

An aerial photograph of a residential development at Kettle Valley. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with a white wooden fence. In the middle ground, a dense cluster of modern houses with dark grey roofs and light-colored walls is visible. The houses feature large windows and gabled roofs. In the background, a large, calm lake stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky. A long pier or bridge structure extends into the water on the left side. The overall scene is bright and scenic, showcasing contemporary home design in a natural setting.

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN At Kettle Valley



The Fiander home is an example of the contemporary shift in development at Kettle Valley. This American Cottage style build has been mixed with more modern elements, such as clean lines and an open floor plan.

Written By Darcy Nybo | Photography By Shawn Talbot Photography

The Village of Kettle Valley, voted the Best Community in Canada by the Canadian Home Builders Association, is growing and changing along with the demographics of those who call it home. The village was designed to be similar to one created by the Disney Corporation in Florida; a pedestrian friendly village where people could live, work and shop.

General Manager of the Village of Kettle Valley, Stephen Wells, has watched the village change over the years, including the style of the homes. "Contemporary design is increasing in popularity at Kettle Valley. No one wanted to deviate from what we were doing at the core of the village; however, once we got into other parts of our subdivisions we felt it would be a good opportunity to make some changes. What we've done is allow American Cottage, Modern Prairie, Tuscan, Mediterranean, and Country French style homes to be built. Some of the homes have a

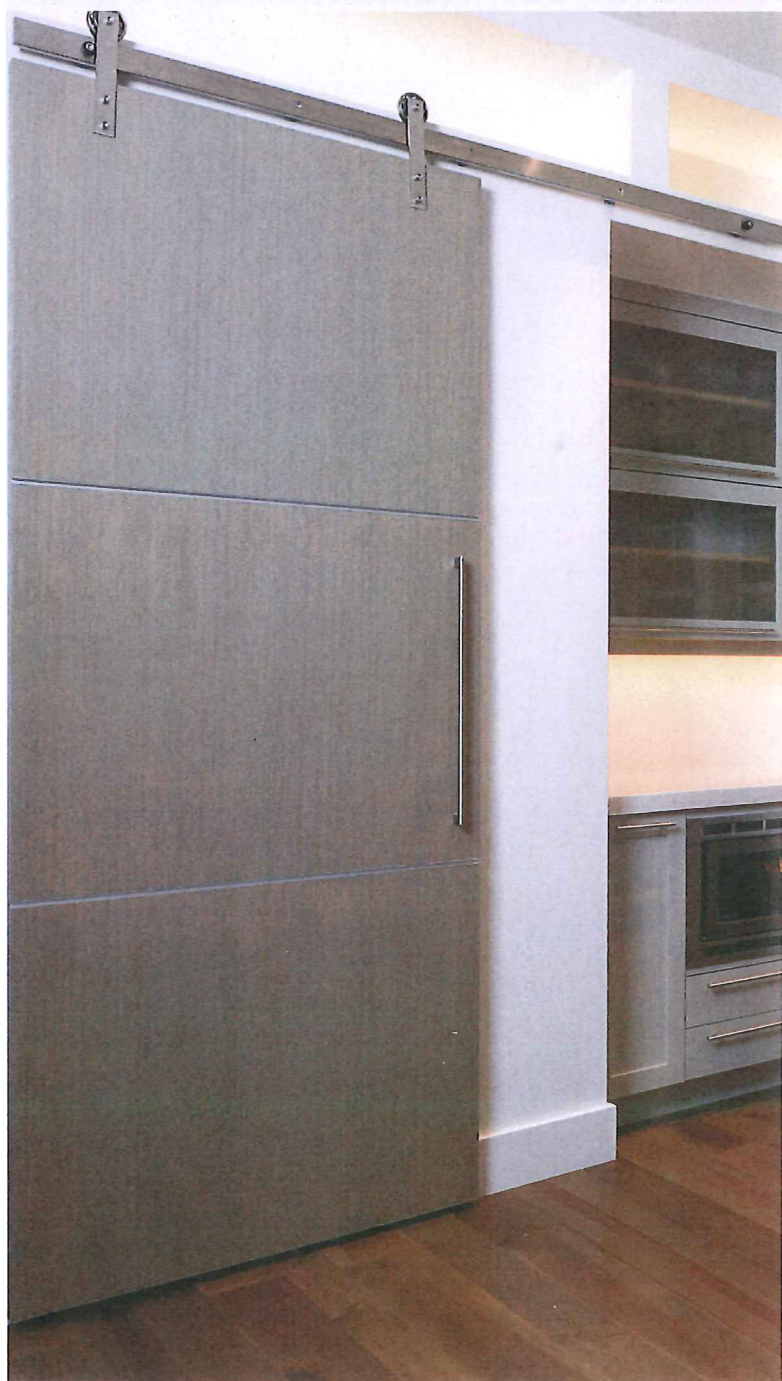
Zen flair incorporated into the rooflines. We aren't changing floor plans, but we are encouraging builders to look at different rooflines. There's also more timber and stonework now."

