

HOMES

TAKE AN ONLINE GARDEN TOUR

The folks at The Keukenhof garden in Holland are real petal pushers. And why shouldn't they be? As one of the world's largest flower gardens — 32 hectares, with about seven million bulbs planted annually — The Keukenhof is known as the Garden of Europe. And now you can tour the vibrant grounds from home. The Keukenhof has released a video tour of the park, featuring flowers such as hyacinths, roses, lilies and tulips in full bloom. Usual-



ly the garden is open from April to May 10, but it's been shuttered since April because of the coronavirus pandemic. Located in Lisse, Netherlands, The Keukenhof has origins that date back to 15th century, with Keukenhof Castle being built there in 1641. The estate became a park to exhibit spring flowers to the public in 1950. The video tour is available on The Keukenhof's YouTube channel.

Melissa Hank

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SECTION B



Two-tone cabinets create visual interest in the Scandinavian-style kitchen of the Parker show home by Arbutus Properties. The quartz-topped island is both functional and fashionable.

SCANDINAVIAN STYLE

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

Arbutus home sports clean, contemporary design

Jody Minakakis is cautiously optimistic about the recovery of Saskatoon's new home market once the COVID-19 lockdown is over.

In the past few weeks, the sales manager with Arbutus Properties has seen an increase in real estate agents showing properties to clients in The Meadows, Arbutus' master-planned community located in the Rosewood subdivision.

Even better, one of Arbutus' two new show homes sold before even opening to the public.

"It's a good problem to have," Minakakis says.

The builder has now opened the doors to its new Parker model home, located at 2039 Stilling Lane.

"It's a brand new design that we've just introduced. I think everyone will love it," Minakakis says. In addition to the show home, Arbutus has three other Parker models under construction in the neighbourhood.

The Parker is a three-bedroom, 1,598-square-foot two-storey home, with a stylish West Coast Craftsman exterior.

The home's strategically designed footprint allows for a three-car garage despite not being situated on a corner lot. The garage is two-cars wide with a bonus tandem space that will accommodate a third car, ATV or workshop.

Arbutus design consultant Jen Lapsiuk selected a Scandinavian design theme for the show home's interior. The Scandinavian aesthetic embraces clean design lines and a colour palette of crisp whites with high contrast black accents that are warmed by generous touches of natural wood, stone and metal finishes.

"Scandi" style is especially evident in the show home's spacious kitchen. The two-tone cabinets are an appealing mix of sleek white uppers and light wood grain thermofoil lower cabinets topped with white quartz counters. The backsplash of white subway tiles gets a bit of a twist by the vertical positioning of the tiles.

Contemporary black matte de-



Arbutus Properties continues to add to its portfolio of stylish single-family home plans with the unveiling of the Parker, a 1,598-square-foot, two-storey home at 2039 Stilling Lane in The Meadows.



Large triple-pane windows flood the main floor with natural light, another element of Scandinavian design.

signer light fixtures serve as exclamation points in Lapsiuk's design story.

"To maximize ceiling space, we only used drop lighting in defined spaces, over the island and in the dining area. Everywhere else is flush mounts or pot lights," Minakakis says.

Large triple pane windows flood the open concept main floor with

natural light.

"We like to maximize window space in all of our homes, especially in the open rooms, bringing in as much natural light as possible and connecting the outdoors to the indoors," Minakakis says.

Heading up to the second floor, an inviting family room awaits at the top of the stairs. "When designing this bonus room, we added

some square footage to create an area that could be used as a play nook or a home work station. To make the space as versatile as possible, we installed TV outlets on two facing walls to give people a choice when arranging their furniture," Minakakis says.

The home's master suite is generously sized with a walk-in closet and large ensuite with a custom

shower, double vanity and marble-style porcelain flooring.

The two children's bedrooms are also well-sized with double closets. The upstairs laundry is centrally located to all three bedrooms and the bonus room.

Arbutus has designed the Parker model to accommodate the homeowners' future needs.

"The basement comes with a side entrance so it could accommodate a one-bedroom suite in the future," Minakakis says.

Arbutus has also constructed the Parker to be solar-ready, with components in place to accommodate the installation of solar panels. "If the owners decide to add solar panels, they won't have to retrofit anything. There would be access directly to the electrical panel in the basement," Minakakis says.

To minimize the owners' operating costs, Arbutus has installed a high-efficiency furnace and water heater, along with an Ecobee smart thermostat.

The Parker is priced starting at \$469,900. Front landscaping is included.

On any Arbutus home purchased before June 30, the builder is offering a special "Home Safe Home" package, which includes a free washer and dryer, utility payments for six months and the choice to defer payment of the deposit until 14 days prior to possession. The buyer can then select one of two perks packages: entertainment or security and decor. Details are available at www.meadowliving.ca.

The Parker show home is open for viewing by appointment.

"We have taken steps to increase the sanitization of our show homes after appointments. And all of our homes are equipped with hand sanitizer as well as sanitizing spray," Minakakis says.

To book an appointment to view the Parker model home, email Arbutus Properties at sales@meadowsliving.ca, call the sales line at 306-291-8785 or contact your real estate agent. Take a 3D virtual tour of the show home at www.meadowliving.ca. jamstrong@postmedia.com