

# A Blank Canvas

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*Bella Casa Designs*

**A DESIRE TO REPLACE** an old oven with a six-burner professional-grade stovetop evolved into a full-blown kitchen remodel and 600-square-foot adjoining sitting room at the home of Camille Verbic and her husband, Gary, in Aurora. “The project snowballed,” quips Verbic, owner of Bella Casa Designs.

The new stove simply would not fit in the existing space. “So, we had to move things around, and then we said, ‘Let’s add on,’” explains Verbic, sharing how some home renovation projects start with a seed of an idea and grow into more elaborate overhauls.

That was several years ago. Fast-forward to 2017, when the inspiration for a family great room started with a 65-inch, flat-screen television for her husband. For her, moving a corner fireplace to the center of the room was an impetus to redesign the addition and create a luxe entertainment wall.

“The space has a cathedral ceiling, and the corner fireplace just didn’t fit and we weren’t using it,” Verbic says.

Overall, the space was a large canvas with potential. From her experience running a custom home building and remodeling firm, Verbic had the knowledge of the trade partners required and actual scope of an entertainment wall project. Verbic opted for maple floating shelves, with a taupe-gray that accents the characteristic wood grain. A top with a live edge — curly, wormy maple found in Middlefield — complements the cabinets and creates an organic effect that enhances the modern space. Cabinet lighting showcases the custom wall piece, which is centered by the flat-screen television.

The fireplace was shifted to the opposite side of the room. Linear black stone surrounds the flush fireplace opening and extends the length of the wall, drawing the eye up to the angled ceiling. Verbic’s son completed the stonework, and Verbic called on her team for electrical and drywall needs. Just as with her business, Verbic was hands-on during the proj-



## NUTS & BOLTS

### HOME ADDRESS:

282 Crackel Road,  
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### CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

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### PROJECT FOCUS:

Room Addition and  
Media/Entertainment  
Wall



ect. “I am involved in all aspects of the project. My clients share with me that it is very comfortable to them that I am always available. I work with them on selecting materials and coordinating colors to make their project flow,” she says.

Today, the renovated space is a central entertainment area for friends and family. The Verbics love watching animat-

ed movies with their grandchildren — the picture is vibrant, and surround-sound mimics a theater. “We cook and set up a campsite in the room with blankets and enjoy our time together,” she says.

The project evolved their home into a relevant, comforting space. Renovations like this are often necessary after years go by, Verbic points out. They built the Aurora ranch in 1995 and, over the years, have made upgrades so it accommodates their current lifestyle.

— Kristen Hampshire