

# TOTAL HOME

Advertising feature of The Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune

## Dressing up your windows and doors

Replacement doors and windows can add an exciting new dimension to your home's exterior. Taken one step further, dressing up your exterior with customized stained glass, simulated divided lights, Prairie style grills or wind-sensitive awnings can add that little extra flair to your home.

In recent years, stained glass windows have become a popular decorative highlight around front entrance foyers, feature windows and doors because they provide privacy as well as attractiveness.

Stained glass can be applied to any type of window or door. It can serve as a replacement window, or be applied as a brass or lead overlay on an existing window. Either way, it creates an elegant accent.

The many colours, shades and designs of stained glass are virtually unlimited.

Beveled glass, rose patterns and antique glass can turn ordinary doors and windows into gardens of light. Having a piece of stained glass for a window is like having a piece of art that changes all day. Each variation of light upon the glass provides it with a unique look.

Full-venting sidelights are another option to enhance the exterior of your home. Available in natural and white vinyl cladding, these sidelights are narrow fixed units, which are joined to the door unit to provide a more open appearance.

One of the more innovative door options in recent years is the adjustable internal blind. These blinds are sealed between two panes of tempered glass and require no maintenance. Internal blinds are perfect for controlling the amount of sunlight into the home and for maintaining privacy.

Electronic privacy glass is a unique option offered by select manufacturers. For this type of window, a film of liquid crystals is sandwiched between sheets of laminated glass. With the flick of a switch, the crystals scatter to form a frost pattern. Hit the switch again, and the crystals align.

Simulated divided lights are another jazzy window option. Instead of the more common "internal grill" where an aluminum bar is sandwiched between the two panes of glass, the simulated divided light mimics the traditional look of individual panes of glass.

Muntins are applied to outer surfaces of the glass with an optional "airspace grill" between. This has been available for some time in high-end wood windows, but only recently has become an option in vinyl.

The simulated divided light window offers a clear advantage over the older, true-divided light window. With standard divided light you have the authentic look of true-divided light, with increased energy efficiency.

Depending on your style and budget, grid bars, Prairie

style grills and fancy detailing are available. The shape of your window can even be curved or angled to a half round or octagonal shape.

An assortment of grill patterns such as a diamond or rectangular shape are available in many colours and sizes. These grill patterns are available in vinyl, brass and an antique leaded grill coming, and are guaranteed not to discolour.

Some of the more exotic wood frames include straight-

grained, laminated veneer and finger-jointed styles. Aluminum, fiberglass and vinyl options can be incorporated into new home designs or can replace existing frames.

Whatever your style or budget, there are plenty of aesthetically pleasing door and window accessories to dress up your home's exterior this summer. Be adventurous, be original; searching for the right decorative elements is half the fun.

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