

# Innovation

## 'I'm building my name'

### ► Colourful From M1

Architectural technologist Bruno Di Tomaso, who did the drawings for Selma (she's a renowned architect in São Paulo but isn't sufficiently fluent in English to write her Canadian exams yet), gives high marks to both the style and workmanship.

"When I see lines and everything is symmetrical, that's called passion," he says.

"I love Selma's designs. She has great, innovative designs."

Even the North York committee of adjustment, which approved the final design, had kind words for Selma's work, José says.

With essentially the same work crew as before, they completed the 5,000-square-foot house (including the finished basement) in seven months. Workers went above the call, offering to help in unexpected ways, José says.

Loyalty is earned and rewarded, he says. He adds that in Brazil, he has employed the same crew for 25 years. With two projects on the go there, he and Selma still spend 20 days a month out of the country. After those jobs are completed, they will concentrate on building their business here.

Listed for \$1.34 million, their new open-concept, five-bedroom home features "crema marfil" marble flooring in the foyer, kitchen, master ensuite bathroom and laundry room. Living and dining rooms have crown moulding and brown birch floors with marble border. Extensive use of windows and wall cutouts allow light to pass through the open space even on a dull day.

The pièce de résistance is the family room, situated on its own half-floor along with a den. The family room's focal point is a limestone fireplace, with floor-to-ceiling windows on each side. The den's double French doors



MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORONTO STAR

The family room focal point is a limestone fireplace with floor-to-ceiling windows on each side. Below, the kitchen has "crema marfil" marble flooring, as does the foyer and master bathroom.

allow for privacy, yet offer a view of the rooms below. It could easily double as a home office.

The master bedroom has glass-block windows, a cathedral ceiling, a walk-through closet leading to the ensuite bathroom, which has whirlpool tub, separate shower, private bidet and toilet and a skylight.

An oak staircase leads to the finished basement, which features a light-coloured floor, wet bar, wine racks, fireplace, guest room and four-piece bath, small cedar-lined sauna, and cold room.

The two-car garage connects to a mudroom beside the kitchen.

Off the kitchen in the back is a cedar deck with a gas-barbecue outlet. A pressure-treated fence offers privacy. Out front, an interlocking driveway slopes down on the east side to accommodate a next-door neighbour in a wheelchair, in case she is inclined to visit her new neighbours.



A small brass plaque tucked unobtrusively by the main entrance bears the company name, Studium T Building Inc.

José loves the house so much he'd like to live there, but recognizes "we have to test the market."

"I'm building my name," he says proudly.

Although Selma has been

asked to draw plans for other houses, she steadfastly refuses. Her heart and soul goes into each project and she feels fully responsible for the end product.

For those who are wondering, she has already chosen the colour for her next masterpiece: a light but vibrant green.

Now that's a house of a different colour.