



A full view of the water feature at Green. Such design elements can help eliminate the noise from busy traffic routes, and adds aesthetic appeal, says Raincity owner Ryan Spong.

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Aquarium – which is popular in its own right – Raincity Rock has also worked with locals Brian Jessel and Nickelback frontman, Chad Kroeger.

On the new home development side of things, their work can be seen in South Burnaby at Green by Adera Development Corp., where they built a three-tiered rock screen with waterfalls and a water feature that starts out as a dry river bed and becomes a creek that winds through the project.

The aesthetic advantages are obvious – Green’s style brings nature to the doorstep of nearly all its residents – but these features can also provide a tranquil residential setting, says Spong.

“A lot of times what water features do is cut noise,” he says.

“You’ll find developments on a lot of major noise routes, so we come in and create a lot of ‘white noise.’” He notes that instead of being forced to hear rigs storm by or ‘beep’ as they back up, residents are instead treated to the sound of a babbling brook or waterfall.

The goal is to bring new ideas and looks to each project, such as they did at Henderson Development’s Obelisk in Coquitlam (completed in 2007).

“The idea was to have the base of it look like there was bedrock that a ruin was built on top of,” he says, noting the rustic feel of Obelisk’s water feature.

While that project is long-done, business continues to be busy and Raincity Rock’s

designs continue to make their way into more and more new homes. It has certainly benefited Adera. The Green development is beautifully fitted with a river that runs through the middle of the complex.

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Adera has brought the same approach to their Salus development, as well, located in Surrey, where (on a sunny day) the clubhouse looks like a resort patio that has been situated along the Fraser River.

“We did it for the long-term enjoyment of the home owners,” says Tony Flynn, sales manager for Green. “It’s much nicer to have than a plain, grassy landscape.”

“And when the plants are mature it’ll look green and lush, and require less watering.”

At Green, the overall message being portrayed is its environmental spin. The project has been built in according to BuiltGreen standards, and if the development’s name itself doesn’t portray its sustainable approach, its water features certainly do.

Green also contains the expansive Seasons Club, which is fit with a library, billiards room, double-sided fireplace, and an outdoor lounge area with a barbecue.

The club’s lower level features all the amenities that nature lovers desire, such as a fitness center, yoga room and sauna. However, the application of the two resources that British Columbians value most – water and grass – as exterior design imperatives drives homebuyers’ ecstasy even higher.

“People and new visitors come and walk through and see the club and literally go, ‘Wow! This is like a resort!’” says Flynn. “People are using it a lot now, but we’ll see more and more people using it as the summer comes.”

As the summer heat approaches, local weekenders constantly flock to our lakes or the Pacific Ocean in search of fun and relaxation. Others roll outside to their backyard patios, pools or clubhouses where these services are provided for them.

Either way you can go about it, it’s nice to know there are more options out there that make the journey just a little bit shorter.