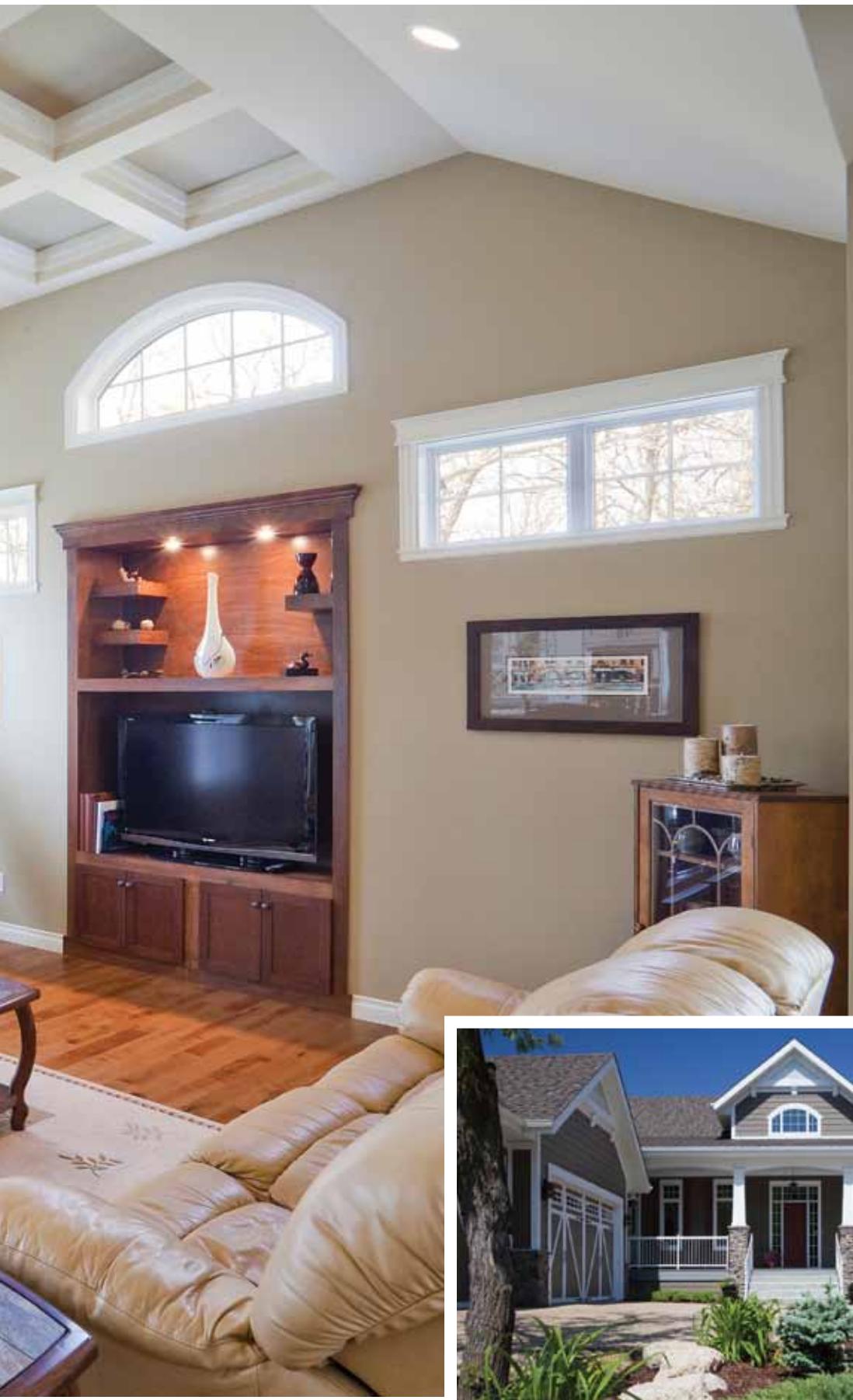


Fabulous Features for Any Design

By Christine Hanlon
Photography: Michael Roberts



Abundant windows capture the established natural vegetation in the area.
St. Mary's Nursery & Garden Centre extended this theme to the property.



