



Wingate Residences at Haverhill Merges Traditional Appeal with Modernity

The depth of a seat, the height of a cabinet and the length of a hallway aren't the kind of details an average person notices. That a building is designed so carefully into its surroundings that its existence just seems natural, even less so. But the design team behind Wingate Residences at Haverhill knows exactly what they are working toward: a senior living community meticulously designed with an eye for innovation and enhanced experiences for its residents.

From the outside, the Residences will appear as two stories with an approachable but refined exterior of whites and greys. Yet visible from the back is an additional story otherwise hidden from view as the community is built into a hill. By all appearances, the structure will fit perfectly into the neighborhood, complementing and completing its sister community Wingate at Haverhill, a skilled nursing facility, as well as the other homes in the surrounding neighborhoods.

But as Andrew Stebbins of the Massachusetts-based The Architectural Team explains, the planned detailing of the porch, bays, gables and trims are transitional in nature and provide a hint of what is inside: an effortless joining of traditional and modern interiors.

TAT, known for projects that reinvigorate neighborhoods and contribute thoughtfully to their surroundings, designed the architecture of the community. The interiors were designed by Jessica Schuster, of the New York-based residential and commercial firm Jessica Schuster Design.

The natural environment, including the surrounding wetland areas, was heavily considered in the design process. Mr. Stebbins nestled the building into the natural slope which created an opportunity for multi-level outdoor spaces, including the entrance, a roof terrace, dining patio, memory care courtyard and a butterfly garden. Internal spaces were designed to provide natural light and views.

To further bring a sense of openness to the interiors, double-height levels will afford residents areas of open space not often seen in senior living. In one special spot, residents

on the first floor will have a view of the community's impressive library with a dining bistro in the distance as they overlook the community's front vestibule.

The area is a favorite for both Mr. Stebbins and Ms. Schuster, who is incorporating a stunning stone wall with a fireplace, mantle and built-in cabinetry into one side of the library.

In addition to common living spaces, the community will feature a theater, activity room, fitness center, sunroom, bistro and other comfortable nooks that are likely to become residents' favorite spots.

The fitness center is part of AQUA by Wingate, an interactive lifestyle program that will encourage residents to refresh, restore and rethink the way they live. AQUA by Wingate, already the centerpiece of Wingate's independent living community, One Wingate Way, will include fitness and spa amenities like aromatherapy, meditation and yoga.

The community will also have its own private space for a physician, so residents can meet with a doctor on the premises.

"Every room has its own feel, from the color palette to wallpaper and the furniture," Ms. Schuster said. While contemporary design touches will be apparent in the glossy details, a traditional appeal will be evident in the coffered ceilings, elegant furnishings and three-tiered Hinkley chandeliers.

"We spent a lot of time on the color palette," Ms. Schuster said. That time resulted in hues ranging from navy to baby blues in addition

to beige and tan. Punctuations of texture, including trim and fringe, and patterns will provide interest throughout. "It doesn't feel like senior living," she said. "It's fresh and bright and beautiful and lively, but also something that's relatable."

Wingate Residences at Haverhill will be home to 64 assisted living apartments, including Wingate's memory care program, the Neighborhood — all of which Mr. Stebbins and Ms. Schuster had to consider when designing the community.

For the traditional and enhanced independent living spaces, emerging trends were top of mind. "One bedrooms are getting more popular," Mr. Stebbins said (versus studios), so most apartments will include a separate bedroom, a bathroom with a classic walk-in shower, and kitchenette space outfitted with a microwave, refrigerator and sink.

the living room and will be painted in a lacquer finish of deep royal blue.

The memory care community, designed with the same attention to detail, is rare in that instead of being confined to one floor, it will span two levels. The intent, Mr. Stebbins said, is that residents can move freely throughout the spaces. For the safety of residents, an innovative security and nighttime monitoring system is incorporated into the design.

To encourage residents to move freely yet safely, Mr. Stebbins said the memory care community will intentionally have no dead-ends, but rather, circular hallways that open into sitting rooms, secondary dining spaces and living areas.

To minimize the effects of sundowning, light levels will be increased by 30 percent utilizing wall-mounted indirect lighting to elimi-

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"The bedrooms are light, bright and cheery," Ms. Schuster said. She chose a white-beige carpet and a warm, linen paint color so that residents can make the spaces their own, infusing their personality and showcasing their own possessions. For the bathrooms, Ms. Schuster chose a sleek floor and heringbone wood cabinetry.

In common areas, Ms. Schuster is working with Shaw Floors to incorporate wood plank flooring in a light oak color. This is in contrast, she said, to other communities that routinely use darker woods. The wood will transition into rich, traditional patterns in the carpet and be complemented by high-lacquer built-in cabinetry and coastal gray, Caesarstone quartz countertops. The dining space will also feature a large-scale custom mural of a seascape, while a beautiful, antique mantel is being designed into

nate shadows and glare. The indirect lighting is controlled separately from the main lighting to help control the sundowning effect of seasonal daylight.

When it comes to the interiors, Ms. Schuster said her focus is to distinguish each area with a vibrant, bright color palette, which helps residents with dementia orient to their surroundings. Bright yellows move into vibrant reds, she said, with every space designed to feel comfortable.

Comfort, for both residents and their families, has been a priority in the design of the community which will become eminently clear while exploring Wingate Residences at Haverhill. "I think families will be very excited," Ms. Schuster said. "The design is so unique."

