

Spruce up your house for buyers The sluggish market is enough to make any prospective seller rethink putting their home on the market. Flowers and a scented candle might not be enough to attract a buyer these days. Instead, think about staging your home by renting furniture, accessories or other home decor items to make it look more appealing. **METRO/CW**

Home



Spa-like doormats

Looking for the spa experience in the comfort of your own home? These bath mats are made of flat stones polished by river water, giving your tired feet a cool, smooth sensation with every step. The mat also works well in a kitchen or as a door mat. The mats, which come in three colors, can be purchased at Motley Home on Tremont Street in Boston for \$62. **METRO/CW**



Somerville lofts offer environmentally-friendly space



Low-impact living

CHRISTINA WALLACE
christina.wallace@metro.us



PROFILE. Tucked behind the Davis Square T stop sits a string of refurbished industrial mill buildings and new residential space that make up a unique loft community.

The developers of Davis Square Lofts, a project that began in 1997, have used innovative building methods to create energy efficient and environmentally responsible residential loft space. Are you sick of rising heating costs or whopping AC bills? Are you looking to conserve water or have green space in the middle of the city? These lofts may be the answer.

Short on design bells and whistles, what the Davis Square Lofts offer is the possibility of a fairly simple life. There is no question the lofts are hip — with concrete floors, exposed beams and industrial-style kitchens. But, they provide a low-maintenance existence in many ways.

“Most of the people

Short on design bells and whistles, what the Davis Square Lofts offer is the possibility of a fairly simple life.

interested in the lofts are into low-impact living. Green literally drives everything we do,” says James Bill, director of sales and marketing with Urban Design/Development, which is developing the lofts.

The first 50 lofts, built inside old mill buildings, were completed years ago, and are all occupied. The second phase of the project, 30 additional lofts, are new construction, giving the developers a clean slate to create sustainable, environmentally friendly space, says Bill.

The buildings are made of brick and concrete to retain and evenly distribute heat in the winter, and moderate temperatures in the summer months.

“It’s like living in a castle. It just doesn’t get that hot,” said Bill.

Most of the new lofts have gigantic floor-to-ceiling windows, offering natural cross ventilation and natural light. You may have to purchase pricey window treatments for privacy, but you can use the money you saved on your electrical bill.

“The sun is free. The wind is free. The breeze is free,” says Bill.

On-demand boilers heat the lofts through radiant concrete floors, and the rain runoff is captured from the gutter system and used for toilet water and site irrigation.

“Water bills are low, gas bills are low, and electrical bills are low,” says Bill.

The opportunity to enjoy green space is also available amidst the concrete and brick.

There are no indoor hallways; all the hallways are on the outside of the building, and intertwined between the metal grates and stairways are trees, shrubs and grassy areas. If that isn’t enough, the residential complex abuts the Minuteman bike trail.



For more information on the Davis Square Lofts go to www.davissquarelofts.com, or call James Bill at 617-718-9245.