

TORONTO SUN NEW HOMES & CONDOS

The butler did it — in the servery


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Dinner is served,' announced the butler to the guests.

Formal dinners of a time gone by were announced and overseen by the butler. While the role of this trusted home manager is scarce in today's society, one thing has made a resurgence in newly-built homes. It's the butler's pantry or servery.

The word, servery comes from public ale houses, or taverns in Britain back in the 1500s. It describes a single counter or buffet area in a hallway, where staff would pick up food orders from the kitchen to deliver to the waiting patrons.

In the grand manors of the day, it was a larger, more comprehensive space called a butler's pantry, a full galley space from which meals were served, but their functions were essentially the same.

Of course, this was from a time when food items and kitchen functions were separated. The word pantry comes from the old French word *paneterie*, the word for bread, pain. This was where bread was stored.

The kitchen was for cooking, meat storage and prep work was performed in a larder and the scullery was for cleaning. When everything

was made from scratch it required lots of space.

The butler's pantry, or servery acted as a bridge between the public and private sides of the home's dining room and kitchen. While scullery maids cleaned, butlers were the overseers of all formal entertaining.

Primarily a job for a male, the butler performed many duties, some of which included; hiring and training household staff, taking care of and protecting the fine china, silver and crystal, greeting guests and anticipating their needs, understanding and executing proper etiquette and table setting and possessing vast knowledge of fine wines and liqueurs.

Estates and manors, owned by upper and middle classes in Britain and Colonial America dedicated these galley spaces to serving, staging and storing everything for formal dinners.

Fine linens were carefully stacked in cupboards, the best china, crystal glassware and silverware were often kept under lock and key to prevent

a robbery.

The butler would ensure the maidservants had polished the silverware and wiped the crystal prior to setting the table. At the end of the meal it was also where they cleared the same dishes, glassware, etc.

As opposed to today's kitchen pantry where items, such as canned and dry goods, cleaning supplies and extras are stored, today's servery provides a similar function to the butler's pantry.

Many of today's designs not only house linens, table settings and décor items for the dining room, they serve a larger function. Fitted with plumbing, a sink and dishwasher are standard in some serveries to aid in quick clean up, and filling water glasses.

It may also act as a bar and beverage center with wine and bar fridges, liquor storage and room for a large selection of non-alcoholic beverages. Some also work as an extra coffee, tea and snack station with coffee makers, kettles and



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microwaves, resembling a satellite kitchen.

Families who entertain a lot appreciate the separate serving area when dinner preparation is underway. Instead of being served a cocktail off a tray by the butler, more casual entertaining allows guests to make their own drinks, refill a snack bowl or grab a plate for a buffet.

Is it an extravagant extra?

Maybe to some, but it was always meant as a practical space to help make serving dinner more seamless and enjoyable for guests. It wasn't my idea, the butler did it.

— Award-winning designer and TV personality Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.

National Home Show aims to surprise, amuse


NATALIE DEANE
DECOR
AND MORE

Every year, I am surprised, amused and fascinated by the National Home Show and Canada Blooms — surprised by all the beautiful and creative ideas for home and garden décor, amused with all the whimsical displays as well as all the interesting experts and presenters, fascinated by the unbelievable innovations and modern technological advancements.

This year promises to be no different with over 700 retailers and industry experts there is sure to be some great products, new ideas and of course amazing deals — that's right don't forget that there are lots of discounts to be had at this show!

The National Home Show co-located with Canada Blooms, returns to the Enercare Centre

this March 10-19, 2017.

They say 'the grass is always greener' — well with landscaping tips from Mark Cullen and Frank Ferragine perhaps this is the year you will have the greenest grass and the best garden on the block.

Design experts Glen Peloso and Jamie Alexander will share advice and answer questions on everything from décor to renovations so this spring you can get your home looking like a gorgeous spread in a home magazine.

Who wouldn't want the 'smartest' home on the street? Best Buy has it covered with their smart home display and pop-up shop that shows you how smart home technology makes comfort, convenience and peace of mind automatic.

From smart lighting and thermostats to security cameras and connected appliances, the Jetson's home of the future is closer in reach than you thought.

The most exciting and definitely the big must see at this year's National Home Show is the Future Dream Home. The 2017 Future Dream Home is an actual home that has been designed and will be built for a Toronto client.

The 2,700 sq. ft. home will first be built on location at the National Home Show where visitors can take a tour and experience dream living. Once the Home Show is complete, Probuilt Design + Build will rebuild it on the homeowner's land.

"In response to the global challenge of creating a more sustainable society, the Future Dream Home is a celebration of luxurious architecture and design that combines innovative building techniques and products fused with integrated smart-home technologies," states Michael Upshall, founder/builder Probuilt Design + Build. "It responds to lifestyle expectations and



The 2017 Future Dream Home is an actual home that will first be built on location at the National Home Show and later rebuilt on a homeowner's land.

environmentally conscious design principles by embracing experimentation, innovation and nature."

So what's so dreamy about this home? Well to start, it's a very flexible modular design and a panelized system. Most of the construction work is done off-site in a climate controlled environment.

The precision of this process means less waste, no warping, mold or damage from the weather, and less on-site construction and cost. The client ends up with a tighter, stronger building and saves money.

It also features sustainable

technology, energy efficiency, recycled materials, luxurious architectural design along with landscape integration. The inside designed by Bedford Brooks Design showcases modern design elements, tied together with technological innovation in a home that is functional and comfortable enough for real life family living.

The Future Dream Home team also thought of giving back in their design. They have sourced specific furniture pieces from the Furniture Bank that creative artist Jim Connelly has transformed using custom

art and paint finishes.

These repurposed pieces will be found throughout the home and will be auctioned off, with all proceeds going to the Furniture Bank.

For more information about the National Home show visit www.national-homeshow.com and for additional about the Future Dream Home please visit www.futuredreamhome.ca.

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.