

Friday Housing

Classified Advertising Supplement

— Chasing a Dream
Riva Chase is an aptly-named home community — it's the perfect place to chase, and catch, dreams.
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— Gala grand opening
Bronco running back Tony Dorsett will help celebrate the opening of a unique cluster home community in Littleton tomorrow.
— Page 3



CUSTOM BUILT
in the Canyon

By Timothy McNeel
Special Features Writer

If you were to ask some famous guy like Donald Trump where Denver was, he'd probably answer with something like, "It's just on the outskirts of Aspen." Then, a lot of Monday Night Football fans back east also believe Denver is located in the very heart of the mountains (like Mt. Everest only colder) — at the epicenter of a perpetual snowstorm.

But in reality, Denver is a Great Plains city with mountains — and mountain communities — right in the backyard. And while some of these communities are a lot of long, narrow roads and winding turns away, Riva Chase is right off of I-70 and right on, when it comes to what you would expect to find in luxury mountain living.

The trees are tall and the homesites are well-platted. Here, too, the roads are narrow and winding. But that part of the drive you are barreling down to quickly accessing urban areas — just like you read about in all the advertising.

But there's something else. The word "Riva" means "dream" in Italian and the name of the development literally translates to "chasing a dream." And if you fancy catching your dream in the mountains, close to Denver, the chase just might end in this Mount Vernon Canyon com-

munity. Riva Chase really is (and here comes that word) — unique. There are homesites that might accurately be described as "nestled in trees." And besides the thick stands of pine, the custom homes you find are actually unusual, and not just different.

"We believe that the most important thing is that the individual should be able to build what they want," stated Heidi O'Leary Houston, managing general partner for Riva Chase and Colorado Master Builders. "We don't want like communities, we don't want homes, and I would like that in there (this story). This is a true custom community and when people go through this development, they will say 'I love this house, or I hate this house' — but they will have an opinion."

Well, the quote is in here and the homes are up there, but I really can't imagine anyone actually "hating" any one of these houses. Each one has a unique character

and the development is not what you might expect to find in the mountains, just outside Denver. It's more what you might expect to find a little closer to, well, Aspen.

Having said all of that, you would naturally expect to bring a Big Gulp-sized checking account, if you are looking to buy in Riva Chase. And, of course, you would be right. The least expensive home here is in the neighborhood of \$250,000, and you don't have to drive far in the same neighborhood.

Homesites come in two convenient sizes. Estate-sized lots average around two acres, and village estate ground is more like half an acre. There are 59 estate sites and 64 village estate lots, as the development covers just over 200 acres in total. Colorado Master Builders is the developer, with a (get ready for that word again) unique way of doing business. The company is developing a

modern community, by using an ancient concept — the concept of the "master builder."

"The idea of the master builder originated with the Greeks," said Houston. "In those days a master builder would design, build and furnish a structure completely, and this concept lasted through the fifteenth century. Leonardo DaVinci was such a builder, who would design, build and finish — right down to the paintings on the walls. Today, there are separate architects, builders and interior designers, and we add the important fourth modern component — marketing. We put together talented teams of these people, to give (homebuyers) what they really want in a truly custom home."

In fact, Colorado Master Builders has assembled seven builder-architect-interior designer teams to construct an equal number of custom homes — all to be featured in the 1989 Colorado Master Builder Home Show at Riva Chase. Each home will showcase a style, character and setting that give new meaning to the home building term "elevation." At the same time, these homes are not the expanded standard block drawings one sometimes finds in so-called "custom homes," according to Houston. There is real



ABOVE: Landscaping is integrated with trees and natural foliage at all homesites.



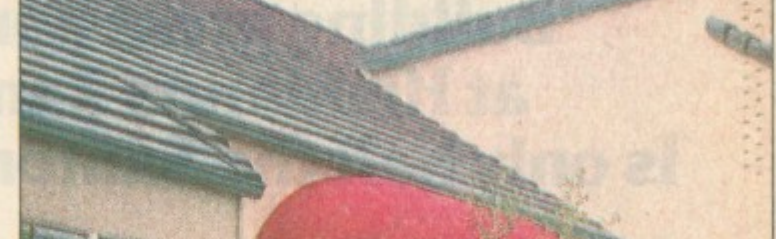
ABOVE: Nature is near, through the windows of the master bath in the Genesee Company home.



RIGHT: The Wood Lily home features a large entryway.



LEFT: There is plenty of wide open space in Riva Chase.



RIGHT: The Dahman & Dahman homesite is fully landscaped.



RIGHT: The Wood Lily home features a large entryway.

LEFT: There is plenty of wide open space in Riva Chase.

RIGHT: The Dahman & Dahman homesite is fully landscaped.

Denver Post photos by Timothy McNeel



ABOVE: A large concrete driveway fronts the Genesee Company home, leading to a three-car garage.

