

Expatriate kampung in Sixth Avenue

COME dusk, the Honore brothers – Matthias, three, and Lucas, two, – can often be seen dipping their toes into the pebble-strewn pond in the main foyer of The Teneriffe.

This is the Sixth Avenue cluster housing estate where they live with their French father Olivier, 40, and Chinese Singaporean mother Cindy, 30.

Around them, other children of mixed or Caucasian heritage run around while adults stand close by chat away.

This congregation of multi-nationals in a “resort like” environment is what Mr Honore, an engineer who is a permanent resident here, likes most about his estate.

“My Swiss neighbour and I’ve been talking a lot to the new French family that has just moved in,” he says. “The spirit of community is really there.”

Mr Eddie Koh, a Knight Frank realty adviser who has sold or rented out over 10 units at The Teneriffe in the past six months,



AT HOME: The Honores – Cindy and Olivier with sons Matthias and Lucas – are happy in The Teneriffe.

ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

says over 80 per cent of the estate’s residents are expatriate tenants.

Monthly rental rates at The Teneriffe are currently between \$12,000 and \$13,500.

The Honores moved from a four-bedroom Upper Bukit Timah condominium to join the Teneriffe community in May 2005.

Finding the ideal home was not an easy task.

“We had looked at condominiums but the price

was too high then,” Mr Honore says.

His wife says that they looked at other cluster houses like Binjai Crest and another one in Upper Bukit Timah, but the rooms were too small or the place too noisy.

But the “half-open, half-closed” design of The Teneriffe won them over.

The main entrance of each house is flanked by a private, open-air terrace, which means that even with the doors open, priva-

cy is still respected, Mr Honore says.

Neighbourly socialising revolves mainly around the kids. “We’ve made friends here because the children are always running around or having parties and that brings the parents together,” Mrs Honore says.

And when you’re feeling anti-social, you can simply stay at home, he adds.

Asked if the family would consider moving, he says with a laugh that only if his 3,200 sq ft home, which is spread over four storeys, can fetch a price of \$3.5 million.

The current price for a unit of that size at The Teneriffe is about \$3 million, Mr Koh says.

Mr Honore adds: “The lifestyle in a cluster housing estate is very interesting. Everything is self contained – from the carpark to where you throw your garbage. Even the gym. You never need to do any fitness because every day, you’re already climbing a lot of steps in your own home.”