

Create Some Winter Warmth!

by: Linda Mazur

As a designer, I can say that a fireplace definitely has the potential to completely transform your interior! It is an interesting design element that creates a warm and cozy atmosphere regardless of where it is

placed. Today, the majority of newly constructed homes are being equipped with at least one fireplace – usually a gas unit. If your home does not have one, it is quite simple to attain. To ensure that your fireplace is a positive feature rather than an un-

complimentary or under-utilized element in the home, choosing the right design is essential. There is a vast range of fireplace designs so rest assured that you will find the right one for you. When making your choice, you will need to consider both the heating functionality of the fireplace and the overall aesthetic of the interior.

When considering the design aspect of your new fireplace, decide on your style preference – whether it is the traditional style presenting the fireplace as an elegant and formal mantel or the rustic approach.



A beautiful rough-hewn reclaimed wooden beam in lieu of the traditional mantel with a touch of stone or tile is an impressive and appealing approach. Another option is the sleek fireplace. The most important factor is to ensure the fireplace is the right fit for your home.

Next you will have to decide on the heating functionality of your fireplace. The trend has been favoring gas fireplaces as they are more affordable and easier to install into an existing build as compared to wood-burning fireplaces. Furthermore, as they are not too expensive to operate, they can be a great help to your heating bills. These



fireplaces are energy-efficient and can even operate during a black-out! A gas fireplace can be installed virtually anywhere in your home and the room can be heated in minutes with the mere flick of a switch. Thus, this option is an easy, low maintenance alternative that provides the ambient beauty of the traditional wood-burning fireplace. A great one-stop retail location is Kastle Fireplaces where you will find diverse and inspirational styles and products. A personal favorite brand of mine is **National Energy Equipement Inc**, www.neefireplaces.ca.

The wood-burning fireplace is a classical option; however, the installation process

is far more involved as it requires structural work and a masonry chimney which may not be a viable option for your home. If you reside in a condo or are unable to install a gas line, not all is lost! You too can easily enjoy the beauty and comfort that fireplaces bring to the winter season. Electric fireplaces have come a long way in the industry of design since first entering the market, and although they are not as energy efficient, they are definitely a great alternative. Modern electric fireplaces offer a realistic flame, the sound of fire crackling logs, and in some instances, the "smoke" effect.

Welcome winter and create a warm and inviting atmosphere in your home with adding one of the many great fireplace options now available.

- When decorating your mantel be impactful; layer your accessories and remember the importance of scale

- Whether gas or wood-burning, remember annual cleaning and maintenance is crucial for safety and maximum efficiency



Designer Linda Mazur is the Principal Designer of Linda Mazur Design Group

With over a decade of experience this sought out multi-disciplinary interior design firm is known for providing innovative interior renovations and full scale build projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. The firm services Toronto, GTA and surrounding areas.

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