

# Edmonton Lifestyle

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ABSTRACT STUDIOS

## Stoneshire Homes Article

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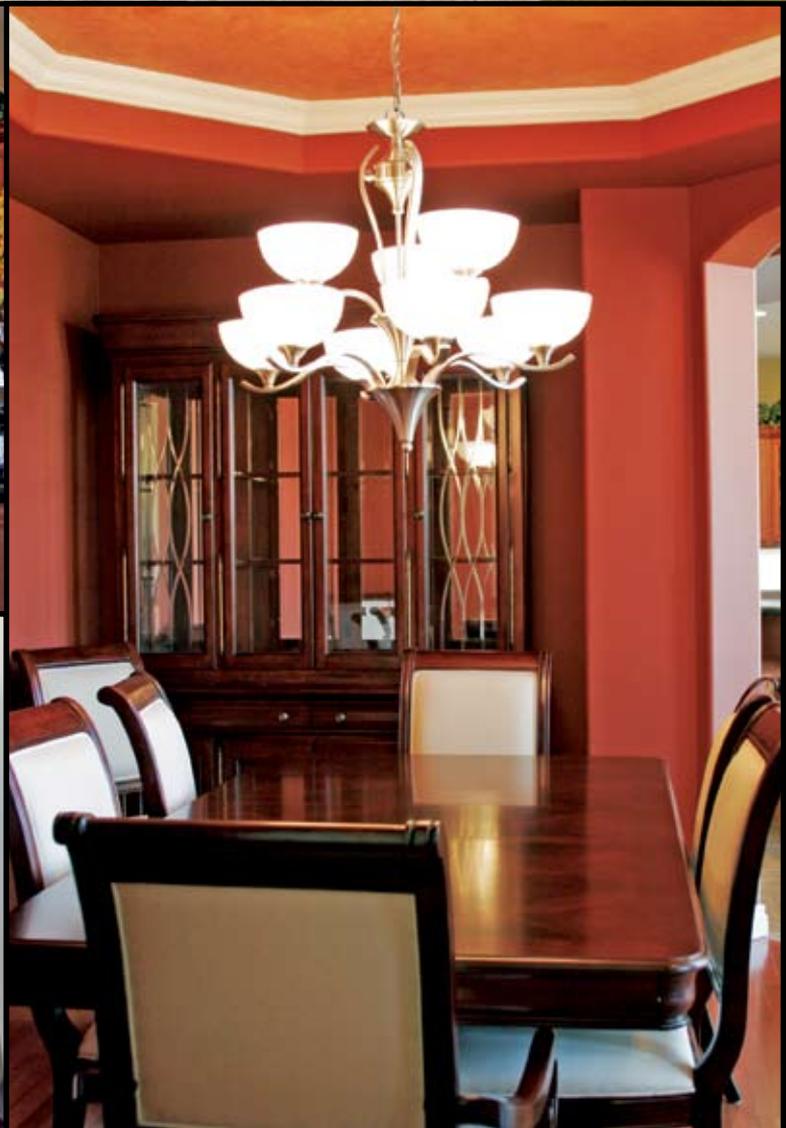
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A home is much more than just a place to live. It's where we raise our children, entertain our friends and family, and if we're lucky, it's where we feel our most protected, and create our most cherished memories. For Dennis Webber and Meena Narayan, two young Edmonton-area professionals just starting out, going from a condo to their first house meant using a custom builder to construct a home that was a personal expression of themselves. For them, careful attention to detail, unique, original ideas, and a design built around their personality and lifestyle, meant the difference between an average home, and a home that fulfilled a dream.

Like so many people, Meena and Dennis wanted a home with a beautiful kitchen, an inviting entryway, and a fresh, modern design. However, the couple also wanted something rather unique; a basement that was open, and visible to the other floors of the house, one that served as an extension of their living space. "We didn't like the idea of a conventional basement because they rarely get used. . . most of the people we know who have one, never use it." Their vision for a distinctive, functional home, led them to custom builder Bob Meunier, and Stoneshire Homes. "We had lots of good ideas, but we really needed some direction", Meena says, "we appreciated Bob's easygoing attitude. He's approachable and we felt very comfortable with him. These are all things that [we believe] set him apart from other builders."

Less than a year after Meena and Dennis contacted Bob at Stoneshire Homes, their new home was complete, and the couple was able to move in March of this year. "We're very excited about our new home", Meena says, "it has neat little niches, and details that we're so excited

about". And the open basement? "We're so happy with it", Meena says, "our two year-old has free range downstairs, and I can watch him while I'm upstairs".

Bob Meunier and his wife and business partner, Heather, have built a successful business on making clients like Meena and Dennis, happy. "We've been in business 5 years and never advertised. . . its all been on word of mouth". The couple builds custom designed homes, which are mostly, but not all, acreage developments, and they specialize in homes built with the client's lifestyle and personality in mind. "If somebody comes in with an idea, we always try to make it happen. . . and we make it cost effective" says, Heather.

Bob, a journeyman carpenter in the business for 20 years, has a reputation for quality and detail. He takes pride in maintaining a hands-on approach from design to completion, and he makes sure there are no surprises. While Meena and Dennis admit they found building their own home from the ground up a little intimidating, they say they trusted Bob to guide them through the process at every stage of construction. Now that the home is complete, Dennis is quick to point out the many personal, and professional touches that he says were a direct result of Bob's workmanship. "Bob met or exceeded our expectations", he says.

While the majority of their clients don't have to worry about price, Bob and Heather frequently work with customers who are more budget-minded. "One of the huge fallacies is that a custom builder will cost more" says Heather, "it may cost more in terms of time because of the thousands of choices. . . but we get a feel for what the client is looking for, and then make suggestions as to how they can stay on budget". Stoneshire Homes works closely with a small number of trusted trades people to get definitive pricing before construction begins. "When we come back with a price for the client, it is as close to the end price as you can get," says Heather, "no surprises. . . that's really important to us."

Those who are considering a custom built home by Stoneshire Homes, need as much as a blueprint, or as little as a few ideas scribbled down on paper. Clients can expect to work closely with Bob, his carefully chosen staff, and skilled trades people, including an interior designer. They can also expect to receive the same level of service that Dennis Webber and Meena Narayan are so quick to brag about. "Our customers are so excited in the end. . . really happy", says Heather, "We make dreams come true. . . and we love what we do".