

## NOT YOUR AVERAGE SPIDER PLANT

So what if the only way you'd be considered a green thumb is if you had a tragic encounter with a paint can? The Hexa robot by Vincross has you covered.

Looking like a six-legged spider and equipped with multiple sensors, the robot has a single mission: to take care of the plant you put on its head. Once it's in place, the Hexa will run after sunrays and retreat into the shade as needed, moving in any direction and stepping around



anything in its path.

Its head rotates 360 degrees to make sure each part of the plant gets sunlight, and the gardening gizmo will dance to get your attention when the plant needs to be watered.

The Hexa also has a 720p camera with night vision, built-in Wi-Fi and USB ports.

The price is US\$949.

Melissa Hank



Arbutus Properties' design team chose a Scandinavian theme known as hygge for the interior of the company's new show home, The Clarke. Black-matte designer lighting fixtures and hardware stand out against the kitchen's crisp white cabinets and quartz counters. Rustic wide-plank laminate flooring brings warmth to the great room. PHOTOS: SCOTT PROKOP PHOTOGRAPHY

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

When Arbutus Properties designs and stages a show home, they do so with a make-believe family in mind.

"Our designer, Jen Lapsiuk, comes up with a story for each show home," explains Arbutus sales manager Jody Minakakis. "She'll create the imaginary family who will live here and then we write the script. In conjunction with that, Jen comes up with the design palette for the home."

The Clarke is Arbutus Properties' newest show home, at 223 Greeyes-Steele Way in The Meadows.

"For this home, we have envisioned a family of four. They have a little girl and a little boy, as you can see by the design of the bedrooms and the toys and games in the upstairs bonus room," Minakakis says.

"We want people to come and experience what life could be like living in this home. We'll have Disney movies playing on the TV in the family room. The pantry is stocked with groceries. We want to show how people can live here."

The Clarke is a 1,659-square-foot, two-storey plan, with three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths,

# IMAGINING THE IDEAL LIVING SPACE

Arbutus Properties' Meadows show home tells a story

and a bonus family room on the second floor.

"It's a smaller, more compact version of our popular James model home," Minakakis says. The builder listened to feedback from couples and parents with small children who loved the features of the 2,000-square-foot-plus James plan, but were looking for a similar home with a smaller footprint and lower price point.

With its open floor plan, nine-foot ceilings and abundance of oversized, triple-pane windows,

the Clarke has a spacious, inviting feel that belies its trim square footage.

The home's interior features a delightful Scandinavian design theme, also known as hygge. The kitchen is dressed in classic white, Shaker-style cabinets and white quartz counters, with contrasting matte-black metal door hardware and designer pendants over the family-sized island. Wide-plank, rustic wood laminate flooring adds warmth to the white-toned kitchen and living room.

Family-friendly features abound in The Clarke, including a large kitchen pantry and a clutter-stopping mud room. There's even a family room in the bonus space on the second floor, next to the large master suite and two children's bedrooms.

The home's basement level is open for development. A separate side entrance into the basement creates the potential for constructing a revenue suite, adds Minakakis.

The Clarke stands out on the

block with its attractive West Coast contemporary exterior.

"It's a newer design for us, with a lower sloping roof and a hip roof. Of course, it has our signature front-porch entrance, which is characteristic of all of the homes in The Meadows," Minakakis says.

Families who purchase any of Arbutus Properties' single-family homes in The Meadows don't have to worry about the expense of landscaping their front yards, he adds. "The front yards will be completely landscaped."

The home's location is also a big selling feature, Minakakis says. "We're sandwiched between two parks — Struthers Park and the Meadows community park. People also appreciate the close proximity to the Meadows Market, which features Costco, shopping, restaurants and more."

The Clarke models are priced starting at \$449,900 during Arbutus Properties' spring promotion, which is on now through June 20.

The Clarke show home is open for viewing Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., and from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more details, visit [www.meadowsliving.ca](http://www.meadowsliving.ca)

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The open layout, nine-foot ceilings and oversized, triple-pane windows contribute to a spacious, inviting feel.



The second-floor bonus space is an area for family fun and relaxation.