



# **DEL<sup>®</sup>** *Condominium Life*

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# A Golden Design Opportunity

By Anita Wiklém

Photographs courtesy of Wiklém Design

Anita Wiklém is the creative director and founding partner of Wiklém Design in Toronto. With 20 years of experience in the industry, she has built a reputation for timeless value, distinctive environments and trusted design solutions. She has won several awards internationally and in Canada for her interior design work. Visit [www.wiklemdesign.com](http://www.wiklemdesign.com)

**T**ridel built 271 Ridley Boulevard in Toronto in 1989, and as their slogan says, it truly was “built for life.”

Fast forward 25 years. The condominium still has solid bones but the board and property management agreed it was time for an update to the lobby and corridors – not only to increase the property value, but also to allow an older building to remain competitive in a city that is heavily populated with new high-rises.

When approaching the project, the design team started with the resident corridors. We selected a carpet with busy swirl pattern on top of a lined texture that was light enough not to overpower the length of the space. The custom-printed colours in the rug combined warm mocha, granite, ochre and cream tones and became the starting point of the project.

The corridor wall covering was replaced with a neutral textured in a rich creamy colour. This served as a backdrop to the other elements of the corridor and made them pop, especially the suite doors. Doors are so important – everyone touches them and sees them. Special care was taken to remove the original peephole covers without damaging the doors. We applied a solid treatment to the existing oak surface, making it look like rich, blackish-brown wood with the grain showing through.

To contrast the traditional elements of the door, brushed brass accents were added, such as the handle, escutcheon plate and peephole. These contemporary choices were not only functional, but also worked with the existing gold light fixtures lining the hallway. It was as though they had always been like that. We also removed the faded artwork and added gilded decorative mirrors. Mirrors instantly add glamour and allow for a last-minute primp.





Before



After



# OUTSIDE YOUR SUITE

We gave the lobby a new fresh look by installing a beautiful porcelain tile throughout the area. The tile had a matte texture, except around the seating canopy, along with some highlighted areas where glossy tile was used to visually define the space from the ground up beside the pillars. The previous seating area was functional but lacked magnetism.

The design team began by strengthening the colour of the pillars with warm charcoal paint to update the pickled peach colour that was previously there. The walls were painted a lighter, complementary grey. Strong furniture was needed to anchor the sitting area. This included a specially designed coffee table with a slab of marble floating on an open rectangular base. A luxurious velvet couch faced a pair of patterned chairs in grey and ochre, grouped together thanks to a tone-on-tone area rug.

We felt that silver or any other colour would be too stark for the building. We selected strong, masculine colours to work with the traditional structure of the lobby area and added gold, feminine accents for balance. We commissioned custom-painted art pieces created by a local artist. The abstract piece united all the colours of the lobby area and the corridors, including gold. The hanging light fixture was a decidedly modern selection and a welcome element of surprise to draw people into the space.

The stroke of genius was adding a contemporary fireplace to the area. We created a false wall on top of the true wall and pulled it forward. When we installed the fireplace, it instantly created a warm focal point for the sitting area. Any time you refurbish the common areas, it enhances the personality of the building. It was very rewarding for us to work on this project and to truly transform a “before” into a memorable “after.”



*Before*



*After*





Before



After