

Comfort and Elegance . . . The Perfect Bathroom

Faced with increasing housing and moving costs, many people today are deciding to renovate rather than relocate. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, over 50 cents of every dollar spent on residential construction is now going toward repairing or renovating homes. The most popular type of renovation activity these days is upgrading kitchens and bathrooms.

Renovations of this type are expensive, take time and can often create aggravation for both the homeowner and the renovation contractor. It is, therefore, essential to communicate your requirements to the contractor before the work begins.

"Be prepared to put all the relevant information into a contract," recommends Ron Galbraith, Group Vice President, Insulation, Fiberglas

Canada. "This should include permit arrangements, work to be done, payment schedule, time of completion, quality of materials, R-value of insulation to be used, as well as all cost estimates."

Before any contract is signed, check the references and licenses of all contractors. Make sure that they are members of both the local builders' association and the Better Business Bureau. It is also advisable to select the contractor who understands and agrees with the work you have discussed and with whom you feel comfortable, so there are no misunderstandings later.

Don and Gayle Patterson (not their real names) are teachers with two teenagers. They consulted an architect who provided the drawings for an addition to their two-storey, 70-year-old double brick

home in central Toronto. The completed addition runs along most of one side of their home and provides a spacious foyer with roomy cupboards on the first floor, a bathroom off the master bedroom and an enlarged basement area. The master bedroom was also renovated.

Gayle Patterson had always wanted a luxurious ensuite bathroom; a place to relax, unwind and soak away the day's stress. Her dream included a large, deep whirlpool bath, soft lights, music and easy-to-clean shower and counters. She chose soft grey tiles to cover the floor and frame the whirlpool bath, and had a separate, glass-doored shower installed with matching acrylic walls. The room was papered with attractive easy-to-clean vinyl wall coverings. Out of sight, insulation batts blanketed the base of the tub to keep the water hot longer.

LUXURY AND ELEGANCE

Plants, extensive use of wall mirrors, and soft dimmer-controlled lights which could be brought up to extra-bright daylight add to the luxuriousness of the room. Four energy efficient double windows allow natural light from the southern and northern exposures to make this bathroom an airy delight.

Mirrors cover the wall above the tub and a three-way mirror above the light grey sinks also contributes to the room's feeling of spaciousness and elegance. Tucked away in the cabinets below the sinks is a new stereo, from which beautiful melodies complement the relaxing mood.

On the advice of the contractor, Fiberglas Pink R-12 insulation was used between the studs and all exterior walls of the addition and a 6 mil vapour retarder was installed. Taped 1.5-inch Glasclad Exterior Insulated Sheathing on the outside of the walls provided additional

protection without reducing the interior space, for a total of R-18.7 in the walls. The sheathing was later covered with a wire mesh and the outside surface was covered with stucco.

While planning the major project, the Pattersons took advantage of the availability of workmen to consider other areas around the house that needed work. During shingling of the hip roof over the addition, discussions with the contractor confirmed the need for a re-roofing job on the whole house, and this work was done at the same time. Batt insulation was used in this area and a roof vent was installed to guard against condensation problems.

The Pattersons also decided to add Fiberglas Pink insulation to their bedroom while drywall was being installed. This increased the room's energy efficiency and would make it more comfortable year round.



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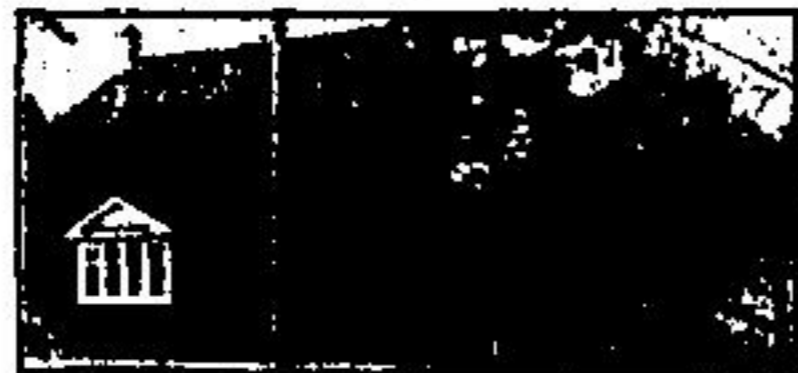


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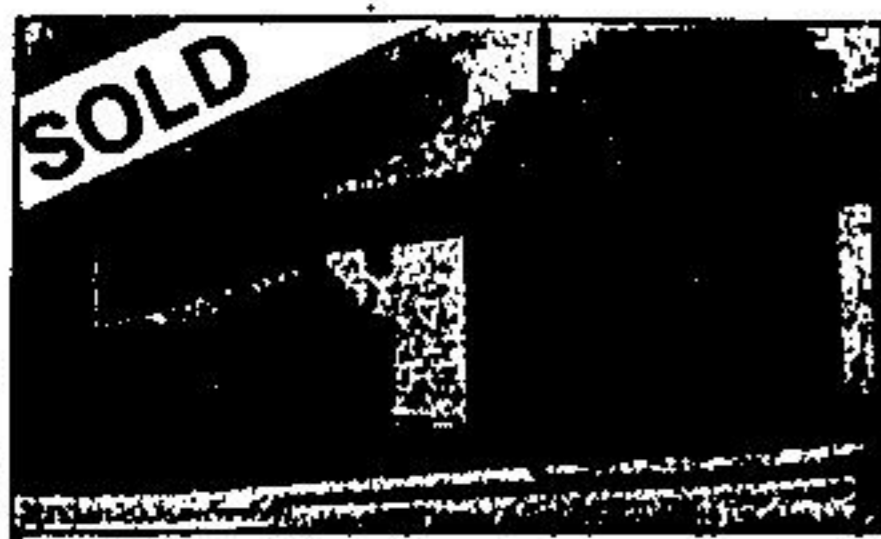
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CLASSIC

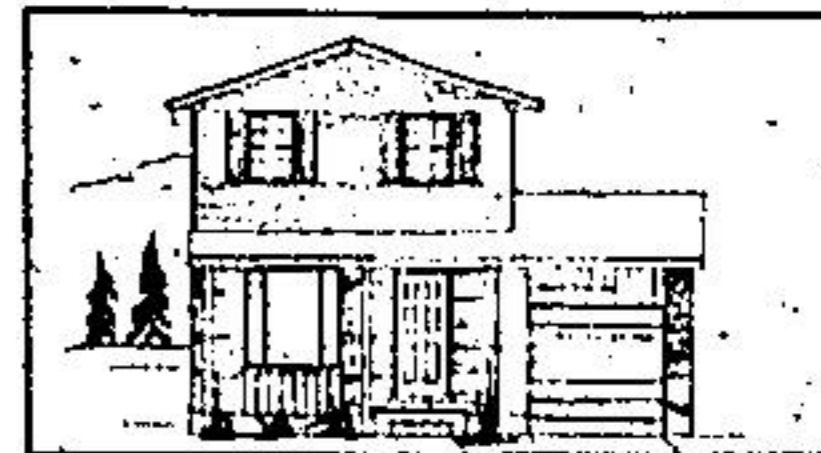
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