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Bella Torre Homes Responds to Homeowners' New Needs

Bella Torre Homes | Houston, Texas



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By **Kathy Bowen Stolz**

Home has never been more important to Houstonians dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic than during this past year.

As those homes became the families' offices, school rooms and gyms in addition to eating and sleeping places, many homeowners are focused on making their homes a more desirable place to live and work as they spend most of their time at home.

Mike Taubin, owner of Bella Torre Homes, is happy to take on the challenge of helping Houstonians create their dream home, whether it's with new construction, renovations or expanded version of their current homes.

And he is winning PRISM awards from the Greater Houston Builder Association along the way for his designs and craftsmanship in both new construction and remodeling. In fact, he said he tries to execute every project on a high-enough level to enter it into a competition.

Although Bella Torre (which means "beautiful tower" in Italian) will build anything the homebuyer desires, the company's purpose is to translate the homeowner's dream into something tangible that will be timeless, according to Taubin. Most of its homes, which are in the million-dollar plus range in the desirable Inner Loop neighborhoods, feature open and airy living areas, ideal for a homebuyer who loves to entertain.



Also front and center is the company’s focus on honesty, integrity, quality and accountability from top to bottom within its organization. “We put extra attention on detail and take great pride in not having to return to our homes for warranty work. Consequently, we receive great referrals from our clients!” Taubin exclaimed.

This year he’s really excited about his speculative homes’ projects, which incorporate the latest, most innovative technology, such as enhanced sound systems and programmable light switches, into the integrated electronics systems. “All of the electronics can communicate with the rest of the house -- the equivalent of a fully loaded luxury car but for your home,” he said.

He’s also incorporating health and well-being into the homes’ designs. Homebuyers, who have spent more time than ever in their homes during the past year, want saunas, steam rooms, dedicated work-out spaces, high-quality air systems and whole-house water filtration systems, Mike said.

They also want larger pantries -- pantries large enough to hold a second refrigerator and the myriad of appliances that clutter most kitchen counters -- allowing the kitchen to seem clean to drop-in visitors. He’s also adding in-suite bathrooms to home offices to accommodate those many, many people now working from home.

For the last few years Taubin has expanded its portfolio beyond new construction to include remodeling projects





throughout Houston. Recently it expanded again to include kitchen and bathroom renovations. Approaching 10 years as a business, Bella Torre Homes now generates about 40 percent of its business from remodeling projects. “Remodeling can be very rewarding. It’s very gratifying to give clients their vision,” he noted.

“With every project I think about what features I would want to come home to. I am constantly looking at the newest projects in other cities, taking inspiration from the best of the best but making them my own. I am known for my creative use of space, using every inch [of space] available. I can take an ordinary space and make it something really special.”

Some of those projects add square footage while others update living areas to include the amenities of new homes, including indoor-to-outdoor spaces, without moving perimeter walls. Some of those clients had just moved into their homes while others lived in their homes for 10 years and don’t want to uproot their families to move into a bigger, better home.

“A lot of clients are trying to figure out how to make a second office at home. They’re starting to inquire about ADUs [accessory dwelling units], which are stand-alone rooms in the backyard so a homeowner can work from



home without the family interruptions. They're not as expensive as you'd think, especially when compared to renting office space. Think of them as the new 'she shed or man cave,'" he added.

Taubin advises, "Most people should plan to spruce up their homes every 10-12 years to keep them current and to fully enjoy their home. People should plan and prepare for their renovations, setting aside funds so they will have the money to allocate to update their homes."

He continued, "Remodeling demands extra steps [compared to new construction]. You make assumptions and plans based on the age of the home, but you need to be ready when you open the space and discover the structure was built using older standards. Contractors need to be transparent and have good lines of communication with their clients during the remodeling process."

He especially prides himself on his lighting design, "layering light" by using multiple different light sources on dimmers to provide the cozy yet luxuriant feel of a five-star hotel lobby. "Layering light is not expensive, but it takes experience to execute it correctly," Mike said.

Another feature many homeowners seek in their new

or renovated homes is enhanced outdoor living spaces, which allows them to blend the outdoors with the indoors and expand their entertaining space. Taubin prefers to oversee the entire process, whether it's landscaping or pool construction, because he said those projects are typically extensions of interior remodeling, and he understands the clients' vision. His oversight guarantees cohesiveness and quality.

He is excited to offer automated pergolas. These louvered roofs, which are watertight and easy to clean, can be operated remotely. He noted that they are 30 percent stronger than the closest competitor, strong enough, in fact, for someone to walk on the louvers without falling through. Bella Torre Homes is the only authorized dealer in the Houston area.

*You may contact Bella Torre Homes
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by calling 713-570-6197 or
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