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TO THE LETTER | Unique design shaped by creativity



AT HOME WITH...

FOR ART'S SAKE

CTV anchor Sandra Jansen has filled her home with art. N6



HOMEBUILDING

SOMETHING TO WINE ABOUT

Select dark, quiet, humid spot for wine making. N11



HOUSE TO HOME

KITCHEN HELP

Wire mesh tidies up overcrowded cupboards. N11



LANDSCAPING

MISSISSAUGA RETREAT

Garden property blends into natural habitat. N10



RON BULL PHOTOS/TORONTO STAR

The design of Diane Dickin and Joe Dachuk's new home uses an unusual L-shape to maximize their garden area on their Lawrence Park corner lot.

It's one 'L' of a home

SHERRYLL SOBIE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

He designed it to the letter. The letter "L" to be exact.

When Richard Librach was asked by his clients to draft an original design for their future home, the Toronto-based architect used two main driving forces as inspiration behind the layout, the size, the materials, and yes, the shape.

One was the site, a Lawrence Park corner lot, 70 feet by 100 feet, located at the southeast intersection of Ledbury St. and Fairlawn Ave.

The other was the clients, baby boomers Diane Dickin and Joe Dachuk.

Librach, of Toronto-based Richard Librach Architects Inc., conducted lengthy discussions with the couple to get a sense of their personalities, their passions, their lifestyle — all the things that make them unique.

"It's helpful to have a departure point that's meaningful," Librach says. "I'm looking for my clients to make a declaration of themselves. It can be a set of values, a travel experience, a collection or a hobby, anything of relevance."

"Telling me that they want a bigger kitchen than their neighbours' is not meaningful," the 40-year-old architect adds.

During their discussions Dickin talked about her love of gardening. Dachuk said he'd always had an interest in tree houses.

Librach collected more information about the couple: no kids, three pets, enjoy entertaining, love the neighbourhood and the property, open to fresh ide-

Owners aim for perfection to the letter with plan maximizing garden potential
Unusual house layout suited to corner lot, allows large interior, exterior spaces



Diane Dickin, Richard Librach in front of the eye-catching fireplace.



Architect Richard Librach in his clients' 'tree-house' library.



The staircase reflects the open spaces of the L-shaped home.

» Please see Home, N4

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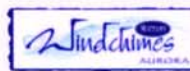
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