

SUNDAY HOMES

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SECTION E

Turn your home into a showplace

FULLY DECORATED: Three display homes are in move-in shape and seeking buyers

BY LAURA STONE
STAFF REPORTER

As any real estate connoisseur will tell you, the difference between a new home and a show home lies in the details.

Take walls, for instance. While new homes typically have that just-off-the-market colour (some call it "builder's beige"), a show home might be wallpapered by professional interior designers, with custom stenciled flower patterns perfectly etched along the top.

New homes have big, gaping windows; show homes frame their big, gaping windows with \$15,000 in matching drapes.

New homes feature open backyards. A show home's yard could host any number of structures, including a pergola, a children's playground, or a stone fountain.

At Morningstar Homes Ltd.'s Belmont development, located near Burke Mountain in Coquitlam, three show homes are up for sale — details and all.

"They are so unique," said Randy Rossum, Belmont's sales manager.

"That's what makes the show homes special. They're already decorated, ready to move in."

Another two show homes at Morningstar's Sterling community are also for sale, starting at \$699,900.

The three available Belmont show homes are side-by-side on Avondale Street, off Coast Meridian Road and Highland Drive.

They're part of the Belmont community of 107 homes, which were completed in August 2008. About 95 of them have been sold.

The community, located at the foot of Burke Mountain, is the first of about 4,000 planned houses in the area, said Rossum.

"This is Coquitlam's next big 15-year project," said Rossum, comparing the area to the nearby Westwood Plateau development.

"It's the very first area that's been developed up here."

The show homes, titled Cartier (\$869,900), Avondale (\$889,000), and Daventry (\$919,000), come with appliances, ceiling fans, speakers, plasma televisions, curtains, blinds,



Morningstar's show home near Burke Mountain in Port Coquitlam is fully landscaped. WAYNE LEIDENFROST — THE PROVINCE



Show home's living room features a show window draped with floor-to-ceiling curtains. WAYNE LEIDENFROST — THE PROVINCE

custom painting, and other upgrades.

They also have individual designs. Avondale, for instance, has an earthy feel, painted warm golden-tones, with striped brown curtains adorning 18-foot walls, and an open living space christened with televisions and shelving.

The four-bedroom home, with professional interior design, also has a mint-green children's bedroom with white paw-print paint, and outdoor-themed boy's room with stenciled oar, moose and canoe images.

A backyard pergola and stone fountain round out the outdoor theme.

With its black-and-white decor and subtle flower wallpapering, the Cartier home has an elegant feel, said Rossum.

"We painted all the doors and casing black for that modern look," he said. The home also features a wrought-iron staircase, a jazz room, and a six-jet bathtub.

At 3,800 square feet, the Daventry

Info

What: Belmont Show Homes for sale.

Where: 1456 Avondale St., Coquitlam.

Developer: Morningstar Homes Ltd.

Sizes: Four-bedrooms, from 3,797 to 3,850 square feet.

Prices: Cartier \$869,900, Avondale \$889,900, and Daventry, \$919,900.

Open: Presentation centre at 1456 Avondale Street, open noon to 6 p.m. daily except Friday.

More info:
www.morningstarhomes.bc.ca.

show home was built for families. Case in point: the finished basement hosts a "school" room, with alphabet stenciling and built-in chalkboard. Around the corner, however, is a sports fan's dream, with six 32-inch plasma TVs and a bar fridge fashioned to the counter. The backyard also has a play-



The Daventry basement is a sports fan's dream. JON MURRAY — THE PROVINCE

ground structure for the little ones.

All show homes have sweeping views of the greenspace surrounding the community, including the government-protected Hyde Creek.

Both the Cartier and Daventry homes are available for move-in on Dec. 1, said Rossum. Avondale will be ready in March.

Whoever decides to purchase one of Belmont's show homes will be someone who knows what they want, said Rossum.

"It's going to take a very discerning buyer who knows the quality," he said, "and who's not going to go through the headache of having to decorate it themselves."