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How to Look at a House

Sometimes after prospective buyers have looked at a number of homes for sale, they begin to feel confused about which house was which.

They can't remember if the one with the gazebo was also the one with the breakfast nook. Or maybe the breakfast nook was in the place with the extra-large fireplace and a very small backyard. Or maybe . . .

One way to avoid such confusion is to take photos and careful notes when the Real Estate Agent is showing you homes. Write down not only the significant features, but also those that may seem less important, such as the color of the bathroom tile and amount of cupboard space in the kitchen.

Along with such notes, take a moment to write down how you feel in the home. Try to imagine yourself living in it, looking at the same walls and space day after day. Imagine your own furniture there, and your own pictures on the walls.

Make a note of whether you feel comfortable, and try to pinpoint what it is about the place that makes you feel that way. If a room feels cramped, imagine it with a lighter coat of paint, which would make it seem larger.

Think about the cosmetic changes you could bring to the home to make it feel more like your own. Do the same thing outside. Imagine the landscaping as you would like it. Make notes on any changes you would make.

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This information, along with the photos, will help you keep straight the details that go with each home you've seen.

And since you put so much imaginative effort into looking and note taking, your notes will help each one come alive again so that you can decide which would be right for you.

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