

# WIDE OPEN SPACES

*A boxy Mississauga home is overhauled to create a fluid open-plan layout*

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**TAKE ONE BOXY, BUILD-BY-NUMBERS**, four-bedroom, three bathroom, two-storey home in Mississauga. Gut the main floor to create a family-friendly living and entertaining space with unobstructed views of the neighbourhood's picturesque ravine. The result is an open-plan home with fluid spaces.

The owners had bought the house 15 years ago because it was close to family and nearby schools and because they loved its proximity to

the ravine and its hiking trail. The family grew, as families do, and the house began to feel tired and cramped. The homeowners considered moving, but decided instead to stay put and transform the main floor into a dream home.

Georgian Custom Renovations took on the job. "We have seven designers and five teams working full-time," says the company's president and founder, Gene Maida. "Most homes are built by men and lived in by women. Our

designers are all women. They focus on turning homes into user-friendly living spaces for busy families. We count the pots and pans. We ask how the client cooks, how the client cleans." Maida says it is this sort of detailed consultation with clients that makes a renovation successful. One priority in this makeover was the removal of popcorn-stucco ceilings. Now, a stunning coffered ceiling plays counterpoint to the down-home feel of the wide-plank aspen wood floors. 

DESIGN





*This renovation created plentiful storage in the custom kitchen, designed in-house in collaboration with the wife and built by Kraft Custom Kitchens; it allows for strict clutter control.*



*Uncluttered and spacious, the entrance hall sets the light-and-bright tone. Distressed aspen flooring was installed throughout the main floor.*



Maida could see the house had good bones, but it was cluttered, dark and hadn't been upgraded since it was built in the 1980s. It also lacked storage space.

By replacing load-bearing walls with attractive support beams, the kitchen was doubled in size and natural light was permitted to flood the main floor. The formal dining room was eliminated. The contemporary,

two-tone kitchen caters to the wife's passion for cooking. A desk nook was installed to serve the couple's two young children. The custom cabinetry with its shaker profile was given contemporary flair with sleek pulls. Most important, says Maida, there is storage space for everything.

The palette of crisp white and warm grey creates a light, clean ambience. Three

stone-tiled walls add texture in the foyer, powder room and family room.

The generously proportioned island and an adjacent table provide spots for dining.

Maida says because he has teams of skilled workers and designers at the ready, the building schedule can be tightly monitored and kept on track. A main-floor renovation can be turned around in 90 days, he says. »