

COMMANDS FOR YOUR COMMODE

Let's face it. We're all busy people with busy lives that need to be documented on social media, stat. And as busy people, the Smart Home movement can make our lives easier — the convenience of things like turning off all the lights in your home at once is undeniable.

Enter the Numi toilet by Kohler. Unveiled at this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the commode is compatible with Amazon's Alexa technology,



which means you can ask the virtual assistant to lift the toilet seat, prepare the bidet and even flush after using it.

The Numi has speakers and can access songs from your stored playlists, so you'll never have to use the toilet without the appropriate soundtrack. The toilet's interface, Kohler Konnect, allows for voice control and hands-free sensors on many of the company's new projects.

Postmedia News

GARAGE SIZE MATTERS

Arbutus Properties offers up four-car tandem option in new Ford model home

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

If you're among the many Saskatchewan people who can never have enough garage space, the newest model home by Arbutus Properties is sure to appeal.

The builder's new "Ford" model home, recently opened at 622 Meadows Blvd, features a four-car tandem garage.

"This new design was in response to the comments we received from multiple clients who are interested in having a larger garage," says Jody Minakakis, sales manager with Arbutus.

"A lot of the designs that come out of our Vancouver headquarters have smaller garages. When adapting some of those plans for Saskatchewan, we have expanded the garages. When we built our James show home for the Parade of Homes last summer, it featured a triple garage," says Minakakis.

"We wanted to do a house with a four-car garage that still fit within our view and our guidelines. That became the inspiration for the design of our new Ford model."

The Ford model home is a family-sized 2,133 square foot two-storey, with three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a huge bonus space over the garage.



Arbutus Properties' new "Ford" model home, at 622 Meadows Blvd., in The Meadows, will satisfy buyers who want a super-sized garage. The home offers a four-car, double-wide, double-deep attached garage. From the street, the garage looks like any other double garage. SCOTT PROKOP PHOTOGRAPHY

The home's west coast Craftsman-style exterior is eye-catching, featuring an inviting front porch, punctuated by "bulked out" columns trimmed with large stone. "We've had a lot of positive reviews. People really like the exterior of the home," says Minakakis.

From the street, the Arbutus model home appears to have a double garage. In reality, the garage is double-wide and double-deep, extending the full length of the house. "Even though it's a four-car garage, it doesn't dominate the look of the home," says Minakakis.

The idea of a four-car garage isn't limited to car enthusiasts, he adds. "It gives people so many options. If you need extra storage space, if you have a boat or an ATV you want to park, or plan to add a workshop, there's lots of flexibility in this garage."

Minakakis notes that there is lots of yard space to enjoy. "The house and the yard are well-proportioned. Because it's a two-storey home, we didn't have to use the full width of the lot. As with all of our homes, the front yard comes fully landscaped, including a concrete double driveway."

The interior of the home is equally impressive, starting with the open flow of the main floor great room. "The layout of the home is quite unique," says designer Jen Lapsiuk. "When you walk through the home, you see how functional and inviting all of the spaces are."

A large foyer leads into the living room, where the focal point is a cosy natural gas fireplace. A tumbled white marble tile surround offers the look of painted brick.

At the opposite end of the great room is a spacious galley-style kitchen. Lapsiuk describes the design theme as Craftsman Industrial. "There are hints of black in the light fixtures and the cabinet handles and pulls. They pop nicely against the painted white finish of the Shaker-style Fusion cabinets."

A large island, just under nine feet, was painted in a contrasting grey tone. White quartz counters top the island and lower cabinets.

Torlys wide-plank laminate flooring in a light oak tone extends throughout the great room, bringing warmth to the home's white walls and cabinetry.



The show home's 2,133-square-foot interior offers an enticing Craftsman Industrial design. The living room's focal point is a natural gas fireplace dressed with tumbled white marble tile. ELAINE MARK/D & M IMAGES



The spacious master suite includes a luxuriously appointed ensuite, including a custom-tiled, glass-enclosed walk-in shower, separate soaker tub and quartz-topped vanity. ELAINE MARK/D & M IMAGES

Triple-wide garden doors, measuring eight feet across, invite views of the back yard and adjacent park into the kitchen.

The home's second floor is ultra-spacious, thanks to the bonus room over the garage. "We've divided the upstairs into two living quarters. The bedrooms are grouped together on one side. On the other side is a huge multi-purpose bonus room, which is a wonderful family space for watching TV and playing games," says Minakakis.

The sleeping quarters include a large master bedroom with a custom walk-in closet and a luxurious ensuite, as well as two children's bedrooms. A big laundry room is central to all three bedrooms for added convenience.

The Ford model home at 622 Meadows Blvd. is priced at \$599,000, including all taxes. Arbutus will host an open house there this weekend from 1 to 3 p.m. For details, visit meadowsliving.ca, jarmstrong@postmedia.ca, twitter.com/jcasaskatoon



Arbutus Properties' designer Jen Lapsiuk brought the Ford's white kitchen fashion forward with the addition of a painted grey island and mismatched industrial designer light fixtures. ELAINE MARK/D & M IMAGES