

WITHOUT EQUAL



The designer and builder of this Shearwater home — All Elements Design Manage Build — picked up the prestigious Grand Tommie for Home of the Year at the 2014 Tommie Awards on the weekend in Kelowna. The spectacular Sin~Ceras home is a contemporary, three-level home that incorporates many outstanding features both inside and out, including a three-sided infinity pool.



As you might expect, the signature feature in a 12,000-square-foot, award-winning home has to be daring, and the oculus staircase is that signature. Sin~Ceras is a gallery-style, contemporary, three-level glass, aluminum and concrete structure in Shearwater.



When your home is this good, you give it a name: Sin~Ceras

By CHRIS STANFORD

Every year at the annual Tommie Awards gala, the announcement of the Grand Tommie for Home of the Year is arguably the most anticipated of the evening.

Past winners represent the epitome of the Okanagan lifestyle and the pinnacle of the designers' and builders' art, and include some truly spectacular dwellings.

And the 2014 Grand Tommie winner, the spectacular home named Sin~Ceras from All Elements Design Manage Build, certainly lives up to that lineage.

At almost 12,000 square feet, the thoroughly modern gallery-style, contemporary, three-level glass, aluminum and concrete structure sits perched in the Shearwater subdivision. But as attention-getting as it is for its striking design, at the same time it succeeds in fitting in with the surrounding landscape in a way that belies its size.

To the casual observer, it might seem easy to forget that Sin~Ceras is a home, after all. But that's something that was definitely not lost on All Elements Design Manage Build, which took the project all the way from concept to completion.

"We wanted to build a landmark, sculptural home for the client," said Kim Larson, who with All Elements partner Stephan Ams accepted the Tommie. "The client and Stephan and I became partners in this project to make it come to fruition.

"We spent two years building the home and it's been an amazing project from beginning to end and an amazing experience ... we made great friends with the clients through this process."

Truly unique in its clever combining of design elements and materials, the structure features automation throughout and the latest in energy efficient green technologies, even going so far as to use wood post offcuts repurposed to build custom wine room racks, for example.

Other daring features of the home include floor-to-ceiling windows to maximize the

stunning views, floating stairs from the infinity pool to main floor and from master suite to spa, and — of course — the signature "oculus" staircase.

The knife-edge roofline employs overhangs to follow the sun's path and ensure energy efficiency, while at the same time becoming a recurrent design theme, echoed subtly throughout on fireplace surrounds, countertops and floating ceiling details.

"We did not want to let down Carl Scholl," said Ams. "He was the designer of this house and he was the one that came up with the vision with the homeowner, and all we wished to do was fulfill his desire to the end."

Project partners included Small's Tile and Flooring, Loney Plumbing Ltd., Carl Scholl Design and Kelowna Custom Theatres.

Of course it's entirely fitting a home as unique and one-of-a-kind as this comes with a story behind everything, including the name. As Ams explained, it was taken from the Latin term meaning, "without wax," which was used to describe the finest Renaissance sculptures of masters such as da Vinci and Michelangelo, who didn't need wax to hide any flaws in their perfect works. Much like those magnificent works of art, it would be a challenge to find anything amiss with Sin~Ceras and that's exactly the way the Tommies award selection committee felt, too.

Though the observer they may see a final product — a magnificently modern home — Larson, Ams and their team can rest assured all the creativity in design, execution and construction that went into it has been recognized with this award. And that has made all the hard work worthwhile.

"We take plain lines on a page and turn them into 3-D objects that people spend their lives in," said Larson. "And to be recognized for doing it well is a huge honour."

"After this project we worked on with the clients for years, it's definitely a validation of all the hard work we put into this home, and the heart we put into it."



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Kristy Towson, B.COMM

I graduated from University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Business Economics and Law. I then pursued a career in the financial industry. After lending for over 10 years, in branch management for 5 of those years, it gave me the skills and knowledge base needed to become a successful Mortgage Broker. As a Mortgage Broker, I have the ability to find the best product and rate for my clients that will meet their individual needs. I am blessed to be able to help my clients and to do what I love to do in the beautiful Okanagan.

Favourite Pastime: I enjoy skiing, wakeboarding and camping with my husband and our children. I also enjoy playing the piano, reading, and having game nights with friends.

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