

REVELATIONS WITH Bryan Baeumler, host of HGTV's Disaster DIY

RENOS DELIVER ON THE DREAM AND THE REALITY

BY KARA KURLLOWICZ

Bryan will be appearing on the Urban Barn Design Stage presented by HGTV at the Calgary Home + Interior Design Show.

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www.calgaryhomeshow.com

RENOVATIONS CAN DELIVER ON HOMEOWNERS' dreams and still provide tangible benefits that turn that reno fantasy into a worthwhile reality.

"All homeowners have one thing in common—every homeowner wants to be unique and make a dramatic and highly personal statement with their home renovations," says Bryan Baeumler, host of HGTV's Disaster DIY and president of Baeumler Quality Construction. "While some renovations are all about the style, most homeowners also expect and demand enhanced convenience and creature comforts with a greater focus on green renos that produce energy savings and health benefits."

That interest in a style that reflects the homeowner's individuality and makes the home more livable applies to the entire home, but is really popping up in certain floor plans and rooms as well as appliances like fireplaces and in-floor radiant heating.

Catch the third season of **Disaster DIY** this fall on HGTV at 9pm ET/PT beginning October 7.

For more information go to www.hgtv.ca



TOP LEFT
Katagami bronze lavatory from Kohler.

MIDDLE LEFT
A Calgary couple appreciates the convenience of double sinks and plenty of storage in this Trademark bathroom.

BOTTOM LEFT
The Reve Vessels lavatory from Kohler.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Trademark created a sleek, contemporary kitchen in this Calgary home.



BATHROOMS The open-concept, European-style bathroom features tile on all of the walls as well as a sloping floor and central drain to create one large, wet room. "Visually, it makes the room much bigger and can make it easier to clean and maintain," says Baeumler. Floating vanities look very contemporary, show off more of the tile work and create the illusion of more floor space. Vessel sinks are also on-trend right now because they offer such a wide variety of styles and materials, including stone, glass, metal and even petrified wood. In-floor radiant heat is one of the invisible products that makes sense to homeowners, particularly in the bathroom, where the standard, small-size radiant floor mats are easily installed before laying the new tile.

"If it's going to feel good, homeowners want it," says Baeumler.

KITCHENS AND LIVING ROOMS To make the open-concept layout work, homeowners and their design and building professionals are getting creative. Baeumler recently suspended an over-size, custom-made, stainless steel, ethanol-burning fireplace from the ceiling between an eat-in kitchen and a formal living room. That unit pumps out more than 60,000 BTU of heat, more than enough to heat the entire house in the dead of winter. Fireplaces have also moved into the master bedroom and virtually any other room that would benefit from the extra heat and ambiance, including "outdoor rooms" such as patios.

PICTURED TOP

This open-concept, marbled en suite by Calgary's Ultimate Renovations is as luxurious as it is practical.

PICTURED BOTTOM

For a Calgary family, Trademark strategically located the laundry room right beside the butler's pantry.

GENDER-SPECIFIC SPACE More than ever before, men and women are marking specific spots as exclusively their own. The man-cave is typically tucked into a spare room, a basement or even a garage, where the man of the house can revel in a variety of manly pursuits. The woman-cave, typically a walk-in closet complete with a make-up table, was inspired by the movie *Sex and the City* and other chick flicks.

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE WITH A LITTLE LUXURY Laundry rooms continue to move out of the basement and up to the main—and even second floor—thanks to a variety of space-saving, stackable appliances. If you have the right space, you can even create a wet wall for the washer and sink, then locate the dryer and folding table on the dry side. Home theatres offer the ultimate luxury with at-home comfort and convenience. Imagine never having to worry about your feet sticking to the floor again or missing a crucial plot twist while on a bathroom break!

DETAILS GET THE ATTENTION

“Even the smallest home becomes a mini-mansion when you pay attention to details such as crown moulding, coffered ceilings, wainscoting and paneling,” says Baeumler. “They’re not a lot of money to buy or install, but the added visual interest make an upscale statement about you and your home.”

Renos with maximum visual impact get the most attention from homeowners, but as consumers and renovations experts tackle green renos, Baeumler is one of the few to take a strategic approach that is grounded in most homeowners’ realities. While he appreciates what solar panels and geo-thermal heating can do for the environment, he also recognizes that the cost and very long-term return on that investment is beyond the reach of most homeowners’ finite budgets.

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**PICTURED LEFT**

Ultimate Renovations' bath features a claw-style soaker tub and Roman tub filler complemented by custom shaded cabinetry and wall wainscot paneling.

PICTURED RIGHT

In the southwest community of Calgary's Canyon Meadows, this Ultimate Renovations en suite features natural stone, granite and glass with a fireplace in an open layout.



"Those projects make sense in the ideal world, but in the real world, where most of us live, we are limited by what we can afford," says Baeumler. "Fortunately, many of the most affordable green renovations offer the most significant environmental benefits, although you won't even see most of them post-installation."

As a rule of thumb, the more money that reno saves, the better it is for our planet, but those that are most highly recommended by Baeumler are hidden, which makes the homeowners that commit to these products truly unique.

"Most homeowners are more interested in spending their money on what their family and friends will ooh and aahhhh over versus what reduces their homes' operating costs," says Baeumler.

In Baeumler's world, green products also include those that have little effect on energy or water consumption, but are infinitely better for our bodies, such as zero- and low-VOC paints and air filtration systems.

Before homeowners commit to a so-called green product, Baeumler suggests they look beyond the manufacturers' marketing hype to the cumulative environmental impact, including the energy and resources used in making, packaging and shipping the products, then eventually disposal and recycling.

BAEUMLER'S LOW-COST, BIG-IMPACT GREEN RENOS

1 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION: This product effectively stops everything from air-flow to pests such as mice and insects, while boosting structural strength and adding to the home's resale value. Although it costs 30 to 40 per cent more than the standard fiberglass bat insulation, after treating the attic, floors and walls in his own 4,000 sq. ft. home, Baeumler's heating bills dropped to less than \$50/month.

2 BRAC GREY WATER SYSTEM: Invest \$3,000 in one of these tanks to capture, filter and chlorinate grey water from your shower and bathtub for reuse in the toilet, then watch your water consumption drop by 30 to 40 per cent. "The bulk of residential water consumption goes right down the toilet and water is a finite resource, although many Canadians don't see it that way," says Baeumler.

3 AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM: Believe it or not, the air inside your home can be 10 times dirtier than the air outside, because modern, airtight homes keep the pollutants in. To help your household breathe a little more easily and stay healthy, Baeumler recommends air filters that remove bacteria, pet allergens, mold spores, dust, pollen and other contaminants. Most air filtration systems cost \$3,500 to \$4,000 installed. ERV/HRV systems are also important because they pull fresh air into your home and expel the stale, dirty air.

4 TRIPLE-GLAZED, LOW-E, ARGON-FILLED WINDOWS: The average home loses about 40 per cent of its heat through its windows, but homeowners want the natural light and the view, particularly in a city like Calgary. "Make the right window selection and your heating bills will plummet," says Baeumler. ☐

Bryan will be appearing on the Urban Barn Design Stage presented by HGTV at 2pm and 6pm on Saturday, September 18th and 2pm and 4pm on Sunday, September 19th.