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Water's Edge offers custom Asian style on Clark Fork River

By LINDSEY GALIPEAU of the Missoulian Jan 1, 2012



BILL BURWICK

The newest townhome at the Water's Edge development features a contemporary Asian style.

At Water's Edge, it's all about making your townhouse a townhome.

The four prairie-style homes already in place are the first in a planned 20-unit development just across the Clark Fork River from Canyon River Golf Course in East Missoula.

They have many customizable features, including countertops, cabinetry, bathroom tubs and sinks, carpets, tiles and more. Two of the homes were furnished as models, each in very different styles - Craftsman and contemporary Asian.

The newest furnished home belongs to Water's Edge's developer Dick Ainsworth. He and his wife moved into one of the two Stoneybrook units in September, taking full advantage of all the customizable options.

Their home is decorated in a modern Asian style, very different from the Craftsman-style unit on the other side of the shared wall.

"It's a whole different feel than the one next door," Ainsworth said.

When you enter the Craftsman home, the first word that comes to mind is "sturdy." Everything is heavily built in deep colors. Ainsworth's unit, however, is more "wispy."

Just inside the door is a dark tile wall with bamboo reaching from floor to ceiling. The light wood hallway leads past a small elevator and guest bedroom to an open kitchen, and living and dining room.

Greens, browns and blacks weave throughout the large room on countertops and fixtures. The living room area that overlooks the river has a flat fireplace that can have the heat turned on or off. Ainsworth said being able to turn off the heat will be nice in summer.

Back down the hall, a room of bamboo pantries leads to the master bedroom. A birch branch sits next to the bedroom door, one of those little tidbits that makes the home particularly unique.

"You don't probably see a tree in everybody's house," Ainsworth said.

The master bedroom is open and airy with a full wall of windows overlooking the river. Sage green carpet reminiscent of a rippling puddle covers the floor beneath the large bed.

The master bath is covered in tile with a soaking tub situated next to an open shower. The sinks are a variety of green colors.

"No glass to wash," Ainsworth laughs.

The home has two rooms beyond the master. The main-level room has a Murphy bed that folds up into what appears to be a large cabinet made of bamboo.

"So it becomes a bed for guests, but you don't lose the room," Ainsworth said.

The second room is upstairs, beyond the open office area that overlooks the living room and in a little nook of its own. Ainsworth furnished this room and the bathroom next to it with deep reds, blacks and Chinese script.

The Ainsworths didn't move to Stoneybrook because they wanted a change in decor. What they really enjoy about their new place is the low maintenance. That holds true for all the units.

Each house comes with a mandatory homeowner's fee of \$220 per month. That fee pays for snowplowing, landscaping and exterior care of the home.

But what about privacy? Ainsworth took particular care to keep all the units as private as possible, using extra soundproofing and insulation on the single shared wall as well as on the patio.

"We've gone through a lot of effort to make sure of privacy," Ainsworth said. "When you're on the patio, you're not having a drink with your neighbors even if you don't want to."

Water's Edge has two already-built townhomes for sale. Prices range from nearly \$600,000 for the basic Stoneybrook home to almost \$670,000 for the upgraded home. The Riverrock home with basic amenities is nearly \$660,000.

Ainsworth has two one-story floor plans in the works. He said he won't build them until either one of the two-floor units sells or until a buyer is interested in a single-floor unit. For the latter, the buyer would have more say in how he or she wanted it built.

"They can finish it any way they want," Ainsworth said.

And that's the idea. Make the house your own home.

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