

Houses take honors in Builders Show parade

By Doug Funke
staff writer

Six houses ranging in price from \$129,900 to \$435,900 and in size from just under 1,500 to 4,200 square feet garnered award of excellence designations from a panel of architects during the annual Parade of Homes exhibition.

The showcase, co-sponsored by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and Comerica Mortgage, was held in conjunction with the International Builders Home Flower Furniture Show.

"People come from far and wide looking for ideas," said Sam Kreis, vice president of construction lending for Comerica. "Parade of Homes gives them an opportunity to deal with those builders or go to their own builder and say, 'I like floor plan three and floor plan seven' and go from there."

Judging was based on design, special features and value for price. Floor plans and renderings submitted by more than 20 builders were evaluated. All models have been constructed and are scattered throughout metro Detroit.

Following is a brief summary of the winners by category.

• **Condominium** — The Bayview, 1,459 square feet priced from \$135,500. This is a joint venture between The Brody Group and Adams Development Corp. of Bloomfield Hills in Lochmoor at Voorhels Lake, Orion Township.

The unit contains two bedrooms, two baths, an oversized kitchen with breakfast nook, a large great room, a two-car garage and an unfinished basement. A laundry room is conveniently linked to the garage entrance.

"The floor plan, the open flow to it, is one of the nicest plans I've encountered," said John Sheehan, marketing director for Brody.

• **Under \$135,000** — The Ryan, 2,240 square feet priced from \$129,900, built by DOB Custom Builders of Auburn Hills in Brandon Township.

The floor plan shows the master suite, great room, kitchen with dining nook, laundry room and powder room on the first floor. Two bedrooms with a loft — possibility for a third bedroom or recreational use — is on the second level. The model also has a garage and basement.

"Open the front door and you're looking straight at a fireplace, transom windows, solid glass on each side of the fireplace, two loft areas upstairs," said Dean O'Brien, DOB president. "It's very open. I have people just stand and gape."

• **Up to \$160,000** — The Cambridge, 1,856 square feet priced from \$155,490 built by the BBC Group of Farmington Hills. The model is available

in Canton and Pittsfield townships.

The common living areas are built into one side of the house, three bedrooms on the other. Vaulted ceilings can be found in the great room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast nook. The model also has a first-floor laundry, attached garage and basement.

"The adaptability of the model is a great feature," said Steve Taglione, owner of BBC Group. "It can be three bedrooms and a den or four bedrooms."

The vaulted ceilings also give an already spacious ranch a more spacious feel, he added.

• **Up to \$200,000** — The Lexington, 2,182 square feet built by The Irvine Group of Farmington Hills in Milford. The price starts at \$189,000.

This is another example of the master bedroom suite designed on the main level, with two other bedrooms and the possibility of a third upstairs.

The den, great room or steps leading to the second level are right off the main foyer.

As with other winners, this model contains a first-floor laundry, attached garage and basement.

"The look and feel of the exterior is an unusual feature of the home," said Norm Finkelstein, an Irvine partner. "We call it kind of country contemporary. Big covered porches, high roof lines give it a special attraction."

• **Up to \$300,000** — The New Dream, 3,400 square feet built by TDM Housing of East Detroit. The model in Farmington Hills is priced from \$295,000.

The house plans show a separate living room and family room, plus a dining room and an eating nook off the kitchen. All three bedrooms are on the second floor. The house has 2½ baths, first-floor laundry, walkout basement and two-car garage. The turned garage creates a courtyard entry.

Judges seemed especially impressed by the different elevations, combination of brick and cedar for exterior facing and the barrel vault front entrance, said Brian Sunetta, TDM owner.

• **Over \$300,000** — The Oakland, 4,200 square feet priced from \$435,900 built by F&M Construction of Rochester Hills in that community.

The main floor contains a family room and living room between a study, a large kitchen with a dining nook, butler's pantry and a separate dining room.

All four bedrooms and three baths are upstairs.

Two separate sets of stairs lead to the second level. A two-story solarium attaches to the family room downstairs, the master suite up.

"There's no wasted square footage," said Donna Ybarra, an F&M sales rep. "It has a real nice master suite, a real nice kitchen. Those are the two things people in that price range are looking for."



The Cambridge features brick on four sides, master bedroom suite with platform tub, masonry fireplace, vaulted ceilings, full basement,

ceramic tile or oak flooring in foyer, 2½ baths, and three bedrooms.



The Lexington features vaulted ceilings, first-floor master bath with separate shower and

tub, optional hearth room and first floor laundry.



The Oakland features leaded glass front entry doors, full basement with walkouts available, oak bookcases and flooring in the study, ceiling

crowns moldings, central vacuum system and beveled glass French doors in the study and master suite.

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