



For Immediate Release

Empire Communities Luxury Model Inspires Designer to Take Personal Approach

Houston, Texas Jan. 10, 2019: Interior designer Stephanie Quisenberry has designed hundreds of model homes in her 36-year career. But when she was tasked with the interior of Empire Communities' Laguna model in Tomball's Reserve at Spring Lakes, she did something she had never done before — design it for herself.

There was just something about the home's 4,047-square-foot design that resonated.

"I could see myself living here," said Quisenberry, owner of Quisenberry Design. "I don't say that about many model homes. I pictured myself living here and made choices that I would have wanted in my own home."

The result is an interior that is both elegant and comfortable, and perfectly complements the architecture.

"There are lots of windows, so the outdoors is your art," she said.

Nature was also an inspiration for Quisenberry, who used ample natural wood throughout the home for beamed ceilings, floors and furniture. The muted gold word "Tree" amplifies the message as fun wall art in the casual dining area.

The model's color palette is a mix of tans and grays — bridging the popular "greige" of the past several years to a more modern warm neutral. Quisenberry opted to play more with texture than color in the home's design.

"I wanted elements of texture everywhere," she said.

Varying texture can be found in the exterior brick used as the kitchen's back splash, the metal light fixtures, nail-studded furniture, aged shutters above the fireplace, and the patterned carpets and throw rugs.

Quisenberry also mixed new furniture with statement antiques, such as the reupholstered sofa, a chest in the master bedroom and an armoire. Accent pieces were chosen to intentionally resemble items that could have been gathered over a lifetime of travel.

"This home definitely does not look like a furniture store," she said. "It was designed for someone in their 40s or 50s with discriminating taste who has traveled and collected."

Architect Todd Rice with Rice Residential Design also had the same demographic in mind when designing the four-bedroom home, which starts in the low \$600,000s.

"The size of the floor plan with four bedrooms, two studies, 4.5 baths and an upstairs game room was a challenge, especially at that price point," he said. "We had to think long and hard about how to best utilize every single square foot to make the floor plan open, inviting and functional."

Tucking the stairs next to the entry and placing bedrooms as close to the stairs as possible were just some of the efficiencies Rice employed. The model also showcases current design fashions, as well as a few surprises.

“The trend today is for a single dining room and a huge kitchen island with plenty of walkway,” Rice said. “The kitchen is the focal point of the home, and at this price point, buyers want a heart of the home that invites people to gather. With that in mind, another unique feature of the home is how guests entering the home can flow right into the kitchen.”

Rice said the model’s kitchen island could easily seat 12 people.

The Laguna floor plan is one of six designs Empire offers in Reserve at Spring Lakes, a community of acreage homesites located in Tomball. The designs range from 3,907 square feet to a sprawling 4,815-square-foot design. Pricing is from the \$550,000s.

“These are the largest and most luxurious home designs Empire offers in the Houston area,” said James Miller, Regional President of Empire’s Texas Homebuilding Division. “It shows the breadth of our portfolio for buyers in nearly all price points.”

Interested home buyers can visit the model at 30702 Spring Lake Boulevard or learn more at www.empirecommunities.com. See a video of the model [here](#).

Empire Communities builds in nine Houston-area communities, with homes priced from the \$190,000s to more than \$700,000. Their “Design+Build” program of custom homes is offered in some of Houston’s most sought-after neighborhoods. Empire also offers homes in 12 Austin-area developments and three communities located in San Antonio.

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Photo Information

Empire Reserve at Spring Lakes B-49.jpg

The Empire Communities Laguna model in Tomball’s Reserve at Spring Lakes has a kitchen meant to be a gathering place for family and friends with a statement island and a soothing design filled with texture.

Empire Reserve at Spring Lakes B-34.jpg

Utilizing every square inch of space was a priority in designing the 4,047-square-foot Empire Communities model home in Reserve at Spring Lakes. The home — which represents Empire’s most luxurious collection of homes — offers four bedrooms, 4.5 baths, two studies an upstairs game room and open design. Pricing is from the \$550,000s.

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