



As seen in Post Homes

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MODEL HOME OF THE WEEK



Muddy boots are off-limits in the bedroom and living room, but you can sweat to your heart's content in your very own gym.

Serenity now

Want to bump up the ceilings and square footage? Pick a monochromatic palette and low-slung furniture, like the designer of this townhome

BY LISA VAN DE VEN

The designer refers to this model as “organic modern.” Organic for the extensive wood and nature-inspired elements. And modern because of the largely monochromatic white palette and contemporary furniture.

It’s the combination of the two that makes the townhouse — at Geranium Homes’ Cardinal Point project in Stouffville — ideal for a design-savvy young couple, with a nursery upstairs for a baby on the way.

“It’s fresh, inviting and it looks bigger than life,” says the home’s designer Yanic Simard, of Toronto Interior Design Group (TIDG). “Very sleek, very efficient.”

Mr. Simard wanted to make the 1,525-square-foot three-bedroom space seem bigger than it is, fitting in as much functionality as possible while still keeping the look airy. Which is why the furniture is low so that the ceilings seem higher — tall armoires and the like get in the way of the sightlines. Instead, the living room features a wall-mounted TV above a low walnut shelf that doubles as a bench for extra seating. There’s a modern white rocking chair, chrome Chinese garden stools and an end table in clear acryl-

ic. The white leather sofa has an unusual design. Part of it is raised on a chrome stand, revealing a snippet of the floor — a nifty trick for smaller spaces as it opens the sight lines.

“We needed something sculptural to make it visually interesting, because it’s the first thing you see when you walk in,” says the designer.

White MDF panelling lines the wall behind the TV, and is repeated in the kitchen, while another wall covering — modern floral wallpaper — accentuates the dining room, where a built-in walnut table is paired with clear polycarbonate chairs. The wallpaper there is replicated in the kitchen, where it’s covered in glass and used as the backsplash.

The kitchen is black and white, with thick black granite countertops and white cabinetry. There’s open shelving above to display dishes and cookbooks, while an eat-in area is accentuated with a Foscarini Twiggy floor lamp — its dramatic black shade drops down over the table. “It jazzes it up a bit,” Mr. Simard says. “It connects the black elements from the other side of the kitchen.”

And while the basement is designed as a gym with bright and dramatic digital wallpaper

— close-up photography of exotic grass — the upstairs stays consistent with the palette on the main level. That’s not to say it’s boring, though. Simple surprises welcome the visitor at every step. At the top of the stairs, a mini-projector shows off digital art. The nursery has inset wallpaper framed in mouldings behind the crib and two pendant light fixtures that look like cotton balls on either side — keeping it appropriate for the function, but not overly cute. The master bedroom, meanwhile, is stark white, with a white platform bed, white bedding and white shelving. The surprise element there is a large-scale digital floral photograph that’s been converted into the canvas headboard. “It’s like a hotel,” Mr. Simard says of that room.

Townhouses and detached bungalows at Cardinal Point range in size from 1,233 to 2,574 sq. ft. and are priced from \$304,900 up to \$549,900. The sales office is located on Millard Street, just east of Highway 48 in Stouffville, and is open Monday to Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 905-640-9999 or visit geraniumhomes.com.

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