

# Work with a designer you can trust



Your designer is there to ensure that your renovation is a reflection of your lifestyle, needs and personality.



LINDA MAZUR  
DESIGNED  
FOR LIVING

**R**enovating is exciting, stressful and often can be confusing, however, making your renovation a successful one doesn't just start with great ideas and pretty pictures, it starts with finding a designer who is right for you.

Often when people consider hiring a designer they focus on the aesthetics of a renovation — that being colours, fabrics, furnishings — but that is only a small segment of what a designer can do for your home.

A designer can go beyond simply the cosmetic concerns of your project to ensure that your space not only is beautiful but functional. Design is a balance of aesthetics with structural planning, and as such, your designer is there to ensure that your renovation is a reflection of your lifestyle, needs and personality.

The reality is, renovations without a doubt will always have challenges and obstacles. Hiring a designer can be the best way of getting through your renovation successfully!

With solid designs, a skilled crew, communication, trust and collaboration the challenges and obstacles can be resolved and your renovation can not only be a success but can deliver you the home of your dreams.

When choosing the designer to work with its important that you not only like their work, but that you trust and feel comfortable with the person you are selecting.

Designers become an integral part of your daily life during the design and renovation process. A designer is a problem-solver, confidant and the person you lean on during this time so ensure that you trust and feel at ease with the person you choose and that they understand your vision.

When starting your project with a designer there is usually the initial meeting to determine that the goals of your project, the budget and timelines can be met by both parties.

It's at this point that as a designer, my vision is quickly developing for your home. Next comes the design proposal, estimates and once all agreed upon...the fun begins!

Communication is key, if you are open and honest about your goals, needs and budget then expectations can be met, even if you may not be able to fully visualize the end results during the process. There are a multitude of details in designing and decorating spaces.

Trust is key, so don't micro-manage your renovation project as that can simply waste time, often wastes money and can create a feeling of distrust in the relationship...if the relationship began on the right foot then you should be able to rest easy knowing that your home is in the hands of a professional that understands and respects your vision. Let your designer do the job they were hired to do.

As a designer, my focus is to interpret your style and needs, with the thought of delivering a space that maximizes both functionality and aesthetics for the way you live; while being respectful of your budget and your return on investment.

With clear communication, trust, an open mind and a flexible approach to possible renovation challenges, the end results can be far more than you may have originally imagined!

— **Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design Group and is known for designs that reflect a rich elegance, timeless style and optimal functionality.**  
Visit [www.lindamazurdesign.com](http://www.lindamazurdesign.com).

Watch for Linda Mazur, with Kate Davidson and Rebecca Hay, at the National Home Show. ([www.nationalhomeshow.com](http://www.nationalhomeshow.com))

They will be presenting "Realities of A Reno,"

Tuesday, March 13, 2 p.m. and Friday, March 16, 2 p.m.

Come meet Linda and bring your design questions:

"Working with a designer — it's not just about the renovation!"

## Bringing Weeknd's dining room right to your home



NATALIE DEANE  
DECOR  
AND MORE

**H**e has won three Grammy Awards, eight Billboard Music Awards, two American Music Awards, nine Juno Awards and has been nominated for one Academy Award, Abel Tesfaye has come a long way from Scarborough!

Tesfaye — a.k.a. The Weeknd — is one of music's biggest stars living the life of the rich and famous in his Hidden Hills, Calif. home.

Thanks to Marc & Rory Shevin ([www.theshevin.com](http://www.theshevin.com)), we were given an exclusive look inside The Weeknd's home. It wasn't as dark and mysterious as his music can be — in fact it was quite bright and inviting.

I love the muted tones, clean lines and the interesting use of stone tiles to add texture to the

entrance to the dining room.

Here is a look inside a room I can imagine him entertaining the likes of the Hadids and Drake. With the help of the National Home Show team (running March 9-18), we were able to find items for you to steal the look for your own home.

• **Dining chairs.** KSP Studio Fabric Dining Chair (Natural) Kitchen Stuff Plus ([www.kitchenstuffplus.com](http://www.kitchenstuffplus.com)). Kitchen stuff plus is one of my favourite secret spots for affordable stylish furnishings. These chairs are sophisticated and can match any dining table.

• **Glass door.** Front Entry Doors (multi-locking) Catana ([www.catanawindows.ca](http://www.catanawindows.ca)). Forget the heavy wooden door, this door lets the sunshine in California style.

• **Hardwood floors.** Red Oak Natural Wood Floors by JBW ([www.woodfloorsbyjbw.com](http://www.woodfloorsbyjbw.com)). If the hardwood is a little pricey for you, JBW has some good laminate that can also do the trick.

• **Rug.** Stonewashed Rug, Alta Moda Furniture ([www.altamodafurniture.com](http://www.altamodafurniture.com)). A rug dresses the room from the bottom up. It can add a splash of colour, or in this case bring all the colours of a room together.

• **Fireplace.** 5043 Montblanc marble Caesarstone ([www.caesarstone.ca](http://www.caesarstone.ca)). The wonderful thing about using Caesarstone is that it is quartz which is more durable and colour consistent than marble.

• **Overhead lights.** Google Home, Best Buy ([www.bestbuy.ca](http://www.bestbuy.ca)). Okay Google, dim the lights. Definitely a must have for a bachelor like the Weeknd who would want to set a romantic tone to an evening.

• **Ceiling light.** Round Copper Chain Pendant, Casalife ([www.casalife.com](http://www.casalife.com)). A great chandelier can accessorize a room and make it luxurious just like a sparkling diamond necklace makes a little black dress look glamorous.



Many of the items found in the dining room of The Weeknd's California home are available locally. Visit [www.theshevin.com](http://www.theshevin.com).

• **Accent wall.** ERTHCoverings Trivoli Strips, Goodfella Stone ([goodfellas.biz](http://goodfellas.biz)). These stone strip tiles really added that bit of texture to the room. I often see this around a fireplace or covering a wall, but here it creates texture as you move from one room to another in a stylish unique way.

Want to see more of these great

ideas? Visit the National Home show Friday, March 9 to Sunday, March 18 at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place. For more info, visit [nationalhomeshow.com](http://nationalhomeshow.com).

— **Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who writes about trends in home decor, travel and entertainment.**