

DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

Matisse Homes has Kelvin Choy as president and general manager.

He has been in the residential construction business for three decades and formed the custom estate home company in 2004.

He builds custom homes and infills in and around Calgary, working with his wife, Yvonne Gagnon, who does the design work.

Projects by the company include infill homes in Aspen Estates.

The developer of the area is The Amden Group,

owned by Gordon Atkins, who is also an architect.

The company also developed The Slopes and Anatapi, which is in the same area.

The development has 52 homesites with lots between 0.13 and 0.2 hectares. Builders must keep or replace all trees that have been removed for construction.

For information, check the website at www.matissehomes.com

— Kathy McCormick



“There’s enough clutter in people’s lives today that they don’t want to come home to it. They want a more relaxed look.”

KELVIN CHOY, MATISSE HOMES

FROM PAGE II
SIMPLE:
Opposite

That’s why the latest style is a total opposite of what came before it.

Simplicity is now the order of the day.

That contrasts with the busy homes of the past, where trinkets, mementoes, photo walls, souvenirs and antiques shared space with families.

Often, too, the homes were antiqued as well, with finishes that ranged from rag rolling on walls to crackle finishes on furniture to make them appear older.

“People today are going for contemporary themes more and more,” says Kelvin Choy, president and general manager of Matisse Homes, which builds custom estate homes in and around Calgary.

“More and more, they are looking for clean lines with not a lot of clutter. There’s enough clutter in people’s lives today that they don’t want to come home to it. They want a more relaxed look.”

The simplified look can be at once calming and relaxed while still being sophisticated — and practical.

SEE ART, PAGE I4



Photos, Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald

Richly-stained wooden floors join a modular, uncluttered design in the Matisse home.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROJECT: A custom estate home with a clean, modern design.

SIZE: About 3,800 square feet, with another 1,000 square feet developed in the basement.

BUILDER: Matisse Homes.

PRICE: About \$1.8 million.

LOCATION: Oversized lots of 0.13 to 0.2 hectares on Calgary’s western edge, nestled in aspen tree groves.



Left, the \$1.8-million house is in aspen tree groves. Right, the clean lines of a staircase.





LIVING HISTORY

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'ONE OF A KIND'

Great art cannot be mass-produced, says Matisse Homes' website.

"It's always one-of-a-kind," says

www.matissehomes.com.

"And it's never created without considerable forethought and soul-searching. We think the same attributes should apply to homes."

Which is why president and general manager Kelvin Choy named the company after a famous French painter.

"Henri Matisse, the brilliant modernist who

lived from 1869 to 1954, was just such an artist," says the website.

"While his art was unquestionably innovative and modern, it wasn't born of rejecting the centuries of artistic tradition that had gone before.

"No, unlike some of his peers, Matisse's work was grounded in those traditions — it made good use of all those hard-earned lessons to help create art of unimaginable freshness."

— Kathy McCormick



Calgary Herald Archive

Matisse Homes of Calgary is named in honour of the legendary French modernist artist Henri Matisse.



One of the bedrooms in the 3,800-square-foot home.

FROM PAGE I3

ART: Subtle design

In fact, it's a work of art.

No small wonder, then, that Matisse Homes is named for one of the world's best-known modernist painters, Henri Matisse.

Choy's latest home is a perfect example.

Built in one of the small enclaves of oversized lots on Calgary's west side, the home is modern inside and out.

From the street, the house offers a subtle sophistication of squared, boxy design.

Dark acrylic stucco is contrasted with slats of rich metal strips on the horizontal in strategic places, augmented by many symmetrical windows to let in the light.

"Even inside, we have designed it with simplicity in mind," says Choy. "The doors and windows, for instance, have no casings to keep it simple."

Functionality is foremost with the design, too. The dining room, immediately to the right from the front foyer, is also the home library.

"The room is used every day," says Choy. "Otherwise, it would only be used when there is company or for special occasions."

Like its twin on the other side of the foyer, the room is closed off with barn-style

doors on rods that allow them to push open to the sides.

The floors in these two rooms are warm hardwood, while the rest of the foyer and hallway has sleek, shiny grey tiles matching the colour scheme throughout.

The other room is a media room, complete with a fireplace surrounded by corrugated metal.

From the foyer, there is a clear view to the great room at the other end of the home.

The ceilings are high and many potlights throughout throw light on the area, which is complemented by the many windows.

The half bath is halfway to the great room from the entrance, opposite the staircase.

It has a floating toilet — with the tank behind the wall. Mosaic tiles go to the ceiling on one wall and are used as wainscoting on the other walls, with white square tiles filling the rest of the space.

The family room, kitchen and nook fill up the back of the home.

Cabinets in the kitchen consist of quarter-sawn maple with quartz on the countertops, including on the island, where it cascades to the floor.

SEE DOOR, PAGE I5



Photos, Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald

Clockwise from above: furniture with clean, simple lines complements the home's design. Below, a tub in one of the bathrooms. Left, bookshelves. Top, the dining room and kitchen.



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THE TERRACES
of Springbank Hill

MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Trico Homes has scooped up 25 lots in the Summit of Montreux.

Located in the popular west side of Calgary, Summit of Montreux is an alpine-theme community built in a natural ravine with more than 13 hectares of open space, mountain views, and preserved green space. The project, at 85th Street and 17th Avenue S.W., has been under development for a few years now by Harmony Park Developments Corp.

