

# The Gazette

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## NEW HOMES & CONDOS

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PHOTOS (2): COURTESY OF RENOVCO

Those with the means (and inclination) are investing in dramatic transformations of home basements into a wide variety of living spaces — everything from playrooms, dens, home offices, home theatres, extra bedrooms, gyms, and/or wine bars like the one shown here.

## Making the most of your basement space

What used to house only the furnace, laundry facilities and maybe a root cellar, is now a comfortable living area

MEGAN MARTIN  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

For years, the basement has commonly been treated as an afterthought in terms of home design. In fact, not only was it ignored from a decor standpoint, it was also grossly underutilized as a living space, and was instead seen mostly as a cold storage area or a place to house the laundry machines.

Those days, however, have long since passed; basements have come to take their rightful place as comfortable, useful, and livable parts of the home.

"Having a furnished, completed basement in both new constructions and existing homes is a must," said Walter Assi, owner of Renovco, a Dorval-based company specializing in design and renovation. "The basement is now seen as a continuation of the rest of the home; people are



In their quest to make the most of basement space, some people are pulling out all the stops and creating luxurious living areas like this one — complete with fireplace.

investing more to create beautiful and practical rooms."

If homeowners are constructing a bathroom in the basement, for example, they generally spare no expense and install appliances and fixtures that would traditionally be reserved for bathrooms in the main parts of the home.

Gyms, wine cellars, playrooms, home offices, extra bedrooms with bathrooms, and home theatres are some of the contemporary uses to which homeowners put their basements.

"Instead of just cold laundry rooms, people are really using the space," Assi said. "They're also installing really sophisticated storage systems in order to optimize the area."

Lighting has become an important design component in basements.

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