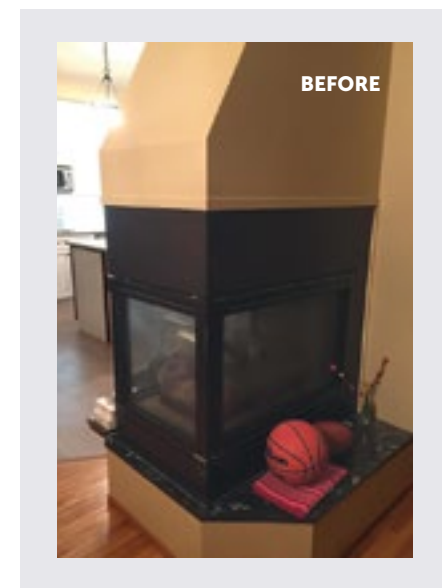
By Margaret Anne Fehr



ANDREA AND BRIAN successfully had their 80's style kitchen re-done in their St. Vital home and were very pleased with the result. The kitchen cabinets had been re-faced and transformed from a dark 70's style to the elegant and clean lines of a Shaker-style in an energetic off white.

It was now time to have some fun picking out tiles for the backsplash and flooring to complete the look. For that, the couple turned to Torino Tile & Stone Inc. at 5-3 St. Mary's Road.

Andrea relied on Torino Tile's in-house designer Michelle, along with the expertise of owner Sandra Nelson to work through the many choices available. "I'm pretty particular and they were very much on board with helping me to achieve the final result I wanted. I took my choices home to see how they'd work against the countertop, my paint colours and the cabinets to create my storyboard. That really made the difference in helping me make my choice."

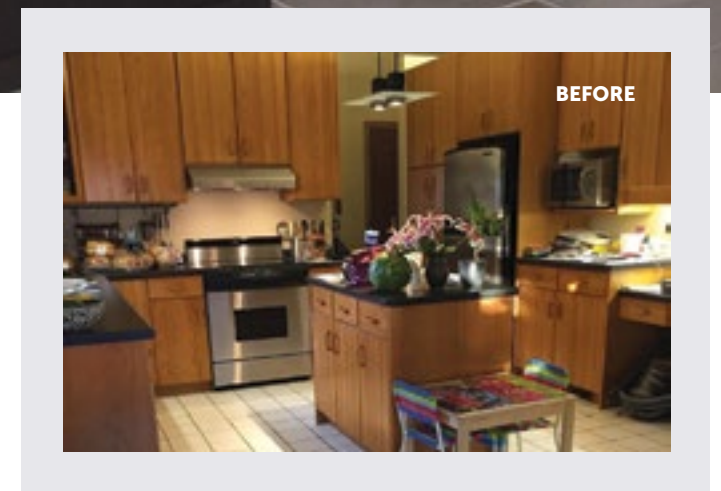


OPPOSITE PAGE

Another project on the renovation list was the 3 sided fireplace that encompasses the kitchen, dining and living room. Andrea chose to go with a stacked Ledge stone in Driftwood, a light brown colour that works well with the hardwood and floor tile.

TOP RIGHT

Andrea chose a 12 x 24 rectangular Kenai porcelain tile in Taupe for the floor with a coordinating Malt grout that made the installation have a seamless look.





Andrea and the Torino team felt the simplicity of a 3 x 6 subway tile would work best for the space but still wanted it to make a little more of a design statement. They decided a glossy white Heritage-style tile was what the space needed.

It was now time to have some fun picking out tiles for the backsplash and flooring to complete the look.

Andrea chose a 12 x 24 rectangular Kenai porcelain tile in Taupe for the floor with a coordinating Malt grout that made the installation have a seamless look. The tile's design with understated striations was the perfect transitional style that was both modern and traditional. The choice was important since not only was the tile laid in the kitchen, back and front landings, hallway and main floor powder room; but it was important to also work in harmony with the hardwood flooring on the rest of the level.

Next up was choosing the backsplash. Andrea and the Torino team felt the simplicity of a 3 x 6 subway tile would work best for the space but still wanted it to make a little more of a design statement. They decided a glossy white Heritage-style tile was what the space needed. "The Heritage style is thicker and modelled with a slight bevel, giving the tile a bit more of a vintage look," says Sandra.

Another project on the renovation list was the 3 sided fireplace that encompasses the kitchen, dining and living room. "We knew we wanted to do our fireplace at some point and figured this was the time. After the kitchen was finished, we were so pleased with what Torino had done that we really wanted to

have them do our fireplace."

Andrea chose to go with a stacked LedgeStone in Driftwood, a light brown colour that works well with the hardwood and floor tile. "We worked with Wayne and Sandra on determining how to re-work the angle and framing of the fireplace facing so the stone would be properly supported. They were very helpful on that," says Andrea.

Andrea was very impressed with Torino's installer, Brennan. "He is like an artist. He spent so much time with the floor. It had a pattern in it and he would painstakingly lay out the tiles to see the direction and which ones looked best butted up against each other. He paid attention to whether they lined up, if the pattern was going the right way and that tiles of the same pattern were not side by side. He really spent a lot of time laying it out perfectly and it looks gorgeous as a result!"

Sandra is pleased that Andrea and Brian are happy! Reflecting on the floor tile installation, she adds, "Our biggest challenge was making sure the layout design transitioned well to all the adjoining areas and that there were no odd or small cut pieces. The angled transition from the stairs to hardwood also required some extra finesse. The

fireplace, having to work with what was existing, also had its challenges. The original design needed to be revamped to accommodate the newer gas insert and exhaust system. Andrea and Brian decided to streamline it, ultimately choosing a more open and angled 3-sided plane with a 5 sided angled hearth. With the desire of a very seamless look, we opted to do bevelled cuts on all sides. This required a lot of skill and time to cut the LedgeStone to accommodate this style of installation, but the extra measures paid off and this renovation project lived up to its full potential. The home transitioned into a beautiful open and bright space that definitely showcased Andrea's elegant sense of style."

Andrea made sure her satisfaction with Torino Tile and Stone was evident by penning her testimonial in gratitude for a job that exceeded expectations. It reads:

"We recently completed a renovation and turned to Torino Tile for all of our tile and stone work. We could not be happier with the end result. A big 'thank you' to the whole Torino Tile Team – Sandra, Wayne, Brennan, and Michelle. We will not hesitate to recommend Torino Tile to anyone for their tiling needs. A fantastic experience from start to finish!"