From the three-sided fireplace to the granite-topped bar, from the tiled frameless shower to the vaulted ceilings, fabulous features define the style and character of this 2,100 square-foot bungalow. "All of these features can be done in any home," notes Ken Braun, Manager of the New Home Division at Qualico.

The process of building a new home starts with selecting the size and layout of the design. After that, the possibilities are practically endless. Qualico offers a vast array of features to meet any need, taste and budget. Just as every homeowner is unique, so is the combination that will transform a house design in the perfect home.

"People are spending a lot more time at home," says Braun, adding that kitchens, hard surface flooring and customized bathrooms are common areas of focus when building a new home. "As a consequence people are investing more and more in their homes."

Making a wise investment involves choice and guidance. That's where Qualico comes in. In this home, for example, the homeowners wanted their lower level to be well equipped for entertaining. Abundant seating around the continuous bar counter allows guests to congregate, while the recessed display cabinets provide a focal point without obstructing the view from one end to the other.



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Carrying the tile from the floor onto the 3-sided fireplace enhances the flow of the open space in the lower level.



The lower level cabinets include a wine fridge and dishwasher. "With the cost of cabinetry these days, it's often more practical to add appliances which are going to enhance the functionality of your space anyways," says Braun.

He notes that there has been increased interest into developing the lower level in recent years. "Rather than building it yourself, it's more affordable to have the builder do it and include it in the mortgage," he points out. Qualico is more than happy to incorporate customers' design ideas such as this home's ceiling bulkheads that reflect the shape of the lower level counter.

Upstairs, the arched openings between the kitchen and great room were also requested by the homeowner. So was the coffered ceiling in the great room. "The drywaller did a fantastic job," says Braun, referring to the work of Gypsum Drywall Interiors. The architectural details help define the craftsman styling of the home while giving a more horizontal perspective to the space, with its 13-foot ceiling.

The large width of the fireplace also anchors the room by emphasizing

the span, rather than the height. The very realistic look of the gas-burning unit from Prairie Fireplaces further contributes to the warmth of the room. "In a larger home, it can be harder to create that feeling," acknowledges Braun.

At the same time, Qualico took full advantage of the broad spaces and high ceilings with numerous windows – some very large – thus fulfilling the homeowner's desire for abundant natural light. The open concept design allows the light to flow unimpeded.

In fact, there is no separation between the great room and the dining room, allowing the homeowners to expand their eating area to accommodate any number of guests. On the other hand, the octagonal shape of the dining room walls defines the space as separate. To keep the room uncluttered, the homeowners decided to forego the traditional china cabinet, opting instead for a built-in unit in the kitchen.

An expertly executed bulkhead mirrors the bar counter perfectly.



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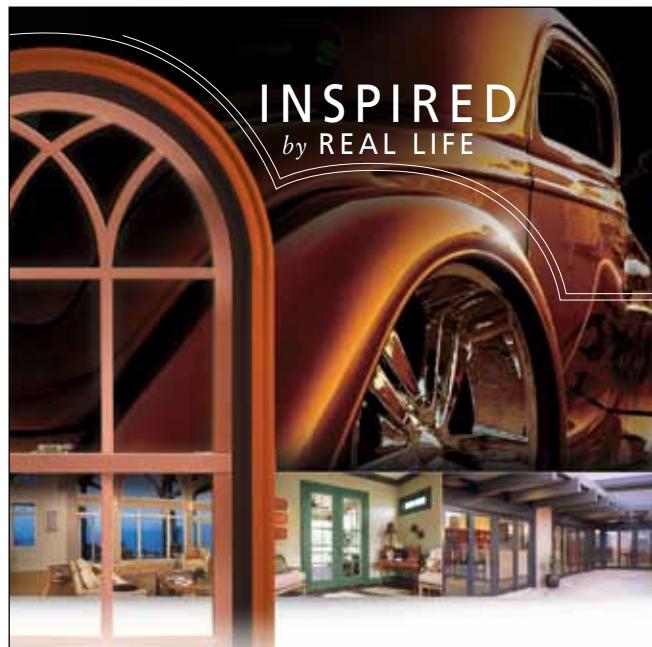
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Most of the kitchen features maple cabinets in a Seashell finish, one of Kitchen Craft's numerous door style and finish combinations. A pewter glaze brings out the detailing of the Berkeley door style. The granite-topped island with its vegetable sink provides a spacious work surface as well as abundant storage thanks to its Sienna-stained cherry cabinetry. "You can mix and match the cabinets," Braun points out, highlighting a popular trend in today's kitchens.

