

# REAL ESTATE INSPECTION AGREEMENT

**THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT - PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY**

Client: \_\_\_\_\_

Report #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION:** The real estate inspection to be performed for Client ("Client") is a survey and basic operation of the systems and components of a building which can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions, or requiring any action which may result in damage to the property or personal injury to the Inspector. The purpose of the inspection is to provide the Client with information regarding the general condition of the building(s).

Martin Hewitt, dba Camelot Home Inspection Services ("Inspector") will prepare and provide Client a written report for the sole use and benefit of Client. The written report shall document any material defects discovered in the building's systems and components which, in the opinion of the Inspector, are safety hazards, are not functioning properly, or appear to be at the ends of their service lives.

The inspection shall be performed in accordance with the Standards of Practice of the California Real Estate Inspection Association (CREIA<sup>SM</sup>), attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and is limited to those items specified herein.

**CLIENTS DUTY:** Client agrees to read the entire written report when it is received and promptly call Inspector with any questions or concerns regarding the inspection or the written report. The written report shall be the final and exclusive findings of Inspector. Client agrees to provide payment to Inspector in a prompt and timely manner prior to Inspector's issuance of the written report.

Client acknowledges that Inspector is a generalist and that further investigation of a reported condition by an appropriate specialist may provide additional information which can effect Client's purchase decision. Client agrees to obtain further evaluation of reported conditions before removing any investigation contingency and prior to the close of the transaction.

In the event Client becomes aware of a reportable condition which was not reported by Inspector, Client agrees to promptly notify Inspector and allow Inspector and/or Inspector's designated representative(s) to inspect said condition(s) prior to making any repair, alteration, or replacement. Client agrees that any failure to so notify Inspector and allow inspection is a material breach of this Agreement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:** Client agrees what is being contracted for is a building inspection and not an environmental evaluation. The inspection is not intended to detect, identify, or disclose any health or environmental conditions regarding this building or property, including, but not limited to: the presence of asbestos, radon, lead, urea-formaldehyde, fungi, molds, mildew, PCB's, or other toxic, reactive, combustible, or corrosive contaminants, materials, or substances in the water, air, soil, or building materials. The Inspector is not liable for injury, health risks, or damage caused or contributed to by these conditions.

**CHINESE DRYWALL EXCLUSION:** The Client specifically acknowledges that the Property Inspection will not and is not intended to detect, identify, disclose, or report on the presence of Chinese Drywall products or the actual or potential environmental concerns or hazards arising out of the existence of these products. Client agrees to hold the Company and Inspector harmless for any injury, health risk, or damages of any nature caused or contributed to by these products. Furthermore, Client acknowledges that any discussions regarding the actual or potential presence of Chinese Drywall are informative in nature only and that the Property Inspection Company and/or Inspector do not hold the Company or themselves to be experts pertaining to the potential concerns associated with Chinese Drywall.

**GENERAL PROVISION:** The written report is not a substitute for any transferor's or agent's disclosure that may be required by law, or a substitute for Client's independent duty to reasonably evaluate the property prior to the close of the transaction. The inspection Agreement, the real estate inspection, and the written report do not constitute a home warranty, guarantee, or insurance policy of any kind whatsoever.

No legal action or proceeding of any kind, including those sounding in tort or contract, can be commenced against Inspector/Inspection Company or its officers,

the exercise of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the cause of action. In no event shall the time for commencement of a legal action or proceeding exceed two years from the date of the subject inspection. **THIS TIME PERIOD IS SHORTER THAN OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.**

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their heirs, successors, and assigns.

This Agreement constitutes the entire integrated agreement between the parties hereto pertaining to the subject matter hereof and may be modified only by a written agreement signed by all of the parties hereto. No oral agreements, understandings, or representations shall change, modify, or amend any part of this Agreement.

Each party signing this Agreement warrants and represents that he/she has the full capacity and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the named party. If the Agreement is executed on behalf of Client by any third party, the person executing this Agreement expressly represents to Inspector that he/she has the full and complete authority to execute this Agreement on Client's behalf and to fully and completely bind Client to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, exceptions, and exclusions of this Agreement.

