

How Times Change

BY MARK NOONAN

In the old days there was little to fire the renovation imagination but now ...

wow!

It wasn't too many years ago that I'd come to work, excited and enthused to be in the renovation industry, and thrilled with the prospect of being able to help our clients breath some fresh life into their needy kitchens and bathrooms.

Reflecting back, mainstream residential renovations were just beginning to present themselves as a new market opportunity. Many homeowners had, until this time, performed all of their own home improvements, so products and supply sources were geared to support this reality, not to design dreams.

Then things began to change, in a hurry. The consumer was speaking and the manufacturers were listening. Product creation and development was injecting new life into our styles, with options and features, colours and finishes, and bells and whistles that could match your imagination.

Today, dream renovations are on every family's wish list and the desire to pamper body and soul is reaching an all-time high.

This change has naturally given birth to new depth and breadth in the renovation industry. A fashionable, functional home now forms part of our basic

expectations and we spend a lot of time planning the next renovation.

Where do we go from here? Well, I can honestly tell you there is no end in sight, and there are so many new developments under way that each renovation specialty will become more desirable as time goes on.

Currently one of the biggest trends we are managing is the influx of products from the Orient. So many of these come with reasonable price points that it brings many renovations down to attractive budget levels and we are able to achieve magazine layout looks.

The best trends include new vanity concepts that are clean and sleek, new faucet designs that deliver water with grace and elegance, tile trends and patterns that can give a room instant identity and life, and sinks and vessels that are 'spun' and 'hammered' into beautiful countertop centrepieces.

So go and have fun. Dress your home up and enjoy living in your space. Express your individuality and indulge your passions. 🌿

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