"There are very limited opportunities left to build

in this southwest community so we are pleased to offer this opportunity to our customers," says Trico sales manager Warren Saunders.

The company has a selection of models for lots measuring 38 to 44 feet. House prices start at \$500,000 and sales will be from Trico's Aspenshire show home that will be opening in January.

Visit the websites at www.tricohomes.com and www.summitofmontreux.com

— Marty Hope



FROM PAGE I4

DOOR: Chandelier

I made it look like every piece is artwork — even the water closet.

KELVIN CHOY, MATISSE HOMES

In behind, a wall-to-wall pantry with two banks of quarter-sawn maple cupboards is close and efficient.

A door leads to the dining room from here.

A huge circle chandelier hangs over the nook, and the great room has a flat-framed sleek, long fireplace that fits the space nicely.

Twelve-foot patio doors lead to the wraparound deck that's all along the kitchen, nook and around the corner of the great room.

Upstairs, the open riser steps lead up to the master



A sink with a cabinet seems to float above the floor.

suite, which has a spa-like ensuite, again with "floating" features — even including the mirrors above the vanities, a walk-around free-standing air-jet tub, and a walk-in shower.

His-and-hers vanities are back-to-back with mosaic tile to the ceiling around them and a makeup desk in the 'hers' vanity.

The walk-in closet, like other areas in the home, utilizes solar tubes to bring in some light.

The two children's bedrooms each have walk-in closets and they share a jack-and-jill bathroom.

A huge linen closet is included with the laundry room, followed by another spacious area over the triple garage that has been designed as an oversized office with a separate entrance.

It includes a beverage fridge, dishwasher, laundry room, full bathroom and access to the wraparound balcony through a four-patio door/window combination.

The rest of the room has wall-to-wall windows, so it's bathed in light. It could easily be a nanny's suite or a teen's hideaway.

The lower level has been designed with children in mind.

It's kid-proof in many ways — including the wrought iron stringers and railing, concrete treads on the stairs, and the etched concrete floor with slab heat-



Photos, Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald

Above, small windows on the top of the wall ensure privacy. Below, a functional yet compellingly-designed water faucet adds an interesting touch to the kitchen.

ing underneath.

The area includes a kid's playroom that's large, as well as another full bathroom and laundry room, and another bedroom.

"It's virtually indestructible," says Choy.

The key to a design that embodies the concepts of simplicity — but is very detailed to construct — is making every space count, he says.

"I made it look like every piece is artwork — even the water closet," he says with a smile.

At 3,800 square feet with about 1,000 square feet developed downstairs, the house is valued at \$1.8 million, including the oversized lot filled with aspen trees.



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Auburn Bay SE
December Possession



Emerge \$1608* monthly

145 Auburn Glen Manor SE

2,504 sq ft.

- Spacious kitchen open to the great room
- Large kitchen with two islands
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Hardwood & Ceramic Tile main floors
- Granite Countertops
- Central Bonus room
- Upper floor laundry
- His/her Ensuite w/soaker tub and stand alone shower

\$494,900 includes lot & GST

Auburn Bay SE
December Possession



Allure 2 \$1494* monthly

101 Auburn Glen Drive SE

2,248 sq ft.

- Spacious kitchen open to the great room
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Hardwood & Ceramic Tile main floors
- Granite Countertops
- 9 foot ceilings in the bonus room
- Upper floor laundry
- Computer niche
- Large owners suite

\$459,900 includes lot & GST

Auburn Bay SE
November Possession



Allure 2 \$1494* monthly

25 Auburn Glen Gardens SE

2,248 sq ft.

- 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the upper floor
- Impressive ensuite with double sinks
- Large soaker tub and stand alone shower in ensuite
- Upper floor laundry and computer niche
- Central bonus room with 9 foot ceilings
- Large kitchen
- Great room with hardwood floor and gas fireplace

\$459,900 includes lot & GST

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Chaparral Valley SE
December Possession



Allure \$1494* monthly

84 Chaparral Valley Green SE

2,248 sq ft.

- Spacious kitchen open to the great room
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Hardwood & Ceramic Tile main floors
- Granite Countertops
- 9 foot ceilings in the bonus room
- Upper floor laundry
- Computer niche
- Large owners suite

\$459,900 includes lot & GST

Chaparral Valley SE
Immediate Possession



Allure \$1591* monthly

290 Chaparral Valley Terrace SE

2,168 sq ft.

- Beautiful green space lot with great view
- Large kitchen
- Spacious great room with gas fireplace
- Hardwood and tile flooring on main floor
- Upper floor laundry and computer niche
- Large central bonus room with 9 foot ceilings
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms on upper floor with full ensuite

\$489,900 includes lot & GST

Chaparral Valley SE
Immediate Possession



Liberty 3 \$1705* monthly

294 Chaparral Valley Terrace SE

2,384 sq ft.

- This view lot won't last long!
- Backyard faces unobstructed views
- 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths including a full ensuite
- Central bonus room
- Loft area and laundry on the upper floor
- Walk through pantry on the main floor
- Open concept kitchen
- Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances
- Hardwood and tile flooring on the main floor

\$524,900 includes lot & GST

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