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*25 Years of
Design Excellence*



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Frank Bandiera Architect Inc.

25 Years of Design Excellence

TEXT Krista Deverson



Celebrating 25 Years of Architectural Design Excellence is a masterpiece of both functionality and style. This accomplishment is defined by well-thought out spaces that are a perfect blend of practical living area with aesthetically pleasing appearance. Having reached the 25 years in business milestone, the firm of Frank Bandiera Architect Inc. is expert at melding the practical use of space with stunning stylistic appeal.

After graduating from the University of Toronto with his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1987, Bandiera worked for a small firm with a concentration on residential work. That experience planted the seed for his future architectural work and the beginnings of his own company. In 1993, in the midst of the early nineties' recession, Frank Bandiera struck out on his own knowing that he had no option, but to make his business a success.

As an architect, Bandiera and his firm take pride in translating their clients' dream home wish-lists into tangible living environments. Frank says that the benefit of hiring an architectural firm for a project is that it ensures that any potential problems and unforeseen issues are dealt with through proper planning and expert design. Although people often complain about the contractors, they hire for their renovation work or the horror stories they have experienced in the process, realistically, the problems typically began much earlier in the process with



inadequate designs, documentation and direction. Often, people think that they only need plans drawn up, without realizing the immense value that an architect brings to the table with their education, their professional and legal obligations, and their design expertise.

Bandiera says, "An architect is a cross-section between an artist and a building science engineer. Our guidance and advice for any design and construction project will offer returns in terms of beauty, functionality, and financial benefits, that will also retain and increase in value over time. Essentially, it's an



investment with numerous rewards." The success of this group has been its ability to creatively react to the specific needs of the client, the nature of the site, and to budget considerations. His work and association with many 'hand-picked' notable contractors throughout southern Ontario have created some of the finest Architectural Homes in the region.

From a planning aspect, Bandiera says he considers the end-user in all his projects, taking the time to understand their lifestyle, preferences, and habits. Bandiera explains, "Our most successful projects are the ones that embrace

our client's input. We take the time to carefully research the client's lifestyles and requirements to draw on the uniqueness of each individual in order to design the best possible solutions for them. We draw upon architectural precedents, our own extensive design and construction experience, but most of all from the client's themselves." His relationship with clients is based on fully understanding and appreciating their goals and exceeding their expectations.

Each home is uniquely tailored in design for each unique client. For example, the requirements for a home and the

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considerations for the use of space vary greatly for young families versus middle-aged families versus empty-nesters. A young family might require a large mudroom off the garage for a space the kids can drop all their belongings on the way inside at the end of the day, whereas a mature couple would be more concerned with long-term accessibility in the home. Bandiera says the design also has to evolve with the family as it ages. He explains, "Most homes we design today do not reflect any one style but rather, like our clients, our homes draw from experiences from many styles,



personalities and cultures”.

Throughout the design and planning process, Bandiera takes a personal approach and is very involved. From handling the very first call from the client, to doing all the design work, to attending all meetings, the work is never delegated to a staff member until it is in production, at which time it becomes a group effort. He says, “Every member of the team, from Engineering Consultants to our devoted Technical Staff, is fully invested in putting only the best possible work out to permit, tender, and construction.” Bandiera demands an extremely high level of professionalism in himself and the other members of his team.

Frank Bandiera Architect creates what he calls a dialogue on paper with various

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design sketches and themes that explore the various aspects of his clients’ lifestyles with a focus on how the client will use the home on a daily basis, Bandiera delves into their habits, their entertaining style, and their hobbies and passions. By getting to know the client on a close personal level, he is able to really design the home specifically for them. Further, he notes, “There is also a desire with some clients to live greener and to that end we design with a lot of natural elements and the most efficient building systems available in an effort to make the houses sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint.”

The planning process can take weeks before getting it right, but it ensures that the design is thoroughly considered before being finalized. From there, Bandiera



continues to provide the client with personal attentive service right through the permit stage into construction, making site visits to work out the details and even offering assistance with interior finishes. Throughout the process, Frank Bandiera, his Technical Staff and team of Consultants consider themselves to be the client's representatives, always working on their best behalf both financially and aesthetically.

While a large focus for the company is custom residential work, they also have a reputation for their Barrier-Free renovations for people who have been injured and are physically restricted in their homes. Since 1998, they have developed a comprehensive expertise in home modifications for accessibility including interior modifications to fully wheelchair accessible custom homes.

Furthermore, the company specializes in corporate interior designs where they use their creativity to bring unique corporate spaces to life. They try to avoid the typical corporate style by using a quasi-industrial palette of colours and materials to create energetic working environments.

Overall, the firm will only take on



projects that they know they can handle in a time frame that is reasonable for the client's goals. As an entirely referral-based business, Frank Bandiera Architect finds that, if necessary, clients are willing to wait to work with his firm because of their solid reputation and exceptional past clients' testimonials.

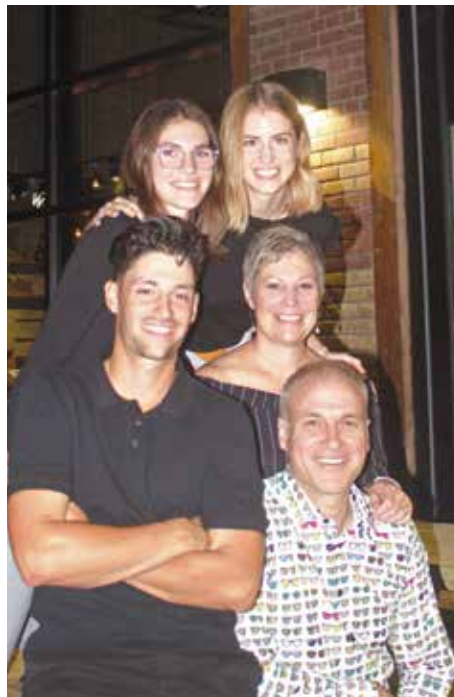
Excellence in home design is what makes the home stand out from the crowd because of its stylistic appeal. Often times people walk through a building and don't necessarily know what they admire about it, but they have a comfortable feeling while being in the space and they find it visually appealing and calming.

In 25 years of architectural design, Frank Bandiera Architect notes that design excellence ultimately comes down to the



client's happiness. When they have understood the client's needs and desires and analyzed the use of space in terms of the client's expectations, the resulting project makes for a serene living environment for the homeowner. The team's ultimate goal is to provide the client with an architecture that provides a flexibility to achieve convenience, comfort, and sensory pleasure through environmentally responsible design and detailing.

Over the past 25 years of practice, it is the firm's devotion to the Single Family Custom Home that has earned it recognition in this highly competitive and creative market place and has attributed to its success over the past quarter century.



Frank Bandiera and his family, with wife Flavia and children, Marco, Daniela and Giuliana.

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