

The house that golf built

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Stephen Ames puts a big grin on his face.

"You could have a great hockey game on this thing," he says, laughing -- pointing at the massive patch of sandblasted and polished aggregate driveway that loops around the front entrance, loses itself in a carriageway and curves around to the back side of a triple-car garage -- "for the one car I own."

Setting up a shinny game, though, might take some tricky scheduling. From his perspective, Ames will be right back into the swing of the PGA season come January.

On this day, the 44-year-old golf pro, who will be starting his 12th year as a professional golfer, is playing sidewalk superintendent as work continues on his 12,000-square-foot Aspen Estates home.

It should be completed in time for he, his wife Jodi, and sons Justin and Ryan to move into in February or March.

The \$2.5-million home, that will have taken 18 months to complete, is located in the QuinnCorp Holdings community of Aspen Estates.

Besides having such a prestigious address, the home will be about a 10-minute drive from Jodi's parents' home at the bottom of the 17th Avenue hill around 45th Street.

"What Stephen was looking for, and what we were able to provide, was space for a



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

Calgary professional golfer Stephen Ames, right, and his family are building a \$2.5-million home in Aspen Estates on the city's west side.



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

The back of the home is studded with large windows to let in light.

home in a true estate area -- and Aspen Estates is likely the last true estate area within Calgary's city limits," says

QuinnCorp president Jim Quinn, who is also Ames' next door neighbour.

"I grew up with lots of land -- lots of freedom of movement -- so this lot was perfect," says Ames, who has pocketed more than \$15 million in golf earnings and is ranked well within the top 30 golfers in the world.

When Ames and his wife decided to build a new home, they knew that while they wanted something different, they also wanted something that would be comfortable -- a home for the whole family to enjoy.

"We saw this home in a magazine and started working with it," says the Trinidad-born Ames.

"We didn't want the traditional look. We wanted something that was different than anything else around."

With most of the exterior complete, the focus has shifted to the interior of the home.

Electricians, painters, finishing carpenters, plumbers and flooring crews were working to the sounds of Wild Thing roaring from a boom box in what will be the great room.

The home has four bedrooms, a double curved staircase, a large kitchen with walk-in pantry, and a butler's kitchen.

There will also be a two-storey great room, parlour room, two laundry rooms, a media room and a computer area.

Other features include a large covered deck off the nook, a second-floor media room that has been soundproofed so the boys can play their drums and guitar, and a home office.

Rounding up the list is a gymnasium, infra-red sauna area, and what Ames calls his "Nike room" -- where he stores all the equipment and clothing from his tour sponsor.



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

The house includes four bedrooms, a double curved staircase, a large kitchen with a walk-in pantry, and a butler's kitchen. There will also be a two-storey great room and a parlour room.



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

Professional golfer Stephen Ames has plenty of room to swing his clubs inside his huge house in Aspen Estates. He and his wife got the idea for the home from a magazine.

"That's my room, the only one that I can do what I want with," he says.

All of the second-floor rooms are off a circular balcony that rings around the foyer below.

The double staircase will lead from here to both the upstairs and walk-out levels of the home.

One other thing -- there is a formal dining room in the home. "You know, I've never had a formal dining room before," says Ames. "It's going to be great."

On the walk-out level is a big-screen TV area, bar, golf simulator area and a trophy room. There's also a wine storage area with a capacity for at least 80 bottles, a bathroom and bedroom.

Other features in the home include two turrets, nine fireplaces, three chandeliers, five furnaces, three air conditioners, four boilers and enough wiring to stretch the distance of more than a few of Ames' drives.

Stepping over power cords and around strips of hardwood flooring, Ames makes his way to the massive front door.

It's practice time -- three hours of hitting balls and working out.

Down the temporary front steps, he heads for that one car he owns and waves to the workers on the way by.

"It's been fun watching it go up," he says, pausing to talk with Simon Hawkshaw, managing partner of Hawk Hill Homes. "The guys have all done a great job for us."

The Buyer

Professional golfer Stephen Ames.

AGE: 44.

BACKGROUND: Ames, his wife Jodi and their sons Justin and Ryan are hoping to move into their new digs in February or March. The \$2.5-million home, which contains about 12,000 square feet of space on three levels, is located in

QuinnCorp Holdings' community of Aspen Estates on the west side of the city. The idea for the home came from a magazine. The couple was looking for something non-traditional, something "different from anything else around," says Ames.

BUILDER: Hawk Hill Homes.

POSSESSION: February or March.

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