

MAY / 08

Professional Builder[®]

CHALLENGE. INSPIRE. INFORM. / www.ProBuilder.com

IN THIS ISSUE

5 **MARKETS**
TO WATCH / 40



MAKING THE
BEST OF **INFILL**
LOTS / 50

BEST
ADDRESS:
TRAYMORE / 56



4000

ANNUAL REPORT
HOUSING'S GIANTS



Photo: Kenny Craft/TPUDC Building Design Studio

DEVELOPMENT

Colorado Town Catches New Urbanist Wave

By Susan Bady, Senior Editor, Design



No doubt the world-class white-water park will be a big draw, but home buyers will find other reasons to move to South Main in Buena Vista, Colo. Take, for instance, the location. Buena Vista, a small town about 120 miles southwest of Denver, boasts breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains, and it's right smack on the banks of the Arkansas River, a hot spot for kayaking and white-water rafting. South Main will also have its own commercial district.

The developers, Jed Selby and his sister, Katie Selby Urban, conceived South Main as a pedestrian-friendly, New Urbanist community where residents chat with their neighbors on the way to the food market or coffee shop. The community will consist of 400 homes, including custom residences, live/work units and Katrina Cottages — small, efficiently designed homes with 8-foot-deep front porches. Designed by New York City architect Marianne Cusato, the cottages are also being built at four sites in Louisiana for

families who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

South Main's first phase of 35 lots sold out in six weeks. Now that the streets, white-water park and walking trails are complete, houses are going up and the next release is being planned. Buyers can purchase a lot and have a home designed by one of the community's approved architects, or snap up a package deal: home and lot. Prices currently range from \$110,000 to \$165,000 for a custom lot and \$185,000 to \$260,000 for Katrina Cottages of 544 to 1,200 square feet. Live/work units start at \$550,000 for 2,400 square feet.

Selby Urban, co-founder and director of community affairs for South Main Development, points out that all New Urbanist projects run into some roadblocks because they're unique. But by far, the process has been a happy one. The Selbys donated the land adjacent to the river park to the town, ensuring this stretch of water will always be open to the public.

Mighty Green Modular

Chicagoans will learn how to live green in the city when a new exhibit opens this spring on the grounds of the Museum of Science and Industry. Shown is a rendering of the 2,500-square-foot, three-story modular home, the mkSolaira, which was designed by Michelle Kaufmann Designs of Oakland, Calif., and will be built by All American Homes of Decatur, Ind. The home will showcase the latest innovations in reusable resources, smart energy consumption and clean, healthy-living environments. It'll also include a state-of-the-art home automation system. The Smart Home: Green + Wired exhibit will be open to the public from May 8 through Jan. 4, 2009. You can purchase tickets in advance at www.msichicago.org.



Photo: All American Homes