

HOMES

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HIS PLACE



WOODLAND HILLS

The show home at Woodland Hills on the Ridge provides more than 7,300 square feet of living space, plus more than 3,400 square feet of dedicated "manspace."

One small step for man

Luxury Kelowna community high atop ridge includes special space for males in homes

JANE MARSHALL
Canwest News Service

KELOWNA — Few developers fulfil the entire process of transforming raw land into luxury homes, complete with incredible landscaping. Most sell their land to builders, who then create homes based on the interests of individual buyers.

Kelowna developer Geby Wager is determined to do things differently. He is creating a luxury community where each part of the process contributes to an improved whole. Not only are the \$2.5-million homes impressive, but each is being built with privacy from neighbours as the No. 1 goal.

No aspects of development or building process exist independently at Woodland Hills on the Ridge.

"Our goal is that no one should be able to see or hear anyone else," says Wager, who wants Woodland Hills on the Ridge to become "the premier development in the city."

Within this luxury development, one showhome gives potential buyers a glimpse at what the realization of hard work and dreams looks like.

The show home at 1025 Westpoint Drive will stun most anyone with its attention to detail and splurges on life's luxuries — most notably within what is being called its "manspace."

The manspace is an area where the man of the house can bask in his accomplishments and simply enjoy, well, manly man stuff.

Wager explains the overall look of the space.

"There are polished floors with three-foot checkers. There is a bar, a poker table, ledges for trophies and trinkets; it's a place where guys can go and drink beer or wine and still be a part of their 'stuff.' It's like a new

style of family room."

There is also a ventilated cigar lounge, private vehicle showroom and even a display area for motorcycles. It represents the realization of dreams and achievement.

But Wager hasn't forgotten the woman in all this.

For a vacation home that anticipates the primal needs of man, it includes women's desires too. In a quiet area overlooking a pond with views of the lake is a timber-framed spa. "The walls disappear and there is exercise equipment, massage tables; it's a place where she can pamper herself," Wager says.

The house caters to people with treasures that have been collected throughout a lifetime. It provides nooks, ledges and areas where potential buyers can have their things surrounding them, where they can cocoon and enjoy spending time within their own home.

"These people might have finely restored cars, and here they can have them within their home rather than stored off in some garage," Wager explains.

Entertaining takes on a whole new meaning at this show home. The waters of an infinity pool appear to fall into the oblivion of trees and lake water. Within its watery borders is a swim-up bar complete with a commercial fridge and thatch roof. Blue pool tiles amplify the feeling of water.

The home's exterior is New England style, tan shingled with multiple steeply pitched rooflines and gables. The result is a home that has a traditional feel and, while brand new, looks as if it has years of experience.

The total living space of the house is 7,330 square feet, with an additional 3,473-square-foot finished manspace.

Besides all the luxury amenities

that buyers can look forward to when purchasing a home of this calibre, Wager has taken the process a step further.

He believes that the development's ridgetop location allows it to be truly different than other communities in the Kelowna area. Ridge-top living, as opposed to hillside living, offers more opportunities for homeowners to be intimately connected to nature, Wager says.

"Usually you would have to leave the house from a basement or a sun deck," he explains.

For Woodland Hills residents and second-home buyers in general, patios are actually extensions of living rooms, so that the inside-outside concept is truly realized.

"Here people are among nature instead of just up against it," Wager observes.

Wager's unique position as both developer and builder allows him to ensure stunning, private views for each resident. This dual role is key in allowing him to create privacy as well as the building pockets and property lines necessary for this type of project.

"We know where we need privacy since we design each home. We can do certain things on one lot that enhance the property for each resident," says Wager. For example, in Woodland Hills "no one looks into your pool."

Because of Kelowna's focus on outdoor activities, the site on Lake Okanagan draws energetic people who are connected to their environment. Lake Okanagan in the summer is all about boating, water-skiing, wakeboarding and endless water-filled fun. A great place to hide from cold winters, Kelowna still appeals to winter sport enthusiasts with skiing at nearby Big White.



WOODLAND HILLS

There is even a display area for motorcycles, as well as a ventilated cigar lounge.

In Woodland Hills, Wager ensures the extension of Kelowna's outdoor living ideal with the planting of trees and the blurring of property lines. Instead of dividing properties with strict, linear fences, Wager is planting trees — many of which are mature and come from the development's own nursery.

The point of all this: the homes seem to be designed from the initial

stages until the very last touch of landscaping. When the development is complete, there will be more than 700 trees and 20,000 shrubs planted amid the year-round and vacation homes.

Woodland Hills on the Ridge encompasses 68 lots with prices starting at approximately \$2.5 million. For more information, visit www.woodland-hillskelowna.com or discoverwoodland-hillskelowna.com.

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