**SEVERABILITY:** Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be either invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, unimpaired by the court's holding.

**MEDIATION:** The parties to this agreement agree to attend, in good faith, mediation with a retired judge or lawyer with at least 5 years of mediation experience before any lawsuit is filed. All notices of mediation must be served in writing by return receipt requested allowing 30 days for response. If no response is forthcoming the moving party may then demand binding arbitration under the terms and provisions set forth below.

**ARBITRATION:** Any dispute, controversy, interpretation or claim including claims for, but not limited to, breach of contract, any form of negligence, fraud, or misinterpretation arising out of, from or related to, this contract or arising out of, from or related to the inspection or inspection report shall be submitted first to a Non-Binding Mediation conference and absent a voluntary settlement through Non-Binding Mediation to be followed by final and Binding Arbitration, if necessary, as conducted by Construction Dispute Resolution Services, LLC or Resolute Systems, Inc. utilizing their respective Rules and Procedures. If you would like to utilize the Mediation or Arbitration services of another dispute resolution provider other than one of those so stated please submit your recommendation to us for our consideration. If the dispute is submitted to Binding Arbitration, the decision of the Arbitrator appointed there under shall be final and binding and the enforcement of the Arbitration Award may be entered in any Court or administrative tribunal having jurisdiction thereof.

**NOTICE: YOU AND WE WOULD HAVE A RIGHT OR OPPORTUNITY TO LITIGATE DISPUTES THROUGH A COURT AND HAVE A JUDGE OR JURY DECIDE THE DISPUTES BUT HAVE AGREED INSTEAD TO RESOLVE DISPUTES THROUGH MEDIATION AND BINDING ARBITRATION.**

Client acknowledges having read and understood all the terms, conditions, and limitations of this Agreement and voluntarily agrees to be bound thereby and to pay the fee listed above

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Hewitt

# CREIA STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

## RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE - FOUR OR FEWER UNITS

### Part I. Definitions and Scope

These Standards of Practice provide guidelines for a *real estate inspection* and define certain terms relating to these *inspections*. *Italicized* words in these Standards are defined in Part IV, Glossary of Terms.

**A.** A *real estate inspection* is a survey and basic *operation* of the *systems* and *components* of a *building* which can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions, or requiring any action which may result in damage to the property or personal injury to the *Inspector*.

The purpose of the *inspection* is to provide the Client with information regarding the general *condition* of the *building(s)*. Cosmetic and aesthetic *conditions* shall not be considered.

**B.** A *real estate inspection* report provides written documentation of material defects discovered in the *inspected building's systems* and *components* which, in the opinion of the *Inspector*, are *safety hazards*, are not *functioning* properly, or appear to be at the ends of their service lives. The report may include the *Inspector's* recommendations for correction or further evaluation.

**C.** *Inspections* performed in accordance with these Standards of Practice are not *technically exhaustive* and shall apply to the *primary building* and its associated *primary parking structure*.

### Part II. Standards of Practice

A *real estate inspection* includes the *readily accessible systems* and *components* or a representative number of multiple similar components listed in SECTIONS 1 through 9 subject to the limitations, exceptions, and exclusions in Part III.

#### SECTION 1 - Foundation, Basement, and Under-floor Areas

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Foundation *system*
2. Floor framing *system*
3. Under-floor ventilation
4. Foundation anchoring and cripple wall bracing
5. Wood separation from soil
6. Insulation

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. *Determine* size, spacing, location, or adequacy of foundation bolting/bracing *components* or reinforcing *systems*
2. *Determine* the composition or energy rating of insulation materials

#### SECTION 2 - Exterior

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Surface grade directly adjacent to the *buildings*
2. Doors and windows
3. Attached decks, porches, patios, balconies, stairways, and their enclosures
4. Wall cladding and trim
5. Portions of walkways and driveways that are adjacent to the *buildings*
6. Pool or spa drowning prevention features, for the sole purpose of identifying which, if any, are present

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. *Inspect* door or window screens, shutters, awnings, or security bars
2. *Inspect* fences or gates or operate automated door or gate openers or their safety devices
3. Use a ladder to *inspect systems* or *components*
4. Determine if any pool/spa safety equipment, manufacturers' design standards or testing is sufficient or otherwise conforms to regulatory requirements or other applicable standards; determine if any drowning prevention feature of a pool or spa is installed properly or is adequate or effective. Test or operate any drowning prevention feature.

#### SECTION 3 - Roof Covering

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Covering
2. Drainage
3. Flashings
4. Penetrations
5. Skylights

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. Walk on the roof surface if in the opinion of the *Inspector* there is risk of damage or a *hazard* to the *Inspector*
2. Warrant or certify that roof *systems*, coverings, or *components* are free from leakage

#### SECTION 4 - Attic Areas and Roof Framing

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Framing
2. Ventilation
3. Insulation

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. *Inspect* mechanical attic ventilation *systems* or *components*
2. *Determine* the composition or energy rating of insulation materials

#### SECTION 5 - Plumbing

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Water supply piping
2. Drain, waste, and vent piping
3. Faucets and *fixtures*
4. Fuel gas piping
5. Water heaters
6. *Functional flow* and *functional drainage*

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. Fill any fixture with water, *inspect* overflow drains or drain-stops, or evaluate backflow *devices*, waste ejectors, sump pumps, or drain line cleanouts
2. *Inspect* or evaluate water temperature balancing *devices*, temperature fluctuation, time to obtain hot water, water circulation, or solar heating *systems* or *components*
3. *Inspect* whirlpool baths, steam showers, or sauna *systems* or *components*
4. *Inspect* fuel tanks or *determine* if the fuel gas *system* is free of leaks
5. *Inspect* wells or water treatment *systems*

#### SECTION 6 - Electrical

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Service equipment
2. Electrical panels
3. Circuit wiring
4. Switches, receptacles, outlets, and lighting *fixtures*

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. *Operate* circuit breakers or circuit interrupters
2. Remove cover plates
3. *Inspect* de-icing *systems* or *components*
4. *Inspect* private or emergency electrical supply *systems* or *components*

#### SECTION 7 - Heating and Cooling

A. Items to be *inspected*:

1. Heating equipment
2. Central cooling equipment
3. Energy source and connections
4. Combustion air and exhaust vent *systems*
5. Condensate drainage
6. Conditioned air distribution *systems*

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

1. *Inspect* heat exchangers or electric heating elements
2. *Inspect* non-central air conditioning units or evaporative coolers
3. *Inspect* radiant, solar, hydronic, or geothermal *systems* or *components*
4. *Determine* volume, uniformity, temperature, airflow, balance, or leakage of any air distribution *system*
5. *Inspect* electronic air filtering or humidity control *systems* or *components*

**SECTION 8 - Fireplaces and Chimneys**

A. Items to be *inspected*:

- 1. Chimney exterior
- 2. Spark arrestor
- 3. Firebox
- 4. Damper
- 5. Hearth extension

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

- 1. *Inspect* chimney interiors
- 2. *Inspect* fireplace inserts, seals, or gaskets
- 3. *Operate* any fireplace or *determine* if a fireplace can be safely used

**SECTION 9 - Building Interior**

A. Items to be *inspected*:

- 1. Walls, ceilings, and floors
- 2. Doors and windows
- 3. Stairways, handrails, and guardrails
- 4. *Permanently installed* cabinets
- 5. *Permanently installed* cook-tops, mechanical range vents, ovens, dishwashers, and food waste disposers
- 6. Absence of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- 7. Vehicle doors and openers

B. The *inspector* is not required to:

- 1. *Inspect* window, door, or floor coverings
- 2. *Determine* whether a *building* is secure from unauthorized entry
- 3. *Operate*, test or *determine* the type of smoke or carbon monoxide alarms or test vehicle door safety *devices*
- 4. Use a ladder to *inspect systems or components*

**Part 111. Limitations, Exceptions, and Exclusions**

**A. The following are excluded from a *real estate inspection*:**

- 1. *Systems* or *components* of a *building*, or portions thereof, which are not *readily accessible*, not *permanently installed*, or not *inspected* due to circumstances beyond the control of the *Inspector* or which the Client has agreed or specified are not to be *inspected*
- 2. Site improvements or amenities, including, but not limited to; accessory buildings, fences, planters, landscaping, irrigation, swimming pools, spas, ponds, waterfalls, fountains or their *components* or *accessories*
- 3. Auxiliary features of *appliances* beyond the *appliance's* basic *function*
- 4. *Systems* or *components*, or portions thereof, which are under ground, under water, or where the *Inspector* must come into contact with water
- 5. Common areas as defined in California Civil Code section 1351, et seq., and any dwelling unit *systems* or *components* located in common areas
- 6. *Determining* compliance with manufacturers' installation guidelines or specifications, building codes, accessibility standards, conservation or energy standards, regulations, ordinances, covenants, or other restrictions
- 7. *Determining* adequacy, efficiency, suitability, quality, age, or remaining life of any *building*, *system*, or *component*, or marketability or advisability of purchase
- 8. Structural, architectural, geological, environmental, hydrological, land surveying, or soils-related examinations
- 9. Acoustical or other nuisance characteristics of any *system* or *component* of a *building*, complex, adjoining property, or neighborhood
- 10. Conditions related to animals, insects, or other organisms, including fungus and mold, and any hazardous, illegal, or controlled substance, or the damage or health risks arising there from
- 11. Risks associated with events or conditions of nature including, but not limited to; geological, seismic, wildfire, and flood
- 12. Water testing any *building*, *system*, or *component* or *determine* leakage in shower pans, pools, spas, or any body of water
- 13. *Determining* the integrity of hermetic seals at multi-pane glazing
- 14. Differentiating between original construction or subsequent additions or modifications
- 15. Reviewing information from any third-party, including but not limited to; product defects, recalls, or similar notices
- 16. Specifying repairs/replacement procedures or estimating cost to correct
- 17. Communication, computer, security, or low-voltage *systems* and remote, timer, sensor, or similarly controlled *systems* or *components*

- 18. Fire extinguishing and suppression *systems* and *components* or *determining* fire resistive qualities of materials or assemblies
  - 19. Elevators, lifts, and dumbwaiters
  - 20. Lighting pilot lights or activating or operating any *system*, *component*, or *appliance* that is *shut down*, unsafe to *operate*, or does not respond to *normal user controls*
  - 21. *Operating* shutoff valves or *shutting down* any *system* or *component*
  - 22. Dismantling any *system*, structure, or *component* or removing access panels other than those provided for homeowner maintenance
- B. The *Inspector* may, at his or her discretion:
- 1. *Inspect* any *building*, *system*, *component*, *appliance*, or improvement not included or otherwise excluded by these Standards of Practice. Any such *inspection* shall comply with all other provisions of these Standards.
  - 2. Include photographs in the written report or take photographs for *Inspector's* reference without inclusion in the written report. Photographs may not be used in lieu of written documentation.

