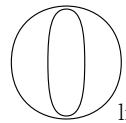


A
SERENDIPITOUS
STONE BUNGALOW
CALGARY'S *concrete castle*
OF DARING DESIGN



liver Brown breaks out in a smile every time he gets a chance to talk about one of his latest Calgary home builds. And Brown, project manager at Rusch Projects couldn't be more pleased with the way this particular modern-day bungalow turned out.

In March 2013, demolition of a stately home in one of Calgary's most affluent communities began. Less than 15 months later, Rusch Projects and their team of builders, tradesmen, architects and designers put the finishing touches on their modern bungalow.

Brown said the homeowners wanted a clean and modern design aesthetic.

"It's an open plan and they intend on staying there the rest of their lives," said Brown.

Brown believes the most unique features of the home are being greeted by 14-foot-ceilings, and the view through to the well-treed backyard through floor-to-ceiling windows at the back of the home. »



43

WORDS ron devitt + PHOTOS artline photography



“When you open that front door you don’t feel like you’re living in the city,” said Brown, adding the large windows welcome in the Prairie sunshine. “The front of the house has a breakfast nook so it gets a lot of the morning sunshine.”

The Calgary community had more traditional two-storey homes on either side of the street so that did pose a challenge to the homebuilder when planning the sprawling bungalow.

“In order to get it to work with the rest of the homes it was a bit of a challenge,” said Brown. “Some of the older homes are fairly large and have had some renovations to keep them up to standards.”

The modern bungalow boasts a 3,300-square-foot upstairs living area and 2,450 square feet in the basement and sits on a lot 75 feet wide and 180 feet deep.

ABOVE Polished entryway feature modern objects d’art. **LEFT** Floor to ceiling windows light up the living room.



*A SENSE OF LUXURY IN A LONG
AND LINEAR CARVED FORM,
CAREFULLY CRAFTED ON MULTIPLE
LEVELS INTO THE LANDSCAPE.*

The open plan main floor includes the living area and a master bedroom wing. The living area features a spacious foyer, living room, dining area, breakfast nook and kitchen. The bedroom wing is home to the master bedroom, a guest room, two bathrooms, a powder room, his and her closets in the master bedroom wing, den and laundry room. The master bath features an elegant tile mosaic of a sculpture of Napoleon's head.

The main floor also boasts marble tile throughout the main living area, kitchen and hallways. Slightly darker tile can be found in the basement. The master bedroom wing features seven-inch, oil-rubbed hardwood floors.

Angre panelling was used on the interior walls and the fir window casings were stained to match the window trim. The main floor floors, basement floors and stairs are heated with hydronics.



Not only does the home rely on large floor to ceiling windows in the living area, but also has close to 200 pot lights strategically placed throughout the ceiling.

The exterior of the wood-burning indoor and outdoor fireplaces are made of a light-weight concrete that had to be craned in to place during the framing stage of the house. Some pieces were 20 feet long and six feet wide.

Brown and his team at Rusch worked closely with Shugarman Architects and Design to bring the homeowners' vision to reality.

Lead designer Michael Shugarman, said architecturally, the team strove to convey permanence, luxury and a "rightness" with the landscape.

"On the public street face, I wanted the design to be strong, elegant in its simplicity, and to portray a sense of luxury in its simplicity," said Shugarman. "And to convey a sense of luxury in a long and linear carved form, carefully crafted on multiple levels into the landscape."

The clients themselves also directly inspired the architecture and the interiors.

"I always try to capture what I come to understand are the qualities of the clients themselves, and in this case the clients are complex in that they hold important both a lightness of being and sense of joy, and yet have a serious respect for quality, invention, and an appreciation for the natural world," said Shugarman.

Shugarman said the fact that they had a large lot to work with meant there were very few "restrictions."

LEFT Spacious ultra modern kitchen features a marble-topped island as the centre piece. **ABOVE** Floor to ceiling windows let in light at the back of the house. The team worked to convey a "rightness" with the landscape.

BUILDER // RUSCH PROJECTS LOCATION // CALGARY PROJECT STATUS // COMPLETED // ARCHITECT & DESIGNER // SHUGARMAN ARCHITECT



ABOVE Tile mosaic in master bath featuring image of the head of Napoleon.