



CHECK IT OUT!

The granite used on this fireplace is from Mondial. When Mondial approached me to work on their Interior Design Show 2010 booth I began thinking about ways to display this product that wasn't simply slabs of stone. Inspired by the Ice Hotel, Mondial's IDS booth is a room made entirely of stone – chairs, tables, sofas, lighting and art will be the medium that will deliver the message of the product range available. Visit booth 2044 at the Interior Design Show, January 20 to 24. www.interiordesignshow.com

Photo credit: Chris Gallow
www.gallowstudios.com
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THE FASHIONABLY FUNCTIONAL FIREPLACE

by Glen Peloso

ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS ABOUT CAMPFIRES, ASIDE FROM THE MARSHMALLOW- AND WIENER-ROASTING, IS SITTING AND STARING INTO THE FLAMES. There is something mesmerizing about fire, and people have loved to sit and stare into it as long as we have been around. I think that is one of reasons people love to have fireplaces in their homes. Originally they were an essential source of heat, but with the dawn of central heating in homes, the need for a fireplace has been reduced dramatically; however, we still love to have them.

There are things to consider when you are going to install a fireplace in your home. The first thing to think about is where the fireplace is going to go. If you don't already have a chimney and you want to have a wood-burning fireplace in the house, you are going to have to put one in. The cost of that can be dramatic.

Another option is a zero-clearance fireplace, which is gas and doesn't require a chimney. They do throw heat into the room and it is important that you don't use a unit that has a BTU rating that is too high for the space. The result is a room that is too hot to sit in, or not being able to use the fireplace at all.

If you are going to install a unit, make sure that it is installed in the middle of the wall as opposed to the corner of the room. The issue is that the fireplace becomes the esthetic centre of the room and as a result, all the furniture and décor have to revolve around this unit. When the fireplace is placed in the corner of the room it is difficult to design around and you have to work to diminish its presence in the room. Essentially, the corner units become a heat source only, as opposed to a décor element.

There is a variety of gas units that have everything from faux logs and embers to crushed glass. Decide what you would like to use based on the style of the room you are working on. The more modern the space, the more creative you can be with the gas fireplace inserts. They are highly adjustable for all kinds of different colours and heights of the flames. These are good questions to put to your fireplace store so that you get what you are really hoping for in the space.

If you live in a condo with no access to a fireplace, it is possible now to have a non-venting unit. They run on an alcohol substance that burns clean and is approved for indoor use. They can be hung on the wall or free standing, and will give you the sense of a fireplace where you weren't able to have one in the past.

One of the most important elements is how you dress the area around the firebox. The most modern of fireplaces surrounded in a traditional way will still result in a traditional fireplace. To stay within the building code, it is important that you have a surround of approximately 10 in. of non-combustible surface.



SUPPLIERS *contractors* Roberto and Carlos Jimenez 416.662.4971 • *iron sofa table, glass iron coffee table, candle holders and clock* Muti & Co. Ltd., 51 Hanlan Rd., Unit 1, Woodbridge, 1.800.705.2611, www.emuti.com • *silver tray on coffee table and glass bottles* French Feathers, 905.265.1400 • *bookshelf art and frames* HomeSense, www.homesense.ca • *fireplace* Kastle Fireplaces, 1.866.330.3315, www.kastlefireplace.com • *granite* Mondial, www.mondialgranite.com, *fabrication and installation* Prostone, www.prostone.ca • *sofa and chairs* Brentwood Classics Ltd., 57 Adesso Dr., Vaughan, www.brentwoodclassics.com, 905.761.0195 • *custom art above fireplace and large wall canvas* Jenny Greco 647.292.6576 • *window coverings* National Drapery, 116 Tycos Dr., 416.787.0813, www.nationaldrapery.com • *drapery fabric* Designer Fabric Outlet Toronto, 1380 Queen St. W., www.designerfabrics.ca • *in-wall speakers* Amina Technologies Ltd. www.amina.co.uk, 905.655.6411 • *technical consultation* provided by Saxe Brickenden, saxeb@evolutionhomecorp.com • *flooring* Carpet One Floor & Home, 1.800.CARPET.1, www.carpetone.ca • *lamps and mirrored nesting tables* Living Lighting, www.livinglighting.com, 905.790.9023 or 1.866.463.4124 • *table florals* Designing Trendz Inc., www.designingtrendz.com, 416.319.7469 • *paint* Benjamin Moore CC-490 Stone Hearth, www.benjaminmoore.com

Generally, people select tiles or stone. There are about as many variations as there are human fingerprints, and it is okay to go with something a little more expensive per square foot here as you will require small amounts of it.

