



# BUNGALOW

STORY **HEATHER WRIGHT**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**

# Revival

A major renovation project requires homeowners to make many decisions. Usually, the key to creating your desired aesthetic is less about choosing the right fixtures and finishes, and more about asking for good advice.

That's why homeowners Barb and Tim turned to **Natalie Cox** of **CPI Interiors** to help bring a new iteration of their old home in Bells Corners to life.

Tim and Barb have lived in their bungalow since 2003 and had done extensive work to update their home's exterior, but the interior, in Tim's words, was tired.

"We had an idea of what we wanted, but also wanted design input," Barb explains. "We are also at a stage where we didn't want to manage multiple contractors."

Their goal was to provide space for entertainment. They needed a comfortable and durable space to spend time in, and to accommodate their dog, Aria.

At the centre of the design dilemma was a wall that boxed the kitchen in a compact main-floor layout, typical of a bungalow from that era.

The wall not only disrupted sightlines but also affected adjacent areas both visually and functionally, making the space feel cramped.

"The project was pretty comprehensive, given that we had to remove that wall," says Natalie. "We redid the flooring, walls, ceiling, kitchen and all furniture and finishes."

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Natalie Cox



An open-concept kitchen and living space enables the homeowners to lean into their love of entertaining. Fun blue accent features elevate the kitchen design and complement the white cabinetry (CPI Interiors) and countertops (TNT Tile & Marble.)



Working with contractor **CJ's Construction**, Natalie took the homeowner's vision and assigned design elements to make their home suit their lifestyle and aesthetic seamlessly. CPI also sourced nearly everything to complement the updated spaces, including the furniture and fixtures.

The result is an open-concept main floor, with flow-friendly features including a dining table that expands, and a central island that serves as both seating and storage.

The home is light and bright, painted **Benjamin Moore** Cloud White, with zones dedicated to cooking, dining and socializing. Highlights include a striking shiplap fireplace (**Roger's Heating and Air Conditioning**), and a sparkling-new kitchen, with counters from **TNT Tile & Marble**.

In their old dining room and kitchen, Barb felt they could only host one couple at a time, but with the new layout, they can easily accommodate a group comfortably.

The kitchen island was an important component of transforming the space for entertainment. "Before, there was nowhere for people to gather," says Natalie.

Storage and, ultimately, functionality, were central to Natalie's design, especially important when trying to keep clutter away in an open-concept floor plan.

In the old dining room, there was an inlay in the wall that enclosed an old buffet. Natalie made use of that nook to create a pantry and built-in cabinetry. The cabinetry features deep drawers, perfect for storage. *Continued on page 46*



**ABOVE:** This light-filled kitchen offers ample storage space and room for cooking and hanging out. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A cleverly designed island maximizes hidden storage while also serving as an eating space. **BELOW RIGHT:** An expandable table offers homeowners an easy space-saving solution, while also providing extra space for entertaining.



One of the benefits of working with a designer, says Natalie, is the space planning.


“We always put furniture into the floorplan,” she says. “It helps with space planning. Is the island the right size? Is the furniture the right size? This is even more important when the footprint is tight, open concept and meant for entertaining. You need flow; space to move.”

A welcome challenge in the design was a request from the homeowners to include a couple of styles in the new space.

Barb characterizes their style as a little bit Mid-century modern, and a little bit farmhouse, but wasn't sure how they might go together, or how to articulate that to Natalie. Natalie knew exactly what Barb and Tim were after and offered a fusion of these styles in a few instances throughout the new design.

“I was a bit nervous, as we kind of have two styles, but Natalie, after a couple of conversations, was easily able to meld those two styles and guide us,” says Barb. *Continued on page 48*





Designer Natalie Cox collaborated with the homeowners to seamlessly blend their distinct styles, merging farmhouse charm with Mid-century modern elegance, creating a timeless and harmonious living space through carefully-selected furniture and accents.



An example of this blending of styles is seen in the wide-plank hardwood that runs cohesively throughout the main open floor. The floor gives it a farmhouse vibe, and is juxtaposed with the vertical stacked tile in the kitchen with watery blue tones that has a Mid-modern look.

The oversized coffee table in the living room is a perfect example, according to Barb. “It’s made of reclaimed wood, which is farmhouse style, while the angles and lines are clean, which is Mid-century modern,” she says.

The scope of the project was not limited to the kitchen, dining and living areas. Natalie also transformed the primary bedroom to include a custom closet and refreshed décor and design.

While nearly everything in the room is new, the jumping off point for the design was not. Hanging over Tim and Barb’s bed is a painting that Tim gave to Barb one Christmas years ago.

Natalie used the painting and its colour scheme to drive the makeover of the bedroom. “I tapped into the blues and greens of the painting to create the new design,” she says, including soothing Benjamin Moore St. John Blue on the walls.

With Natalie’s guidance and strategic, transformative changes, Barb can’t pick a favourite element in their freshly renovated home. “I love so many things,” she says. “Our home is beautiful.”

But beyond the look and the levelled-up functionality, it’s the warm vibe that supports their entertainment goals the best. “Even though it’s new, with the choices we made with Natalie, our house is still cosy and comfortable,” Barb says. “It feels like you can relax and sit down and enjoy.” **OH**

**ABOVE:** Natalie extended her design expertise to the primary bedroom, adding a custom closet and refreshing the décor.

**RIGHT:** The bedroom makeover centred around a meaningful painting over Tim and Barb’s bed. Natalie tapped into the artwork’s colours, using blues and greens to guide the new design, resulting in a serene and personalized retreat.



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