

HOMES

IT'S TIME TO TAKE IT OUTSIDE

As the weather warms up, many Canadians are moving their indoor activities outside, a trend called “backyarding” that experts expect will outlast the pandemic. Backyarding can involve working, studying, exercising or relaxing in your green space, or the green space of someone in your social bubble. The point is to revel in the outdoors while lockdowns and restrictions remain uncertain.

“Homeowners got really creative as they



expanded and enjoyed their yards over the last year,” said Kris Kiser, president & CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute and the TurfMutt Foundation.

To get more out of your yard, the foundation suggests designing your dream lawn and garden, creating a makeshift vacation resort, or adding flowering plants, trees and shrubs to give wildlife and pollinators extra food and shelter.

Melissa Hank

SASKATOON STARPHOENIX SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

SECTION B

HOT COMMODITY

Arbutus Properties’ popular Audrey model home has curb appeal, flexible space for family

JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

Since the fall of 2020, Arbutus Properties has built its new laneway model home – the Audrey – several times over with the intent of opening it to the public as a show home. Each time, before the doors could open for viewing, the house was snapped by a buyer.

Finally, for a limited time, Saskatonians will get to tour this in-demand home as Arbutus unveils the new Audrey show home at 1050 Stilling St., in its master-planned community of The Meadows.

And true to form, the Audrey show home has already sold. Arbutus will keep the house open for viewing for a limited time, with the construction of several new Audrey laneway homes underway on Rosewood Boulevard.

What has made this 1,478 square foot two-storey model such a hot commodity? Jody Minakakis, sales manager with Arbutus Properties, says, “We think it really caters to that family that just needs that little bit of extra space. That’s what we designed it for, and it has been very popular.”

The Audrey offers three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a popular flex room on the second floor. “Clients really like the bonus flex room. We’ve sold this home to people who have used it as a home office, especially through the pandemic. Other buyers with children have used it as a playroom or hang-out space where they can watch TV,” says Minakakis.

“We designed the Audrey pre-COVID. But that upstairs flex space has proven to be a big driver with people’s changing lifestyles. Some people working from home don’t want to utilize a bedroom as an office. This bonus space gives them so many options.”

The home’s Craftsman-style exterior includes a pressure-treated covered front porch. Front landscaping has been completed, including a brushed concrete walkway. The home’s backyard has a partially-covered entertainment-sized deck and a paved parking pad with room to build a garage.

The Scandinavian-influenced interior is bright and airy throughout, thanks to Arbutus designer Jen Lapsiuk’s use of crisp white tones and contrasting black matte accents. A warm touch of rustic wood runs from the rear-entry mud room to the front foyer in the wide-plank luxury vinyl flooring.

“We’re offering two decor packages with the Audrey. Our show home at 1050 Stilling features the traditional decor package, with white Shaker-style cabinets topped with crown moulding.

“The modern decor package offers contemporary flat panel two-tone cabinets with white up-

pers and light grey lower cabinets. Both homes look very different and unique just by adding that second cabinetry choice,” says Minakakis.

The white quartz countertops are complemented by a contemporary glazed ceramic tile backsplash. The kitchen comes complete with stainless steel appliances.

Strategic window placement ensures an abundance of natural light in the great room, including a large window in the rear entry mud room. “The combined mud room includes a bench, lockers and a coat closet. It’s really designed for functionality and livability,” says Minakakis.

Three bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second floor include a master bedroom with an elegant ensuite bath and a walk-in closet. A rolling barn door creates additional square footage to the closet, notes Minakakis.

A laundry room is conveniently located across from the flex room, steps away from all three bedrooms.

The basement of the Audrey is open for development, with rough-ins in place for a potential suite.

Minakakis says that Arbutus is now taking orders for new Audrey models under construction on Rosewood Boulevard. “We’re also introducing a little brother model to the Audrey, called the Jake. It’s going to have a slightly smaller footprint, but with similar amenities.”

The Audrey is currently priced at \$379,900. The show home at 1050 Stilling St. is open for viewing by appointment, seven days a week. Appointments can be made by contacting the Arbutus sales line at 306-291-8785 or email: sales@MeadowsLiving.ca.

For more details, visit the website: meadowsliving.ca. jarmstrong@postmedia.com



The Audrey offers great curb appeal with a charming Craftsman-style exterior, including a covered porch.



Arbutus Properties has opened the doors to its new Audrey show home, a new entry in the builder’s popular Laneway Collection. The 1,478 square foot, two-storey home at 1050 Stilling St. in The Meadows, features a bright and airy interior with Scandinavian design elements. PHOTOS: SCOTT PROKOP PHOTOGRAPHY/WWW.REPICS.CA

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The master bedroom on the second floor in the Audrey includes an elegant ensuite bath and a large walk-in closet, which is concealed behind a space-saving rolling barn door.

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