

Million Dollar Plus

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SPEC?

Elaine Foster

The Quigg Group – Their innovative marketing and high quality standards have resulted in a new definition of the term “spec home.”

I recently had the pleasure of spending the afternoon with Alisa Aragon, Marketing and Sales representative for The Quigg Group. My mission? To set out as a consumer and view “Dream Houses” that are actually built on spec. That’s correct – spec homes starting from over a million dollars and up. I met Alisa at The Quigg office to plan our route.

The Quigg Group – Who is it?

Robert Quigg founded The Quigg Group in 1986. He was a surveyor and journeyman carpenter and over the past 16 years has built a company that is a leader in the construction industry. He has worked on more than 250 residential, commercial and industrial projects in BC and other areas of Canada. His passion was undoubtedly building high quality homes and specialized commercial buildings and he returned to this in 2000.

He is known for his unmatched energy, and his passionate commitment to completing every project on time and with the highest possible standard of quality. As I toured the houses, it was evident to me that his work ethic and principles are instilled in and reiterated by everyone who works within the company.

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How Do You Go About Building a Multi-Million Dollar Spec Home?

I know most people think of a spec house as a very plain, ordinary dwelling, furnished with basic amenities but void of the “added extras and creature comforts” of personal custom designed homes. But that is not the case with Quigg. The company works with architects, its own interior design team, and highly experienced site superintendents. The result? Innovative design, colors and finishing that complement one another brilliantly and



unsurpassed quality control throughout the building cycle. It is a unique market niche – one that seems to work nicely for The Quigg Group.

Alisa explained to me that everyone works as a team and every member is responsible for getting the job done right. She says that everyone takes a keen interest in every house that is built. It is not uncommon for the President and Vice President to personally visit each and every house that is constructed.

Ready? Let's Go Shopping

Our first house to view was on West 2nd, a traditional Point Grey architecture by Formwerks. The house was an infill, beautifully set into a spacious lot. We were met by Dave Hamilton, Site Superintendent and Project Supervisor for The Quigg Group. Dave gave us the guided tour of his "labor of love." Like a proud parent, he carefully pointed out each and every detail of this 3,500 sq. ft. residence complete with over-height ceilings, granite

countertops, solid hardwood floors, custom chrome and glass enclosed shower with imported ceramic tile. In addition to the regular bells and whistles I was most impressed by the



beautiful door moldings and unusual ceilings. I was intrigued by the tray ceiling effect which Dave explained to me comes from the design of an actual tray. The lines were beautiful. Closets were very spacious. The best part, the shelving, is left until the home is sold allowing the new owners to add the personal touch of shelving and layout. I loved this house – it gave me the impression of a classic home my grandfather might have built in years gone by but with all the amenities of today. Price: \$1,579,000.

Our next stop was Wesbrook Crescent, an executive residence located on UBC Endowment Land, designed by Howard Airey. This 5,300 sq. ft. classic residence was set amongst other fine homes on a beautiful tree-lined street. Upon entering this house, my eye went to massive sets of French doors leading to a spectacular back yard and a separate garage, which was impeccably finished, and could easily hold four cars. Although it was a dull, rainy day, the house was beautifully bright and cheery. The master bathroom was spacious and beautifully appointed with chrome and marble. Another treat was a gas injected wood fireplace. Dave explained that there is demand once again for actual wood burning fireplaces so they insert a gas line into the fireplace thus eliminating the need to be a Boy Scout in order to have a decent fire. The laundry room was so ostentatious, it really outdid most upscale



bathrooms. It almost made me want to iron. The kitchen was enormous with a generous pantry complete with top of the line appliances. The home had five spacious bedrooms. All Quigg homes are wired for sound and this home had a beautiful media room. Once again I was in awe of the windows, moldings, and incredible workmanship. Exquisite. Price \$2,869,000.

Our final stop was Newton Wynd, an extraordinary UBC Endowment Land residence designed by Formwerks. Walking into this residence, one word came to mind – party! This house begged to be used for entertaining. The cavernous open-concept family room, eating nook and gourmet kitchen complete with two massive side by side Sub-Zeros fridge and freezer, along with a large island would make it effortless to literally cook for crowds.

Solid walnut hardwood floors throughout the main level, limestone counters, a gallery-like area to showcase works of art exceptional millwork and finishes made this home one of a kind. The main master ensuite was exceptional with the use of chrome, glass, and limestone. The second master ensuite boasted a den and adjoining ensuite. The other bedrooms on the lower level all had French doors leading out to the in-ground pool and patio. There were six bathrooms and four ensuites in all. Fabulous. Price \$3,195,000.

What a day! As I was boarding my flight to return to my humble abode I thought – if I don't win the lottery on Saturday so I can buy one of these Quigg Dream Homes,

perhaps I can incorporate some of the ideas in my own home. And for those of you who are empty nesters and want to play golf or travel, The Quigg Group is now designing and building multi-dwelling units in West Vancouver.

The development is appropriately named the Boulders. This new development is truly the high point of living in West Vancouver. The development will be comprised of two distinct buildings divided by a rippling waterfall that runs through the inaginatively landscaped terraced gardens. Subtle influences of Frank Lloyd Wright will be found in the elegant look of the architecture, informed by the contours of the land to naturally compliment the rugged hillside setting. From what I have seen so far this new development is sure to be a winner. This development is now selling and completion is slated for spring 2004.

The Quigg philosophy and standard is simple. "We build homes we would be proud to live in ourselves. From choosing attractive building sites to designing compelling interiors, our focus remains the same – giving customers more than they'd ever expect. Exceeding expectations is what we do best." After my afternoon of "Dream House" shopping, I would have to agree. ■■

