

NEW HOME

A world away from ordinary

By Mike Unger
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Sometime even a measly four blocks can seem a world away. Don and Bonnie Kerr lived in Upper Fells Point for six years before they moved those paltry four blocks to a new row home in Lombard Court at Fells Point a few months ago.

"We loved the modern conveniences of the house," Don Kerr said. "We lived on an alley street and were vying for parking for four years."

That daily competition is over. With standard two-car garages, the 36-home community is a jewel in its urban neighborhood, located in the ever-changing area between Johns Hopkins and the Fells Point waterfront district.

The development is divided into three rows, but these aren't your typical row homes. A skylight shaft illuminates the living space. The second story living room features six-foot windows (with seats), and every bedroom in the four-story homes has its own bathroom.

"You can stand in the middle of the home on every level and see out of the front and the back of the

home," said Sean Ruppert, sales manager.

Roger Pratt discovered the development when he happened to be driving by. Soon thereafter, he packed his bags and moved from Columbia.

"It doesn't look like your basic townhouse," Pratt said. "There are a lot of angles throughout the house."

The fourth level can be used as an additional bedroom or extra living space. It has an abundance of windows and features access through sliding glass doors to a patio, many of which have spectacular city skyline views.

"On a bright, hot day or cruddy, drizzly day, you don't have to go outside to enjoy the city," Ruppert said.

When completed, Lombard Court will feature a gated courtyard between two of the three rows of homes, built in distinctive Italian and Victorian styles. The development is almost done, but it's already home for the Kerrs, who work and go to school outside the city.

"It's perfect," Don Kerr said. "We try not to think of ourselves as yuppies, but the garage is a great place to store our cars-and our surf boards."

