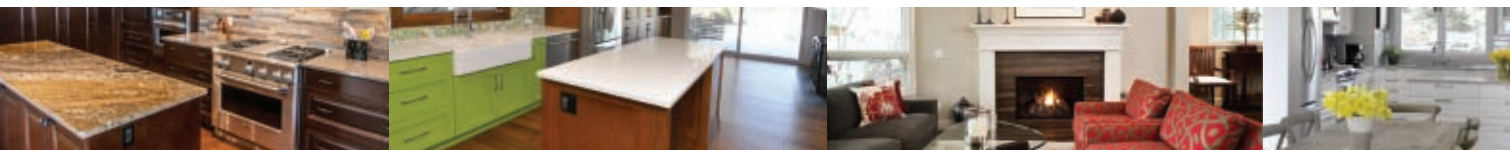


LYNN DONALDSON & ASSOCIATES

DESIGN ■■■ BUILD ■■■ RENOVATE



Lynn Donaldson & Associates Celebrates 25 Years

By John Hardy

Styles and trends come and go. The choices and the options can be overwhelming. And guesswork and trial and error can be frustrating, disappointing and pricey.

The truly personal touch, the knowledgeable expertise and the personalized communication from the superb Lynn Donaldson and Associates team are reliable constants. And whether renovating the whole house, adding an addition or creating a dazzling kitchen, the possibilities have never been more exciting and up-to-date and experienced professionalism has never been more important.

There are many reasons why Lynn Donaldson and Associates is sought after, relied on and trusted as Calgary's premier design-build-and-renovate professionals for 25 years. Most of all, because Lynn Donaldson and Associates is a family-owned Calgary business and because the award-winning interior designers, project managers, administrators, carpenters, custom millworkers and other skilled trades take their work very, very personally. Whether the project is big or small, every design-build-and-renovate client is treated like part of the team.

"The communication process is part of the art of professional decorating and design," says the personable, respected solid-pro Lynn Donaldson. "Of course the technical stages, the drawings, the renderings and AutoCAD are vital, but listening is an enormous part of our job."

"Our most important role – from the addition, to the kitchen tiles to the cushions on the sofa – is understanding our client's lifestyle. That's the only reliable way to capture the feel and create the essence of their vision (not ours) and how they want the finished environment to look."

Refreshingly, Lynn Donaldson and Associates genuinely considers the client as a vital member of the project team. The homeowner works closely with their designer, project manager and site supervisor to make sure all details go according to plan.

"We offer all our skills and expertise and co-ordinate all the details," Donaldson says. "Designing, building and renovating is a collaborative process. It must be! At the end of the day, with the client's vision and collaboration with our team, it is the client who approves every decision."

The Lynn Donaldson and Associates team tend to avoid sweeping statements about what's *in* and what's *out* at any given time because it's so individual and often so fickle and changeable. But the Donaldson pros acknowledge, when asked, that white kitchens, carerra marble, anything in reclaimed wood and the "new" colour of brass are trends for 2013; as is mixing the old with the new. But Donaldson emphasizes that what is truly trendy is what you love.

The kitchen is often the heart of a home and the most used area in the house. It also has the highest demand for efficiency, durability and beauty. The Donaldson goal is to ensure that their Calgary kitchens are functional, attractive and adaptable for a dynamic family. "A properly designed kitchen should be an inspiring, productive as well as an entertaining space," she says with enthusiasm.

Judging by the Lynn Donaldson and Associates schedules and worksheets, luxurious ensuites are popular, especially with details such as heated marble floors, dramatic free-standing tubs, toilets in a separate room and strategically placed multiple-head showers and body sprays.

The design staff work to effectively transform spaces into custom spaces by striking the necessary balance between creative thinking and practical function. They work with the home's existing "bones" (structure, architecture and strengths) and look to add the "wow factor" wherever possible. They emphasize that design must be *appropriate*: to the budget, to the lifestyle, to the architecture of the home and to the aesthetic sensibilities of the client.



