



MacDonald Residence
4 Leed's Place, King William Estates
St. John's, NL
Susan & Dean MacDonald

The Clients provided a clean slate for this project with bare bones for room & space requirements. They placed complete trust in their Architect & gave her free rein on aesthetics. Dream Clients for sure!

The starting point was, as always, discussions with the Clients. The Clients presented a few images of what they liked and from this I gathered they tended to the traditional and that a hint of the Craftsman would work. Of course we are designing in Newfoundland and a certain amount of practicality enters into the equation when you try to marry the heavy chunky wood imagery from Craftsman architecture with the materials readily available here. So a more elegant and I guess you could say, "city style" of Craftsman was developed for this house.

Some of the custom "City Craftsman" details developed for this home were:

- The deep overhanging roof with beveled fascias, sloping soffit and custom designed decorative brackets
- Window & door trims with particular attention to continuity around corners and enhancement of the horizontal continuity with shapes & paint colour
- A mix of painted exterior finishes with natural wood finish & authentic stone to recall the initial Craftsman inspirations
- The landscape design needed to create a natural yet ordered setting including privacy from neighbours, maintaining some natural vegetation and a bright basement area for the children.
- The interior layout incorporated both open concept and varying degrees of enclosure for rooms to express both the Craftsman style of planning and the more current tastes. Transitional spaces in hallways, archways, thickened walls, alcoves and niches are all derived from the traditional. Rooms open to other rooms and tall vaulted spaces express more current trends.
- Interior finishes and detailing were also derived from Craftsman. All trims & interior doors in dark & light woods with proportions and simple small details create a cohesive expression of the traditional while responding to the present with elegance.
- The same small simple details are repeated throughout the house in cabinetry, stair rails, newels & spindles reinforcing the design inspiration. No stone left unturned so to speak!
- The colour palate as well was definitely Craftsman, soft, subdued and leaning to the dark side especially with the striking dark ceilings with soft recessed lighting.