**Part IV. Glossary of Terms**

- Note: All definitions apply to derivatives of these terms when *italicized* in the text.
- Appliance: An item such as an oven, dishwasher, heater, etc. which performs a specific *function*
- Building: The subject of the *inspection* and its *primary parking structure*
- Component: A part of a *system*, *appliance*, *fixture*, or *device*
- Condition: Conspicuous state of being
- Determine: Arrive at an opinion or conclusion pursuant to a *real estate inspection*
- Device: A *component* designed to perform a particular task or *function*
- Fixture: A plumbing or electrical *component* with a fixed position and *function*
- Function : The normal and characteristic purpose or action of a *system*, *component*, or *device*
- Functional Drainage: The ability to empty a plumbing *fixture* in a reasonable time
- Functional Flow: The flow of the water supply at the highest and farthest *fixture* from the *building* supply shutoff valve when another *fixture* is used simultaneously
- Inspect: Refer to Part I, "Definitions and Scope", Paragraph A
- Inspector: One who performs a *real estate inspection*
- Normal User Control: Switch or other *device* that activates a *system* or *component* and is provided for use by an occupant of a *building*
- Operate: Cause a *system*, *appliance*, *fixture*, or *device* to *function* using *normal user controls*
- Permanently Installed: Fixed in place, e.g. screwed, bolted, nailed, or glued
- Primary Building : A *building* that an *Inspector* has agreed to *inspect*
- Primary Parking structure: A *building* for the purpose of vehicle storage associated with the *primary building*
- Readily Accessible: Can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions or requiring any action which may harm persons or property
- Real Estate Inspection: Refer to Part I, "Definitions and Scope", Paragraph A
- Representative Number: Example, an average of one *component* per area for multiple similar *components* such as windows, doors, and electrical outlets
- Safety Hazard: A *condition* that could result in significant physical injury
- Shut Down: Disconnected or turned off in a way so as not to respond to *normal user controls*
- System: An assemblage of various *components* designed to *function* as a whole
- Technically Exhaustive: Examination beyond the scope of a *real estate inspection*, which may require disassembly, specialized knowledge, special equipment, measuring, calculating, quantifying, testing, exploratory probing, research, or analysis

**Client acknowledges having read and understood the CREIA Standards of Practice and understands that the inspection is to be performed in accordance with these Standards**

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Hewitt

# ACTIVATION OF UTILITIES AND NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AGREEMENT

**THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT - PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY**

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVATION OF UTILITIES:** In order for Inspector to be able to properly inspect and test the property's systems and components, the gas, water, and electricity ("utilities") must be turned on or otherwise fully activated prior to the time of the inspection. In buildings that are vacant, it is not uncommon for one or more of the utilities to be turned off or otherwise deactivated. Due to liability and/or safety concerns, Inspector will not turn on or activate any utility, system, or component at the time of the inspection.

Client understands and agrees that it is Clients responsibility to ensure that the gas, water, and electricity will be activated at the time of the inspection, both inside and outside of the inspected structure(s). Unless damage or danger may result, all water and gas valves should be open, all gas pilot lights should be lit, and all electrical system components (panelboards, circuit breakers, etc.) should be activated.

If any of the utilities, systems, or components to be inspected are not activated at the time of the inspection and Client *is not* present at the inspection, Client understands that Inspector will proceed with the inspection as scheduled. If any of the utilities, systems, or components to be inspected are not activated at the time of the inspection and Client *is* present, Client has the option of having Inspector proceed with the inspection, or to cancel the inspection (**see "Notice of Cancellation" below**) and pay Inspector a fee equal to 50% of the fee ("fee") listed above. If any of the utilities, systems, or components to be inspected are not activated at the time of the inspection and Client and/or Clients agent(s) or legal representative(s) opt to proceed with the inspection, Client understands that Inspector will not return to the property at a later date for any further inspections, nor issue any additional written inspection reports, unless agreed upon in writing between Inspector and Client.

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION:** Client and/or Clients agent(s) or legal representative(s) may cancel the inspection up to 24 hours prior to the time of the inspection listed above ("Date and Time"). If, for any reason, foreseeable or unforeseeable, the inspection is cancelled or Inspector is otherwise instructed by Client and/or Clients agent(s) or legal representative(s) not to proceed with the inspection without first providing Inspector with 24 hours advance notice, Client agrees to pay Inspector a fee equal to 50% of the fee listed above.

To cancel a scheduled inspection, please call or text Inspector at 805-471-9447. To cancel by email, please email Inspector at [camelothis@charter.net](mailto:camelothis@charter.net). To cancel by fax, please fax Inspector at 805-832-6636.

By signing below, Client acknowledges having read and understood all the terms and conditions of this addendum to the Real Estate Inspection Agreement and voluntarily agrees to be bound thereby.

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Martin Hewitt