“The sign of great design and space planning is not being able to notice where the new begins and the old ends,” Donaldson explains. “Your house is an opportunity to express your individuality and to create a unique environment. Ultimately, your home is about you! You walk in, you smile and you belong. Our designers respect that, and that’s what it’s all about.”

A key area in the Lynn Donaldson and Associates offices on Elbow Drive – aside from the brightly lit and modern workspaces and the backyard patio deck, complete with a patio table and an umbrella for the team to enjoy sunshiny breaks – is the all-important “meeting room” where the clients are often treated to signature cappuccinos and refreshments while they are collaborating with their designers. Laughter is frequently heard echoing through the glass doors. But, they also mean business. As part of the process, clients are given “homework” to help the team understand their expectations and the wants and needs of their specific project.

Downstairs is the “resource room” brimming with tile samples, fabrics, wallpaper, wood finishes, paint ... all of the bits and pieces that go into creating a cohesive, well-designed space. The Lynn Donaldson and Associates designers also meet on site throughout the duration of each project, to monitor the design vision as it is translated into reality.

It’s not uncommon that the interior design pros get most of the attention. They deal in what’s affectionately called ‘the jewelry.’ But, the Donaldson team also provides other key client services. From Judy in accounting, Lianne at the front desk to Tobias in the millwork shop, they all manage the hundreds – sometimes thousands – of meticulous and

complex details, the craftsmen and trades and ensure that all of the day-to-day work is being done according to specifications, scheduling and budget.

After more than 25 years of satisfying Calgary clients, Donaldson is passionate with praise for her team. “We have such amazing staff who really care and take great pride in the success of each project. They do tremendous research and resource materials, and they’re not afraid to admit when they don’t know something,” she says. “At Lynn Donaldson and Associates, good enough is simply *not* good enough.”

In addition to the award-winning design, build and renovate expertise, (they have been honoured with five consecutive Consumer Choice Awards, SAM Awards, a BBB Ethics Award Honorable Mention, amongst others) and many testimonials from delighted clients and suppliers, Lynn Donaldson and Associates continues to earn an excellent reputation, offering the skills of an exceptional team to transform each client’s wish list into the inspired home of their dreams. •



The team at Lynn Donaldson & Associates. Photo by Bookstrucker Photography.

Contact us today to learn more about our unique services, or to discuss your next renovation. Call 403.263.6296, email renovate@lynnaldson.ca, or visit www.lynnaldson.ca



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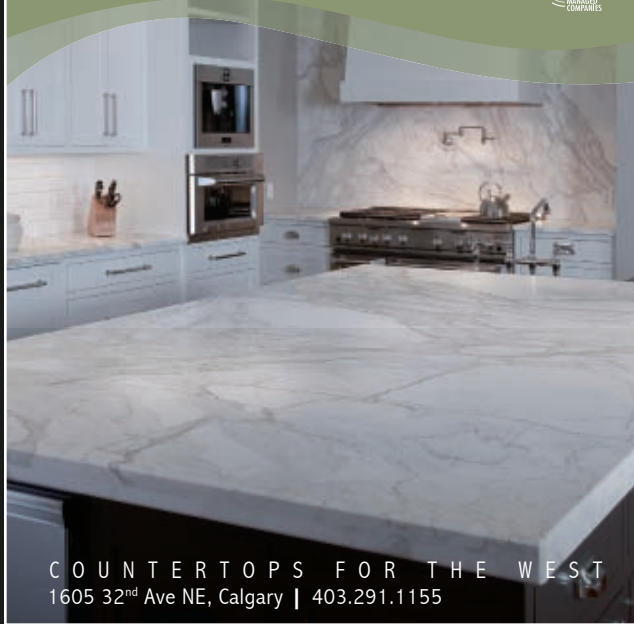
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