





ADVERTISING FEATURE



What homeowners want in today's residences is simple: everything. Actually, the bottom line for Western homes

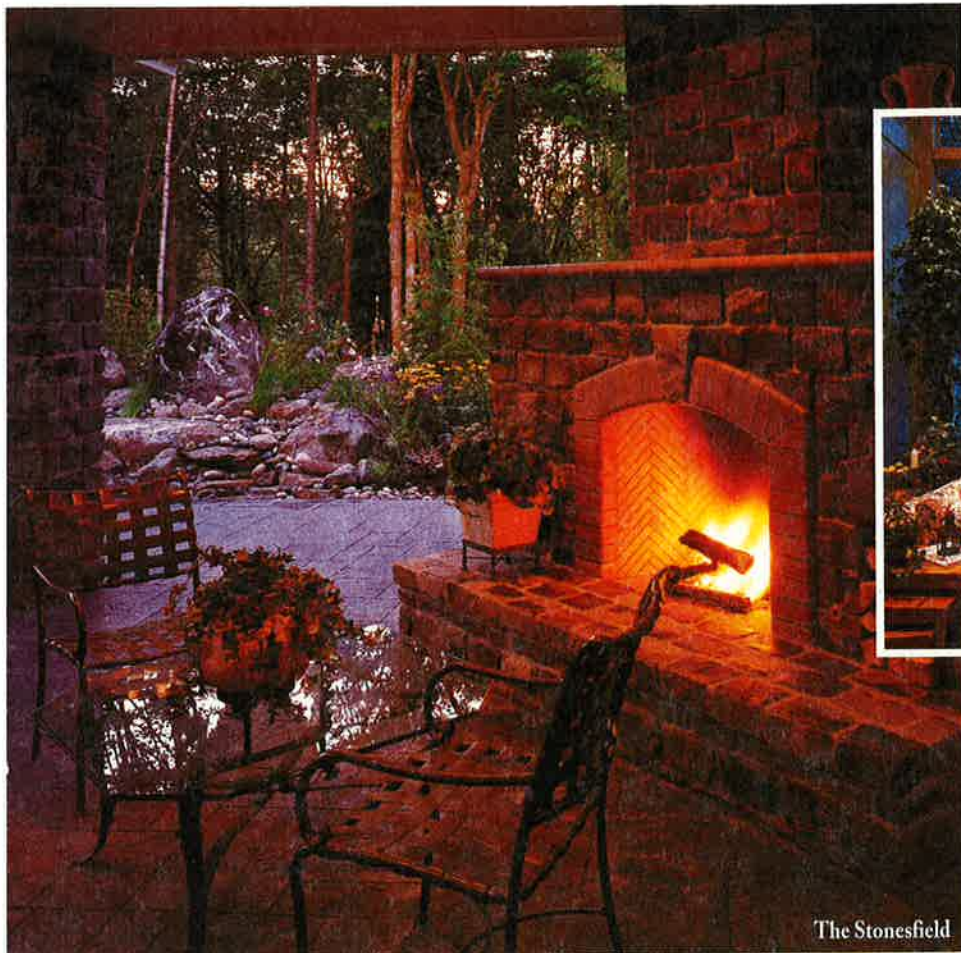
Built for Western Living

HOMES FROM THE 1997 SEATTLE STREET OF DREAMS ARE MODELS OF INNOVATION

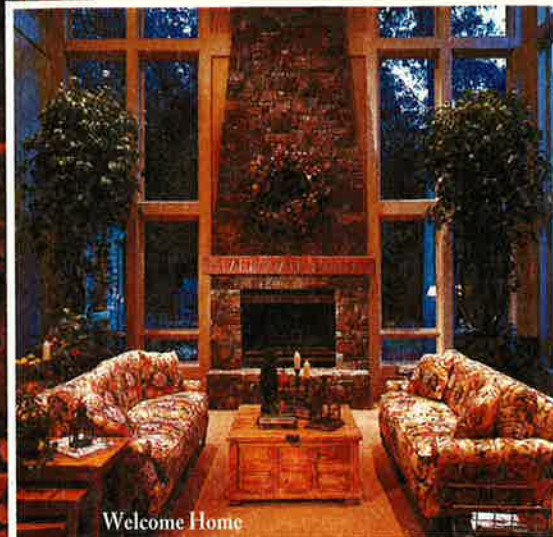


translates into matters of improved function, increased flexibility, interesting uses of natural materials, and innovative appliances that not only look great but also work efficiently. At this year's Seattle Street of Dreams, homebuilders demonstrated how these needs—and some we hadn't even considered—could be met.

Top: Timbercrest. Bottom: Welcome Home.



The Stonesfield



Welcome Home

In Seattle's fast-growing, forward-looking outskirts, the annual Street of Dreams is a summer showcase that homeowners and homeowners-to-be don't dare miss. This event not only spotlights half a dozen fantastic model homes set on wooded and landscaped grounds but also points the way toward lifestyle and home design innovations adaptable for many home building and remodeling projects.

