

# HOMES

## MAKING SCENTS OF THE PANDEMIC

Employees are settling into their new work-from-home arrangements, and many are coming out smelling like roses — or vanilla, or any number of favourite scents aimed to perk up their days.

According to market research firm NPD Group, U.S. candle sales were up 13 per cent between April and June, compared to the same period last year.

The right essential oils could even help you be more productive.



Rosemary and sage can boost memory, while peppermint improves concentration, says Mark Moss, head of the psychology department at Northumbria University in the U.K. He recommends camomile, lemon balm or lavender for after work. “Research suggests that lavender can improve relaxation, and so work performance later is improved as the rest period is more effective.”

Melissa Hank

SASKATOON STARPHOENIX SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020

SECTION B



The Kent Laneway home offers a bright and sunny open-concept main floor, with a street-facing living room. Premium luxury vinyl plank flooring, in a light-toned woodgrain pattern, extends from the front entrance to the back door. PHOTOS: SCOTT PROKOP PHOTOGRAPHY

# LUXURY TOUCHES MADE AFFORDABLE

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

## Find comfort and style in Laneway Home Collection

Home buyers seeking luxury on a budget will be pleased with the newest additions to Arbutus Properties' Laneway Home Collection. The newly unveiled homes are located in Arbutus' master-planned community, The Meadows, in the Rosewood subdivision.

The Laneway Home Collection features three different Craftsman-style home plans, varying in size and price points to offer buyers the perfect fit for their budget and lifestyle.

Carried over for 2020 is the best-selling Morris, a 1,392-square-foot two storey priced at \$349,900.

“The Morris has always been very popular, but we wanted to be able to offer people a variety of different options and price points to choose from,” says Jody Minakakis, sales manager with Arbutus Properties.

The Audrey is slightly larger than the Morris at 1,478 square feet and offers a flex bonus room on the second floor as well as a larger kitchen pantry, rear entrance mud room and a partially covered deck for \$359,900. Arbutus constructed two Audrey models that were intended to open as show homes; both sold before even opening for public viewing.

The Kent is the newest release in the Laneway Home Collection, with a show home located at 1026 Stilling Street. At 1,292 square feet, the Kent is slightly smaller than the Morris, yet is jam-packed with the must-have features today's buyers are seeking. The Kent is priced at \$339,900.

“The Kent is similar to our popular Morris plan in several ways. We started with an open-concept main floor, this time with the kitchen



The Kent model home is the newest addition to Arbutus Properties' Laneway Home Collection, featuring a Craftsman-style exterior, in maintenance-free James Hardie cement board siding, with west coast wood accents.

overlooking the back yard. The dining area is positioned between the kitchen and the living room. Oversized windows ensure lots of natural light, from front to back,” Minakakis says.

“We select our products for performance as well as style. The energy-efficient windows are triple pane, so even though they are oversized, they still maintain their integrity. We've updated our flooring choice for 2020 in the Laneway homes, going with a premium LVP (luxury vinyl plank) wide plank flooring. We wanted a flooring product that could extend throughout the home, including wet zones in the front and back entrances.”

While affordably priced, the Kent doesn't skimp on quality.

“Even at this lower price point, we try to include as many luxury finishes as we can. We have quartz counters in the kitchen and bathrooms, Kohler plumbing fixtures, designer light fixtures and an exclusive modern interior door style. We're trying to keep the level of quality as high as we can while getting to that lower price point,” Minakakis says.

Two different colour palettes have been developed for the Laneway collection by Arbutus' in-house designer Jen Lapsiuk.

“The traditional decor package features a white Shaker-style kitchen.

The Kent show home displays the modern colour palette, which comes with a two-tone kitchen, matte black hardware and lighter colour flooring,” Minakakis says.

The Kent's stylish white-and-grey contemporary kitchen stands out with gleaming quartz counters, a large island, a square tile backsplash and a handy closet pantry. Stainless steel kitchen appliances are included.

When creating the decor for Arbutus' show homes, Lapsiuk first imagines a family that might be living there.

With the Kent, she pictured a fun-loving young family and chose hip and trendy furnishings

and accessories to tell that story — including creating a chalkboard feature wall in one of the two children's bedrooms.

“Jen really brings our homes to life,” Minakakis says.

The master bedroom includes a walk-in closet with custom shelving and an ensuite bath with a combination tub/shower and quartz-topped vanity. A laundry closet, accommodating a stackable washer/dryer duo, is located next to the master suite.

The Kent has been designed with the potential for a legal suite in the basement with a separate side entrance. Plumbing for the suite has been roughed in.

“All of our Laneway homes are also solar ready. If anyone wants to add solar panels in the future it won't require a retrofit. They can easily make the connections to the existing electrical panel,” Minakakis says.

As with all of Arbutus' homes in The Meadows, the front yard of the Kent is completely landscaped. The backyard includes a 20-by-22-foot concrete parking pad.

Located at 1026 Stilling Street, the Kent is open for viewing Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

“To ensure the safety of the public and our staff, we're limiting one group through the show home at a time. We are providing masks and gloves if people wish to use them. We have hand sanitizer on hand at all of our homes and we disinfect high-touch areas between visits,” Minakakis says.

To book a private viewing of the Kent show home call 306-291-8785 or email sales@meadowsliving.ca. You can also take a 3D virtual tour of the show home at [www.meadowsliving.ca](http://www.meadowsliving.ca). [jarmstrong@postmedia.com](mailto:jarmstrong@postmedia.com)



Arbutus Properties' in-house designer Jen Lapsiuk creates an imaginary family and tells their story when staging the builder's show homes.



The 'modern' decor package, featured in the Kent show home, includes a two-tone contemporary flat-front cabinetry and a large quartz-topped island with eating bar.