

New Homes

Discovery loops in customer, designer, builders to create a 'just right' home

Team effort

By Todd Lewys

IN business, teamwork pays off. Nowhere is that concept more important than in the design of a new home, where a collaborative effort between builder, sales representative and interior designer can take a design from good to great. That was the case with 141 Willow Creek Rd. in Bridgwater Trails, a.k.a. the New Haven, said Discovery Homes sales representative Sylvia Apostolakis.

"Everything we do at Discovery Homes is a team effort," she said. "I work with the general manager and drafts person on the home's design, and the interior designer also works with us on its design throughout the build, and then with the clients once the home is finished to get all the interior finishes just right. It's a process that works well. This home won a gold award in the Fall Parade of Homes."

That gold award is well-deserved due to the difficulty in making a home in excess of 2,500 sq. ft. feel warm and inviting. The New Haven, a 2,620-square-foot, two-storey design featuring an alluring Prairie-inspired theme, exudes that feel from the moment you step inside.

At the same time, the home oozes character because it's been infused with novel, well-placed design features.

"Take the foyer," Apostolakis said. "The fact that it's (taupe/beige) tile isn't that unique, but the fact that it's been laid in a herringbone pattern is. So too are the (opaque centre) sliding French doors that can be used to close off the den to the left of the foyer. They have beautiful curved (nickel) handles that are a standard feature."

The three-metre-long foyer merges seamlessly with the great room, which is an open-concept space that's been subtly divided into three separate areas. To the left is the family room; to the right is the island kitchen and adjacent dining area.

Space is abundant, a feature that can be attributed to the New Haven's generous size. At the same time, the balance between light and warmth is ideal.

"The ceiling in the great room is (2.75 metres), which allowed for the placement of two large windows in the family room and a



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huge window behind the dining area (along with a patio door that would provide access to a backyard deck)," she said. "There are windows everywhere, a feature that makes the New Haven an exceptionally bright home."

That natural brightness is tempered beautifully by a host of rich finishes, starting with the flooring that runs through the entire great room.

"It's actually distressed (red-brown) hickory," Apostolakis said. "It adds texture and warmth, and helps to make a large area feel cosy and inviting."

Then there are the other finishes, which combine to create a welcoming ambience that many king-sized great rooms lack.

"The kitchen features a 10-foot (taupe) granite island with a portobello maple base and pillars plus sink and seating for three," she said. "There's a wealth of portobello maple cabinets, all kinds of (taupe granite) counter space, and a beige cultured-stone backsplash really makes the cabinets stand out."

Meanwhile, the adjacent family room's focal point is an entertainment unit that's notable for its simple elegance: a gas fireplace set in a beige cultured-stone surround with floating oak mantel flanked on either side by portobello maple shelving with display niches above.

"It's an optional feature that caps off the great room in understated style," Apostolakis said. "There's also a wing off the kitchen with powder room and mudroom with bench and storage shelving on either side, as well as a door that provides access to the double attached garage. It's an area that families love for its functionality."

Families will love the second level, which matches — and possibly even surpasses — the main floor's level of functionality due to its user-friendly layout.

"There are four bedrooms, a main bath, laundry room and it also comes with a huge loft (with adjoining balcony and surround system)," she added.

"All three kids' bedrooms are larger than normal with huge closets and big windows. The master suite is huge and features a spa-like ensuite with soaker tub, custom tile shower, (beige) tile floor with river-rock inlay and (portobello) maple vanity with dual sinks."

While the show home version of the New Haven is filled with nearly \$150,000 worth of upgrades (including Hardie Board exterior and steel roof) and is priced at just under \$700,000, it can be had for considerably less, Apostolakis said.

"You can get the same great bright, spacious layout for under \$540,000 (including lot and GST) with basic finishes. No matter whether you go with all the upgrades or with basic finishes (high-end vinyl, carpet, laminate countertops, no entertainment unit, standard ensuite, standard shingled roof), you'll get a highly functional, inviting home that's a joy to live in."

With more than 3,600 sq. ft. of total living space — another 1,000 sq. ft. of livable space (one to two bedrooms, four-piece bath, rec room and storage) is available downstairs — the New Haven is a viable option for families looking for a home seamlessly blends luxury with livability.

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Details

BUILDER: Discovery Homes

ADDRESS: 141 Willow Creek Rd., Bridgwater Trails

MODEL: The New Haven

STYLE: Two-storey

SIZE: 2,620 sq. ft.

BEDROOMS: Four, plus loft

BATHROOMS: 2.5

PRICE: \$690,355 (Show Home); Starting at \$538,085

including basic finishes, lot & GST

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The kitchen, with its three-metre-long, granite-topped island, looks out over the family room, which includes a cultured-stone fireplace surround flanked by shelves and art niches.



Extensive use of windows is a signature element for the home, including the dining area, and provides for a feeling of airiness and space.



The home's four bedrooms, including the master suite, are oversized to create a feeling of luxury even for buyers who opt against the show home's extensive list of options.