



South Creek

CLOVERDALE PERFECTION

» by **SUSAN M BOYCE**

It's a sunny afternoon, and the first thing I notice as I arrive at South Creek's newly opened showhome is the fresh air. The second is the sound of a creek bubbling happily over rocks — which is actually all I can hear except the wind rustling gently through some mature trees to one side of the property.

I know I shouldn't really be surprised because Diane Zarola, Foxridge's sales and marketing manager, has already told me almost half the homes here back directly onto a green belt surrounding the property's namesake, South Creek. But somehow I can't help pausing just to savour the moment all the same.

INTERIOR WOW

I spot Diane waving from the front porch and head over. It's the kind of inviting space I remember from my childhood — a couple of rattan armchairs, some potted plants and a distinctly comfortable

ambiance. As we step inside though, it's immediately clear this ain't my grandma's house. It's a totally contemporary, open design filled with the warm, casual style that's integral to the West Coast lifestyle.

To the left of the two-storey foyer, there's a den/office with 12-foot ceilings and an eye-catching optional fireplace. "But wouldn't it be cool to put a baby grand piano in here and use it as a music room?" Diane says. Not just cool, that sounds way cool in my books.

As we head for the kitchen, I hear myself let out a small gasp of surprise. In the hallway, a massive, gilt mirror appears to float in an art niche decked out with a high-relief insert that looks just like waves. To say the effect is dramatic is a classic understatement. "This is actually very easy to do, and you can paint the material any colour you want," Diane explains smiling at my obvious delight. "I've seen this in sunshine yellow, British racing green, even fire-engine red. We just like giving people creative ideas."

But now the open-concept, great room kitchen beckons to me. In a word, it's huge. It's also intelligently planned to make cooking more enjoyable whether you're planning a romantic dinner for two or a culinary extravaganza with the entire family, including in-laws. Little touches like a pantry wall that places the microwave at optimum height for easy access, an elegant stainless steel, chimney-style hood fan, and a centre island strategically



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covered deck with sofa plus two armchairs and a coffee table, the optional outdoor fireplace and the lavish landscaping that creates the sense we're standing in a park. "From here you can actually see the creek," Diane says pointing. Sure enough, framed between two mature trees, a twinkle of sunlight is dancing on the water. "And you get an even better view from the master suite."

Heading upstairs to check it out, I note a few more above-and-beyond features: a loft-style nook on the landing, a Jack'n'Jill bathroom for the two children's rooms, even a laundry room where the side-by-side washer/dryer have been elevated meaning no more back strain... smart.

The master bedroom is, as I expected, a truly luxurious retreat — vaulted ceiling, a chandelier that appeals directly to my love of bling, and an ensuite with five-foot frameless glass shower plus dual sinks set in a counter that's at least nine feet long. I confess I'm momentarily disoriented when the walk-in closet appears to have moved until I realize there's not one, but two of them — think that would be hers and his'n'hers? Yeah, me too.



And, of course, there's the master bedroom's balcony. As large as the deck off the living room below, this is definitely where you'd find me reading the paper and sipping a latté every sunny morning. Diane also points out a feature I'd missed downstairs: every exterior French door has in-glass venetian blinds so there's no dusting and no snagging on the door lever.

Our final stop is the lower level where there's the famous Foxridge Design Centre. Here racks of tile, flooring, and countertop samples rub shoulders with displays of cabinets, mirrors, and door hardware. "This is where our buyers get to play, where they choose the colours and finishings they want for their home." Diane laughs. "Sometimes it's hard to say who has more fun here, the buyers or our sales team."



COMMUNITY ON THE GO

"Cloverdale is such an active, family-friendly neighbourhood — a great place to raise kids and put down roots," Diane says. "People have been waiting for something like this for a long time and they're excited. Our phone started ringing the moment we put up the development signage, and by the end of opening weekend, we'd written six sales contracts."

South Creek's presentation centre and two furnished showhomes are open noon to 5 p.m. daily at 18012 – 68th Avenue in Surrey. Prices for these three- and four-bedroom homes start in the low \$700,000's. For more information, visit foxridghomes.ca or call 604.372.0388.

placed so the chef can not only converse with people in both the dining room and adjacent living room, they can see outside as well... particularly excellent because, like all South Creek homes, this backyard is something special.

"We believe indoor and outdoor areas should work together to extend your overall living space." Diane's gesture encompasses the