

new home + condo guide

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INSIDE: EDMONTON'S
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WOULD THIS COUPLE
BUY A NEW BUILD AGAIN?



FROM *the Ground up!*

by ALEEM KASSAM AND PHYLLIS LUI,
PRINCIPAL DESIGNERS AT KALU INTERIORS

Kalu Interiors
gives expert
advice on how
to redesign your
basement

From a designer's point of view, basements (or lower levels as we prefer to call them) can be tricky to redesign. However, that was not the case with this project. With soaring nine-ft. ceilings, window/light wells and French doors leading out to the backyard, this space provided us with tons of untapped potential – a designer's dream!

Our task was to double the usable footprint of the home, to meet the homeowners' day-to-day demands, while being equipped to house overnight guests in comfort and style. This space took on a hotel-chic vibe, with a clean aesthetic, neutral finishes and some indulgent features, too.

The client's wish list for this area was long, and included a home gym, pool table, bar, library, a secondary kitchen, a home theatre, a guest bedroom, two guest bathrooms, a laundry room and last but certainly not least, storage areas!



A tall order, but nothing Kalu couldn't handle. For each person, the wish list is different, depending on their lifestyle. What are you currently missing in your home? Once you know what you want, convert that "lower level" into an area that is useful for your lifestyle.

The problem with many lower levels is that they're dark because they are underground with limited light. So, the first step is to brighten things up. Now, resist the urge to paint the walls a bright yellow hue and calling it a day. Find out where the natural light is coming from and amplify it.

Artificial lighting is one way, via recessed lighting, light fixtures, sconces and so-forth. But the finishes you choose for the space will also impact its light level. Generally speaking, opt for lighter, brighter and airier colours and glossy/reflective finishes to brighten up a room. Incorporating mirrors into the space will visually double its size and bounce light throughout.

All too often, lower levels become an afterthought. Remember, every square foot in your home is valuable. If you can make your lower level just as valuable as the main level, then you're not only increasing the livable space, but its resale value, too.

To create a harmonious, connected home, show consistency between floors with common elements such as flooring, paint colours, or similar accents in trims, mouldings, cabinets or counters. Show your lower level some love by thinking of it as an extension of the home, rather than a far-off place and a future dumping ground.



Award winning Interior Designers Phyllis Lui and Aleem Kassam are the Principal designer duo for Kalu Interiors. For more than a decade this Vancouver-based design firm has become known and focused on creating thoughtfully curated interiors that enhance and inspire how you live. The firm provides bespoke design services for clientele throughout Canada. kaluinteriors.com

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