

The Rebens added a deck and finished the attic. Their neighbors added porches and gardens, bay windows, and dormers. Over the years, the fruit trees planted by the developers in each yard stretched their branches toward the sky, each taking a slightly different path. Fifty years later when the Levittown Historical Society set out to purchase a home in its original condition, there were absolutely none to be found. All the once-identical houses had been individually transformed into homes as distinct as the people who lived in them.

And for those of you curious to know how much those 948 homes later were selling for, a quick check of Levittown's real estate postings revealed 2007 prices in the \$400,000-plus range.

Your first home may come with jewel-toned carpets or solid-beige walls. It may be a challenging fixer-upper a quaint old cottage, or a sleek modern. But from the moment you unpack your furniture and start hanging your pictures, your home becomes a mirror that reflects your taste and personality, your likes and dislikes, your values, and your dreams. It becomes yours because you make it yours.

The pride of ownership that comes with buying your first home is inevitable. Over the days and months to come, you will most likely create an environment of your very own—one that expresses your taste, style, and creativity. A home is also your haven—a place where you can be yourself and escape from the daily grind of the outside world. Once that front door is shut, you are free to be and do as you please.

There is a special category of life's firsts. First kiss. Driving for the first time. Going away to college. Starting your first job. Saying, "I do." Having a child. All these unique moments bring significance to the story of your life. Whether you're from Calgary, Cocoa Beach, or any place in between, walking into your own home for the first time is just as magical.