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Building Success 101

Q: What is "universal design?"

A: "Universal Design" is a broad term that describes the process of making the home environment more comfortable, convenient, and even cost-effective. Universal design goes beyond basic handicap accessibility, and considers the needs of occupants of all ages and abilities, as well as how those abilities and lifestyles change over time. In keeping with this effort, our suppliers have stepped up with products that are more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing, so that universal design is seamless, all but unnoticed when compared to traditional housing design.

Have it Your Way!

No two homes are the same, and every homeowner is unique.

As a semi-custom builder, Landed Gentry has defined as its mission to build high quality homes with enough standardization to keep prices low, and with enough customization to allow buyers to add their own preferences and personal touches. When developing a new community, we work directly with architects, planners and designers using a "lifestyle" approach to carefully consider the wants and needs of our future homeowners.

This process helps determine everything about each floorplan within a new community, from the simplest and most obvious, such as the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, to less obvious features such as entertainment areas, storage space, and even lines of sight within and around the home. Coordinating with the layout of the home, we then assemble a wide range of materials for buyers to choose from when customizing interior finishes, appliances, and fixtures.

If you are considering a new home, we encourage you to use some of the same planning processes that we use to determine the community and the home that best meets your "lifestyle."

Location, location, location: Which community best matches your lifestyle? Currently, Landed Gentry has communities available at several locations in Oak Harbor, Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Arlington. When selecting a location for your new home, compare how the characteristics of each region can benefit your lifestyle. Consider, for example, proximity to schools and retail services, as well as availability of medical, transportation, and other community resources.

Remember to take into account your outdoor activities. If you prefer to take walks, run, or bike ride, ready access to a community bike or walking path might help target your choice of locations. Most Landed Gentry communities include direct links to city walking trail networks, and our Big Fir community, for example, features walking trails along a creek corridor. If golf is your passion, consider our Fairway Point community, located immediately adjacent to Whidbey Golf & Country Club. The opportunity to garden or do yard work may also be a determining factor in your search for a new home, while those who disdain mowing the lawn will be drawn to our active adult communities which include association-maintained front yard landscaping.

Number of bedrooms – plan with an eye to the future. In addition to a simple count (don't forget the pets!) of those living under your roof, consider how each person in the family uses the house now and is likely to use it in the near future.

For instance, our age-qualified communities include mostly single-story homes. Keep in mind that a temporary or chronic impairment might limit your ability to get around your house in the future.

On the other hand, a couple without children might consider a smaller floorplan with one or two secondary bedrooms (in addition to the master suite) that can serve as a home office, guest room, or a hobby space -- or, eventually, children's bedrooms.



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A young family might look for a somewhat larger home in which the secondary bedrooms are located on the opposite side of the house or on a different level. This plan will not only accommodate growing kids, but the spaces can also serve different uses, such as a guest or game room, once the children leave the nest.

Mobility and special needs. Landed Gentry’s designers carefully plan cabinet and counter heights, and locations of doors, windows, and appliances to make them easy to navigate regardless of a home buyer’s physical state. In addition, most two-story Landed Gentry homes feature a “main floor master” with additional rooms on the second floor or daylight basement, depending on the plan. This setup provides a permanent bedroom on the main level when stairs are best left to younger members of the household. To further address mobility needs, the home’s floor coverings, lighting, and fixtures such as door handles and toilets can be customized. And, most of our communities offer optional in-home security systems.

As a builder dedicated to making housing dreams a reality, we are committed to providing homes that are best suited to the people who buy and live in them. Whether you’re looking to purchase a Landed Gentry home or a house in another community, be sure spend some time thinking about your current lifestyle, paying particular attention to how it might change in the future.

Warm regards,

Brian

Brian Gentry
President



Landed Gentry Homes & Communities

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Our Communities:

