

# BORN TO BUILD



STORY **ANDREA COX**

PHOTO BY DON MOLYNEAUX

**ABOVE:** Dominic Urban, founder of Lukus Developments.

Some people are born with a love of building forged right into their soul. Take Dominic Urban, a home-grown Calgary boy who parlayed his construction, design and management skills into a locally-based, custom home building and design company, which is set to rock the Calgary and area home-building scene. "I really enjoy building homes for families," says Dominic. "It's what I grew up knowing." Dominic is a second-generation homebuilder. He grew up on the

job site, helping his dad, Eugene Urban, the founder of Urban Homes. "I've had the drive and passion to do it ever since." Although his love for building was strong, his route to owning and starting his own home-building business was circuitous. He initially chose a career in the IT industry. "I just wasn't happy with it and wanted to get back into home building," says Dominic. At that point his father took him under his wing to learn the management side of the business. He spent

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**RIGHT:** The custom-designed kitchen exhibits both beautiful lines and functionality. **BELOW:** Rendering of Lukus Developments' latest creation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKUS DEVELOPMENTS

eight years learning all aspects of the business and earning several accreditations, including Master Builder, Reno Mark and Built Green. Dominic then spread his wings, working for several different homebuilders, garnering more experience. A position with an international company took him to Latin America, where he taught Latin Americans how to build. He was involved with social housing projects in places like Cuba, Nicaragua and Panama City. The birth of Dominic's first child brought him back home. "That's when I started my own residential construction company and it has been crazy ever since." That was just over a year ago. To date the company is in the process of building three homes at Watermark at Bearspaw and is just putting the finishing touches on a stunning feature home in Springbank. "We've been going full tilt. I love it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKUS DEVELOPMENTS

**What is it that you love about homebuilding?** The thing that I have always loved about building homes is the visual progress from week to week. On custom client homes, the most rewarding aspects are seeing how happy the clients are at possession and growing a great relationship over the duration of the building process.

**What was the inspiration behind your company name?** I think that Cal Wenzel did a great thing naming his company after his son Shane, so I followed suit and named my company after my son Lukus, as he is my greatest accomplishment and motivation in life.

**What is your favourite thing to do in the fall?** Oddly enough, fall is my favorite season, cool nights and mornings, and warm afternoons. It's the perfect time to load the family and the trailer up and go to the mountains and take in the variety of colours. **OH**

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