

Southern COMFORT

Glastar sunroom tamps down **summer's heat**

By Margaret Anne Fehr
Photos by Duality Photographic

IN THE MIDDLE of a Manitoba winter, southern exposure is a highly coveted commodity but during an intense summer scorcher, not so much. Laura and Doug are owners of a 1200 square foot bungalow in Transcona with a backyard that faces due south, so they can attest to the frustration of achieving comfort when the sun is unrelenting.

The couple had thought a long time about a full-fledged sunroom but got by with a couple of ad hoc sun shelters over the years. “Those come with their own issues,” says Laura. “One had a canvas top and the other had a screen top, so they ripped and broke down.”

Installing a sunroom was the subject of discussion for the couple for about five years. “We thought it was something we’d do a little bit later in life,” says Laura. “My aunt and uncle had actually had a Glastar sunroom built about seven years ago and we had heard very good things about the company.” So finally “thinking-about it” gave way to action and the couple paid a visit to the Glastar showroom.

Laura and Doug were suitably impressed with the showroom displays and the sales people who spelled out the many benefits of installing a sunroom. “We liked what we saw and the fact that they’ve been here in Winnipeg about 38 years,” says Laura. “It’s a family-run business and all the parts are manufactured here. So if anything ever went wrong, we wouldn’t have to call someone in another province to order parts.”

The couple decided on a 12’ by 16’ structure with cathedral style 11’ gabled roof “that makes it feel a bit bigger than the flat style roof,” says Laura. Floor-to-ceiling 4’ by 8’ glass walls provide an optimum panoramic view.

“One side has a slider and a door that opens up to the hot tub so we can literally step right into it from the sunroom. We wanted that from the get-go,” says Doug.

Now into a full year of enjoying their refuge from the sun’s baking rays, Laura and Doug rate the sunroom as the best family decision they’ve ever made. “The salesman told us we were probably going



LOWER RIGHT
“One side has a slider and a door that opens up to the hot tub so we can literally step right into it from the sunroom. We wanted that from the get-go,” says Doug.

“We’ll see people who are more excited after four or five years, than the first year, because every season is a little bit different and the novelty factor never fades.”

to be using this 10 months of the year,” adds Laura. “I’m not going to lie; I kind of thought to myself, ‘we’ll see’. I don’t know if I totally believed it at the time.”

“But we built the sunroom last year in the spring and we used it right up until Christmas. We even spent Christmas Day there in the afternoon. January and February were predictably cooler but come March on a nice sunny day, we were back in there, so 10 months of the year is 100 percent right!”

Doug took extra measures to create custom touches including a stone-clad feature wall that covers the former stucco exterior wall to add a feeling of warmth as well as a full-paned glass door leading into the kitchen to maximize the flow of light.

Doug adds, “It’s not just a sunroom but a true extension of our home by about 200 square feet. We have the TV in there and a big sectional, not patio furniture, and we’re in there every evening watching a hockey game or movie and in the morning, we’re in there having coffee. It gets a lot of use.”

Laura concurs, “Until you actually have it installed, you don’t realize how much time you can actually spend in there. There are some things in life where the novelty kind of wears off, but I don’t see that happening with the sunroom.”

Steve Sarens, Glastar owner, isn’t too surprised to hear about the Transcona couple’s usage of the space. “It’s something we hear a lot from our customers who often stop by to see us at home shows. We’ll see people who are more excited after four or five years, than the first year, because every season is a little bit different and the novelty factor never fades. It’s really nice to purchase something and have that kind of satisfaction down the road.”



LEFT
Floor-to-ceiling 4’ by 8’ glass walls provide an optimum panoramic view.

RIGHT
The couple decided on a 12’ by 16’ structure with cathedral style 11’ gabled roof “that makes it feel a bit bigger than the flat style roof,” says Laura.

BELOW
Doug took extra measures to create custom touches including a stone-clad feature wall that covers the former stucco exterior wall to add a feeling of warmth as well as a full-paned glass door leading into the kitchen to maximize the flow of light.



LOWER LEFT
Doug adds, “It’s not just a sunroom but a true extension of our home by about 200 square feet. We have the TV in there and a big sectional, not patio furniture, and we’re in there every evening watching a hockey game or movie and in the morning, we’re in there having coffee. It gets a lot of use.”

