

SPRING 2010

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

ourhomes

T H E C I T Y O F M I S S I S S A U G A

*old world
romance*
ON SAXONY COURT

BACKYARD
BUILDING

GOING CUSTOM
WITHOUT THE WAIT

plus
BEAUTIFY YOUR BED
THE ART OF CHOOSING ART

feature

Detailed custom hand-carved imported solid marble mantels grace the fireplaces throughout the home.

RIGHT: A second floor hallway showcases the various motifs of plaster work on mouldings, pillars, panelling and ceilings.



masterpiece

BY JOYCE TURNER-GIONET // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG AND MICHEL BOUCHER

Walking up the granite cobblestone driveway to the house – although in truth mansion would be a more appropriate moniker – it's clear that this is something out of a fairy tale. Continued on page 28

feature

RIGHT: The great room boasts a 23-foot ceiling with a 20-foot, 16,000-pound solid marble fireplace.

BELOW: The formal dining room features a coffered ceiling accented by plaster cornice mouldings and an ornate plaster dome.

The words imposing, regal and palatial come to mind. **Saxony Manor** (as it's affectionately referred to) is a place where one expects a manservant or maid to open the door and request one drop their old-fashioned calling card on the tray before being ushered into the drawing room. Yes, Saxony has a formal drawing room, exactly where old-world architecture decrees a drawing room be situated: to the left of the front door as you enter.

Michal J. Cerny, President and CEO of **Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc.**, designed Saxony Manor with the elegance and romance of an old-world French chateau as his muse. This love for historical grandeur didn't prevent him from including almost one million dollars worth of automated smart home technology and a cutting-edge HVAC system (almost every hour the entire cubic air content of the house is replaced, meaning a healthier home).

Right off prestigious Mississauga Rd., the 18,000 sq. ft., four-level, 23-room Saxony Manor overlooks the elite Mississauga Golf Course, but hidden from the eyes of curious golfers by a 300-foot leafy and heavily treed ravine. At night, through third-floor windows, the lights of downtown Mississauga twinkle in the distance. After years of planning, designing and building, Cerny is adding the finishing touches and screening interested buyers.

In this home, every luxury has been anticipated and is standard, right down to the slim, leather-lined drawer in the master bedroom meant for special evening wear. In truth, revealing what this house doesn't have might have been a simpler task. It has nothing ordinary, nothing over-looked, nothing less than opulent. Cerny is correct when he says, "we don't design and build homes that are for just anyone. We build for the niche few who demand the finer things in life and expect best quality practices to achieve this." *Continued on page 30*





LEFT: The North American white oak hardwood floors and ceiling in the familyroom and throughout the home were sanded, stained and finished on site.

BELOW: The wine cellar has custom shelving for 750 bottles, and walls made from reclaimed brick.

TOP RIGHT: The gourmet kitchen is a foodie's heaven with two Sub Zero built-in refrigerators, a six-burner gas stovetop and grill with double oven, and Italian granite countertops and backsplashes.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Cerny had this 12-seat dining table custom carved for the gathering room, from a dying maple tree on the property.



“Best quality practices” include what Cerny refers to as building science – the dynamic interaction of variables such as temperature, air, water, moisture, the occupants of a home and the environment within.

Let's start with the more than 25 tons of structural steel and 87,000 feet of rebar used throughout. Then there's the 16-to-24-inch thick poured concrete foundation (the standard is eight-to-10 inches) that is waterproofed. The home is insulated with BASF two-pound foam. The house is equipped with 600-amp service (the norm is 200 amps), the first house in Mississauga to do so. Should everything in the house be turned on (and we mean everything at once), you still wouldn't trip a breaker. A two-inch water main ensures that even when the mansion is bustling with guests, water pressure and temperature are not affected.

Saxony Manor is one of only six houses in Ontario with every exterior wall built with 100 per cent Indiana limestone. Four solid limestone columns support the graceful 30-foot-tall limestone portico. The black, smooth slate roofs and copper dormers are a fitting complement. Cerny's custom-designed, wrought-iron Juliet balcony rails highlight a magnificent canvas of high-efficiency windows from [Pella Windows](#). *Continued on page 32*

feature

RIGHT: Custom, wrought-iron side panels and church-sized solid-wood handrails spiral through the centre of the home.

BELOW: The regal study is lined with hand-cut and hand-assembled solid walnut shelving, panelling and cabinetry. A custom-matched desk with green leather inlay sits atop hardwood flooring laid in a herringbone chevron pattern.



Inside Saxony Manor, ceilings range from almost 10 feet in most rooms, to a breathtaking 23 feet in the grand front foyer and great room. A massively thick solid white oak hardwood staircase with wrought iron side panels and curved volutes leads to the upper levels. Here, five-foot-wide hallways hold recessed art niches, with discreetly hidden outlets for lighting, waiting to play host to exquisite statues or murals. An elevator, panelled in solid walnut, travels from the lower level to the fourth floor. Custom-designed, 12-inch plaster cornice mouldings, carved with exquisite care, are everywhere. On the main floor and lower level, 60-by-112-inch slabs of hand-picked True Select Crema Marfil marble flooring were custom ordered and imported from Spain. Hydronic floor warming keeps the marble at a constant, comfortable temperature.

In areas where marble is not laid, rift and quartersawn solid North American white oak hardwood floors add a commanding richness. Solid walnut and cherry wood cabinetry and vanities, all designed by Cerny, and

handcrafted by the best trades people around, are showcased everywhere. Each piece is unique, compassed with extensive detailing, panelling, corbels and crown moulding.

Imagine a home where a computer analyzes the amount of ambient light spilling in through the windows and then decides how much energy is required to create the perfect lighting, even a particular mood. In Saxony Manor, a room occupancy sensor notes the number of warm bodies in the room and when the last one leaves, the lights go out. One of the first residences in the GTA with fibre optic cable, Saxony Manor is ahead of its time and pre-wired for tomorrow. On vacation and want to check in at home? The Smart Vision system can show you, via Internet, what's happening in and around the house, at any time of day or night.

Who said one can't have the best of all worlds? Saxony Manor embraces the past, is designed for the present and prepared for the future. As Cerny says, just like a sturdy century old-world French-Chateau, it is built as a home for generations to come. **OH**

