



PHOTOS BY SAMUEL M. SIMPKINS

The home of Jay Whitehead and Lyn Pappas in Nevada Heights has approximately 900 square feet of upper and lower decks and a concrete courtyard.

A HOOD WITH A VIEW

California-style subdivision emerges in Nashville

By Virginia Roberson

If you've dreamed about living in a rock star house but can't stomach the thought of moving to L.A., we have good news. The Hollywood Hills have come to Nashville. Don't believe us? Take a drive through the Nevada Heights subdivision in Sylvan Heights near 33rd Avenue North and Nevada Avenue. The hillside neighborhood features L.A.-style homes with modern industrial facades that offer spectacular views of Nashville's downtown skyline.

This new neighborhood is attracting young professionals who prefer contemporary dwellings with yard space, as opposed to sharing walls with neighbors in a condo or loft.

"Unlike lofts, our neighborhood has access to plenty of parking space," says Jay Whitehead, 38, who lives in a home at Nevada Heights with his girlfriend, 31-year-old Lyn Pappas. The couple, who love to entertain, threw a giant bash last Fourth of July. Nearly 400 friends came to their house to watch the downtown fireworks. "If you're in a loft, where are all those people going to park?" says Jay. "Our friends just park down the road."

Jay and Lyn attribute their home's popularity to the amazing view offered from upper and lower decks and a concrete patio, as well

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As Nashville grows, more homebuyers have shown interest in locking down a pad with a view.

as windows in every room of the house. Even the Jacuzzi tub in the master bath has a panoramic view of the downtown skyline.

"I can enjoy the view while bathing and no one can see in," says Lyn. "And we enjoy sunrise over the city from our bedroom window."

Lyn says the best time to appreciate the view is at night, when downtown sparkles. "It's so beautiful with the moon over the city."

Jay loves watching football games on his large plasma TV while taking in the view from the back deck in the living area. "It's so cool," he says. "I don't think you can find a better view of Nashville."

And Jay and Lyn's house isn't the only one in the new subdivision that boasts a killer view, thanks to home builders Joe Kovalick and Sunday Camp of Dream Incorporated. The husband/wife team built Jay and Lyn's place, as well as the new house across the street.

"This house is in the modernist vocabulary of architecture," says Joe. "Jack White needs to live here. It's a rock star house!"

Like Jay and Lyn's home, the new construction was built using a combination of wood and galvanized metal. "Each level of this home has a different floor finish," says Sunday. "There's bamboo, cork, porcelain from Italy and stained concrete. For the master suite, I cut two-by-fours into one-inch pieces and laid them end-to-end. The floor looks like the one in the Frist Center. It's just a little homespun joy."

The home's most impressive feature is a 22-foot glass curtain wall that provides a stunning view of downtown that can be enjoyed in the living area and the open upstairs master bedroom suite.

"Every home in this neighborhood has a view," says Realtor Jamie Helms, who lives next door to Jay and Lyn and started a neighborhood architectural committee with Joe.

"We've set parameters so no house is allowed to be built tall enough to obstruct the view of other homeowners," he says. "It's so fresh out here. These buildings would rival some I've seen in the hills of California."



Spiral stairwells connect the upper and lower decks and the interior upstairs and downstairs.



The couple's stainless steel bed complements the home's ceiling fans.



The modern, airy feel extends to the kitchen, where stainless appliances continue the theme.

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