

HOMES

KITCHEN: THE NEW LIVING ROOM

Kitchens appear to be more than just places to cook and eat these days.

Seemingly as an offshoot of open floor plans, a number of homeowners or condo dwellers are taking to the idea of adding living room furniture to the room people mostly used for making meals.

"I think the kitchen has become much less of a place to simply just prepare and cook meals, and more of a space for family and friends to gather and cook together



Couches in kitchens. DEVOL

and relax and chill out," Zoe Parker, PR manager for deVOL Kitchens, tells CountryLiving.com. "Quite a lot of our customers do have couches and seating areas in their kitchens."

By way of examples, sofas can be placed as a sophisticated way to divide spaces, while strategically located banquettes and couches can provide an instant breakfast nook.

Postmedia News

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SECTION E



PARADE OF HOMES

Arbutus brings West Coast contemporary to six-week event

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

It's a cavalcade of style and innovation! The 2017 Parade of Homes, presented by the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association (SRHBA), opened to the public on Aug. 8. The six-week event features 28 show homes constructed by 16 of city's leading home builders.

Parade homes are located across Saskatoon as well as in Martensville. Exploring the Parade is a chance to "try on and imagine your life" in new homes and new neighbourhoods, says Chris Guérette, SRHBA president and CEO.

Arbutus Properties has two entries in the Parade of Homes, located in The Meadows. At 610 Meadows Boulevard, Arbutus unveils its new James model home, a 2,020 square foot Craftsman-style two-storey.

Arbutus sales manager Jody Minakakis describes the home's interior as West Coast contemporary. Jen Lapsiuk, designer with Arbutus, created the home's inviting, relaxed ambience — akin to a sunshine-filled beach house. "Jen wanted to highlight natural materials in this home. You'll see a lot of natural stone, a lot of wood," says Minakakis.

Walnut is the new "it" wood, and it is showcased to perfection in the James.

Live edge walnut fireplace mantel, a dining room table and coffee table were crafted for the home by Beaver Creek Customs. Walnut accent shelves complement the two-tone painted cabinetry in the kitchen. Handsome walnut posts are featured in the glass-pannelled staircase leading to the

second floor. The ensuite's floating vanity offers a walnut ledge and furniture-style legs.

The kitchen is at the heart of the open concept layout at the James. "This model comes with an 11-foot island, which everyone loves," says Minakakis. The quartz-topped island features waterfall edges on both sides.

The cabinetry in the two-tone kitchen consists of white painted uppers that contrast with blue-grey lower cabinets.

"Jen also selected the gold tone accents which you're starting to see a lot more of on the West Coast. We went with champagne gold faucets and door pulls. The pendant lights over the island are also white with gold accents," says Minakakis.

Oversized triple pane windows create a light and airy feel. "When you're in the great room, you're getting light from all directions — 360 degrees, all around the house," says Minakakis.

The parade home's front entry is a spacious flex area set up as a home office, with a built-in desk and shelving. "Typically, with the James floor plan, the space is left open so clients can choose how they want to utilize the area," says Minakakis.

Three bedrooms and a large bonus room await on the second floor. The bonus space makes for an ideal media room or a kids' play area.

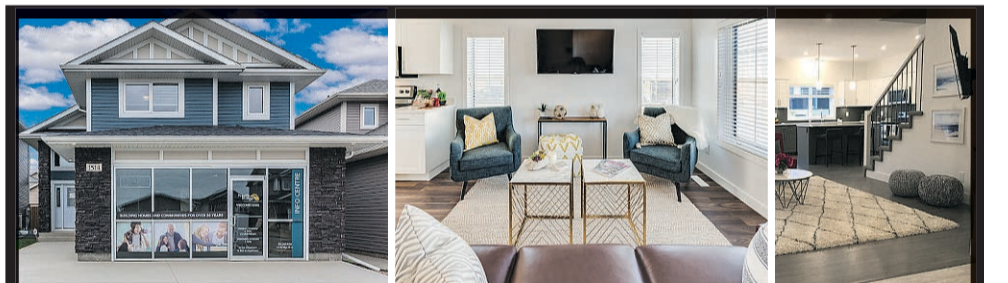
Both of the children's rooms are generously sized.

"We really wanted to make the kids' rooms unique. Each has an adventure theme."

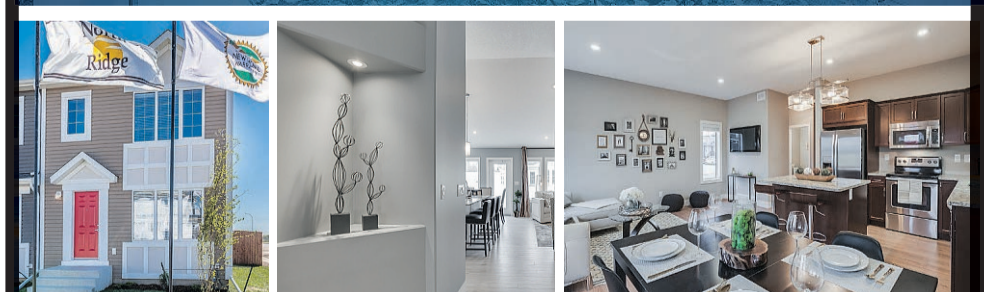
SEE CONTEMPORARY ON E3

Walnut is the new "it" wood, as seen in Arbutus Properties' Parade of Homes entry, located at 610 Meadows Boulevard. Arbutus designer Jen Lapsiuk added walnut accents throughout the show home, including a live edge walnut dining table and complementary fireplace mantel crafted by Beaver Creek Customs.

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The James, a 2,020-square-foot, two-storey home, is a new design for Arbutus, embracing West Coast contemporary style. PHOTOS: ELAINE MARK/D & M IMAGES

Home offers two covered decks, park views

CONTEMPORARY FROM **E1**

“The boy’s room has a functional climbing wall and climbing rope. The girl’s room has a hanging wicker chair, safari animals and a bunk bed,” says Minakakis.

Upon entering the spacious master bedroom, eyes are drawn to the shiplap feature wall echoing coastal influences. The large walk-in closet “is typical of Arbutus, with custom shelving and lots of hanging space,” says Minakakis.

Large windows in each bedroom offer views of the community park which extends along the back and one side of the yard. “The yard is completely landscaped, including two covered decks. We have a front veranda and a rear deck, both constructed from no-maintenance Trex composite decking,” says Minakakis.

This is the third consecutive year that Arbutus has participated in the Parade of Homes. “Every year, there’s more awareness about what we do. The Parade is a good way for builders and developers to feature new and upcoming products,” says Minakakis.

“This year, there will be four parade homes close together in The Meadows, which will bring in lots of walk-in traffic.”

Arbutus offers the James show home at 610 Meadows Boulevard; their Morris parade home is at 696 Meadows Boulevard. In between is Vinland Homes’ parade home at 618 Meadows Boulevard. Nearby, is Lexis Homes’ parade entry at 539 Pritchard Crescent.

Viewing hours for all 28 parade homes are from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. For more details about the Parade of Homes, visit www.paradeofhomesonline.ca.

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A large bonus room on the second floor of the James show home is an ideal space for a media room or children’s play area.



The parade home’s ensuite features accents of natural stone and wood. The floating vanity is topped with quartz and accented with a walnut ledge. The flooring is an elegant Nova Hex marble mosaic tile.



The master bedroom is bright and spacious. The shiplap feature wall is another expression of West Coast style.

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