



Conrad Black's \$21M Toronto Mansion Up for Auction

Despite your opinion of Conrad Black, there's no denying the media mogul/convicted felon is no stranger to living large. Due to changing circumstances, however, he and wife Barbara are ready to say goodbye to the Toronto mansion they call home, which will be auctioned off in March 2016. Take a look inside.

By Brent Furdyk



Bridle Path Beauty

Located at 26 Park Lane Circle in Toronto's chi-chi Bridle Path neighbourhood, the 23,000-square-foot mansion, sitting on 6.6 acres of prime Toronto real estate, has been the Black family home for 65 years, and has never before been on the market.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



A Grand Entrance

The front door of the home is as grand and imposing as you'd expect from a home with nine bedrooms, 11 bathrooms and its own indoor pool.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Living Large

"It is a big house for two people," Black said of the home he wishes to sell. "We will be abroad a good deal, and moving to a more manageable home will be a convenience to us now as our careers have evolved. Auction is the best way to achieve this end, as it sets the timeline on what will be, in physical terms, a large relocation."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Magnificent Georgian Estate

The Georgian-style home was crafted and constructed by famed architect Thierry W. Despont, with this spacious foyer serving as an appropriately grand entrance.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Extensive Art Collection

Income Property designer Melissa Davis once worked on the Black home early in her career. One of the things she found most striking about the home was "how extensive and valuable their private art collection was," she says. "This was my first experience with wealth at this level and I'd not considered a private home would offer me the same meandering art walks as a gallery. When I saw the Warhol of Conrad's head in the upper hall, I nearly fainted."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



An Extraordinary Property

“Our firm has sold fine homes around the world, but this is one of the most extraordinary properties we’ve had the pleasure to represent,” said Mike Russo, vice president of Concierge Auctions, which is handling the sale of the home. “From the design aesthetic to the family history to its bevy of distinguished guests, 26 Park Lane Circle is a remarkable estate in one of Canada’s most sought after neighbourhoods. The chance to own here is rare and should be seriously considered by luxury buyers globally.”

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Traditional Aesthetic

Melissa Davis describes the home's design aesthetic as traditional through and through. "It's a traditional home, in its truest form," she says. "A home built on tradition, with the decades layered on top one another, telling quite a story in the process."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Three-Storey Foyer

The thee-story foyer, complete with a grand staircase, impeccably detailed moulding and an ornate chandelier.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Coordinating Textiles

One of the "quirkier" jobs Davis encountered while working on the Black homed was to "coordinate with a textile specialist in Europe. The family purchased a former Pope's chair to take centre stage at the entry to the mausoleum and it was in need of re-tasseling. I had to painstakingly sketch the finer details of the deep red trim and send it off for them to emulate."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Dining Room

The formal dining room has hosted many a posh dinner party, with Lord and Lady Black welcoming such guests over the years as Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher, Henry Kissinger, the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Elton John and many other prominent figures.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Kitchen

The kitchen is surprisingly sleek and modern, yet blends into the home's classic design aesthetic.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Rooms With A View

The home has ample windows throughout, allowing rooms to be flooded with natural light.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Library

Among the rooms Davis helped design is this striking library. "The house is traditional without a doubt and the library in particular I really enjoyed. A space as grand and steeped in tradition as this is so rare in Canada." She adds: "The scale of the library and dedication to a space of this kind. Since that time I've worked on comparable homes, but these days people express wealth with luxuries like indoor pools and bowling allies. I was impressed then and still am today that they opted for a room filled with learning and history."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Paying Homage

"I wanted to pay homage to the books and all that already existed in the space," says Davis of the library's design. "The original architect from London also started the tradition of using Farrow and Ball paints, which at that time 17 years ago had not yet become commonplace here."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Master Bedroom

A large and looming four-poster bed is the focal point of the master bedroom.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Sitting Area

A comfy couch has been set up facing the window in the master bedroom in order to take advantage of the view of the 6.6-acre grounds.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Master Bath

The master bathroom is definitely a designer's dream, understated yet undeniably elegant.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Dressing Room

Closets hidden behind mirrored doors surround are part of this dressing room, outfitted with a makeup table.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



The Chapel

The chapel—which was called the mausoleum when Melissa Davis worked on it—has been consecrated by two Cardinals. "The mausoleum was to be a peaceful place, used then as a meditation hall, and what would be a place to visit family once they passed," says Davis. "The palate and choices were calm and earthy."

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Wood-Burning Fireplaces

There are several wood-burning fireplaces throughout the house.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Stately Elegance

You could film a scene in 'Downton Abbey' in this room without having to change much.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Indoor Pool

The ultimate in upscale luxury living: a large indoor swimming pool.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)



Room to Ramble

With nine bedrooms and 11 bathrooms, there's a lot of room to ramble around throughout the massive mansion.

Image courtesy of [Concierge Auctions](#)