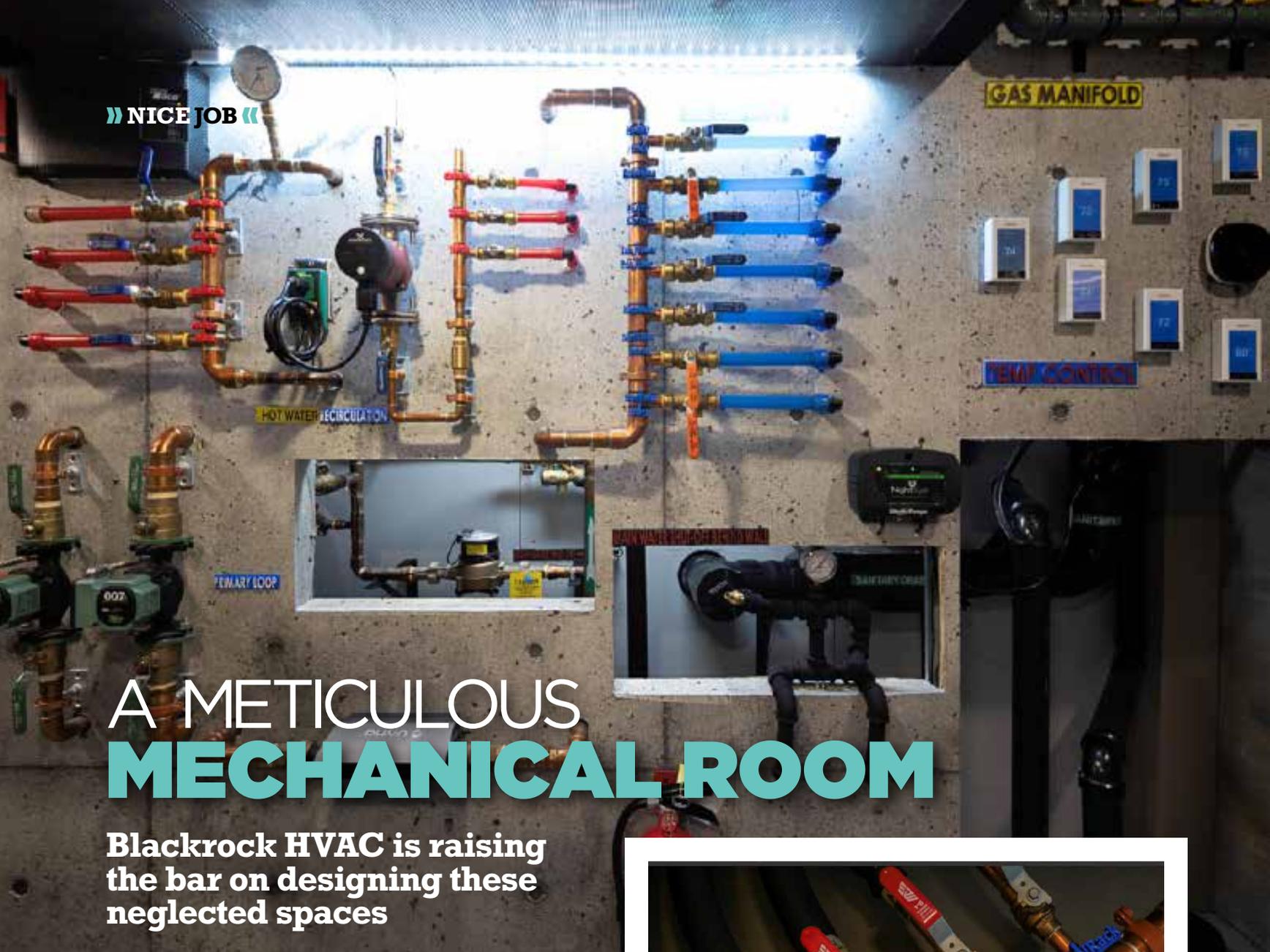


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A METICULOUS MECHANICAL ROOM

Blackrock HVAC is raising the bar on designing these neglected spaces



Label maker: Orest Omeliukh of Mississauga, Ont.-based Blackrock HVAC is on a mission to re-envision the mechanical room, in part by clearly labelling all the components.

