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# Dream come true

Winnipeg couple turns vision into reality

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## Vision becomes fantastic reality

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For Micasa

Making a dream come true is not for the faint of heart.

At least not if that dream involves taking a wrecking ball to your house and replacing it with a 4,800-square-foot dream home with an indoor swimming pool, a private veranda off each bedroom and a kitchen large enough to cook for 50 people.

But Mary-Jane Sprenger has likely never been accused of being faint of heart.

After envisioning the splendour of a dream home on her South Drive riverfront lot for more than 10 years, Sprenger set to work in January 2002 with an architect who helped put her vision to paper.

### Teamed with W.C. Enterprises

Life was interrupted for a short while and it wasn't until December 2004 that she teamed up with a project manager, Walter Neustaedter of W.C. Enterprises Ltd., and began to tear down the old and commence work on the new.

Sprenger, along with her husband, Reinhold, provided input and made decisions every step of the way in the construction and design of the two-storey home. The end result is a home that reflects the couple's creativity, worldly travels and exquisite taste in home decor while accommodating their desire for hosting large dinner parties and meeting the family's recreational requirements. It even has an elevator shaft that will make it wheelchair accessible in the future, if needed.

Vibrant yellow interior walls coupled with vaulted ceilings and numerous windows of different sizes and shapes create an inviting and warm welcome upon walking through the front doors of the home. A divider wall of shimmering glass slats and the exquisite craftsmanship of the staircase create an impression of grandeur. The dining room is on the other side of the staircase and is decked out in the same warm yellow on the walls, bamboo hardwood flooring, two fireplaces and a southern facing wall of windows that overlook the rushing Red River. Collectively, these stunning features create an elegant dining atmosphere for a cozy dinner for two, a formal



Photos by BROOK JONES For Micasa

### Fast Facts

**BUILDER** W.C. Enterprises Ltd./  
Wise Choice Homes

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family dinner or large party.

"We fairly routinely have family gatherings of 30 or 40 people," Sprenger says.

But the dining room is only half the equation in hosting dinner parties and Sprenger's desire for entertaining and cooking is evident in the impressive kitchen, which includes four ovens, three sinks, two dishwashers and two islands.

"Obviously no colour fears here," Sprenger says as she walks into the kitchen that features red walls, shimmering white cabinets and black rubber tile flooring. The countertops are stainless steel and the centre island is covered in granite. The kitchen is also very functional with its large pantry, a deep sink for washing pots and pans and a smaller one for scrubbing vegetables, and an island with built-in storage areas for a mixer and a lower tier the perfect height for kneading dough.

A second wet island with a decorative concrete surface separates the kitchen from the "gathering" room, as Sprenger likes to refer to her great room. With rich purple walls, a two-sided fireplace, plenty of sitting room and a large entertainment unit to discreetly house a screen TV, the gathering room is certain to be a focal point on many occasions. A doorway off the room leads to an attached sunroom with pine walls and ceiling and numerous windows that overlook the back deck and outdoor hot tub.

The main floor also has a parlour room — or the girl's tea room as a few of Sprenger's friends have coined it — painted in the same rich purple as the



gathering room. A guest cloakroom that leads to a double-attached garage and the main family entrance room that leads to a triple-attached garage the home rounds off the main floor living.

The second storey has four bedrooms — each with its own ensuite bathroom, large closet and private veranda. Most impressive is the master bedroom with its 17-foot ceilings, sky-high windows and a sitting area that overlooks the river from a luxurious vantage point. The master ensuite bathroom, with a large soaker tub and shower room, has an enormous amount of space for grooming, relaxing and pampering with-



out feeling crowded.

The walk-out basement features a lap pool, a steam room and an entertainment room that will likely make staying inside a bigger treat than going to the movies.

After two years of living in a temporary residence, the Sprengers are eager to return to their old address and move in to an entirely new home.