As befits a region famed for its natural beauty and unspoiled environment, one of the outstanding features of all the model homes is sophisticated craftsmanship. Another is sensibly functional features uniquely suited to Western living.

"Today's lifestyle calls for casual elegance in the home, and this is created through the details and textures of the materials we use," says Roger MacPherson, builder of the Timbercrest residence on this year's Street of Dreams. "The Timbercrest features maple kitchen cabinetry and granite countertops, maple floors, pine ceilings, blue stone veneers, and cedar shingles—all important elements showing how today's homes meet homeowner expectations."

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—Tom Braaten

Timbercrest's functional aspects are enhanced by the home's modern appliances, elements important to today's homeowners wanting beauty, convenience, and sophisticated technology. The residence's sheltered patio features both a fireplace and a Weber Summit gas grill in heavy-duty stainless steel, the perfect solution for outdoor meals any day of the week. For indoor cooking, the home's natural-light-filled kitchen is a masterwork of Jenn-Air's Blue Creek line of appliances, custom finished in warm tones that function as key colorizing

elements in contemporary Western kitchens. The residence's laundry area sports Maytag's high-efficiency, environment-friendly Neptune washer and dryer, whose reduced water and energy use is much appreciated by eco-savvy Western homeowners.

A home can also serve its function as a hub for family life through such design improvements as simplified pathways both from room to room and within heavily used spaces such as kitchens, family areas, and media centers. "There's more need for homes that work both as a place for formal entertaining and as a gathering place for family activities," says homebuilder Tom Braaten, whose Welcome Home residence was one of this year's Street of Dreams projects.

With a soaring stone hearth flanked by 18-foot windows flooding natural light into its spectacular family room and with additional fireplaces in the living room, dining room, den, and master bedroom, Welcome Home exemplifies what's meant by "a warm nest." Adjacent to the home's spacious kitchen, a covered patio maximizes the residence's opportunities for outdoor living and entertaining. Enhancing the patio's livability is a Grand Hall Grand Café 3000 grill, a veritable kitchen on wheels ideally suited for roasting, smoking, and grilling in Seattle's year-round temperate climate.

Travel and art collecting are increasingly important counterpoints to today's busy and challenging lifestyles, and the Street of Dreams residences reflect design innovations that accommodate homeowners' expressions of their individual tastes. "When a space

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is larger than you normally expect it to be, people tend to exercise their creativity," says homebuilder Rick Gregerson, who created The Stonesfield residence, "so we've made bedrooms and office spaces larger and boosted hallway widths to five and six feet."

Equally important for the lifestyle enjoyment of today's Western family is the home's media room or entertainment center. As a place where the family can enjoy everything from a Huskies football clash to the latest Hollywood movies, video games, and Mozart CDs, this much-used space is pressed into use both day and night.

One of the greatest advantages of Western life is enjoying the fruits of the region's flourishing wine industry, and with the Yakima Valley's fabulous vineyards just a few hours east of Seattle, it's no wonder many Street of Dreams residences have incorporated wine rooms. The Stonesfield's wine room holds 500 bottles, 60 of which can be chilled with a built-in KitchenAid wine cellar. The adjacent kitchen features other KitchenAid appliances including a wide refrigerator, five-burner gas cooktop, double oven with Third Hidden Element convection cooking, and stainless steel interior dishwasher. The home's Whirlpool Ultimate Care laundry system is designed for larger-load capacities and offers improved water and utility efficiency.

Outdoor living in the Northwest's rainy climate isn't as much of an obstacle as some would believe. The re-

gion's coastal climate is temperate, and though there's an occasional cold spell during winter, temperatures are generally warm enough to allow family activities and even entertaining on patios featuring broad, sheltering overhang-style roofs that provide protection from the rain and allow for a ventilated cooking space.

Privacy in the form of sanctuary spaces is another Western lifestyle trend, according to MacPherson. "Master suites need to relate to the rest of a house, but they also have to be quiet and sufficiently separated so that no matter what's happening in the media room, kitchen, or other areas, the master suite remains a place of rest and seclusion," he says.

Luxurious master bath suites with plentiful sources of natural light are an integral part of this sanctuary. Welcome Home's master bath suite features breathtaking elements such as large windows, a fully opening skylight, radiant heated tile floors, tumbled marble shower

walls, and classic Kohler fixtures that lend flair and sophistication to the suite.

Today's homes must also be adaptable to the needs of telecommuting professionals and

their computer-savvy family members. To meet these demands, homes such as the Timbercrest are built with high-tech, category 5 com-

munications system wiring as well as conduits allowing for simplified wiring modifications, intercom systems such as Welcome Home's, and even separate outdoor entrances for home office spaces as seen in The Stonesfield.

Together, these important design innovations demonstrate why Seattle's Street of Dreams is considered the premier event on Northwest design calendars: everyone visits for a glimpse at the very latest in how builders are meeting the demands of the Western lifestyle. And in such a dynamic and trendsetting region, surely more design challenges will be met by the craftsmanship and vision of design and building professionals throughout the West.

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