

## HOMES

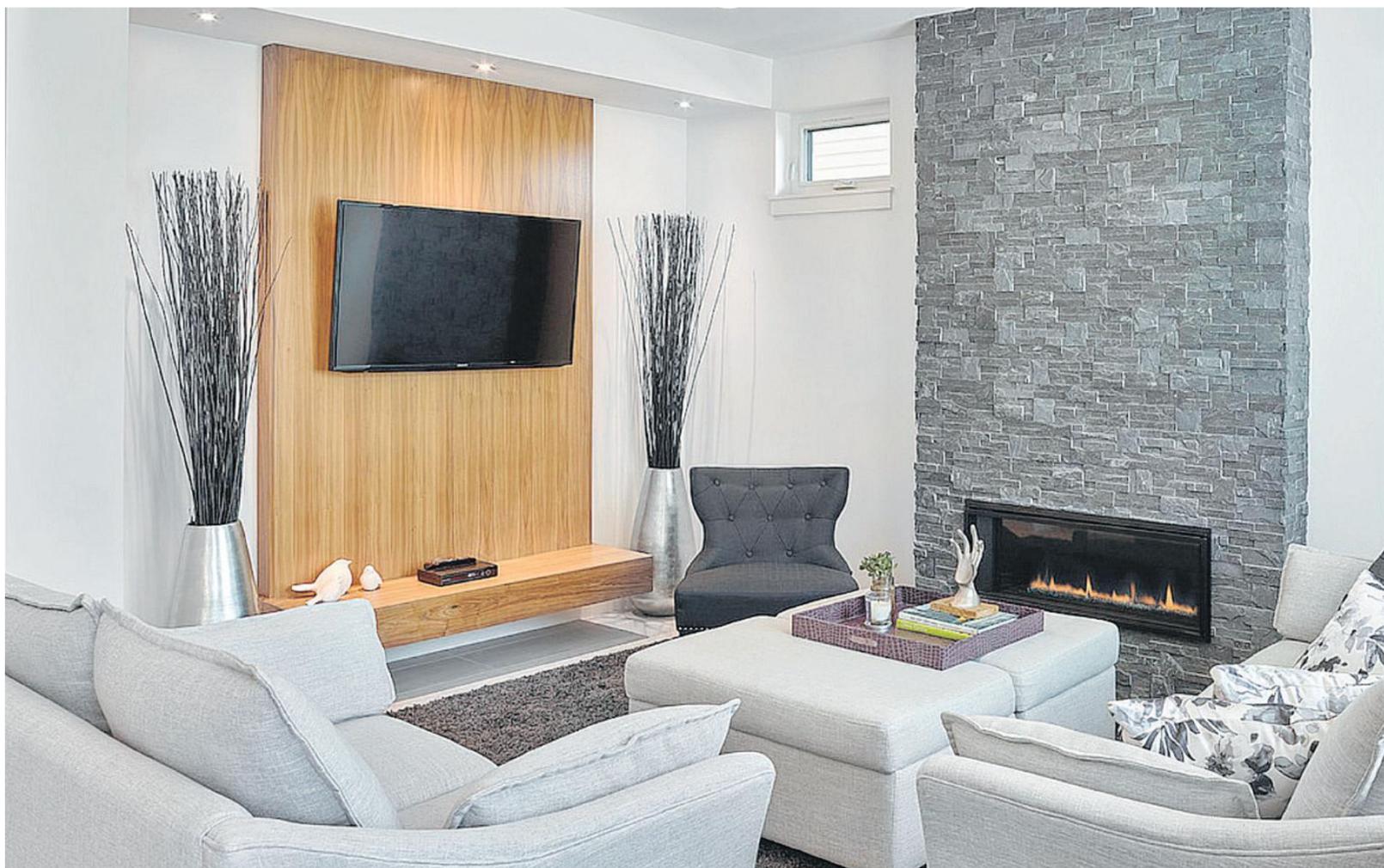


## FORGOTTEN FLOWERS

It's possible to revive those neglected tubers, but start now **C4**

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SECTION C



A feature wall of stained walnut veneer anchors the living room, while a wall stone slate was used to surround the living room fireplace.

NANCY REMPEL

## MY HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

When Dee's parents offered her childhood home as the infill site for building a forever home with her husband, the decision was an easy one.

"We really love the neighbourhood," the Highlands resident — who declined to give her last name — says of the property, which holds fond memories, is still home to her parents, and provides easy access to both the city's centre and the river valley.

The couple were living in a downtown condo when the offer was made, and after hearing horror stories about friends' experiences with building custom homes, they started researching home builders. Dee says they chose Effect Home Builders for their professionalism, eco-friendly approach and the bonus of meeting Mike Holmes' standards under the building guru's certification program.

Knowing their build would be much larger than the existing 900-square-foot bungalow, Dee wanted to be sensitive to their neighbours. With that in mind, she worked with an architect to cre-

# FROM THE GROUND UP

Neighbourhood factored into Highlands custom infill two-storey home with contemporary exterior

ate a West Coast-inspired design that "wouldn't stick out like a sore thumb," she says. Dee says because the home is so solidly insulated, heat produced by its gas fireplace warms the entire main floor.

The home's two-storey contemporary exterior is acrylic grey stucco with natural wood detailing. Front and rear patios create easy

access for entertaining indoors or al fresco. Dee says the rear patio has been used the most, but primarily for growing tomatoes, with the help of her dad in the summertime.

The home's initial design came to life and was tweaked throughout the build. Its custom-made slab-style front door complements the exterior detailing and charcoal-

coloured trim. It is levered by a brushed stainless steel industrial-style pull — which is a source of humour when departing guests can't find a door handle.

Copious light from floor-to-ceiling windows illuminates the entire main floor and its simple combination of large, cream-coloured, rectangle ceramic tile along with greyish-brown, maple engineered hardwood. Dee says she selected the hardwood based on its reputation for tolerating our extreme prairie climate.

Original plans included an open, central spiral staircase leading both upstairs and down. But Dee redesigned it after she saw its airy core and had visions of children rappelling down. Instead, the void

was filled with a large column encased in wall stone slate. The versatile stone was also used for the surround around the living room fireplace.

## POPS OF COLOUR

Dee says wanting a modern design without it feeling "cold" was challenging. In the open-concept kitchen, a teal-coloured kettle and cheerful collections of pottery birds grace shelves and counter space. In her spacious main floor office, natural light reflects off the plush aqua blue desk chair she found at HomeSense.

Aside from a floral print she fell in love with for the dining room, Dee chose neutral grey and sand-coloured tones for custom-made window coverings because of the expense involved in replacing them. Walls are painted in decorator's white — the truest of whites — with feature walls yet to be decided.

## MIXING CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL

Dee felt confident about selecting the home's furniture, floor coverings and some accents, including the central staircase's striking five-pendant crystal lighting, which she found at Costco. However, she enlisted Sydney Bond, Effect's design adviser, to finalize some key choices.

With Sydney's help, any concerns that some choices — like Dee's penchant for chandelier-style fixtures — wouldn't work with other design elements were laid to rest.

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Pendant lighting dangles over this granite kitchen island, backdropped by dark wooden cabinetry.



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