

The possibilities of Willow

Today's Homes' Willow wows in Sage Meadows

■ By Jasmine So-Armada

SUBLIMELY REGAL IN one of Calgary's most promising suburban settings, Today's Homes' latest show home wows visitors with the enormous possibilities it presents in this family-friendly estate community in the northwest.

The elegant Willow is a two-storey 2,125-square-foot show home listed at \$570,500, but the kind of lifestyle freedom and flexibility it offers to young families is priceless.

Its location in Sage Meadows' idyllic environs is a huge part of its appeal. There are no rows upon rows of houses in Sage Meadows; instead there are

pockets of houses along the rolling hills that provide a veritable privacy wall for those that plan to make this enclave their home.

"It's part of the move up and semi-estate lots," explains Arend Lucardie, Today's Homes Area Manager for Sage Meadows. The show home is dressed up to show the possibilities of what life can be like living in this new community on the northwest edge of the city just off Stoney Trail. The air conditioning quietly hums throughout the house, a fine welcome on this hot summer day.

The Willow with its nine-foot high

knockdown stucco ceiling has a very open, spacious feel to it. Numerous tall windows along the rear maximize the natural light that filters throughout the house. The warm but muted colours of this show home add to its cozy feel.

As you walk through the foyer the one feature that grabs you is the painted bulkhead cladding in the great room. "The bulkhead provides an optical illusion of separation among the various living areas," says Lucardie, creating a sense of partition in the open concept design that distinguishes it from the adjoining kitchen and the dining room area.





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The Willow is rich with what Lucardie refers to as “precision specifics,” which includes contemporary mouldings that wrap around the doors, tall baseboards, and premium kitchen cabinetry — among other things.

The kitchen of the Willow also boasts stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and an expansive glass back splash, brightly lit by under kitchen cabinet lights. There is no shortage of storage in this kitchen as there are generously sized maple cabinets along one wall and below the working island. A raised eating bar allows the hostess to prepare food while being able to interact with guest, or keep an eye on children while they’re having their breakfast. Beside the fridge is a dedicated counter space that can house both a telephone and a laptop.

A hallway leads into the tiled mudroom with a washer and dryer along one wall, >>

FAST FACTS:

BUILDER: Today's Homes

COMMUNITY: Sage Meadows

DEVELOPER: Genesis Land Development

STYLE: Two-storey attached garage move-up

SIZE: 2,125 sq. ft.

PRICE: Show home is at around \$570,000

ADDRESS: 12 Sage Meadows Circle NW

DIRECTIONS: Follow Beddington Trail north until it becomes Symons Valley Road and follow the signs

WEB: www.todayshomes.ca

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equipped with a shelving rack above. One door opens to cleaning supplies, or can double duty as a coats cabinet. Homeowners can easily walk up from the garage to stow their groceries in the kitchen pantry.

The massive bulkhead cladding over the great room isn't the only conversation piece. The fireplace has a mosaic tile surround, with a maple wood mantle that adds more than a little sense of flair. The mantle's underlighting is a sensible way to brighten up the fireplace whether there is a fire on or not.

There is a dining nook on one corner of the main floor with a sliding door that leads into the generously-sized deck outdoors. Just before going up the second floor is a large anteroom where guests can wait for the homeowners. "This space can also be transformed into a little home office," says Lucardie.

One element Today's Homes carries throughout all of their plans — the Willow show home included — is the use of wider stairwells. "We listen to what people need. Wider staircases means easier access and maneuverability whether for the homeowners or for moving furniture," says Lucardie.

Windows provide light as one goes up to the second floor. Down the hall are two smaller bedrooms with a washroom equipped with a lower bathtub that answers the needs of families with younger children. "The master bedroom in the Willow can be extended another two feet if homeowners wish to," he says, adding that flexibility is part and parcel of Today's Homes.

The master ensuite has all the elements of a spa: double sinks, corner soaker tub, obscure glass windows for maximum privacy, a frameless contemporary shower stall with 10-millimetre-thick glass, a private loo and

generous cabinet space for a couple on the go. Further down the hall is the spacious bonus room with its vaulted ceiling that give the Willow a lofty feel, further enhanced by the oversized windows facing the streetscape.

Lucardie says the Willow show home attracts certain demographics: Professionals, two career families. "They're mostly in their early 30s to mid late 40s, with children around nine or ten years old," says Lucardie. There are also baby boomers looking to move up.

It's the enormous flexibility that the Willow offers makes it right for any kind of lifestyle. But Today's Homes' commitment to value — underlined by their participation in the Holmes Approved Homes program and using the environmentally-friendly and fire resistant PinkWood in every home — takes the Willow's potentials to new heights. **NL**

