

WINTER 2019/2020

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

ourhomes

T H E C I T Y O F O T T A W A

luxurious LOG CABIN

SERENE
MINIMALISM

MID-CENTURY
magic



KITCHENS
THAT DAZZLE

HOLIDAY PARTY
PANACHE

STEP ON IT

3 FAB FLOORS TO TRY IN A HURRY



STORY **SARA BEDERMAN**

FLOORING IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO BOOST YOUR HOME'S OVERALL APPEAL.

Whether you want to increase your property's resale value, you've purchased a fixer-upper or you're looking to upgrade your forever home, a fab new floor is a great place to start. Flooring is a huge commitment. It occupies a large visual area, which means it lays the aesthetic groundwork for your home's look and feel. New floors can also be quite expensive. You'll want to consider your flooring choices carefully.

As a designer, I'm all too aware of the endless flooring options available on the market. It's enough to make anyone's head spin. The trick to choosing the right flooring is rating each choice on these three factors: aesthetic, function and price. Here are three popular flooring products that scored on all three. *Continued on page 58*



FUZION FLOORING: Laminate
– SoHo Loft Collection in Silver Oak

LAMINATE \$

Modern laminate flooring products are a popular choice for good reason. They're cost-efficient and ultra durable. Aesthetically speaking, they are not far behind their costlier counterparts. In fact, today's laminate products are head and shoulders above their predecessors, thanks to advancements in technology and the manufacturing process. Expect to see crisper, deeper embossing and colours that are faithful to their original counterparts. Check out laminate wide-plank flooring, which looks uncannily like hand-scraped hardwood, or tiles that are suspiciously similar to stone, slate and travertine. You'll have to touch them to confirm if they're authentic or fabulous fakes.

DESIGNER TIP: Laminate flooring is a great choice for high-traffic areas like playrooms and basements. As a high-impact, low-cost option, I like to match a laminate to my engineered wood and substitute the lesser in the basement. The result is a low-cost, high-impact look you'll love. Check out the vast collections of engineered hardwoods available today like Kitsilano – Cypress Peak. Alternatively, its cheaper but equally stunning stunt double, is SoHo – Silver Oak Laminate.



FUZION FLOORING: Luxury Vinyl
– SmartDrop Elite Tile in Azure Sky

LUXURY VINYL TILE \$\$

When it comes to price, luxury vinyl tile is a step up from laminate – and the same can be said for its durability and aesthetic attributes. This product delivers a high wear-resistance, with the bonus of being water resistant and, as some manufacturers even claim, waterproof. I suggest seeking out options with a base layer of cork and opt for glue-free click systems that stay in place thanks to their own weighted design.

TRY IT IN: Playrooms and basements. It's even suitable in light commercial settings.



FUZION FLOORING: Engineered Hardwood
– Kitsilano Collection in Cypress Peak Finish

ENGINEERED WOOD \$\$\$

Now this is the most expensive and, in my designer opinion, the most beautiful option. Who doesn't love real wood floors? Solid wood is susceptible to seasonal gapping and buckling, thanks to seasonal fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels. For these reasons and more, solid wood floors have made way for engineered wood products. Now, don't get me wrong – all wood is prone to water damage, but by virtue of its construction, engineered wood can withstand more pressure. Engineered wood floors are made from a layer of real wood bonded to sub-layers like plywood, which are arranged in multiple directions to lend stability and eliminate warping and bowing. This added stability also allows more varied plank sizes, widths and lengths – not to mention a lower price than solid wood.

IDEAL FOR: Above-grade floors, layered over in-floor heating systems, and if the budget allows, in a finished basement for a more harmonious look between levels in the home.



At first glance, flooring may not be the sexiest design element in your home, but it's certainly one of the most important ones. Your floors are a part of your home that everyone sees and uses daily, whether they do so consciously or not. Perhaps a fabulous floor will make you more aware of the beauty that lies underfoot **OH**