
Homebuilder sees Fifth Ward as 'the next Heights'

By Nancy Sarnoff | July 25, 2017 | Updated: July 25, 2017 11:39am



Photo: Courtesy Of Parra Design Group

IMAGE 1 OF 10

Parra Design Group homes in the Fifth Ward.

Camilo Parra started buying land in the Fifth Ward five years ago and has bought 100 lots -- most of them empty -- to build homes relatively affordable by inner-loop standards.

His company, Parra Design Group purchased many of the lots at county tax auctions. Most of them are between Waco and Lockwood, north of Lyons Avenue.

"Our approach has always been to go to find empty land. We don't want to displace anybody," Parra said. "That's what creates a strong neighborhood. The residents are what makes the neighborhood special."

RELATED: [New housing grows in transitioning Acres Homes area](#)

(Story continues below...)



A historic home near Rice University -- historic not only for its age but for the architect who designed it -- is about to hit the market, a "once in a lifetime opportunity" says the real estate agent listing it. "It's considered one of the finest houses in Houston," said listing agent Katherine Warren of Martha Turner/Southeby's International Realty.

He designed three-bedroom floor plans of roughly 1,600 square feet, and began building two per lot priced at about \$235,000 apiece.

The interiors are open, with oak floors and tile finishes, European-style cabinets and Silestone or quartz counters.

LISTEN: [Affording Houston, part I; the challenge of reasonably priced housing](#)

So far, the company has built 24 and sold 22.

The buyers, Parra said, have been "mostly young urban professionals" who may have been priced out of other neighborhoods close to downtown.

"We believe it's going to be the next Heights," he said.

Parra is also building his company's new office in the neighborhood. It's on Lyons Avenue and will have space for the community to use.

TRANSLATOR

To read this article in one of Houston's most-spoken languages, click on the button below.

Select Language ▼

REAL ESTATE



Montrose condo project embraces neighborhood history

Retail Wrap: Meyerland Plaza gets \$93 million loan for



Deal of the Week: TransCanada takes 3 more floors at 700



Real estate in brief: Welty Construction opens office near



Surge Homes has big plans for micro condos



Buyout talk concerns many in Houston's Jewish community



Nancy Sarnoff

Real Estate Reporter,
Houston Chronicle