

ELLE

CANADA

ATHENA
CALDERONE
THE
GODDESS
OF
GASTRONOMY

Retro and Restrained

**WARM,
WELCOMING
HOMES**

THE ART OF
TIDYING UP

CLEAN SWEEP THINKING WITHIN
THE BOX AND
OTHER DESIGN IDEAS



FLIGHT OF FANCY

NICHOLAS ANCERL has imagined a private haven with natural elements, tactile textures and sustainable features in Barrie, Ontario. The kicker? It isn't real...yet.

By Anamika Butalia Renders by JORG - jorgcc.com

Expansive and outward-looking, the living room is planned with a Flexform (flexform.it) sectional, chairs from Avenue Road (avenue-road.com) and Artnet (artnet.com) as well as tables from 1stDibs (1stdibs.com), Salvatori (salvatoriofficial.com) and Minotti (minotti.com).

Right: In this open-plan design, the living area extends to the kitchen and breakfast room, which properly reveal themselves once the sliding doors are moved. Seen here are lights from Baxter (baxter.it), counter stools from Arteriors (arteriorshome.com), faucet from CEA Design (ceadesign.it) and Gaggenau appliances (gaggenau.com). **Below:** A Japanese maple tree will be strategically planted to create this awe-inspiring view from the dining area. The 14-seat table from Brougham Interiors (broughaminteriors.com) is paired with chairs from Drechsel Studio (drechselstudio.com). Accessories include benches, resin stools and black wood sculptures by Martha Sturdy from Hollace Cluny (hollacecluny.ca), Lucio Fontana artworks from Artsy (artsy.net), light from Commute Design Studio (commutedesign.com), candle holders from By the Modern (bythemodern.com) and Elte low bowls (elte.com).





Crestwood's street-side facade features a sophisticated design to ensure privacy. Three horizontal strips will be built, each differing in material, size and functionality. On the main floor, vertical wooden slats will disguise the main entrance and garage door. The second and largest level will be cantilevered and clad in handcrafted Kolumba bricks from Denmark. Finally, the glass cube on top will be set back, with the exposed lower roof area covered in feather reed grass.



WE ALL KNOW WHAT OUR DREAM HOME will look like—the view from the bedroom, the colour scheme and material palette, a fireplace, a patio to enjoy warm days, perhaps even a kitchen garden. While building it may still be a distant dream, we realize it's no longer difficult to visualize the entire space.

When we chanced upon Crestwood, a property designed by Nicholas Ancerl and his multidisciplinary atelier, Ancerl Studio, we were agape at the expansive home, the sheer volume of its living room and the luxuriant decor scheme. Then, when we realized that we were looking at photo-realistic renders, our jaws hit the floor!

We were immediately intrigued. What we found was that this residence is yet to be built. It'll be completed only next year, but we couldn't resist a virtual tour of this soon-to-be-real house.

Crestwood will be situated atop a hill, backed onto greenery. Its location near the marina has led Ancerl to conceptualize it as a glass box nestled in the lap of nature, "to create a dramatic home among the treetops." He adds, "From the rear, the angular house will be made using concrete and glazing. Meanwhile, a subtle yet sophisticated structure will be created for the front."

The main entrance and garage door will be concealed behind vertical wooden slats. Above it will be a cantilevered level, the largest of all three storeys, clad in handcrafted Kolumba bricks from Denmark. Finally, the topmost floor will be a glass cube that'll be set back. ➤



A play of light and shadow offsets the bold colour palette of the home office, which is also perched in the uppermost glass cube.

SETTING GREAT EXPECTATIONS?

According to David Jorgensen, founder of JORG, it took 480 hours over a period of four months for him and his team at JORG (jorgcc.com) to create 23 renders for this home. Jorgensen has looked into every detail. "The first step was to survey the topography and represent the surrounding terrain," he says. "Site photographs of the woods were referenced during modelling. Every tree visible in the renderings was placed individually to project light through them to create diffused and dappled lighting effects within the interior scenes. Doing this makes the renders accurate and natural. Materials were applied and refined on all surfaces, and furniture was placed as specified. Then, we explored the space like a photographer to project natural light in. When renderings get close to being photo-realistic, people start to look past the fact that the physical space doesn't exist. Instead, they focus on the design and their interpretation of it. This means that the detail within the design, such as the lived-in appeal of these renders, becomes increasingly important."

With a result as stunning as this, we're wondering if as an architect, Nicholas Ancerl feels any trepidation about replicating the render into reality. "Of course," he says, laughing, "we have to ensure that everything lives up to the homeowners' expectations. But we also have to make room for human error, as well as engineering or even budget changes." So, are homeowners given disclaimers? "You see, these are artistic renderings based on the finalized floor plans, and since it's a stand-alone structure (unlike a restrictive space like a condo), it is actually very simple to realize every detail," he responds. When asked if it would be better if the renders were a little less than perfect so as to not wow the homeowners, Ancerl exclaims, "No, we want to put our best foot forward even if it's a render, because it gives us a goal to achieve! And, honestly, nothing can take away from the experience of actually stepping into a real space."







The minimalist primary bedroom will prove to be a haven for nature lovers. Pendant lights from South Hill Home (southhillhome.com) are seen near the wall panels, tables and bed, all of which are custom made by Ancerl Studio. **Left page, above:** Both runs of stairs are illuminated by a 30-foot-high opening from which light streams in. **Below:** Just behind the sleeping space in the primary bedroom is the expansive wardrobe area, with an organizer in walnut-veneer finish. The space is softened through the use of an ottoman custom made by Ancerl Studio.

“THE CONTEMPORARY INTERIORS WILL HAVE A RUSTIC TOUCH AND A NEUTRAL COLOUR PALETTE, AS WE WANT THE COLOURS OF NATURE, SEEN THROUGH THE EXPANSIVE WINDOWS, TO DOMINATE THE INTERIORS.”

– Nicholas Ancerl





Two pristine bathrooms are planned, with a Hamaca tub from Splinterworks (splinterworks.com) and bathware from Vola (vola.com).

The reigning theme across the home is to bring the outdoors in. This is apparent from the first step inside, where visitors will be drawn to the rear view of the woodlands. It's also seen in the plan of the 14-seater dining room, which will look out on the picturesque conservation area, where a Japanese maple has been planted as a focal point. That's not all. The 20-foot glazed wall of the voluminous living room slides open to bring nature inside. (A custom firebox promises to keep the space toasty.) Indeed, the blurring of the indoor-outdoor lines continues to the uppermost glass cube. It will offer 270-degree views of the surrounding feather reed grass and of the lake in the cooler months.

Ancerl points out that the home will stay true to the elements. "We're tying the elements of outside to the inside by employing natural stones, woods, concrete, etc. This is not a home where the furniture needs to be wrapped in plastic—it's all about comfort.

"I'm a firm believer that a home should maximize living experiences (rather than square footage), along with expansive views. Which is why this one will boast floor-to-ceiling windows, corner-to-corner in some cases," he says, giving us one more detail to add to our dream home. And one more reason to look forward to 2022. ■

(ancerlstudio.com)