

STORY **NANCY FORNASIERO** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

# STUNNING *Sanctuary*

They’ve done it again! **Brian Gluckstein**, iconic Canadian designer, and Carlos Jardino of **PCM Project & Construction Management Inc.** have once again teamed up to put their talents to work for the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, and this time they’ve hit it out of the park.

This year’s Lottery Home, brimming with luxurious details and designer furnishings, is a real standout even in this Southeast Oakville neighbourhood that has no shortage of attractive luxury homes. The buzz around town this year is that it qualifies as “the best showhome ever.” Even Brian admits that it’s his favourite among all previous PMCC showhomes: “This is one I could see living in myself.”

As in previous years, wandering through the stately home is a delicious feast for the eyes. Around every corner of the 6,500 sq. ft. beauty, another stylish room appears, from luxury bedrooms, a spacious family room, a beautiful gourmet kitchen by **Top Notch Cabinets**, sumptuous, lower-level rooms that defy the label “basement,” and so much more. With too many highlights to mention them all, let’s focus instead on the surprises and the features of 1405 Devon Rd. that are especially unusual or inspired. Thanks to this incredibly creative team, there are plenty to choose from.

Firstly, the exterior. In an area dominated by new builds in neutral taupe and stone and stucco facades, this elegant red-brick colonial sparkles. Designed by Toronto architect Richard Wengle, the home’s unusual design “is like a breath of fresh air” according to Carlos, who doesn’t often work with brick on new homes. Richard, who was aiming for a look that was both elegant and casual, calls the design transitional.



“We moved away from what you might call the more cottagey approaches that are typical in Oakville and decided to go with a style that is sort of reminiscent of the 40s,” he explains. Classical windows, doors and portico are punctuated with precast concrete borders, giving the impression of cut limestone. The resulting façade is timeless and graceful.

The next sensational moment happens as soon as visitors step inside. This is no ordinary foyer. Boasting sightlines into the elegant combination living room/dining room and the family room, its special feature is a remarkable two-sided fireplace

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**TOP LEFT:** A two-sided fireplace in the foyer makes a grand entrance. **ABOVE:** The conservatory’s “wow” factor includes a two-storey view to the outside and a live ficus tree. **LEFT:** The dining room is made formal with wallpaper and elegant furnishings. **FAR LEFT:** The large living room is broken up into conversation areas with sleek sofas and multiple coffee tables.





surrounded by a sleek mantel designed by Brian and manufactured in Portugal by Carlos’s master marble workers. Brian, who has repeatedly described the house as “a home made for entertaining,” must have imagined how welcoming the entry, with a glowing fire, would feel to guests arriving on a dark winter night. The foyer also features a wrought-iron-and-glass stair rail, custom-created by Maks Iron Works. Its glamorous impact is felt on every floor of the house.

Meandering towards the rear of the home, you come across its most astonishing surprise: the two-storey conservatory. Soaring windows make up two of the walls, and a third is mirrored to mimic a window, so that the gardens seem to be growing indoors. As if that weren’t impressive enough, the space also features a 16-foot ficus tree, planted into the floor, and yes, it’s living! This unique space emerged from Brian’s imagination and is his favourite part of the house. “Nothing could be better in a Canadian winter than sitting at a desk under a lush, green tree with the sunlight pouring in.” The room’s furnishings are extraordinary too. The classic lines of the desk are offset by two, pretty lattice-back



The streamlined kitchen appears to have no upper cabinetry, but banks of integrated floor-to-ceiling cabinets provide all the storage space a homeowner needs.



vintage chairs, which were reupholstered and freshened up with shimmering gilding.

The home has four bedrooms – each exquisitely outfitted with upscale furnishings and bedding, LG TVs and en suite baths decked out in luxe Kohler fixtures. The most original bedroom is encased in cabinetry and includes a built-in loft bed above the main bed, all carefully handcrafted by one of Carlos’s favorite carpenters, Paul Medeiros of PM Fine Cabinetry Inc. With a zesty, navy-orange-and-white colour-scheme, and painted bead board installed horizontally, this room exudes a fun, youthful energy. The other second-floor space that really turns heads is the master en suite. A fireplace with marble surround, floor-to-ceiling draperies and fine art might not be the first elements that come to mind when decorating a bathroom, but these features all play a big role. The way the lustrous vanity and mirrors float in front of the windows is a stunning surprise. Brian especially loves the soaker tub, which serves as the focal point of the room and happens to be exactly like his own at home. *Continued on page 30*

**TOP LEFT, LEFT:** Just off the kitchen, the casual and sophisticated family room provides plenty of space to lounge. **ABOVE:** The darker tones and unique waterfall vanity create an unexpected yet vivid powder room.







**LEFT:** The open, upper hallway is put to good use with a custom homework nook. **ABOVE:** The tranquil master en suite glows with the warmth of a fireplace. In a unique twist, the double vanities are mounted right in front of the windows. **BELOW:** Vibrant pops give a secondary bedroom its own unique flair. **BELOW LEFT:** An elegant four-poster bed in the master bedroom is a focal point.



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Paul Alofs, CEO of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, is extremely grateful for the creative people who have come together to fill the 2014 dream home with all these amazingly original details. He calls the collaboration of Brian, Carlos, Richard and their teams “a labour of love.” This sentiment was echoed by Brian at the showhome’s launch party when he compared the process to having a baby. “Sorry ladies,” he apologized, “I don’t really know what childbirth is like, but this house did take about nine months to build!”

This is PCM’s sixth year as official builder for the PMCC Lottery Home. For Carlos, participating in this project year after year is important on many levels, some of them personal. His own father died of colon cancer when he was only 52. Forty per cent of Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime, and Carlos is both proud and humbled to play a small part in, hopefully, reducing those odds. **OH**

**TOP LEFT:** A craft room in the lower level is one of the home’s distinctive features. **ABOVE:** The lower-level media room is a great place to relax. **LEFT:** The addition of glass provides openness on the spectacular spiralling staircase.



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