Next, you will have to decide if you would like to have a mantel ledge. If you choose to have one, plan for at least 10 in. of surface, because less than that is difficult to work with. It is also wise to treat the area from floor to ceiling as a single block. For example, if you are tiling, treat the space up to the ceiling. If you are painting the area above the mantel, use an alternate colour to the one on your walls.

The fireplace is a focal feature of a room and therefore requires some grandeur in the space. The other option is to forgo the mantel and have a sheer-faced unit where the firebox is the star – tile from floor to ceiling or use a stone face for the entire block. A picture or a mirror above the firebox is a good way to balance the top and bottom.

There is much debate about whether to place a television above a fireplace. Some people think it is a travesty, however I believe it is acceptable as the fireplace and television will compete for attention in any room. Some argue that it is too high to see the television comfortably, however if you are sitting a reasonable distance from the television I think it is perfectly acceptable. I have a feeling the debate on this issue will continue.

A fireplace will add great warmth to the room and give you hours of enjoyment and heat for your space. I don't think this is the best place for marshmallows but the flames will likely encourage the same kind of conversations, without the horror stories I hope!

TIPS WHEN HEATING WITH GAS

COURTESY OF REGENCY
www.regency-fire.com

GAS MODELS CAN GO ANYWHERE

You don't need a standard chimney to vent your gas appliance. With direct-vent technology, all you need is an outside wall or unobstructed access to the roof. A gas vent pipe can be easily installed into existing homes at minimal cost, so if you want a fireplace or stove in your bedroom, your kitchen or even your bathroom, it is possible!

YOUR BEST CHOICE FOR ZONE HEATING

Most gas appliances are compact and require little space for installation. This means that you can concentrate their power in the room that needs it most. While a central furnace works to heat an entire home, including the rooms not in use, a gas appliance heats your living areas – a pretty simple concept.

LOWER OPERATING COSTS AND HIGH EFFICIENCY

Natural gas remains one of the least expensive fuels available. Regency gas models are all heater rated, which means they boast high efficiency levels to deliver the maximum heat per BTU, just in case the beautiful fire wasn't reason enough to buy a Regency. If you are thinking about getting rid of your old wood stove or fireplace, or you are getting tired of lugging wood into your house, then a Regency gas model is just what you need.

Regency stoves and inserts can be vented right inside your existing wood chimney, greatly reducing installation costs. It's easier than you think!

NO ELECTRICITY REQUIRED

Your gas fireplace, stove or insert runs on the power of the pilot flame and does not need any electricity (except for the blower). This keeps your energy costs down and ensures safe and reliable operation even during power outages. If the pilot flame should be extinguished, the valve will shut down 100 per cent and your fireplace will turn off – a valuable safety feature.

THE ULTIMATE IN CONTROLLED HEAT

Every Regency gas model comes with a basic on/off switch, located on the unit or mounted nearby on the wall. They can also be equipped with a wall thermostat (basic or programmable) for hands-free operation, or even a remote control for maximum convenience. Choose the system that best suits your needs.

GLASS AND METAL SURFACES GET HOT

Every Regency model is designed and certified as a heater, which means that they are engineered to deliver high-efficiency heat to your home. The glass window and metal surfaces help conduct this heat and will become extremely hot to the touch. Please take care when operating your fireplace, stove or insert.



Glen Peloso, Design Editor at Home and Décor and Principal Designer of Glen Peloso Interiors, Inc., has been designing spaces for commercial, corporate and residential clients for 15 years. You'll recognize Glen as the host of such television design shows as *Restaurant Makeover*, *Take This House & Sell It*, and *Renovate My Wardrobe*, to name a few, as well as from his live speaking engagements at home shows across Canada.
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