



'Tis the season to be jolly about new display

It'll be smiles all 'round today as The Whitby, a new house built by Davis Sanders Homes, opens its doors for inspection at Riverside Estate, writes **Janet Howie**.

A HOUSING estate near Wodonga will receive an early Christmas present today as the first of 18 planned display homes opens its doors.

The Whitby is a four-bedroom house built by Davis Sanders Homes at Riverside Estate.

Offering about 34 squares under roof, the spacious home makes full use of its block, which measures about 820sq m.

Davis Sanders Homes managing director Murray Pigdon says the property aimed to complement its environment.

"When we set about designing it, the core focus was the estate's location and that's why we've tried to parallel the look of the home with what we believe the estate would represent," he says.

"We certainly wanted something to blend in with the location, the river and the open areas, so that's why we went with the country living-type home."

JMP Developments project manager Andrew Stern, of Riverside Estate, says the Whitby will be joined by 17 other display houses from a number of builders due to be opened along Riverside Boulevard and Thorpe Avenue by May.

"That makes it the largest display village ever in Albury-Wodonga and one of the largest anywhere in regional Australia," Mr Stern says.

Mr Pigdon says Davis Sanders Homes wanted to take advantage of the public interest in Riverside Estate.

"Once the civil works were done there seemed to be a lot of traffic coming through, so we jumped on to get something for them to look at outside of the land," he says.

Priorities in the design included accessing good northern light, retaining the views and introducing touches of natural products.

"We've tried to give it a timber

appearance by adding the red gum facades," Mr Pigdon says.

The parents' wing comprises the main bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and an en suite with a big shower and a separate toilet.

There is a formal lounge room near the front entrance, with the family, meals, kitchen and outdoor living area all integrated into one hub.

Mr Pigdon says residents' convenience has been considered, for example in the position of the study.

"People use them when they're central, they don't use them when they're locked in one end of the home," he says.

The same applies to the kitchen with its built-in pantry and integrated refrigerator.

"This is a fairly popular lay-out, we do a lot of these with pantry one side, laundry the other," Mr Pigdon says.

"So again, all built around the working area."

The other three bedrooms are separate from the parents' section, as is the main bathroom, powder room and separate toilet.

Features include high ceilings and doors, double glazed windows, a zoned surround sound music system and strand woven bamboo flooring.

The Whitby will be open at Riverside Estate, off the Murray Valley Highway, each day between 1pm and 5pm.

For more information, contact Davis Sanders Homes on (02) 6041 1966.

Andrew and Jenny Stern, directors of JMP Developments, and Murray Pigdon, managing director of Davis Sanders Homes, at Davis Sanders Homes' new display home in Riverside Estate.
Pictures: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

