

# CANADIAN HOME trends

## KITCHEN *inspiration*

**CHECK OUT**  
*this beautiful kitchen  
on page 16!*

*ideas*  
for a backyard  
*makeover*

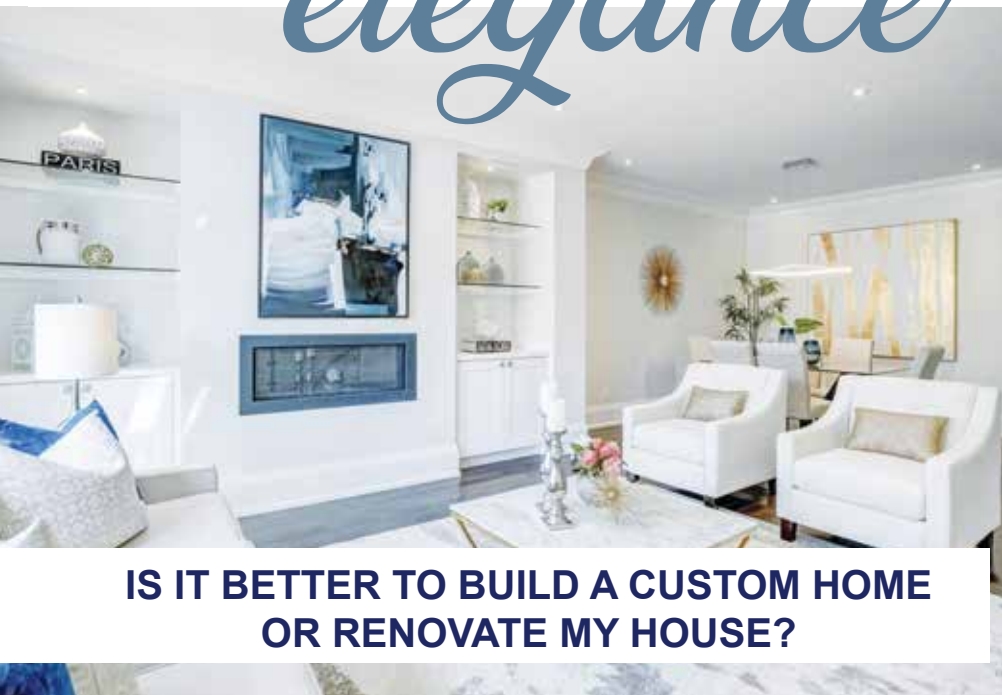
DISPLAY UNTIL **JULY 31, 2021**

KITCHENS 2021 \$5.50



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# CUSTOM *elegance*



## IS IT BETTER TO BUILD A CUSTOM HOME OR RENOVATE MY HOUSE?

This is a question we hear often, although there is no simple answer. The choice depends on several factors including, but not limited to; the overall condition of the existing home, local zoning by-laws, budget, and personal objectives (i.e. wanting a larger kitchen, open floor concept, or adding additional bedrooms or bathrooms), just to name a few. Another consideration is whether you and your family will be able to stay in the home during the construction, or will you need to move out? This may add to the financial impact. When going through the process, there is never one correct solution. Every project is unique and will have different objectives or challenges. Since 1989, the team at Ridgestone Homes has been working with homeowners to transform their dreams into reality.

### What is a design-build firm and why is this beneficial?

When working with a design-build firm, both the design and construction functions are brought together as one. With this option, the homeowner manages a single contract with a particular entity. Everyone on the design-build team has the same goal, to successfully complete the project and ensure it meets or exceeds

the homeowners' expectations. When working with one entity, the design-build firm is accountable for the entire project. From planning and design all the way through to construction, the team works to provide a stress-free experience and they are committed to providing quality and excellence to each project!

### What should I consider before hiring a design-build firm?

Undertaking the construction of a new home or undergoing a home renovation is no small job. The design process requires your ongoing feedback, but it doesn't stop there. During the construction stage, it is important that you have ongoing communication with your project manager to discuss the progress of the project and periodically schedule on-site visits to ensure the project is proceeding according to its schedule. The first step to ensuring a successful project is to select and hire the right team. We recommend starting out by looking at firms whose design and quality appeal to you. Ensure you ask if your budget is realistic for the project you have in mind or ask if they can provide any other suggestions to help get you achieve your overall goal. Ask for references and make



sure they are members of the local Home Builders' Association, and/or RenoMark members (if you are renovating). Also, if you are building a new home in Ontario, ensure the firm is registered with the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (formerly known as Tarion.) If they are not, this should be your first red flag. Ensure you get plans and detailed specifications to ensure you know exactly what you are getting. Most importantly, ask questions. - Ridgestone Homes, [www.ridgestonehomes.ca](http://www.ridgestonehomes.ca)