

The Hudson 420 condos in an 32-storey tower by Wall Financial

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Live-work building breaks new ground downtown



Jason Payne — The Province

The Hudson preserves historic B.C. Electric Showroom facade.

By Ashley Ford
Staff Reporter

The city's central business district will soon have a residential heart.

Construction has started on a \$105-million, live-work/commercial project at the corner of Granville and Dunsmuir that will also ensure the historic B.C. Electric Showroom facade survives.

The development will also save another early, three-storey Victorian-style brick and granite facade at the southern end of the development on Granville.

To ensure their survival heavy steel and wood beams have been used to brace both buildings. They are among the city's oldest buildings west of Gastown.

The Hudson, being developed by Macdonald Development Corp. and Wall Financial Corp., is breaking new ground in that the city has previously not permitted residential development in the core business district.

The city made the exception when the developers agreed to provide Skytrain access for disabled persons to the Granville station, the heaviest used on the system.

The 32-storey tower will house 420 live-work units on top of three floors of commercial-retail development. There will also be six levels of underground parking.

Units range in size from studios, to one-bedroom, one-bedroom and den, two-bedroom and 12 penthouse units. The development will be completed in early 2006.

The condominiums will be marketed by Rennie Marketing Systems and are expected to go on sale next month. They will range in price from \$159,000 to \$675,000.

Live-work condominiums are becoming increasingly popular with downtown residents.

The Shaw Tower, being developed on the Vancouver waterfront by Westbank Projects, features 130 such units and sold very well.