In addition, there is a new style being developed, known as Okanagan Transitional - a modern, earthy style with hints of architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright. This design will be located in the Highlands area and has a modern flair with clean lines.

"Frank Lloyd Wright actually has a creek running through a house he designed," explained Wells. "If I could design something like it, I think it would be a big hit up here."

"In the past, we've had people enquire about modern/contemporary style homes. Going forward, some of the new lots we will develop will be walk-up lots. You will pull into your garage, which is the basement, and then walk up to your main living area. We are going for more of an



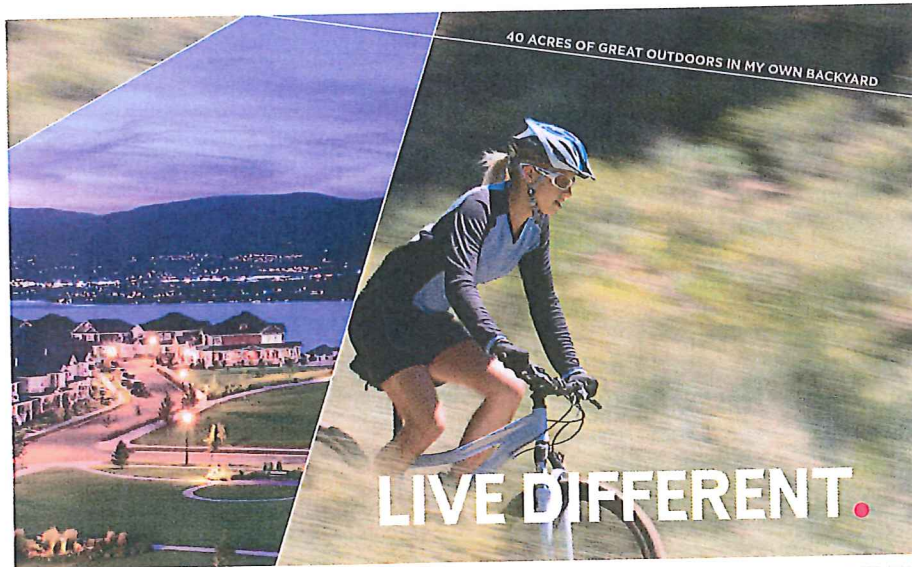


earthy look and are hoping to build a model home with an elevator. The design will be done in such a way that you can grow old in the home and always feel comfortable. People can transition through their lives without moving from a home they love. With the walk-ups, the views are from balconies in the front of the home, and you can entertain out the back without navigating stairs. The living area has everything on one floor. There will be some living space and the garage below. In The Pointe neighbourhood, there are already seven homes with grocery and/or people elevators for ease of access to the main living level.”

Paula Fiander is a homeowner and sales rep at Kettle Valley. Her home is more of a Cottage style - a style gaining in popularity at Kettle Valley. “I’m from the east coast and I am used to a Cottage style home. I gravitate to it. I have melded contemporary elements with clean lines to it. The interior has an open floor space, with a low profile roof on the house. It is reminiscent of something you would see on the east coast in Cape Cod. A typical New England home would have the grey weathered roof, and we’ve duplicated that look in these homes,” she explained. “Several of the interior colours are also used on the exterior of the home. For example, the colour of the hardwood floors was brought outside into the wood soffits on the front and back patio, to create an indoor/outdoor feeling.”

One commonality at Kettle Valley is that most homes have front decks or verandas as well as a back patio. “It’s nice to have the option to have your coffee in the morning on your front deck and then move to the back deck when the sun moves,” said Fiander.

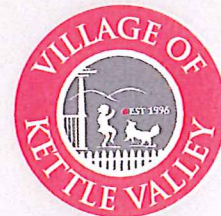
Wells adds, “By having these useable spaces in the front of the home it promotes getting to know your neighbour. We want people to enjoy their home; it’s a place where they can hang out and enjoy all the Okanagan has to offer.” ☺



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