LEFT: A private back terrace gives this home an exterior retreat.



RIGHT: The Dahman & Dahman homesite is fully landscaped.

Riva Chase: custom dream homes in the Rocky Mountains

RIVA CHASE from page 1

Imagination here, and the work of the architects is immediately evident in each individual home.

The show is open to the public from June 24 through July 23, as a benefit for Multiple Sclerosis Society of Colorado. More than just a benefit in name or in small quantity, the fight against multiple sclerosis in Colorado will receive at least 50 percent of the proceeds, according to Houston.

"Last year was our first year with the show and we raised \$52,000 to fight MS in Colorado," said Houston. "This is the most money that has ever been raised through any one thing that has ever been done for MS, and we're proud that what we raised helped finance them for almost a whole year."

Houston feels very strongly about the charity benefit, but equally strongly about the sales benefits to the participating companies, builders, architects, design firms, caterers and to Riva Chase, itself. Over 500 companies are involved with the show, aided by 1,000 volunteers. Visitors will find gourmet cuisine — instead of hot dogs — and every weekend of the show, there will be major features and entertainment, according to Houston.

"We want these people to get business as a result of the show," said Houston. "Builders should get orders to build other homes, designers should get business, furniture companies should sell a lot of product, architects should get work and Riva Chase wants to sell property. All of our advertising is geared toward selling — to draw people who want to buy and build."

So what are the show homes like? Traditional and modern, Bavarian and French country, stone and brick, high and wide, built-in, built-out, built-up and fully integrated with each individual environment. There are huge master bedrooms. There are sprawling decks and multi-levels. There are gourmet kitchens and "media rooms" with screens that come down from the ceilings and wet bars that come up from the thick pile carpeting. There are master baths where you could easily host the Nuggets and walk-

closets with nearly enough room for the Imelda Marcos collection.

Of course all the homes are big, but not just big to be big. Because, as we all know, big can be just huge, without being home. There are actually some areas that feel snug and intimate, cozy and just yours. There is one home that seems to draw its inspiration from Frank Lloyd Wright, with lines and forms that meet in useful, modern perspective. A second seems to have been inspired by another place called Mt. Vernon, far away from this Western canyon. While a third seems to add a Southwestern score to a pine forest lyric.

One home has a bath in every bedroom, while another has a tavern-style bar, and all have three-car garages. The entry in one home actually is quite dramatic, with curved staircases going up and down to other levels. There are gigantic windows over here and there, 11-foot ceilings over there and, over the hill — eight-foot doors everywhere. There are libraries with book-shelves crating in hardwood, heat circulating fireplace, game rooms, city views, mountain views, canyon views, decks above, decks below, Jacuzzis and one hot tub to hold ten of your closest friends.

There's a marble fireplace made from just three large pieces. There's a chandelier handmade from elk horns and iron. There's a deck built around living pine trees. And as if you'd ever need it, there are areas pre-planned for future expansion.

There is much here, but more is on the way, as the homes will not be completely finished until opening day. In addition, the show will make some unusual awards to the architects, builders and designers responsible for the work. Colorado Master Builders will also give away \$16,000 in cash prizes.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Discount coupons will be available in the "Update" publication. Public Service Company puts in with their bill, on King Soopers sacks and on milk cartons from Robinson Dairy. Parking will be off site and shuttle service will be provided to the homes, on a continuous basis. For more information, call 526-1923.

Second phase grand opening calls for celebration just east of Parker

Renaissance Homes has been chosen as the exclusive marketing agent for Saddlebrook's award winning "country Victorian" home designs — priced from the high \$80,000's. This weekend, Renaissance is holding a grand opening for the community's second phase, two miles east of Parker on Main Street.

"These home designs have been some of the most popular," said Rick Chana, marketing director for Renaissance Homes. "We're keeping all of the aspects that home buyers have liked so much, while offering our own skill in serving our customers."

According to Chana, as much as home buyers enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the neighborhood, they also appreciate the country charm of the homes themselves. Reminiscent of America's country homes of the past, there are wrap-around front porches, lap siding, shuttered windows, and architectural detailing.

One of the homes was recently recognized by "Professional Builder" magazine as one of the "10 Best Homes in the West," while the Sales and Marketing Council of the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver honored Saddlebrook Farm with the 1988 MAME award for "Best Detached Home."

The Villages of Parker is a 700-acre master planned community with an adjacent open space area. "We're city close, yet country quiet," says Chana, who added that residents at the Villages are within 20 minutes of the Tech Center.

Renaissance offers its own series of larger homes nearby, priced from the low \$100,000's. "These Saddlebrook designs are a complement to the popular Renaissance series and offer a great way to get into a master-planned community at a very affordable price," Chana added.

For more information, call Phyllis Sinclair at Saddlebrook Farm at 841-5191.

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