

New Standard of *Excellence*

Ambassador Fine Custom Homes

Up until a few years ago, Michal J. Cerny was the construction industry's best kept secret. In 2007 he decided to formalize his 24 year love affair with design and created Ambassador Fine Custom Homes. Ambassador is no ordinary design firm. It conceptualizes, creates, designs, builds and landscapes homes of the finest quality, sumptuous luxury and enough elegance to make your toes curl. Once the secret was out, what followed was the Best Custom Home Award from the Toronto BILD Association, the 2009 Canadian Project Excellent Award and the 2010 Best New Custom Home in Canada Award – the highest accolade of its kind.

An invitation to an Ambassador fine custom home is a rare pleasure. One that I suggest you accept; you will certainly be happy you came. Ambassador builds palatial manors with the aim to create a feeling of warmth and intimacy, despite the capacious rooms and high ceilings. The buildings are magnificent, beautifully designed and built with the finest materials, but it's the attention to detail that captures the heart. The floor to ceiling, hand carved marble mantle pieces, the 118-year-old maple dining table (made by Ambassador), and the specially designed corithiums that give the homes their unique appeal.

Cerny is, above all else, passionate. He is also driven and has, on occasion, been accused of being a perfectionist. All of these qualities are evident in his work. He is on the site every day, supervising, checking, double checking, measuring twice and cutting once. Cerny qualified as a construction project manager and planning is a strongpoint. He starts every project with a detailed interview of new clients; "Every residence," he says "regardless of size, should be designed to feel like a home. Designed for living and entertaining, be practical and feel warm." To this end, the homeowner's needs, hobbies, interests and lifestyle are used to seed the ideas that will grow into their dream home.





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From the moment the plans are drawn, (Cerny likes to do it old school, on a drafting table) they are paired with a timetable and detailed cost analysis. The drawings are transferred to AutoCAD and, as clients make decisions on building materials and styles, the timetable and costing are adjusted accordingly. Ambassador's clients know how long the house will take and exactly what it will cost. Cerny's training as a PMP and P.GSC renders him adept at managing the key aspects of construction; costs, time, quality and scope of work. He is involved in every detail, from the wrought iron railings design to the lighting fixtures. An Ambassador house takes time to build – the company averages about three a year. Cerny isn't building a house for the next 40 years, he is creating a family heirloom that will be passed down to many a future generation. He lets foundations cure, he reinforces every wall and door, and he builds to the highest standards rather than the minimum building requirements. His homes are safe as houses.

Cerny maintains his cutting edge approach by keeping abreast of all the latest developments in the industry. He investigates new materials and

construction practices. "There are some good builders out there, but it's challenging for the client to know they use Best Building Practices and keep current with the newest technologies and building materials." Keeping abreast with developments helps Cerny to think beyond the build. He considers the practicality of living in the homes, the lifetime project costs and the longevity of style. He encourages clients to employ environmentally friendly building technologies that save money and contribute positively to the environment. He wants to include the clients in the build so that they are part of the process from conception to construction. Cameras on site take over 5 500 construction photos which are posted on the client's portal where they can access them from anywhere in the world.

I was fortunate enough to accept an invitation to the Ambassador house on Saxony. Walk over the heated cobblestone drive up to the magnificent home, clad in \$1 million worth of Indiana limestone; it's one of the few houses in Toronto to wrap itself in such a splendid shell. Open the enormous Honduran mahogany doors open onto a magnificent foyer with a

raised 7 ft dome in the 23 ft ceiling, large slab marble floors imported from Spain, sweeping staircase and glittering chandeliers. It's not easy to make 18 000 square ft feel intimate and warm, but Cerny has managed just that. An abundance of dark wood cabinetry and exotic hardwood floors combined with cherubim flitting across hand-carved marble mantles invite you to stay, kick off your shoes and relax with a good book. Even the washrooms, with their burnt amber marble and dark wood finishes seem friendly.

The homes security system is comprehensive; equipped with a full security system, touch screens, night vision cameras and an automated Smart Home system which manages the temperature in every room and lighting and audio visual throughout. BASF foam insulates the home and reduces heating costs by achieving an R30 rating for the walls, R50 for the roof and R60 in the garage. The windows are Pella Architectural Series double pane, low E Argon, and Energy Star qualified. The Light Harvesting System adjusts lighting to accommodate natural light and switches of lights in unoccupied rooms.



The kitchen is sublime; chocolate opera marble countertops and state-of-the-art energy star appliances coupled with magnificent cabinetry create a gourmet kitchen to die for. The opulent master bedroom has a stunning view of the Mississauga Golf Course which can be enjoyed from the comfort of the en-suite bathroom's ample bathtub. All the bedrooms have walk in closets and marble en-suite bathrooms. The basement is more fun than a bag of kittens; ride the in-house elevator down to the games room, exercise in the cork-floor gym, grab a bottle of wine from the cellar and enjoy in the tiered home movie theatre. You can wander over the temperature controlled garage and admire your car collection as well as your twin German engineered car lift system which houses eight cars. You are absolutely right; life in an Ambassador Finer Custom Home is very sweet indeed.

lifestyle is everything... ”