

DESIGN *FOR ALL*

A conversation with the custom builders of Riverstone Estates, a new Triangle neighborhood featuring homes with Universal Design.

Written by Dana W. Todd
Photography courtesy of Visual Properties, LLC



Just thirty-three estate-sized home sites are available in the new Riverstone Estates community, where the focus is on maximizing livability by implementing Universal Design in custom homes. The neighborhood is bordered on two sides by state park land and is minutes from beautiful Jordan Lake and the lower Haw River. Lewis Sadler of Sadler Construction and Southern Living Custom Builder Josh Mauney of Paragon Building Group explain why this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity.

WHAT IS UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND WHY IS IT A FOCUS AT RIVERSTONE ESTATES?

Lewis: Universal Design is a way to design a home to safely maximize its use for all people. Homes with Universal-Design elements never force owners out by restricting the time they can live there. All family members and friends, no matter their physical mobility, can actively visit and freely move throughout a home designed this way. For the past twenty years, all homes built by Sadler Construction have been based on Universal Design. When implemented during construction, making a home accessible costs



a small fraction—about 3 to 5 percent of the home’s cost—versus expensively reworking a home’s entrances and doorways retroactively once an injury makes adjustments necessary.

Josh: Riverstone Estates is the first North Carolina community dedicated to Universal Design. Our company is committed to Universal Design because the concept is based on caring about people and their lifelong needs. Our family business has always based its desire to help others on the legacy of Poppy, my grandfather who was a builder and who dedicated his life to helping and serving others. Now it is Paragon’s mission to do the same. Designing this way makes life easier for all people at all ages.

WHAT ARE SOME UNIVERSAL DESIGN FEATURES BUYERS WILL FIND IN THESE HOMES?

Josh: In the kitchen, four-foot clearances around the island, wall oven doors that are hinged on the left or right, and elevated dishwashers make chores easier for everyone. Wider doorways and hallways also help, even if a family is just moving furniture. These features are blended seamlessly with the latest custom-design elements.

Lewis: Zero-entry showers and two zero-entry outside entrances eliminate steps for easier movement. This is helpful whether you have mobility issues or if you’re a mom of a toddler pushing your child in a stroller through the back door. We stack closets on multiple levels, so they can be quickly and cost-effectively “popped” out and replaced with an elevator if it becomes necessary. Bathroom vanities are designed with pocket doors and Velcro shelf attachments so all can be removed to make them wheelchair accessible as needed.

Learn more at RIVERSTONEESTATESLIVING.COM or 919-926-5563. Custom builders are Paragon Building Group and Sadler Construction.

“RIVERSTONE ESTATES IS THE FIRST NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO UNIVERSAL DESIGN.”

—JOSH MAUNEY

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAKE RIVERSTONE ESTATES DESIRABLE?

Lewis: Every home has a private well and septic system, with septic drain fields moved offsite so backyards are pool- and outdoor-living ready. We also have customizable home designs available for multigenerational living.

Josh: The state park lands surrounding the neighborhood provide added privacy while recreational activities are steps away from home.

Lewis: Yes, before Riverstone Estates, I could never promise a homeowner what is coming next door. The park lands won’t be developed and the surrounding land feels like personal hiking trails. Being minutes from Chatham Park offers all the perks of an urban lifestyle while enjoying a nature-rich setting. ♦