

The Gazette

MONTREAL | SATURDAY, June 14, 2014 | SINCE 1778 | BREAKING NEWS AT MONTREALGAZETTE.COM

Investing in your living room

A tax break currently available for home renovations could mean now's the time to get some work done

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When you come home after a long day, one of the best spots to rest up and regroup is your living room. Its very name is indicative of the amount of time you spend in that space. Depending on the layout of your home, your living room can serve many different functions. In modern homes and condos, it's often the only common living space there is, so it's used for watching TV, playing games, and spending time with family.

Regardless of its primary purpose, home and condo owners are investing more in their living rooms than in the past.

"If you compare contemporary living-room ideas and renovations to living rooms in the past,

"...Modern (living-room renovation) trends are actually simpler (than in the past) and can be less expensive."

Walter Assi

you may notice that the modern trends are actually simpler and can be less expensive," said Walter Assi, owner of Renovco, a Dorval-based company specializing in design and renovation.

"But people are spending more time designing and thinking out their living rooms and planning the transformation carefully; they're investing more of themselves in the process."

This kind of affordability suits those who need to make their budget stretch, especially young couples and first-time buyers.



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO, COURTESY OF RENOVCO
Living-room design elements should help create a mood and bring personality to the room, as well as allowing for functionality by incorporating such elements as a flat-screen TV and unobtrusive speakers for a sound system.

A modern living room should be useful in a dynamic way, and be more than just practical, Assi said.

"There are some basic things to consider when planning the space," he added. "You want to make sure it has room to breathe, so that it naturally opens up into a dining area or kitchen. It goes a long way when you have dinner

parties, or family holidays."

You also want to create a mood and bring personality and character to the room, contributing to what designers call visual therapy for guests and homeowners.

Another crucial element to modern living rooms is the inclusion of technology.

"Functionality is very important," Assi said. "People are going

a long way to make their space comfortable and convenient by including things like electric fireplaces and, of course, flat-screen TVs and so on."

Some of the latest trends in living-room technology revolve around home automation, and include smart TVs, which entail features such as gesture control, facial recognition, and elaborate

sound systems; smart curtains, which can be programmed to open and close in response to light and internal temperature; and smart windows, which allow consumers to decide how much light they want beaming into the room simply by turning a knob or pressing a button.

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