

Two dream kitchens in one 70s-era house

Home available to view for parade of renovated homes

By Sarah Payne
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You wouldn't know it from the front of the 70's-era Coquitlam rancher but the back of this unassuming Kelvin Street home — with its sleek outdoor kitchen, mammoth barbecue and sunken hot tub — is, for those who like to entertain, very well near heaven on earth.

It wasn't always that way, though. Two years ago the homeowner enlisted the help of reVISION Custom Home Renovations Inc. to turn his standard suburban back yard into a bachelor's paradise, and the indoor kitchen into a cook's dream.

The stylish results outside were recognized with the Canadian Home Builders Association's national Sam Award; the indoor kitchen was a finalist in the CHBA BC's Georgie Awards.

And this weekend the public has a chance to get a glimpse at two of Canada's top kitchens, at one address, during the annual Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association's Parade of Renovated Homes.

"This used to just be the back of the house," said reVISION owner Todd Senft, gesturing to where the \$8,000 stainless steel built-in barbecue (with a rotisserie, smoker and side burner) is now nestled between deep cedar shelves and a glistening, poured-concrete countertop.

"There was a little storage shed here, where the hot tub is now," he added.

The outdoor extension sits under a long pitched roof lined with wide cedar planks. Skylights let in natural light while a restaurant-style heater mounted to the ceiling allows for year-round "grilling and chilling" outside. Surround sound is piped in through built-in outdoor speakers.

Next to the hot tub a cedar-lined shower area and change room means no dripping from the pool to the indoor kitchen's new hardwood floors. There's also a dedicated storage shed, lined with checker plate, that the homeowner had designed for his motorcycle.



Above, a remodeled kitchen that will be showcased in this weekend's Parade of Renovated Homes.

contractors, builders and designers.

• There are 17 professionally renovated homes in the 16th annual Parade of Renovated Homes this year, three of which are in Coquitlam. It runs Sunday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; visit www.gvhba.org to get addresses and plan your route. A \$10 ticket is available at each home and can be used for entry to the remaining 16 homes. For more information on reVISION visit www.revisionrenovations.com.



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Todd Senft, owner of reVISION Custom Home Renovations Inc., sits in the outdoor kitchen of a Coquitlam home that will be part of the Greater Vancouver Homebuilder's Association Parade of Renovated Homes this weekend.

No detail was spared, however. The glass tile backsplash underneath the bar-height counter mimics the colour and trim of the pool, and a bar-size fridge means never having to dash inside for a cold drink.

"He's a single guy and in his work he deals with a lot of high-end clients, so entertaining is a big deal," Senft added. "And he loves cooking and hosting his family."

For those days when he'd rather be roasting a chicken inside than grilling a steak outside, there's the professional-grade six-burner gas Wolf stove, Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine cooler.

It was a large-scale renovation that took about six months to complete. Senft said there were some challenges outside — installing underground plumbing for the sunken hot tub and trying to wedge a Bobcat through the narrow space between the pool and house during a particularly muddy March — but everything went smoothly.

Shortly after the renovations were complete, however, the homeowner decided to move to Deep Cove and didn't even get to enjoy a summer in the new digs. (The new residents are a young couple who happily gave up their downtown Vancouver condo for the sweet life in suburbia.)

"It's a big entertainment space but it's still so casual," Senft said. "You could spend May to September out here and really extend your summer."

The Kelvin Street project, which has since inspired a similar, albeit smaller, project in White Rock, will offer those considering some renos at some high-end inspiration.

And in a year when the federal government is offering a renovation