

KAYU CANADA INC.

DELIVERS THE CLASSIC LOOK OF MAHOGANY

by **HEATHER RYAN**



To create a truly gorgeous and timeless deck, fence, gazebo, floor and more, you need to start with quality materials that will give you a classic look that will last for years.

For this reason many of the country's best builders, contractors, deck builders and landscapers turn to the wood products offered by Kayu Canada, specifically Red Balau Batu and Dark Red Meranti, because "it's the best choice for getting the classic look of Mahogany," says Kayu Canada president Jim Labelle.

Take a walk on the pathways of the new redeveloped Devonian Gardens downtown, which opened in June, and you'll feel the richness of the Red Balau Batu that Kayu Canada supplied. It's an experience you won't want to miss as the wood is as fabulous looking as the gardens.

Labelle first became aware of Red Balau Batu over 20 years ago when he saw it on the decking of a cruise ship. "Red Balau Batu, (also called Philippine Mahogany), has been used for boat building and decking in Europe and the

U.S. for many years; it's a great outdoor wood that gives you the look of Mahogany and is durable enough to stand up to Canada's harsh winters, so I started bringing it in from Indonesia and Malaysia to use in my construction company."

The product was so desirable that Labelle founded Kayu Canada Inc. to sell Red Balau Batu, Dark Red Meranti and Yellow Balau Batu to a broad range of clients, and is the No. 1 supplier of exotic hardwood in Canada. Kayu Canada stocks the woods and other accessories at warehouses in Calgary, Vancouver and Penticton, B.C.

"The woods have been used by Canada's best builders, landscapers and deck builders since 1994," Labelle says, and now many homeowners are seeing the value of using this luxurious wood and realizing that if they start with high quality wood their deck will last longer and look newer longer.

"These woods are definitely becoming a more popular choice for decking because it's priced competitively with the composites and clear cedar, they're able to withstand temperature and moisture differences year after year," Labelle says. This product is also resistant to abrasion, wear, dents and decay, and they're easy to maintain.

And the product also has many uses – beyond decks, fences and gazebos it can be used for siding, soffits, fascia, retaining walls, ceilings and hardwood floors.

Labelle is proud to have supplied Red Balau Batu for the Devonian Gardens, and silvered-out Yellow Balau Batu, "which is maintenance free and looks amazing" to the Calgary Soldiers' Memorial and Poppy Plaza that are part of the city's Memorial Drive: Landscape of Memory. As well, his wood has been used on many high profile jobs across Canada, including the award-winning Ultimate Renovations' showhome in Bonavista.

Your home can have the classic, elegant look of Mahogany inside and out. "If your builder doesn't know about this wood, let them know," Labelle says. "You don't want to be left out because it doesn't get any better than this."