

Innovative Home Will Be Open to Agents as a "Living Showroom"

REALTOR® Deena Loveland noticed a trend among a segment of her clients: they were looking for smaller homes with high-end amenities, especially as they got older and their households got smaller.

And she realized she had grown to fit that profile. "My kids are grown, and I want a nice home...but not one that is so big—I don't need three bedrooms, or a family room and den—and I don't want a condo in Kirkland," she said, noting these as the typical available choices for "empty-nesters" looking for new, high-quality homes to meet their changing lifestyles.

So, rather than settle for a house that didn't suit her, Loveland is building her dream-home, her "House of the Millennium," with a floor plan that reflects her revamped lifestyle and building materials that illustrate her interest in innovation.

An open floor plan—free of walls except those enclosing bathrooms—will showcase views of Lake Sammamish from a hillside location on the Pine Lake Plateau north of Issaquah. It will be a mix of concrete, steel and glass, supported by exterior walls made of Rastra, recycled Styrofoam filled with concrete that provides long-term durability. A new stucco product, designed specifically to endure Pacific Northwest weather, is being applied directly to the interior and exterior foam walls.

"There will be very little wood," Loveland said, citing her interest in recycled, sustainable building products. "The layout is very much like a New York loft, very open. I want to create an environment and use the whole house." A separate guesthouse will ensure privacy for all when visitors are in residence.

The interior will shine with state-of-the-art products, which Loveland has spent considerable time researching personally. "I've literally been around the world and have asked a lot of questions over a three-year period," she said. "I've particularly asked vendors what is new and great to use. And I've been very flexible and not afraid to use new products."

Among those new items will be the latest in kitchen and bath design from Italy; interior steel beams powder-coated with a baked-on finish to prevent rust; European tilt-and-turn windows that open like doors or tilt open in a manner that ensures security; flexible plumbing that does not rust or leak; and an energy efficient hot water tank that never runs out of hot water, while hanging on the wall in a mere 2 feet-by-3 feet-by-6 inch space.

Construction began in May, and is anticipated to wrap up in February 2001. Loveland will hold a 30-day open house when construction is completed, including a special open house for real estate agents.

"It's a very unique house and everything about it won't appeal to everyone," she said. "I'd just like to give people an opportunity to really see the new things builders can be using. It's a living showroom. And, if there is one new idea for every person who comes through it, then it is worth it."

A 25-year real estate veteran, Loveland works for Prudential Michael Smith in Bellevue. For more about her "House of the Millennium," visit her website, www.deenaloveland.com. Posted 10/12/00 Archived 1/24/01.