

ON SHOW

Open for inspection

Builder's son opens his Stittsville home to prove home buying can be fun

BY MELANIE O'BRIEN

Shellstar Holdings is the first in Stittsville's fledgling community of Granite Ridge to lay out the welcome mat for potential buyers and open a new model home.

Not only does the Sandstone model serve as the sales office, it is also the new home of Shellstar's salesman and foreman, Tristan Terkuc and his wife Kelly. Finishing touches are also being put on a second model home, set to open later this month.

As new homeowners, the couple feels they are well suited to help others through the buying process.

"We've gone through this first-house thing and we know how stressful it is," says Mr. Terkuc, who is a key part of a family-owned company started by his father, Vic Terkuc. "Buying a home should be fun and that's what we hope to do."

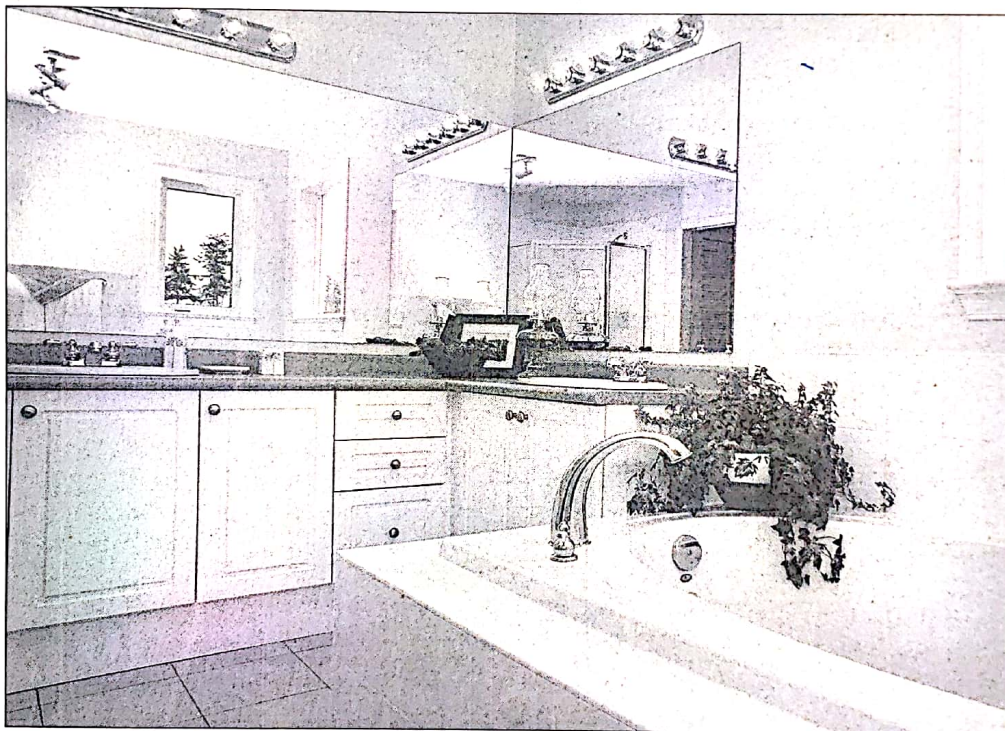
The younger Terkuc believes having people come into his own home helps everyone be more relaxed.

"We can sit down and have a coffee and if they have children, we can pop some popcorn, turn on the TV, or pop a game in the Playstation."

In business for 30 years, Shellstar Holdings has concentrated on custom homes in recent years, but has also built family homes in Stittsville and Osgoode.

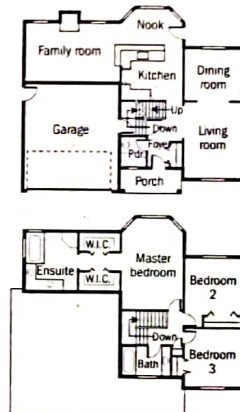
Currently, the company owns eight lots in phase one of Granite Ridge and may buy additional ones in the community, which will have more than 400 homes when completed.

"It's a fantastic location," says Mr. Terkuc, adding it is close to the Queensway and around the corner from a new recreation



PHOTOS BY BRIGITTE BOUYER, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

The 1,800-square-foot Sandstone is built for family living. 'There's not an inch wasted,' says Kelly Terkuc of Shellstar Holdings.



Granite Ridge

Location: Granite Ridge Drive off Abbott Street in Stittsville
Type: Singles
Price: \$228,900 to \$255,900
Size: 1,370 to 2,250 square feet
Hours: Monday to Thursday and weekends, noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Call 799-0242 or visit their Web site at www.shellstarholdings.com

centre.

The builder is offering five home designs, including two bungalows and customized plans. Standard finishings include ceramic tile in the foyer and bathrooms, hardwood flooring and crown mouldings in the living and dining rooms.

The 1,800-square-foot Sandstone is built for family living. "It offers fully usable space and there's not an inch wasted," says Mrs. Terkuc.

The front door opens to a roomy ceramic-tiled foyer, while big windows flood lots of natural light into the living and dining rooms. The efficient kitchen combines a U-shaped workspace with oak cabinetry, lots of counter space and a breakfast bar overlooking the bright eating area.

A cosy family room, with a gas fireplace and marble surround, is a natural gathering spot for the couple. Mrs.

Terkuc is pleased she opted to splurge on hardwood flooring.

The spacious master bedroom is across the back of the house and there is more than enough light from the big bay window to help her plants bloom. Twin closets provide lots of storage for clothing, taking away the need for bulky dressers.

The ensuite bath is designed for pampering, with double sinks, an extra long vanity and

an oversized soaker tub surrounded by windows.

The two other bedrooms are modest, but offer design perks of a vaulted ceiling and large Palladian window.

The laundry hook-ups are in the unfinished basement, but they have been located in a small alcove behind the stairs and can be easily closed off when it comes time to finish the space.

Following a recommendation from their plumber, the couple

opted to upgrade to a new seamless plastic piping system that is used extensively in Sweden. It can expand to six times its size, virtually eliminating any chance of burst pipes. Also because each fixture has its own connection, it is soundproof.