To unite the kitchen with the entire home design, Kitchen Craft used the same stain on the island as for the cabinets in the rest of the house. Meanwhile, the maple hardwood floor from The Floor Show contains just enough of a darker hue to tie the island into the kitchen.

Similarly, the tile in the ensuite picks up the warm tones of the cherry cabinetry while reeded glass door fronts offer an attractive alternative to the traditional mirrored medicine cabinet. Open shelving is conveniently located across from the frameless, fully tiled shower.

"A frameless shower really allows you to customize the size," notes Braun. "The homeowners had lots of room so they could make it as big as they wanted." Qualico also used

The elegant light fixture from Super-Lite emphasizes the length of the room.

the existing 2 X 4 wall studding to provide the shower shelving the homeowners requested. A river stone listello completes the design.

It is easy to incorporate features such as these, when a full range of options is available for consideration in one place. Qualico's Design Centre allows customers to select ceramic

A built-in wine rack, glazed display cabinets and a range hood valance are only a few of the features lending this kitchen outstanding appeal and functionality.





A bank of high windows ensures an abundance of light while maintaining privacy. Cove moulding defines the 10-foot ceiling.

tiles, floor coverings, cabinetry, lighting, etc. and put everything together at the same time.

"It's a real advantage," says Braun. "People don't have to go to individual suppliers and then wonder if all the pieces will fit together."

He adds that people often come into the design centre with a toss cushion or a swatch of fabric, looking for just the right colour or texture. Design consultants are on hand to walk them through the process. This fall, Qualico will resume its 'open house' Fridays at

the Design Centre where customers can come to browse and ask questions without making an appointment. In this way, when they do meet with the designer to discuss and finalize the options for their new home, they will already have ideas as to what they might want.

It's all about making the process easy and ensuring that those building a new home with Qualico have all the options at their disposal. After all, it's not necessary to build a 2,500 square-foot home just to have all features you desire.



Frameless showers allow for the greatest design flexibility.

"When you come into the Design Centre, you can turn a home of any square footage into your dream home," says Braun. "You can start with a small and simple design. Then when it comes to features, the sky's the limit."

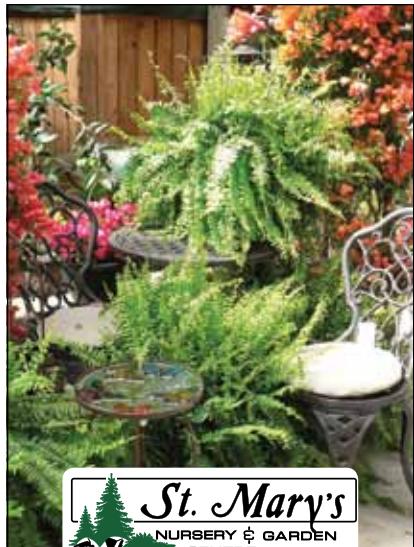
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About the Builder

Qualico Homes has been building homes in Winnipeg for 60 years. Active in 10 subdivisions around the city, the builder presently has more than a dozen showhomes that highlight a vast range of designs and features available to meet all tastes, needs and budgets.

"We offer every style, from laned homes to basement walkouts – the full spectrum of what homeowners might possibly want," says Ken Braun, Manager of the New Home Division. Although many features are already standard to Qualico's group of builder brands, any upgrade is possible as long as it works with the house plans.



Manitobans will recognize the names Broadview, Sterling and Foxridge by their outstanding reputation. As the parent company for Star Building Materials, Qualico exerts a high level of quality control over all construction materials to ensure consistently excellent results.

A number of years ago, Qualico added a Design Centre to its assembly of advantageous services for its customers. With new offices nearing completion in Sage Creek, Qualico will showcase a modern, state-of-the-art Design Centre, providing prospective homeowners with an even greater selection of features, products and designs.



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