

Heart of the home is in the kitchen

New housing community in Surrey paying close attention to space and design patterns



All about the details
 AT MOSAIC'S CLAYTON MARKET, THE LOOK IS SIMPLE BUT INVITING
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 Clayton Market is a project from Mosaic Homes that comprises 44 two-bedroom row homes with an adjoining commercial village in Surrey.



The display suite dining area has both chairs and an upholstered bench surrounded by millwork.

nearly always come back to the locus of home life: the kitchen.

Eating and dining spaces are the focus of family energy and the hub of social life. It's clear Portico Design principal Lynn Clarke knows this, and it shows in the firm's smart design at Clayton Market, Mosaic Homes' new row home community in Surrey.

Although Clarke appreciates the need for what she calls "the calm of the living room," she says openconcept plans recognize that the kitchen and dining spaces are the heart and soul of family and community life.

"I think the kitchen area has often been the most important room in the home and a huge deciding factor for (homebuyers)," Clarke says.

"Cooking, dinner parties and socializing is the driving force in the decision (for to buy) and more and more, the party is starting in the kitchen."

In Clayton Market's display home, a dining area seats eight comfortably in chairs and an upholstered bench seating surrounded by millwork and with a mirror as backdrop. More chairs are positioned at the island, a couple of feet away.

Portico Design pays attention to details that may at first seem relatively small, but end up as prominent features that steal the attention — in the kitchen and elsewhere.

For instance, a staircase from the open-concept living space to the upper floor draws the eye with open risers, and

Portico placed a custom built-in shelving unit spanning one wall in a den. Back in the kitchen, open wooden shelving makes a stark contrast beside conventional white cabinets, and millwork with shelving in the dining area bench seating includes open niches. In a bedroom, a huge grey textured wallcovering acts as a focal point, offsetting a graphic bedding pattern.

Clarke says owners of new homes that lack built-in features can add these "architectural" details without breaking the bank by embracing well-designed millwork and moulding, for instance.

"Millwork is always an easy way to add detail. Adding moulding to a wall, bookcase, door, etc., and painting it to match whatever it is being put on will instantly make the piece look built-in and special," she says.

That open shelving in the kitchen adds loads of character to the space. Sightlines of shelving mounted high on the wall could inspire decor-friendly homeowners to curate their collection of plates and dishes.

"With the kitchen being the hub of a home, decorating it and making some visual statements is becoming more prevalent," Clarke adds.

"The lack of a formal dining space has lost the buffets and cabinets of the past, and the nice dishes are now living in the kitchen. Why not create a space to show them off?"

Clayton Market
Location: 19159 Watkins Dr., Surrey

What: 44 two-bedroom-and-den wood-frame row homes with an adjoining high street commercial village

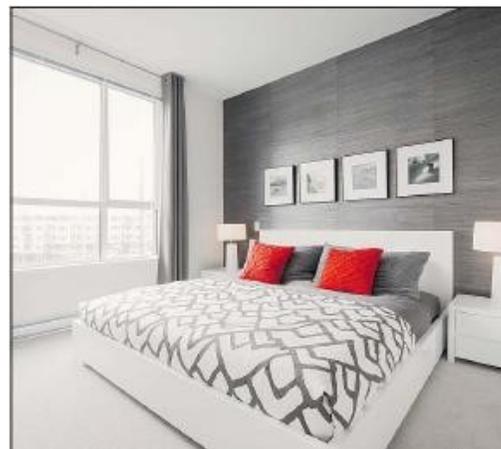
Residence sizes and prices: 1,212 sq. ft -- 1,274 sq. ft; from \$309,900

Developer and builder: Mosaic Homes

Sales centre: 19159 Watkins Dr., Surrey

Hours: noon -- 6 p.m.

Mary Frances Hill HOMES REPORTER



Mosaic Homes' new residences feature two-bedroom-and-den woodframe row homes with an adjoining high street commercial village. Portico Design principal Lynn Clarke appreciates design and space, which is evident in the Seattle homes that start at \$309,900.



The best designers direct their work to suit the way families interact and move about on a daily basis, and they

