

Blending Heritage with Modern Sophistication

By Bob de Wit, CEO, GVHBA



From contemporary kitchen renovations to remarkable whole-home transformations, the Ovation Awards recognize the work of some of the best new-home, renovation and design member companies in Metro Vancouver. Recognition as an Ovation Award finalist exemplifies the commitment of GVHBA members to construction and design excellence. Competition is intense and being named a winner represents a tremendous achievement.

At the 2017 Ovation Awards, Marino General Contracting Ltd (MGC) was nominated three times and took home all three wins, including Best Renovation over Three Million, for their latest

project an edgy outlook on a Vancouver classic: The Gables Estate.

The Gables Estate was built in 1929 for the President of B.C Electric, W.G Murrin, and his family. Throughout its 88-year history, the estate has only had three owners; falling into slight disrepair, this stately 10,595 square foot Tudor mansion in Vancouver's Southland's neighbourhood was meticulously restored; incorporating a beautiful blend of rich history with modern sophistication.

The homeowner and MGC agreed that the home should be restored to its original grandeur, paying homage to the Pacific Northwest, and demonstrating the value in restoring iconic Vancouver homes rather than demolishing them.

Local artists were hired to repair the molding and cornices, keeping the integrity of the original molding and hardwood flooring. Due to the age of the home, the plumbing, electrical, and heating required updating. Noting the environmental importance of having an energy efficient home, Fortis BC suggests using Renewable Natural Gas, which lowers your footprint without compromising comfort. MGC added radiant flooring heat throughout the main floor to create an atmosphere of warmth and comfort. Equipped with state of the art sound, lighting, and security technology compatible with smartphones, The Gables is a neoclassic revival with touches of modern elegance coming together to form this timeless beauty.

MGC advocates that the best thing about a heritage home is that, "you can experience the architectural intent of the home before the renovations start." It's a unique process which allows the homeowner to blend the intent of the home with their desired needs. "Everyone looks at the sports cars, but it is the collectibles that stand out in people's memories," says Steven Marino, a Project Manager at MGC. Inevitably, there are fewer and fewer over time. A heritage home will always be a classic, and anything installed in a new home can be added to an existing structure. The Gables is a case study on how old and new can coexist effortlessly.

The Ovation Awards are dedicated to acknowledging quality and excellence in our industry. Explore more award-winning homes at www.ovationawards.ca. ■



Bob de Wit is the CEO of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association (GVHBA), representing the residential construction industry in the Greater Vancouver Area. The GVHBA established in 1974, is a not for profit society, with 1,000+ members, and is proudly affiliated with the provincial and national Canadian Home Builders' Associations. You can reach Bob at bob@gvhba.org.