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Damian Derby Of Carrera Custom Homes
Rite Of Passage



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By Mary Lynn Mabray, ASID

“A rite of passage is a ceremonial, societal, religious or philosophical change from one norm to another greater norm with deeper meaning and convictions,” as is my understanding of this philosophical discussion with the very interesting, humorous, intelligent Damian Derby of Carrera Custom Homes.

“The goal in my life’s work in building beautiful luxury homes is creating the perfect life-nurturing environment for my clients where memories of special events last a lifetime,” stated Damian. He understands the human condition of people.

Building a home is all about creating memories for homeowners. That is the real reason people build or buy a custom home. They see themselves living day-to-day life in those spaces, making memories. It might be the first steps

of a baby or grandchild, graduation, or even a wedding celebration. Life’s memories range from outstanding to the depths of despair.

Damian Derby understands that fact about life and wants his homes to become a family’s sanctuary that will comfort emotions. That is the reason there is so much attention to detail in Carrera Custom Homes. From the selection of the lot to the effort to place that home on the lot in such a way as to have beauty to look at from each vantage point from room to room.

Every home has beautiful materials and finishes, all top of-the-line from the selections of countertops, woods, paint finishes, hardware, stone, roofing materials, and even the landscaping. Carrera Custom Homes is in a league all its’ own.



Damian feels that beauty should exist in every home. Websters Dictionary defines beauty as a combination of qualities, such as shape, color, form and function, that pleases the aesthetic senses. This definition defines the philosophy of a Carrera Home. Remember that word when you search for a builder to create a custom home for your family.

Beauty is much more than its definition. That is the reason there is extreme beauty in every historical monument, home, castle, estate, the iconic coliseum in Rome from the Parthenon in Athens, Greece to the Great Pyramid of Giza through history to the Eiffel Tower in France and Buckingham Palace, in London, England.





The great architectural “thinkers” of Greek beauty are Phidias and Konstantinidis. We still see their influence today in architecture, especially in our buildings in Washington, DC, where Congress convenes in the United States Capitol, and the White House, designed by James Hoban and is a Neoclassical world-recognized symbol of the United States and is the very essence of freedom. Beauty means many things and relates to all subjects, buildings, and construction worldwide. The massive works of the Renaissance are all about beauty. Damian knows and understands them well. They were the percussor to the Industrial Revolution.

Americans consider Frank Lloyd Wright the father of American architecture, and why? His homes are still the definition of beauty and integrating the natural environment into a home. Nature and beauty work together. Fallingwater, the Guggenheim, and the Robie House are considered three of his most influential works, 21st century architects still draw inspiration from the execution of the perfect nature of beauty.

Modern architecture is a mixture of the Le Corbusier and the Bauhaus movement, where “form follows function”. In the US we have such luminary architects as Phillip Johnson, who drew inspiration from the work of the German architect Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe. “The Glass House” is considered one of Phillip Johnson’s most memorable works of art. Robert Stern is known for his study of post-Modernism, and how it can be applied in residential design



to create beautiful homes.

Beauty and the appreciation of historical value are fundamental to Damian Derby’s identity and the homes he constructs. His career in construction commenced by working alongside his homebuilder father, which laid the foundation for his passion. Damian further honed his skills by obtaining a master’s degree in architecture from Texas Tech School of Architecture.

Damian’s extensive architectural training and profound grasp of history empower him to craft homes that exude timeless elegance. His ability to seamlessly accommodate client changes and requests is a testament to his expertise. His portfolio includes collaborative built works in Texas and Michigan, as well as contributions to planned university projects in the United Arab Emirates and



Senegal. In Houston, he has made his mark by designing commercial buildings, church sanctuaries, schools, and even movie theaters. Damian's construction ventures extend to distinguished subdivisions in Houston, such as River Oaks, West University, and Memorial, as well as estates in Richmond. Most recently, he has embarked on several building projects on Lake Jackson.

Damian is a deep thinker, a second-generation builder, and truly understands what a custom home means to homeowners. At Carrera Custom Homes, they have defined the art of luxury. His personal philosophy is to design with the end in mind, as a writer would with a screenplay or a book. He endeavors to build custom homes that families can and will enjoy for generations along with a legacy of memories to enjoy.

Damian is a versatile builder skilled as an architect, with knowledge and talents ranging in traditional, modern, contemporary, French Country, Mediterranean, and Italian styles. Known for his beautiful and functional homes, he tells a story through his designs, envisioning spaces where families create lasting memories. With the ability to both imagine and produce results, Damian celebrates the essence of family life, crafting homes that are cherished and adaptable. His creations are more than just structures; they are living testimonies to love, joy, and the journey of life.





Carrera Custom Homes

Let us build "your custom home"

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