

## Making history new again

By Francie Healy



What's old is new again, you often hear.

But what about leaving what is old and **adding** to it what is new? It can be a dramatic look in contrasts.

In the olden days, bathrooms and kitchens could be charming, but they were created for lifestyles that were nothing like the way we live today.

So how do you get the best of both eras, old and new, charming and efficient, without causing your home to look awkward or odd?

It *can* be tricky to get it right, so do your homework. Study magazines; walk around your own neighbourhood; go for drives to areas (both old and new) that appeal to you. Make notes. Take photos.

And most of all, hire a professional – a designer or a renovation firm that engages first-rate designers.

Here are some old-new possibilities to think about. Your designer will undoubtedly have other ideas about how to do it all seamlessly.

- A new enclosed porch or full verandah, perhaps in heritage colours
- Wide-plank flooring
- Shiplap walls in the kitchen with lots of other painted wood, paired with modern stainless steel appliances
- Soft lighting that might give you the feeling of old fashioned coal-oil lamps but is actually very modern LED
- Brick combined with corrugated steel
- Stone walls that give the feeling of an old stone house, but with skylights or even a glass roof; perhaps a log addition with plenty of glass and natural light
- Wooden floors contrasting with polished concrete floors
- Removing walls in an old-fashioned structure for a modern, open-concept feeling.
- Crown molding and built in shelves, and real fireplaces (of today's standards)

- Cabin-style log walls with sleek light fixtures.

You really can achieve a taste of history – but with the comfort and convenience your ancestors could only have dreamed of.