

Natural transitions

Making seamless transitions between landscaping, hardscaping and a home's architecture is no easy feat. If any of these elements look at odds with the other, the overall impact is lost.

"That's why we believe strongly in conceptual design," says Randy Klassen of Klassen Concrete, an established Winnipeg-based company that specializes in custom concrete work and landscaping. "We look at the overall architecture of a house and then strive to create a natural type of setting, flowing it into something that makes sense for the home, both inside and out."

To achieve a unified look, Klassen says he often uses a colour palette of softer earth tones of grays and browns that work best with the home's façade. Klassen also ensures the hardscaping and landscape design stays true to the architectural integrity of the home. "Some homes lend themselves to curved garden beds, others to more linear construction," he notes.

As a company that is known for its "cool work culture," and that thrives on working with great people on interesting projects, Klassen says Klassen Concrete designs never adhere to a "one-size-fits all approach." The focus is always on meeting a client's needs, from start to finish. "Each project we do is unique and ultimately designed to enhance the home."



More than a Facelift

Vinyl siding with aluminum fascia and soffits replace the former wood siding and trim of this south Winnipeg home. Typical of homes from this era, a ¼ inch plywood ranch board was used for the trim. "Initially it looks good and it's supposed to be maintenance-free but over the years it completely deteriorates," says Dan Walker, Vice President of Nisby Home Renovations.

The new aluminum soffits are not only a durable, maintenance-free product; they are also imprinted with rows of holes to maximize air exchange in the attic. Nisby also replaced the old round aluminum gable vents with attractive octagon PVC units and installed stylish ribbed fascia to prevent rippling and enhance the aesthetic appeal. The ribbing coordinates with the new siding, now laid out in a matching



horizontal/vertical combination above and on the garage. The customer's selection of an attractive off-set colour was part of the estimate process.

Nisby first installed contoured insulation in the same shape as the siding that covers it. "If a hail storm hits the vinyl, it won't break or dent it," notes Walker. "That maintains the life of

the siding and makes your house more energy efficient."

Specializing in exterior renovations for 27 years, Nisby stands behind its products and workmanship, with dedicated sub-trades, a 24-hour answering service and detailed files on all projects.