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## In An Urban Mood

Geranium Homes; Stouffville model mixes country and city styles

Lisa Van De Ven, National Post

Presented by



Country meets city, with a bit of vintage thrown in.

That's how designer Yanic Simard envisioned the design for what he calls his "country chic" model at Geranium Homes's Stouffville project, Cardinal Point.

One of two models at the site, the 1,689-square-foot three-bedroom home features rural references in keeping with its location, but with a lighter, more urban colour palette and a mix of vintage accents to add a lived-in look.

"We did want to give it a country or cottage feel, but it was important that it still feel urban," says Mr. Simard, principal designer for Toronto Interior Design Group. "The forms are vintage, but the colours are very trendy ... so you've got the lines of the country, but the aesthetic of the city."

The townhome opens into a foyer, where Mr. Simard and his team immediately introduced vintage elements, with a series of old-fashioned hats hanging above a gunmetal-and-glass console table. The floor is a light grey-brown brick-patterned ceramic tile.

An antique birch hardwood is used throughout the rest of the home. In the living room, the flooring is offset by glass mosaic tiles surrounding the fireplace and Japanese linen wallpaper on two of the walls. The sofa has a linen slipcover, with patterned accent cushions adding visual texture. A separate seating area in front of the fireplace has two armless chairs and an ottoman. Wood is piled beside the fireplace as a nod to the rural feel, while a range of accessories -- including a chrome deer head above the woodpile -- complete the room's decor. "We packed the whole thing [with accessories]," Mr. Simard says. "We tried to include stuff that [buyers] could have collected throughout the years, so that it looks very personal."

The kitchen is also accessorized to support that lived-in look. It has green tea-toned cabinetry, with a built-in wine rack and a tile inlay in the hardwood floor. The dining area features a country kitchen table in a distressed finish, shown with a more urban banquette and armchairs, as well as with two traditional farm-style chairs (painted black for a modern interpretation). On the wall above the banquette hang a series of white plates. "Once again, this is very traditional and country, but by using just white [plates] ... you get that sleek feel to it," Mr. Simard says.

Upstairs, the same country-meets-city aesthetic can be found. There, one room has been converted into a crafts studio, with a vintage sewing machine, an old tailor's mannequin and bolts of fabric set

against the wall. A large desk placed on an angle is the focal point of the space, while a pony-hide area rug offers a touch of fun.

Another room becomes a boy's haven, with twin beds featuring brown linen upholstered headboards. Vintage sports accessories and car drawings add life to the space.

The master suite has a calming effect, with seafoamgreen used throughout, but updated with the use of a black four-poster bed and a wicker chair. Accessories tell the story of the people Mr. Simard imagines living in the home. "The couple that probably lives there is extremely successful and well put together," the designer says.

Homes at Cardinal Point range in size from 1,081 to 2,575 sq. ft., and in price from \$239,900 to \$399,900. The sales office is located on Millard Street, 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](http://geraniumhomes.com).

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