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# DREAM HOUSE

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On the Street of Dreams, a luxury home development in Coquitlam, where house after beautiful West-Coast-style house are situated side by side, there exists a home where cars stop in the street for their drivers to stare.

What the drivers are stopping to view is the majestic six bedroom, seven bath, French Chateau-style mansion built by Christen Luxury Homes. The home exudes Old World charm with classic French styling that includes stucco exterior, pediment-style mouldings around windows, copper roof, finials and concrete balustrades. This 14-month build was a labour of love by Tony Barone and his wife Patriciza, who was the interior designer for the project. The timeless standout look and unique styling was deliberate, according to Tony, who had the property for eight years before deciding on the design. An eight-month design process followed while Patricia worked closely with Architect Oscar Woodman. The result is a 9,500-square-foot masterpiece that must have broken the builder's heart when he recently listed the property for sale with Realtor Sophia Wong of Sutton Group.

"I've been building for over 20 years now and it's not often that I can build a project like this on an estate like this," said Tony as we entered the home through the foyer. Here soaring ceilings use extensive mouldings and I view for the first time the architectural details that are visible throughout the home. Beneath my feet, classic marble flooring is embellished with borders and a custom medallion. Straight ahead is a living room where the limestone fronted fireplace soars up to meet the two-storey ceiling. I feel the thrill of knowing this is no ordinary home, this is one of the few homes I can truly call a Dream House.

But the dream didn't come that easily for Tony, who worked with the City of Coquitlam to have the 95-feet of house frontage that he needed for this luxurious home, not to mention the 762-square-foot

# The Heart of the Home

BY TRACEY ELLIS PHOTOS BY KEVIN MILLER







space for the three-car garage. The result is a sprawling mansion that uses every inch of space wisely and with the ultimate family in mind.

The showcase gourmet kitchen received the nod recently from the Georgie Awards' judges who nominated the heart of this home in the Best Kitchen Over \$30,000 - New category. Here Patricia's talents as a designer are on display with traditional antique glazed cabinetry, granite and marble countertops and crystal chandeliers. A wok kitchen is tucked away in a butler's pantry and in the spirit of today's entertaining, a family room complete with grand fireplace and dining area are open to this chef's delight of a kitchen. Knowing the family would spend much of their time here, Tony had these rooms overlook Mount Baker across a backyard complete with

children's playroom, larger theatre room, or in-law suite. The home makes the most of the great outdoors with a covered deck and fireplace for year-round pleasure.

My overall impression of this amazing home is that everyone who worked on it did so with great pride in their work and dedication to the Barone's dream. No effort was spared to order locally, or from around the world, the very finest in fixtures and fittings. Custom craftsmanship is evident everywhere, from custom stair posts to stained glass designed by Patricia and custom made by a local artisan. Expect to see such high-end brands as Shonbek, Moen Showhouse, Maax and Kohler among others. Everything about this home says solidly built, and Tony advises me he was onsite to oversee everything that went into this home. While he admits he

Secreted away between the main and upper floor, this romantic retreat for two showcases vaulted ceilings with chandeliers and a fireplace for late-night fireside rendezvous.

koi pond. Above what will undoubtedly be the gathering place of this home, accessed by a grand staircase, is a Juliet balcony.

The master bedroom suite is all about privacy for the lucky future homeowners. Secreted away between the main and upper floor, this romantic retreat for two showcases vaulted ceilings with chandeliers and a fireplace for late-night fireside rendezvous. Walk through his and hers walk-in closets to the ensuite bath that really is delightful. Light and spacious, this enchanting bath features marble flooring and mosaic glass tile. Here too, the Georgie Awards' judges recently gave the nomination for Best Master Suite - New.

On the top level, two bedrooms share a bath, while the other three present with their own ensuites. And present they all do - delightfully well in heritage style complete with dormers. Each bedroom features a different design decor, and all of them are simply a wonderful surprise. Yet, the colours selected harmonize so well with the rest of the home, that you simply flow from one room to the next across a breezeway that looks over to the floor below, an inviting area for reading.

The lowest level of the home is hardly what we call "the basement." This is a wide open space designed for entertaining. The recreation room boasts 10-foot ceilings and a refreshment bar with an island set opposite from yet another great fireplace. Also on this level are a theatre room, a gym with spa and steam shower and a storage room. Midway between the lower and main floor is a huge 650-square-foot room that is destined to be whatever the future homeowners want it to be. Its future is undecided: a games room,

and his wife are now personally attached to the house, he is in the business of home building and to keep his standards high, only builds a few houses each year.

There are simply too many architectural and design details to note in a magazine article, it would take a book to list them all - with photos. I was honoured to be invited inside, leaving those drive-by admirers at the curb in their automobiles. As I leave this home after our photo shoot, I can only say, whoever makes their future home in this marvelous French Chateau will be very lucky - they will be living in a home built with heart. DH

