



Prize Possession

BC Home goes behind the scenes to reveal the inspiration for the 2011 PNE prize home

TEXT CAROL CRENNNA



For more than 75 years, the PNE has been making dreams come true by giving away a fully furnished, professionally designed house that's equipped with all the latest and most coveted appliances and accessories. Barbara Aylesworth, who decorated this year's 3,100-square foot lottery home, which will be a permanent lakeside fixture in Kelowna, was able to fulfill all of her wishes by calling on partners to help bring the elements of the prize home together. That meant if she wanted expensive

marble backsplashes and countertops, lavish double crown mouldings and a dozen chandeliers in the home, so be it.

"I designed this house for my family," says Aylesworth, from a Stroke of Genius, who essentially was designing the prize home, not for one particular client, but for the 100,000 would-be winners that will wander through the home when it's on display in Vancouver. "I have three kids and wanted a calm, quiet theme to be carried not only throughout the house, but to the



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SPACE TO SPARE The open-concept living-dining area provides a range of zones for family and friends to gather. A set of chandeliers in the kitchen is an unexpected touch of glamour.

exterior. When coming from outside to inside, there is very little transition; everything flows. In fact, the deep taupe on the living room wall is the same paint colour as the exterior siding.”

With the family focus in mind, Aylesworth then found inspiration for the entire decor from a small swatch of material. “I loved this fabric from Arlene’s in taupes, cream, black and rust in a stylized acanthus leaf pattern with organic, sinuous lines,” she says. The remnant, all that was left at the fabric store, only covers two small living room cushions,

but it influenced the old-world styling that extends from the ornate wrought iron in the entry doors to the custom upholstered chairs and the decorative motif painted on the wall of the child’s bedroom.

Practicality kept furniture choices in check. Aylesworth needed to design a home that’s appropriate for young children, teens and grandparents to live in, and to show that durable can be beautiful. She also needed to fulfill the wishes of thousands; after viewing the PNE home, visitors offer suggestions for next year’s design. This provided Aylesworth with a first-hand opportunity to tap into the tastes and trends in the B.C. marketplace.

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We’ve always wanted to...
enjoy every inch of our space
 (what is important to you?)



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Winning Style

7 DREAM HOME MUST-HAVES

1. A FULLY EQUIPPED THEATRE ROOM

Men longed for this home's 20-foot media space with rows of reclining seats on two levels, large projection screen with surround sound, and theatre lighting. Why women like it: it takes the TV out of the living room, allowing it to return to a socially interactive space.

2. A HARD-WORKING KITCHEN ISLAND

Easy entertaining was high on priority lists, so the home features an eight-seat dining table and an island that accommodates four more seats. The island also incorporates a sink, built-in microwave and plenty of storage.

3. TRADITIONAL MILLWORK

"Mouldings appeal to boomers because they're reminiscent of going to grandmother's house when we were young; they're comforting and familiar," says Aylesworth. Double crown mouldings, 10-inch baseboards, wainscoting and trim enhance 10-foot ceilings on the main level and nine-foot ceilings upstairs. Since kitchen trends focus on heritage charm, the room's focal point is a large chocolate-coloured cabinetry hood above the professional six-burner gas stove.

4. SOFT OR NO-COLOUR WALLS

Coloured walls were popular in previous years, but today's trends focus on white or cream walls, says Aylesworth. The home flows with a spacious, airy,

uniform theme. Each room's personality is expressed with colour blocking on a wall and in accessories.

5. MASSIVE WINDOWS

"From a homeowner's perspective, large windows on several walls offer panoramic views in Kelowna; from the architect's perspective, they offer abundant light; from a finishing perspective, they allow for decorative mouldings," says Aylesworth. "From a furnishing perspective," she admits, "they're difficult to decorate around." In this living room, furniture could only be placed around the fireplace and one wall. Wrought iron rods were secured a few inches beyond the window to hang drapery.

6. HIS AND HERS

The consensus? We don't like to share certain areas. The master ensuite features an oversized, marble-topped soaker tub that extends into the room like an altar to create a his-and-hers space with double sinks. There's also a separate walk-in shower and a large dressing room off the master bedroom with custom his-and-hers closets.

7. INNOVATIVE STORAGE

A door hidden in the wall under the stairs leads to a massive storage room; window seats, floor-to-ceiling cabinets and custom closets hide everything away. □

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For more photos, plus design tips from Barbara Aylesworth, go to www.bcliving.ca/living-space