

Lorne Park manor finalist for Canada's Best Custom Home

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This is the house that Michal J. Cerny designed and built from concept to completion. From the floor plans and elevations to the custom cabinetry and architectural details like plaster domed ceilings and hand-carved marble fireplaces, every last detail was conceived by multi award-winning custom builder Michal J. Cerny, PMP, P.GSC, president and CEO of Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc. Michal sat down with a pencil and paper and drew everything a discerning home buyer would want, then added a few extras for good measure. His vision became reality at 1484 Elite Road.

"This house was a finalist for the Best Custom Home in Canada with the Canadian Home Builder's Association," says Angela Cerny, Michal's wife and a Re/Max Legacy Realty Inc. agent in Mississauga. This house was built as a "spec" home—65% of our homes are custom builds while the other 35% are built on spec.

We build homes for some well known clients such as professional athletes and people in the entertainment industry using a heavily loaded confidentiality agreement, so in order to have homes to show to future clients what we can custom design and build for them, we build homes like this house and Saxony Manor" (featured in a previous issue of GoodLife). Michal, who is an Honours Graduate in Construction Project Management, has over 28 years of experience in multi-site project management and operations across North America. In 2011 he earned his Professional Gold Seal Certificate with the Canadian Construction Association. "Michal is one of some 6,000 people in Canada to hold this title," says a proud Angela. "Building is in his blood. Michal has a flair and a vision to know what affluent clients want."

What do women (and men) want? "Most people buying high end homes want an upscale home in quiet, prestigious neighbourhood," says Angela. "They want top quality workmanship as what is seen in the custom wood cabinetry; thick marble slab flooring, wide hardwood plank floors and custom plaster mouldings. They don't want just four boring walls with flat ceilings. People want liveable entertainment spaces that flow from one room to the next with a wow factor in each room; tall custom ceiling designs, which make you stop for a moment and feel special, 12" baseboards and interesting elements like custom art niches. They also want features like a snow-,melting system so they don't have to shovel their driveway, or exterior finishes that require no maintenance."

All of the features Angela mentions? Check, check, check. Plus in this house, lots of family fun in the lower level, a professional wired three-tier theatre room, a games room, gym, and for adult fun, a French Chateau style, stone wine cellar which holds 1,500 bottles of wine in custom Spanish cedar cabinetry. And oh yes, an elevator, a four-car European car lift system in an acclimatized garage.

The exterior is a symphony of Indiana Limestone rubble and Virginia reclaimed brick, highlighted by solid limestone portico and columns. Another added detail—copper valleys and copper trim around the window caps and the stone driveway leads to the garage with custom made mahogany double doors.

The first thing you notice is the soaring contemporary front window, which reaches from almost ground level to the roof top, strategically designed into the classic English Chateau with some hints of traditional French accents. The front doors are 10-feet high, made of 3-inch solid mahogany making a grand statement and hinting at the splendour of what lies behind them.



Elite Manor. Designer and builder Michal J. Cerny *Photo by Jason Okolisan*

Step inside to a take-your-breath-away foyer with 23-foot high ceilings and a custom plaster dome, which holds a magnificent Austrian crystal chandelier. Tiny shards of rainbow colour light dance off the chandelier and onto the gleaming (and heated) True Select Crema Marfil Marble 52-inch square custom cut slab floors below.

The same Austrian crystal chandelier, only larger, hangs from the centre dome in the 23-foot high plastered ceiling in the dining room. The floor-to-ceiling window we admired from the outside drenches the room with light. Underfoot, six inch wide, quarter sawn and rift solid white oak floors add a rich glow to the room. The table, centred under the chandelier and set for 12 guests, still leaves plenty of space to mingle.

On the opposite side of the manor is the formal living room, which boasts double French doors with transom leading to a stone side courtyard. Angela points out the 8" real wood window and door trim with 3" back bands, which complement the same architectural details throughout the house.

The piece de resistance is the solid marble, raised fireplace on the feature wall. "There are two fireplaces in the home, one in the living room and the other in the family room," explains Angela. "Both are solid marble. Michal purchases the marble in Spain, ships the blocks to Indonesia where they are hand-carved using air tools and then transported here by ship. It takes nine months to arrive, but well worth the wait. You can't find this kind of product locally."

It is almost impossible to describe the pure beauty and artistry of the 20-foot high, 9-foot wide, hand-carved marble fireplace in the great room. The fireplace opening is five feet square. This feature is flanked by 10-foot tall French doors with two transoms offering a floor to ceiling view of the mature trees in the backyard. "This is a dual fireplace, so on the other side is a solid stone 30 foot tall fireplace and stone patio," says Angela.

"The kitchen is a chef's dream!" gushes Angela. It features custom, hand-made face-framed cabinetry with exposed European hinges, granite counter tops and granite backsplash, 6-burner Dacor double oven gas stove with pot filler, two dishwashers and a 36-inch Sub Zero fridge with custom panelling. The Crema Marfil, heated marble slab continues into the kitchen past the elevator door and into the butler pantry.

After a night of entertaining, the lucky homeowners would be delighted to put up their feet and enjoy a relaxing glass of wine in their private sitting room located just off the main floor master bedroom, or curl up in bed and enjoy this spectacular room with its 18-foot high curved ceilings, and double French doors, which offer a view of the gorgeous backyard.

Between the master bedroom and the luxurious ensuite sits the master dressing room. Whether you are a fashionista or not, one cannot help but go gaga over this 5th Avenue boutique style room outfitted with a smoked crystal chandelier and wall-to-wall mahogany cabinetry with specialty shelving for more pairs of shoes than one person could likely own in a lifetime!

The master ensuite is also a thing of beauty. "Two huge 118-inch solid slabs of book-end matching Calcutta marble, each weighing about 900 pounds are installed fashionably into the floor with matching 24" tiles on the walls," says Angela. "The steam shower has an oversized rain head with body jets, which is a feature most clients want."

Long, relaxing, stress-relieving soaks can also be enjoyed in the jacuzzi/aerator oversized free standing designer tub.

A stunning North American white oak staircase with church sized matching oak handrails and wrought-iron railings leads to the second floor. Recessed panelled walls and wood wainscoting add another level of elegance and detail as you climb the stairs to the second level, or to the lower level. Of course, you could just take the elevator!

The second level offers plenty of space for children or weekend guests, with three additional bedrooms and two opulent bathrooms enhanced with marble, upscale fixtures and custom wood cabinetry. The 4th bedroom, with its floor to ceiling window offers a glorious view of the front yard. It would make an ideal office.

Speaking of children, the lower level boasts a two-room nanny or in-law suite with a sitting area, bedroom and en-suite. Over-sized window wells flood the lower level with light.

Michal Cerny's vision of an elite house on an elite street has become someone else's reality. "We have sold this home," remarks Angela. "The client walked through the house once and fell in love with it."

But don't be too disappointed. Michal is building three other homes, two of which are in Mississauga and he has plenty more visions to come!