

Capstone 71 condos in an 6-storey building by Fairborne Homes

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The outdoor space in the Capstone show suite accommodates a table and chairs. Photograph by: Ward Perrin, PNG, The Province

PROJECT: CAPSTONE

What: 71 one-and two-bedroom homes

Where: 129 West 2nd Street, at Lonsdale, North Vancouver

Residence sizes: 550 - 1,100 sq. ft

Price: From \$324,900

Developer: Fairborne Homes

Sales Centre: 129 - 135 West 2nd Street

Hours: noon - 5 p.m., Sun - Thurs

As an interior designer for Fairborne Homes, Erin Kenwood works from the outside in.

Fairborne has built homes in communities that include Langley, Surrey and Richmond - each with a distinct personality. So Kenwood is used to adjusting her eye to the character of a neighbourhood before she plans a design.

Capstone was no exception. It was clear that the local pull of North Vancouver generally, and Lower Lonsdale, in particular, would drive the design and aesthetics of the display suite.

So far, many of Capstone's buyers - young urban professionals and older homeowners downsizing from larger spaces - are attuned to a North Shore life. They appreciate the outdoors, but need and enjoy nearby urban amenities such as John Braithwaite community centre and Lonsdale Quay market.

"This was foremost in my mind while designing this suite," Kenwood says, " ... the belief that the purchaser has roots of some sort on the North Shore and thus enjoys the outdoor lifestyle it provides, but perhaps did live for a time downtown close to work - or the downtown lifestyle definitely was a factor."

For fitness enthusiasts in North Vancouver, however, downsizing to condo living can have its challenges, especially if they have skis, snowboards, boots, bicycles and workout gear to stow.

Appropriately, the 700-square-foot suites with one bedroom and a den boast generous storage space for units of that size.

A double clothes closet stands directly across from a laundry closet with a full-sized stacked washer and dryer set.

Yet another double-doored closet, in the hallway next to the kitchen, can be used as a spacious pantry or storage space for household goods.

"Who doesn't want more storage? Skis, mountain bikes and other outdoor equipment are essentials for many of our homeowners," Kenwood says.

She has designed the den as an office, fitted with narrow, space-saving shelves, light wall coverings and a desk. No doubt the more active homeowners will imagine it as a very handy deep-storage unit for gear.

The bathroom makes good use of the ceiling height with tall cabinets, emphasizing the lean look by eliminating all hardware in favour of easy-to-open and soft-close doors. The bathroom was built around the uncommonly deep soaker tub, and the towering cabinets are a Capstone trademark, Kenwood says.

Though Kenwood's own choices of decor, finishes and furnishings show the space's potential, she keeps it clean and simple to inspire buyers to imagine their lives in a Capstone suite.

Space and open storage helps open up a world of options.

"(Most) homeowners have definite ideas on how they want to organize their storage spaces specific to their lifestyle."



So far, many of Capstone's buyers are young, urban professionals, as well as downsizers. Photograph by: Ward Perrin, PNG, The Province.



Storage may be an issue for the eventual occupants of Capstone - and the units will have plenty of it. Photograph by: Ward Perrin, PNG, The Province.



The units will have good-sized windows to take advantage of the North Shore outlooks. Photograph by: Ward Perrin, PNG, The Province.

