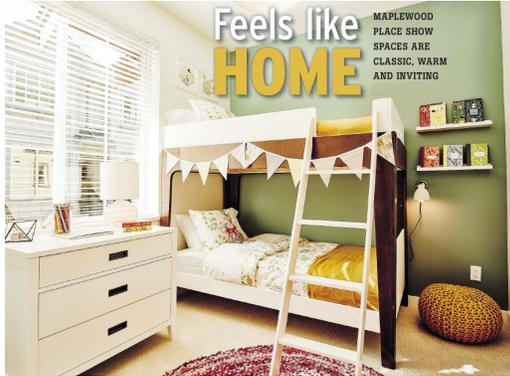


Looks designed for the long term

Design appeals to those looking for homes where they can settle in comfortably

Mary Frances Hill



Maplewood Place, a project from Anthem Properties Group, comprises 61 townhomes in North Vancouver



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In this show home kitchen at Maplewood Place, the designers went for white shaker cabinets and quartz marble counters.



The wood cabinets' vertical-patterned veneer and tub-like sink are among the touches that reflect the neighbourhood's rural influences in the kitchen of this show home.

complete lack of pretension, in the interiors of the display homes at Maplewood Place, Anthem Properties' community of townhouses in North Vancouver.

It's here that The Mill Design designers Amanda Zilbin and Janine Wilson created classic, warm spaces to appeal to those looking for homes in which they can settle comfortably.

Even as they worked with such high-quality finishes as quartz composite countertops, Zilbin and Wilson held firm to their principles of subtlety and restraint to focus on creating the feel of a residence that might appeal to those looking to live in a home for many years. To do this, they kept to classic lines and slightly neutralized colours. Zilbin says she was also inspired by the decor of many Montreal cafes she visited a few years ago.

"We wanted to keep the finishes classic and clean so they can last for years to come," Zilbin says.

"We really loved the timeless look of the subway backsplash, white shaker cabinets and quartz marble counters in the one scheme and the penny-round backsplash, wood-grain cabinet and white quartz counters in the second (design scheme)."

Zilbin combined a custom bench with a farmhouse style table in one dining

room, while Wilson says she enjoyed working on another of the model homes, furnished with a closet full of custom storage. Zilbin and Wilson were also mindful of the work of their favourite fabric and wallpaper designers and retailers, like the Oregon-based lighting and furnishings shop, Portland Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.

In the kitchen, the wood cabinets' vertical-patterned veneer, and a tublike sink reflect rural life, to reflect the homes' neighbours, the popular children's destination Maplewood Farm and the nearby banks of the Seymour River.

Zilbin says that while she and Wilson took their cues from the community around the homes they didn't want to go overboard with so-called "rustic charm."

The key was to acknowledge — and then play down — that country influence.

"We wanted to incorporate the farm and nature feel, but didn't want it to be too literal," says Zilbin.

"You can see these subtle farm style details in the apron sink and the wood-grain doors, but instead of going the traditional route for these elements, we chose to use an updated modern version for both."

There's an underlying modesty, a