

Luxury ON THE lake

JOYCE TURNER-GIONET
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



Hand-rubbed mahogany, black marble and limestone floors, columns and fireplaces create an opulent, open-concept main floor.



Owner Frank Zarcone terms it a lake house in the city. It's the most elaborate house he's designed to date and he's designed a few! Passersby regularly stop to stare, curious about what lies behind the classic granite entrance pillars and iron gates.

It's an eclectic, unique statement piece on Burlington's Lakeshore Road, a tony address that is no stranger to architectural eye candy. The exterior is reminiscent of centuries-old Europe and mixes with linear and contemporary aspects. Perhaps it's the influence of Frank's Sicilian background. Sicily is an island rich in architecture left behind by a diverse group of conquerors: Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, French and Spaniards.

Its style would be well-suited to F. Scott Fitzgerald's character, Jay Gatsby. The only element missing is the symbolic green light across the bay said to represent the American Dream. After all, this is a dream house. That was always Frank's intention.

Now for sale, **Michael Brejink** of **Royal Lepage Burloak Real Estate Services**, touches on the dream aspect: "Frank spared no expense when it came to sourcing and importing the very best materials from around the world. It's rare that I come across such an incredibly high level of quality and detail. It's a home rich with that sought-after old-world craftsmanship that embodies prestige and privilege." *Continued on page 38*



The house sits at the end of a long cobblestone and black granite drive. Iron lampposts inspired by those in New York's Central Park light the estate at night. A sumptuous granite fountain bubbles. On the east side, a secondary courtyard boasts ornate wrought-iron gates beneath a solid limestone arch and leads to a collectible car gallery built into the house. Indiana-cut limestone runs the full perimeter of the exterior. In the back, full-length windows and aluminum and glass railings allow breathtaking lake views. A black granite infinity-edge waterfall pool spills down three tiers to the level of the armour stone seawall. The setting is magical.

Dual transoms top the mahogany entry doors and flood light into the foyer. Stretching to 12 feet, the entranceway is an appropriate prelude to the main level where ceilings soar to 19 feet at points. Foyer ceilings were hand-carved to precise diamond points. Three master carpenters worked steadily for six months to complete the custom radius arch ceilings, and each one is

unique. Schonbek chandeliers and wall sconces, works of art themselves, add glimmer. A winding mahogany staircase showcases arabesque scrolled railings and twisting-vine and floral detail on newel posts and finials.

Nine fireplaces throughout the house feature cast limestone mantels and surrounds imported from Turkey. Although the open-concept layout is made for grand entertaining, principal areas are cleverly separated by architecture. A two-sided limestone fireplace separates the living room from a breakfast area. The stone was so large and heavy it took four men many hours to fit it into place. Nine-foot pillars were carved from a solid limestone slab. Coarse pads were mounted to the bottom of rotating wheels to achieve a spectacular rough-textured finish on the limestone floor. "My brother asked me once why I was going to such lengths on this house," says Frank. "For me, it was a three-year labour of love, perhaps my magnum opus."

The kitchen is one of two on the main floor. Both are sublime workspaces, expertly laid out with all the hallmarks of luxury. Hand-rubbed mahogany cabinets are capped with polished black marble counters and backsplash. The flow is visually seamless. A mix of stainless pulls and handles on cabinetry allow the luxurious wood and marble to stand out. The island was extended to allow for casual seating. It houses deep double sinks with European polished-nickel fixtures by Grohe. High-quality, professional grade appliances include a Sub Zero side-by-side fridge and freezer, Dacor double wall ovens and built-in microwave, two Ultraline dishwashers, gas six-burner cooktop with grill, and a built-in wine fridge. The secondary kitchen, as beautifully appointed as the main kitchen, was designed in close proximity to the patio and pool area.

The dining room's standout feature is a groin vault ceiling that rises to 18 feet, designed high to hold a large art piece. Off the dining room, the octagon-shaped music room was designed for optimum acoustics reflecting the soaring height of a concert hall. Its plaster coffered dome and 17 foot windows make it aesthetically appealing both inside and out.

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LEFT: A magnificent groin vault ceiling in the dining room is a stunning focal point. **ABOVE:** Rich, traditional-style furniture pieces maintain the formal feeling. **TOP:** The culinary kitchen is fitted with professional grade appliances and black marble countertops. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Intricate details on the winding mahogany staircase include arabesque scrolled railings with vine and floral details on newel posts and finials. **TOP RIGHT:** The home stands majestically at the end of a cobblestone driveway. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Custom mahogany and glass doors open to a custom car gallery complete with an entertaining bar at the front of the home. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Like stepping into a concert hall, the plaster coffered dome ceiling and soaring windows provide optimum acoustics in the octagon-shaped music room.

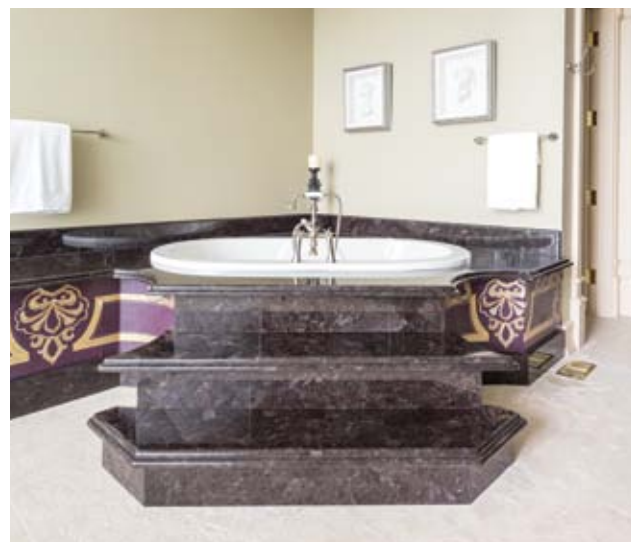
feature

Gatsby's Daisy would have been in heaven with the main-floor master retreat. The 17 foot coffered dome ceiling, gas fireplace, walkout balcony and panoramic lake view deliver the look and feel of a luxury hotel. In the en suite, laser-etched double doors provide a view of the water while one soaks in the Jacuzzi air bathtub.

On the upper level, Jatoba hardwood delivers warmth with a touch of drama; the rich reds of the stained Jatoba change with the light. A loft with built-in mahogany shelving offers a walkout balcony with a view to the lake. The luxurious upper master with en suite was created for guests and is an ideal option for an in-law suite.

The lower level is a 3,300 sq. ft. self-contained space that offers a Douglas Fir-lined wine cellar with slate floor, recreation room, teen retreat, roughed-in kitchen, sauna and walk-out that leads along a black granite path to the lake. Riparian rights mean the home's waterfront may be used by owners for mooring boats.

More than anything else, as Michael noted, and something that will resonate with potential buyers, is the unparalleled quality, craftsmanship and detail that elevate it to one-of-a-kind lakeshore luxury. **OH**



ABOVE: The infinity pool, expansive deck and barbecue, steps from the lake, create a resort-like ambiance. **RIGHT:** Michael Brejnik stands in the backyard oasis. **TOP RIGHT:** Wake up to breathtaking lake views or sip a coffee on the balcony in the strategically placed master retreat. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Laser-etched double glass doors open to provide a view to the lake in the master en suite. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Jacuzzi bath is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the soothing sounds of the lake.

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