INSIDE DESIGN

One Fireplace Three Looks

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Before photo. This fireplace looks as though it is competing with other elements in the room, and surround does not provide the storage and décor influence needed.

A traditional scenario is shown with detailed cabinetry offering open and closed storage.

A modernized rustic look providing seating and storage, can be created with stone veneer and wood, in earthy colours.

After photo. An inviting transitional fireplace area offers a solution that appeals to the whole family; the television was incorporated into the design, storage and display space provide a place for everything.

A fireplace is a desirable focal point in any room; not only is it a source of heat and visual warmth, but it is also a feature that can emphasize your design and décor style.

Homes often come with fireplaces that are not designed as we would like them to be (see before photo). The area surrounding an older fireplace is often neglected in the sense that it doesn't make the most of the space available. With careful planning a fireplace can maintain its status as a focal point while providing storage, seating, or display space around it. The addition or omission of certain details, along with material choices, can create a look in any style with exactly the features you need.

Q We are interested in having some built-ins made for a couple of rooms in our home. Should we call a cabinetmaker or do we need an interior designer for this type of project?

A Although most cabinetmakers do offer basic cabinetry design services, it is an interior designer who is best able to work with you to establish your needs and create pieces that will work best for you and your family. An interior designer will not only look at the space available for the built-ins, but also at what you will be storing in them, the heights and abilities of those accessing the storage, the general style of the rest of your home, and other considerations that add greatly to the success of the project.