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Jim Caruk's sunshine-bright home

A REAL RENNO

Master contractor and TV host Jim Caruk shows his true colours in the Toronto home he built for his family.

Written by Liza Finlay | Photography by Virginia Macdonald



Anyone else would have seen potential in the small but solid bungalow that once stood on Jim Caruk's west end Toronto lot – a small addition to create an extra bedroom, perhaps, and a facelift to enhance the old home's curb appeal. But Jim, host of *Real Renos* (HGTV Canada) – now in its fifth season – isn't just anyone, and what he saw was a basic square box with absolutely nothing compelling about it.

"The original house was a knock-down," says Jim. "Nothing about it made sense – not the layout, not the design, not the square footage. So many people make the mistake of trying to

ABOVE LEFT Homeowners Jim Caruk and Tracy Drew. **ABOVE** Jim and Tracy chose pale yellow for the prepainted wood siding to create a traditional Cape Cod feeling. The driveway is asphalt with a stone border – a rich look at a fraction of the cost of full stone. **OPPOSITE** Half walls between the foyer and the living room allow for an unobstructed sightline. Underfoot is Nostalgic Wood flooring.

