

FIREPLACE UPGRADE DOUBLES OWNERS' DELIGHT

This two-sided fireplace creates a modern statement between the kitchen and family room. We had created a similar situation while designing the clients' corporate office and decided to update their home in a similar manner. The images are of the same fireplace.



which is cut 2 inches thick and is not a fabricated product. The texture of the stone is enough visual interest without the need for a mantel, accessories or artwork. Three wall-wash cans evenly

illuminate the stone, highlight the color and texture and create shadows.

You can see from the "before" picture that we kept the firebox in the same location and removed the brass doors, keeping the screen in place. We removed the gas logs and filled the existing tray with fire-resistant glass from American Specialty Glass (www.americanspecialtyglass.com). The client had seen this on vacation and wanted to replicate the look. The area around the tray was filled with black rocks.

The task was to update the main living areas in cost-effective ways. A few changes were quite effective. The kitchen received new stone countertops, backsplash tile and window treatments. A florescent box light fixture was removed above the island and replaced by three low-hung pendants. A drum fixture over the breakfast table fills the breakfast nook and is a nice visual from the connected family room.

We kept the breakfast table but added new chairs that were more solid for visual bulk to the open table base. Mission rocking chairs were placed in front of the fireplace. A unified paint scheme re-enforces the connection between the two rooms.

Since it was a gas fireplace with a screen, we could extend the wood floor up to the fireplace without the need for a fire-rated hearth. Codes for wood-burning fireplaces are more stringent, demanding a noncombustible hearth and surround. Check building codes for requirements in your area, or consult a fireplace specialist for more information.

The living room received new furniture, window treatments and accessories, but the focus is on the fireplace. Stone veneer was laid in a dry-stack method, meaning there is no mortar between the individual stones.

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We used actual stone veneer,

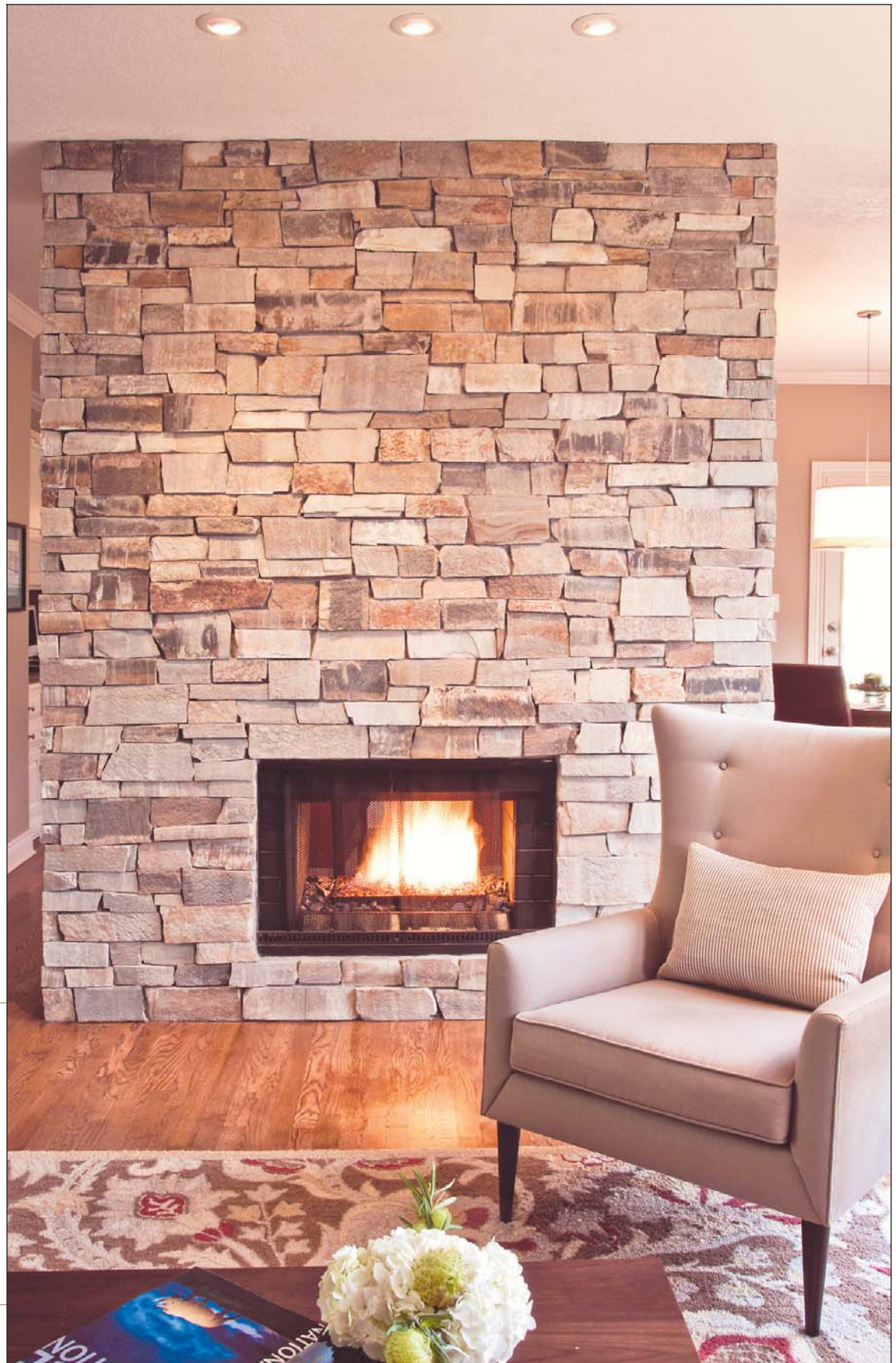


BEFORE

◀ Wood and tile surround a two-sided fireplace between the kitchen and family room.

AFTER

▶ Stone veneer 2 inches thick creates a floor-to-ceiling improvement. No mantel or artwork necessary.



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