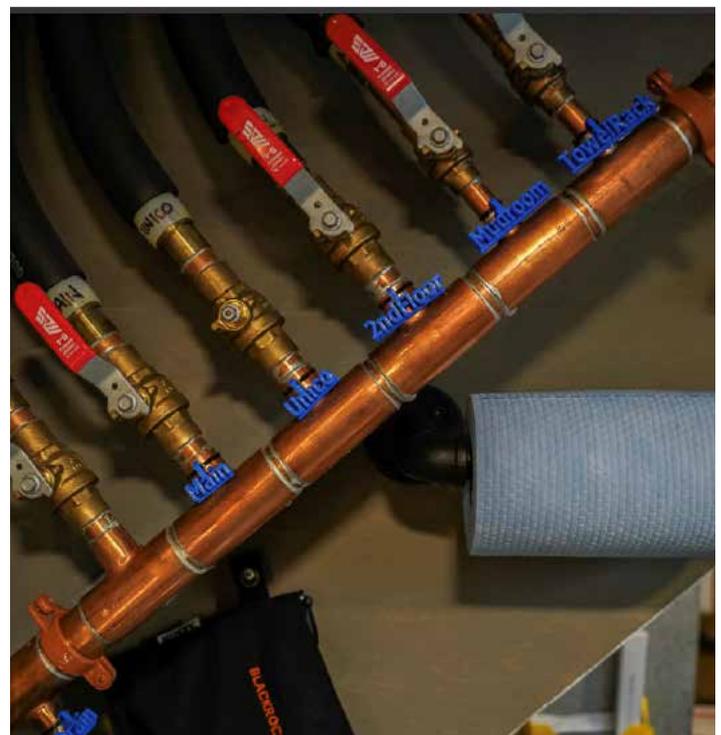
Mechanical rooms are usually pretty dreary places. With unfinished walls and floors – and spider webs gathering in the corners – they typically become a dumping ground for junk, making it hard to access the equipment in an emergency.

Orest Omeliukh, the owner of Blackrock HVAC

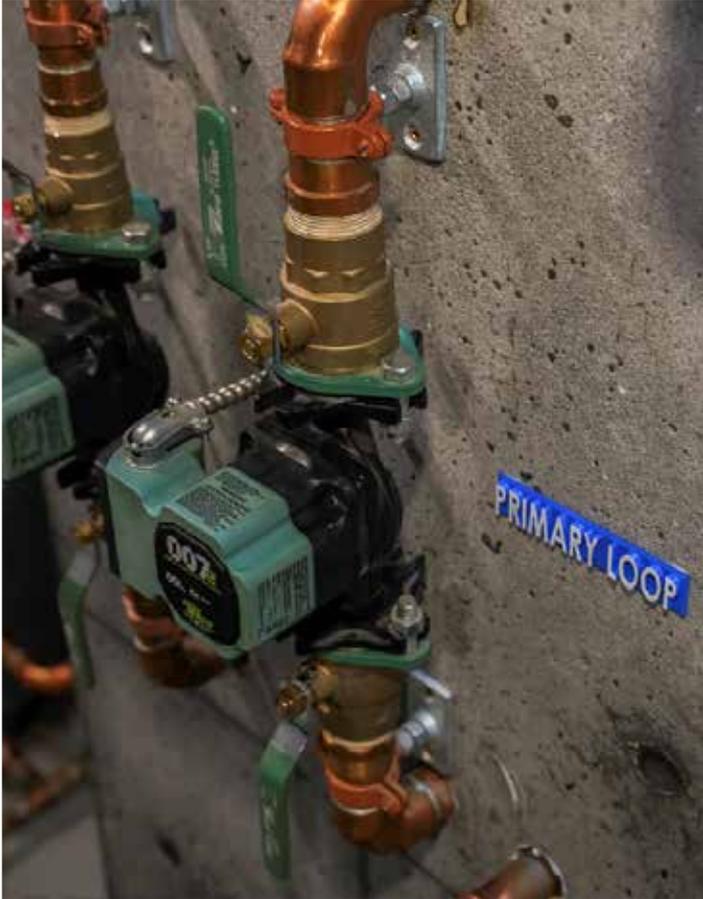
in Mississauga, Ont., is on a mission to change that perception.

“It’s the only room in the house that isn’t renovated,” says Omeliukh. “I want to build the Bentley of mechanical rooms.”

Omeliukh got an early start in his appreciation for the HVAC arts. He recalls his father pulling him out of



Service centre: Blackrock HVAC includes multiple shutoff valves so the entire system doesn't need to be drained for servicing.



school in third grade to help with a commercial air-conditioning installation. That day the then eight-year-old operated the crane.

Later, he went to university to study accounting but eventually dropped out. "My true calling was doing something with my hands." He studied at George Brown College then worked with his dad again for five years before going out on his own.

The client for this particular room wasn't your average customer - it was *Renovation Contractor*

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A room worth a view: “Every Blackrock mechanical room has three elements: a feature wall, painted floors, and good lighting,” says owner Orest Omeliukh.

own zone so the heat can be cranked up to melt the snow off of winter boots.

You won’t find any thermostats on the walls though. The sensors for each zone are flush-mounted into the walls. Gonell controls the entire system with an app on his phone.

On all Omeliukh’s projects everything is meticulously marked with labels he makes himself on a 3D printer in his shop. “I want the owners to be able to regulate and adjust their systems.” It also helps

him troubleshoot issues over the phone.

“Every Blackrock mechanical room has three elements: a feature wall, painted floors, and good lighting,” says Omeliukh. In this case, the feature walls are the “concrete” that all the equipment is mounted to. The material is actually plywood covered in a stick-on mural.

He even mounts a paper towel holder and a small tool kit with everything needed for the homeowner to make minor adjustments. **RC**

Advisory Board member Will Gonell’s own home in the west end of Toronto.

“From the beginning, I knew this project was going to be something special,” says Omeliukh. “This house is very complex.”

With radiant heating throughout the house, it’s divided into seven zones, with separate shutoff valves for each zone. The main floor is divided into two zones to account for the sun exposure at the south-facing rear of the home, and the mudroom has its

