

# Builder/Architect



Colour Your World  
with  
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By Lisa Fattori



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Stadium T Building combines innovative architecture with a tapestry of vibrant colours to create one-of-a-kind homes. The company's "Orange House" and "Blue House," as they are now known, have created a buzz of excitement among architects, tradesmen and passers-by who stop to marvel at these stunning homes.

These colourful creations are the work of José and Selma Oliveira who emigrated to Canada from their native Brazil just three years ago. The couple and their two children lived in Sao Paulo, where José was C.F.O. of the largest construction company in Brazil for 20 years. Selma, the artistic talent of the two, is a professional architect who had a thriving business in Brazil, designing and building luxury homes. The couple continues to build homes in Brazil, and spends approximately 10 days a month there, overseeing projects.



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The Oliveira's decision to export their expertise to Canada has been a breath of fresh air for the local home building industry. The family settled in Willowdale, and started Studium T Building to showcase Selma's unique designs. The company has completed two homes, and is currently designing a third home in vibrant green, which is also planned for the Willowdale area.

"We chose Toronto because it is a big city with a large population, which is what we were used to in Brazil," says José Oliveira. "The multi-cultural, metropolitan city is more our style."

Studium T Building's first Toronto project was the Oliveira's family home on Princess Avenue in the Yonge and Sheppard area. The \$1.3 million infill home was completed in 2002. From the home's clean and elegant design, to the bright orange stucco exterior, there is no denying that this is the work of Selma Oliveira. The use of colour in minute architectural details and finishes creates harmony between form and aesthetics, for

an end result that is breathtaking.

“We are used to the colourful homes of a tropical country,” Oliveira says. “We are adapting our culture to Canada, and, already, we are recognized for building homes that are different.”

Oliveira says that Canadian homes all have a similar look, and that “Selma likes to be different.” Rather than conform to the dreary hues and cookie-cutter designs of typical Canadian homes, the Oliveiras maintained their creative integrity and gave a splash of colour to this Toronto suburb.

The orange exterior of the Oliveira’s home is complemented by interior features and finishes that streamline the look of the home. Marble floors include orange tiles for a striking geometric pattern. An interior wall is painted the same orange as the home’s exterior, and the kitchen backsplash is a colour mosaic of imported tiles from Brazil. Even vanity mirrors in bathrooms are bordered with mosaic tiles, and the master ensuite features half walls of tiles with green and orange accents.

“We are very focused on finishes; they must match with the house to give the home personality,” Oliveira says. “We’ve incorporated some of the details that we use in Brazil, and that includes bringing the colour inside.”

Custom interior finishes include hardwood floors with marble borders, art niches and bleached maple, built-in shelving in José’s office. Windows are large and expansive to let in cascading light, and narrow blocks of windows both vertical and horizontal add architectural interest. Even walk-in closets have skylights so that clothing can be seen in natural light.

“We like homes to have a lot of light,” Oliveira says. “With big windows and skylights, you don’t need to turn on any lights during the day.”

Stadium T Building’s special brand of luxurious living can be found at another Willowdale neighbourhood that showcases the company’s “Blue House.” Selma applied the same principles of colour and design to create an eye-catching residence like none other. This time, she chose a palette of Monet blue for the exterior, with accents of the same





rich colour for interior finishes.

The five bedroom home features the same outstanding finishes, including marble floors, gleaming hardwood flooring and extensive use of tiles with blue accents in the master ensuite.

A spectacular family room features a limestone fireplace that is flanked by floor-to-ceiling windows. Every detail is thoughtfully considered, including the fully finished lower level with guest room, bathroom, wet bar, fireplace, a cedar-lined sauna and cold room.

Again, the Oliveiras were innovative in their choice and positioning of windows. Blocks of vertical window panels were placed on top of one another to resemble whole sections of massive, two-storey windows. The symmetrical lines and window patterns are repeated in smaller windows and doors, as well as in the detailing of the double car garage doors.

The 5,000-square-foot home took seven months to complete, and is currently on the market for \$1.34 million. When completed, the house was unveiled at an open house that attracted more than 100 people, all bursting with accolades for the new design.

“Everyone loves the workmanship, and they are very accepting of the colour of the homes,” Oliveira says. “People still stop at our orange home and knock on the door, wanting to see inside.”

Stodium T Building has already established an A-list of sub-trades that work exclusively on high-end custom homes. The Oliveiras have worked with the same tradesmen in Brazil for 20 years, and they look forward to developing similar relationships with suppliers and subtrades in the GTA. The company is fully registered with Tarion Warranty Corporation.

In Latin, “Stodium” means studio, or small office, and it is a fitting name for a company that approaches each home that it builds as an artistic masterpiece. A tour through a home by Stodium T Building is a journey of discovery, where one is constantly delighted by imaginative architecture and detailed finishes at every turn.

“Selma is a true artist and everyone loves her designs,” Oliveira says. “My job is the accounting, the supervising of the job site and the business end of things. It’s a combination that makes for a very good partnership.” ■

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