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## Builder of the Week: Cooper-Young Place has Midtown charm, modern amenities

By John Wood

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Wishing you could find a brand new home but in an established neighborhood?

This opportunity is available, thanks to builder Bernard Cowles and his unique concept of building new homes in the heart of Memphis' historic Cooper-Young district.

Cowles has already built and sold more than 30 new homes in his Cooper-Young Place development located south of Central Avenue just off Cooper Street on Elzey and is now ready to break ground for the last two homes to complete the construction phase. Homebuyer preferences may change the plan but for now, Cowles is set to go ahead with The Harbert at 2005 Elzey and The Belvedere at 1999 Elzey, two spacious floor plans that have proven popular with the infill's new home owners.

"I grew up in Memphis and I live in Midtown and have specialized in infill developments," said Cowles about his background. "I'm a neighbor to the people at Cooper-Young Place and I just felt that the neighborhood needed some new homes to bring some new life to this fine, older area."

Both The Harbert and The Belvedere floor plans are based on two-story home plans, typical for the neighborhood, but also feature modern innovations like master suites, open kitchen and dining areas, large family rooms with fireplaces, office areas, walk-in closets and two-car garages. And yet, the front elevations of each of the two home plans are reminiscent of the neighborhood's pre-World War II home designs.

Inside, you'll find even more amenities like granite countertops throughout the homes, stainless-steel appliances, custom moldings, stained and scored concrete floors plus upgraded plumbing and lighting fixtures.

"Architecturally, we have tried to bring to Cooper-Young Place exterior designs that blend into the existing neighborhood but we've added two important features -- low-maintenance construction practices and energy efficiency," said Cowles who is one of the few Green Builders in this area certified by the National Home Builders Association. "The low-maintenance feature allows the home owner to enjoy life and the social aspects offered in the Cooper-Young district while the Energy Star aspects make the homes we build now 30 percent more energy efficient than before."

Two of the Energy Star attributes included in these new homes by Cowles include a Tech Shield radiant barrier to reduce ambient temperatures under the roof and a super-high-efficiency hot water supply system. "We've also taken the extra step and supplemented the electrical circuits in the home so they will be ready for the addition of a photo-voltaic (solar) energy source at any time in the future," Cowles added. "That makes a Cowles home an energy saver today and ready for additional energy savings tomorrow."

"In the three years I have worked with Bernard Cowles, I hear the home buyers talking about how they love the features built into the homes and the modern and versatile floor plans," said Jeanie Henson, Cooper-Young Place sales agent from Sowell and Co., "But what I hear overall is that they are impressed with Bernard Cowles' quality work and how he tries very hard to make his buyers happy."

For more information about Bernard Cowles' Cooper-Young Place, visit the Cowles Co. Website at [thecowlescompany.com](http://thecowlescompany.com), or the Sowell and Co. Web site at [sowellandco.com](http://sowellandco.com), or call sales agents Jeanie Henson or Craig Cowles at 278-4380.



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