



## Montana Prairies

In Montana, new period-inspired homes tend to have the feel of mountain lodge or ski chalet architecture. But when Dick Ainsworth decided to develop 20 townhouses along the Clark Fork River just east of Missoula, there was only one inspiration for this long-time fan of Frank Lloyd Wright: Prairie style.

The result is a series of semi-detached homes that feature the style's strong horizontal lines, low-profile hipped roofs, and deep, sheltering eaves. The open-plan interiors lend themselves to a variety of Arts & Crafts influences, from woody Craftsman to Asian.

RiverRock, the larger of the two model styles at 3,300 square feet, is minimalist, with large expanses of floor-to-ceiling windows oriented toward views. Horizontal planking and banks of Shoji screens that conceal closet space reinforce the Prairie sensibility in a contemporary way. The 2,500-square-foot Stoneybrook design edges more toward traditional Craftsman. Details in the living



RiverRock townhouses in Missoula, Montana, have easy-care stucco exteriors in warm natural shades. The interior has an Asian-inspired sensibility.

room, for example, include a flared stone fireplace and a vaulted ceiling crossed by beams in a pattern that suggests an Arts & Crafts box-beam ceiling.

Both designs have state-of-the-art soundproofing and are highly energy efficient. The architects for the project, MacArthur, Means & Wells ([mmwarchitects.com](http://mmwarchitects.com)), are also the designers of "net zero" homes capable of producing a zero energy bill in the midst of a Montana winter. Prices for the Stoneybrook model begin at \$598,500.

The RiverRock plan begins at \$659,500. Single-story models of less



than 2,000 square feet are also available. Prices for those units begin at \$497,500. Water's Edge, (406) 329-2020, [watersedgemissoula.com](http://watersedgemissoula.com)

The light-flooded Stoneybrook interior retains Arts & Crafts-style elements like a stone fireplace and openwork beams. Abundant woodwork and deep, earthy colors enhance the Stoneybrook dining room.

