



Dream windows and doors !



Established in the quietude of the Beauceron country side, there is a windows and doors manufacturer that has given itself a particular mission; to contribute to the realization of dream homes.

In fact, Oslo windows and doors has developed a particular niche with an enviable reputation in North America in the sector of architectural millwork aimed at high end residential projects. Working in close collaboration with the architects and designers of these super projects, Oslo must often use its creativity and ingenuity in order to realize very elaborate architectural concepts. Of uncompromised quality, through a careful choice of raw materials (mahogany, oak, teak...) and an experienced work force, the products offered by Oslo have convinced the most exacting customers, in Canada as well as in the United States, from New England to California. Oslo has among its satisfied customers such prestigious names as John Cougar Mellencamp, Barbara Walters, Eddie Murphy and, closer to home, Guy Laliberté and Paul Desmarais.

It is with passion that Mr Germain Marier, president of Oslo speaks of his company and the projects



accomplished so far, a few of which are presented here. Mr Marier was not always in the woodworking sector. In fact, after his university studies, he had worked in different administrative positions in the public sector. Woodworking was more of a hobby, a way to handle his stress.

However a passion was born with a dream to, one day, have his own shop. Never would he have imagined being able to give such breadth to the company he began in 1978. He built through the years, assisted by his wife and his associate, a solid organization that employs over 30 people in a 14,500 sq. ft modern facility .



M. Marier shares this success with his personnel, many of whom are with him since the beginning. He can count on a team of professional artisans that adhere to the company's goals and are not afraid of adapting to new technology.





Mr Francis Boutin, Mr Germain Marier (Oslo) and Mr Normand Gagnon (Normand).

Alberti's POLAR CN machining centre

With its latest expansion, Oslo wished to increase productivity but was also looking for greater flexibility in the realization of often different and complex jobs. Precise criteria were established such as: machining of curved parts (elimination of over a hundred jigs); reduction of inventory and space required for current products; Just-in-Time production; computer network integration, etc. The solution was the acquisition of a CN work center able to machine on 5 axes. After a complete analysis, it was the Alberti POLAR that best answered the criteria.

In addition to a very solid mechanical construction and a big table surface, this machine offers great flexibility thanks to its unique principle of the operating head pivoting on 360 degrees. The movement of the head is combined with the inclination of the 10HP electrospindle to enable the machining on 5 axes. To this is added a tool magazine that can even accept a blade with a 300 mm diameter. An important factor for Oslo was that the



Piece being machined.



A realization of Oslo.

machine could also do deep mortising at angle directly with the electrospindle instead of with a less reliable mechanical aggregate.

On the computer and programming front, Oslo had very specific demands. Already since 1983, they were using CAO software for the conception of their products. Today, the conception, the production as well as the administration work through a network. Each piece produced is thus identified and everyone can, at any moment, verify information on any given project. The Polar was easily integrated to the network since it is operated on an IBM compatible computer using a Windows environment. The programming software is greatly appreciated by Oslo because of the user friendliness of the ALBATROS software letting the user exploit all the advantages of the machine.

According to Mr Marier, the flexibility of the POLAR enabled them to regroup, on this machine, all the special jobs and specifically curved parts destined to the manufacture of complex units, thus eliminating the use of practically all jigs. The acquisition of the Polar combined with a solid reorganization based on lean manufacturing principals enabled them to double production in less than a year.

By its dynamism, Oslo Windows and Doors intends to remain on the cutting edge of modern management and production techniques while continuing to listen to and thus better serve its very particular clientele. The Normand team is proud to contribute to this success and wishes them good luck.