



The condo of Toronto's condo king



LEANNE DELAP
IN HOUSE

Brad Lamb is trading in his splashy mid-town penthouse

Brad Lamb's bachelor penthouse is such a guy zone, the pendant fixture above his breakfast table is, er, a little over-the-top with sexual imagery. Like many of the vases and fixtures in the penthouse space, the light is organic and undulating. It also looks like a glob of liquid.

"My friends call it the sperm light," says Mr. Lamb, Toronto's most famous condo broker. "I do tend to like things masculine." After all, this is a man who buys billboard advertising (and space on garbage cans) around town that shows his head stuck on a sheep. He has to have some unshakeable confidence. His eponymous real estate sales company does both new projects directly with developers and resale.

The walls of the 2,020-square-foot, two-floor loft on Stuart Street are painted an intense chocolate brown and — the whimsy of the sperm light (actually a giant white ball that looks like it's been pulled like taffy into an uvula shape) aside — the furnishings are pretty simple and boxy and classic: again, very no-fuss guysville.

He bought this unit when the original purchaser reneged. "I had managed to talk the developer into putting a pool on the roof; no one had done a private roof pool before, and it pissed me off the opportunity was going to waste."

Mr. Lamb then set about redesigning the space to his personal specifications. The elevator opens to the sev-

enth floor, which serves as an entranceway to a very large bedroom. He has oriented the shower and tub at the foot of the bed. The tub has a cool gizmo that can turn it into a floorshow: water cascades from the ceiling in a mighty stream. A walk-in closet holds Mr. Lamb's dozens of suits.

He has started to redefine his image as part of the reality series pilot he has filmed, called, unsurprisingly, *The Broker*.

He likes TV, he says, "but it all moves so slowly; I'm used to my life moving fast."

A small study completes the entry floor.

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A view of Brad Lamb's Stuart Street penthouse from the pool. It cost about \$250,000 to construct it and to reinforce the roof. No one had done a private roof pool before, he says, and he didn't want to pass up the opportunity.



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A pool-side view of the CN Tower, left. Above, Mr. Lamb in the living room. Right, the terrace at night. 'You can't do a custom place in this city without stopping in constantly to keep your eye on things,' he says.



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Up a flight of stairs (he had to rip them out twice to get them right) is the penthouse floor, one large open space surrounded on two sides by floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on the enormous deck and pool area.

Mr. Lamb mostly uses the space for entertaining. "I never cook," he says, pointing to the space designed by Robinson Group. "My girlfriend will occasionally make something in there."

He admits he actually goes upstairs only a couple of times a week.

"Mostly, I work such long hours, I will come home and read in bed and then leave again in the morning."

Above the fireplace, he has hung a flat-screen television. And behind the dining room table is a large canvas by a friend's wife, commissioned for the space.

"There was not supposed to be this box here," he says, pointing out a large, dark-stained wooden structure over the table in which lights are placed. It covers a pipe that was incorrectly installed.

"I came in one day and the contractors had put a pipe in the middle of the room. You wonder what they're thinking, really. So we came up with this to fix it. But you can't do a custom place in this city without stopping in constantly to keep your eye on things."

Now, 2½ years after this space was completed, Mr. Lamb is going to play the contractor game again: He has bought the only double penthouse at the Tip Top Tailor building, which recently had a construction setback. He plans to move the furniture in his current home to his place in Montreal and start fresh again.

Well, you can always find another sperm light. But the pool will be something he'll miss.

"I was a competitive swimmer. Mostly, I'll come out at night for a swim."

There is also an outdoor shower; right now, the view in or out is blocked, so you can shower day or night with impunity.

"The place next door is building



The roof-top shower.



DONALD WEBER/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The dining room.

a private pool, for the developer himself, Peter Freed. And there is another now not far away. But it is impossible to convince a developer to put one of these in: This cost about \$250,000, for the pool and to reinforce the roof."

And like the good salesman he is, he smiles and delivers the closer. "A once in a lifetime opportunity. I had to take it myself."

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A view toward the seldom-used kitchen.



The master bedroom.