

Emerald Park Homes puts the “*wow!*” factor in home designs

BY JUDITH SILVERTHORNE



Building a “Wow!-factor” home with all the features they’d always dreamed about became a reality for Nina and Trent Langford when they teamed with Emerald Park Homes. A grand staircase leading from the main floor to the basement level is only one of the unique aspects in their new 1,700-square-foot bungalow in White City.

“We work with the customer to develop the new home specs that form the contract to build the home that they want,” explains Garry Sawchyn, owner of Emerald Park Homes. “People are used to having to build the exact home offered by a home builder with only a few options and modifications available to them, so that their dreams are only par-

tially fulfilled.

“We take it to the next level: tell us what you want, we send you to the designer, and we work with the designer after you have met to make the plans and dreams work.”

It certainly worked for the Langfords. Traditionally bungalows are all on one floor—but the Langfords wanted to make full



use of their basement and have a bigger, uncluttered living space upstairs.

One of the first things that appealed to the Langfords was the landscape in White City. "It wasn't totally flat," says Nina. Their lot backs onto the Aspen Links Golf Course. It's not a walk-out lot, but the distinctive style of the house makes it look like a walk-out lot.

Doing their homework

Before they started to design the layout, the Langfords researched every aspect. "We looked at a lot of show homes here in Saskatchewan and in Alberta, took ideas from magazines and had ideas of our own," says Nina. They were also familiar with the styles and abilities of the designer they hired, who took all the ideas they liked and tied them together.

"This also wasn't the first home we'd had built, so we had some experience behind us," adds Trent. They knew they wanted an open concept with plenty of big windows, and a see-through fireplace between the living area and the big friendly kitchen.

They planned lots of storage to accommodate their own needs and that of their two kids and a dog. Besides the abundant storage in the three-car attached garage, there is storage off the mudroom, plenty in the kitchen and all the bedroom closets, and in various other areas of the house.

Elevated elements add to the visual impact. In the living room the ceilings are 11 feet high, and they're nine feet in other parts of the home. The entrance areas are lower than the rest of the floors to minimize the spread of outside debris to the rest of the house.

Deciding on upgrades

Once they'd decided on the layout, the Langfords looked at upgrades. Trent focused on energy efficiency, upgrading to a high-efficiency variable-speed-motor furnace and superior spray-foam insulation. Although it's usually a restaurant or institutional element, they also added

the pot-filler faucet. Other features in the kitchen include the reverse-osmosis water system, a natural-gas five-burner cook-top with a robust exhaust system and two ovens, and a side-by-side full-size fridge-and-freezer combination.

"The kitchen cabinets are painted, because we wanted to get away from seeing the wood grain," says Nina. They also used granite counter tops. A curved main wall with three niches features prominently between the living area and kitchen. Details are stylized with chrome and glass, like their glass dining table, which ties in with the rest of the decor.

Colours and themes flow together throughout the entire house and show off detailed elements. "I kept looking for 'Wow!' factors," Nina says. She consulted an interior designer of her choice to help with this aspect. "Everything had to work together and the house had to be efficient." The designer steered her towards something that reflected who she was and was fresh and new. The result is an elegant home that is rich and warm, tasteful and classic, with different shades of browns threading throughout.

Nina indicates the artwork on the main wall of the living room and the distinct chandelier over the stairway. "It was super important to have the painting to pull everything together," she says. "The painting gives the house presence." She also had to have the distinctive chandelier, which is extremely heavy, but swings over for changing light bulbs.

Unusual touches

Throughout the house there is an unusual juxtaposition of straight walls, curves and surprise niches, and other features like the keyhole staircase, which, from the bottom, appears to be floating. The basement walls were raised an extra two feet to accommodate 48-inch windows and higher ceilings. Lighter colours were used to brighten the lower-level space.

"We spend most of our time down here," says Nina. This is where the TV and recreation area is, as well as their



three main bedrooms. Although there is one master bedroom on the main floor with an en-suite bathroom, it's currently being used as an office. There is a second master bedroom in the basement, along with bedrooms for each of the children, plus a finished laundry area and a linen closet with plenty of storage.

The large en-suite bathroom off the downstairs master bedroom has a custom-made shower with a pebbled floor, and a jet-stream tub. There are three full bathrooms in the bungalow, each with "his-and-her" sinks, plus one half-bath.

"The designer was really worth it," says Trent. "They bring out the value of the home and the 'Wow!' factor. The percent the designer costs is a fraction of a percent of the cost of the entire house."

The Langfords relate how great it was to work with all the professionals in building their home. Garry Sawchyn was able to accommodate all their building needs as their home progressed. Emerald Park Homes invites clients to be on site as much or as little as they want, barring safety issues. The Langfords were in regular contact with Emerald Park Homes, and watched their home being built from start to finish.

Garry Sawchyn says the Langfords chose an innovative concept, but they knew what they wanted. They were very precise and particular about every detail and were able to make decisions, because they were well-prepared. "There are so many options when building a home, but good planning and research like the Langfords did will contribute to success," says Garry, adding, "Being able to be flexible when changes are requested is the key. So many things look great on paper, but sometimes they don't work out as visualized. That is where the

homeowner and builder can work together to make a change if needed."

Start planning now!

Garry advises that if anyone wants to start building in the spring it would be wise to choose a lot now and start planning their design. Emerald Park Homes has plenty of lots available in White City and Regina, he says. They also build homes in rural areas within an hour radius of Regina. "Rural builds are different only because of water and sewer systems being part of the build," says Garry. "We can take care of it all."

As a custom home builder, Emerald Park Homes gives personalized service and can accommodate everyone's individual taste and budget, giving high priority in providing exteriors that are maintenance-free and energy-efficient.

Nina and Trent Langford, who have been in residence for just over a month, are pleased with the results. They have a home they are proud of, with many eye-catching features, and wouldn't change anything. "We've achieved that 'Wow!' factor and can enjoy living here for many years to come."



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