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Northbank 101 condos in an 21-storey tower by Ballenas

Province

Sunday, April, 01, 2012

The 21-storey building in New Westminster will comprise both condos and townhomes. It is expected to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2013. GLENN BAGLO â€" PNG

THE FACTS

Project: Northbank

What: 101 homes in 21-storey tower; 8 town houses

Where: 125 Columbia St., New Westminster

Developer: Ballenas Project Management

Residence size: 1 bed 625 - 652 sq. ft; 2 bed 839 - 880 sq. ft; town houses 1,017 - 1,340 sq. ft

Prices: 1 bed from $261,900; 2 bed from $363,900; town houses from $349,900

Sales centre: 18 Begbie St., New Westminster

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

Once the capital of the province, New Westminster is home to some of B.C.'s most beautiful heritage homes.

It is also where Northbank, a 21-storey condo and town house development, will call home.

Northbank's architect Harvey Hatch, principal of H.R. Hatch Architects Ltd, went with a brownstone look, similar to something you might see in certain quarters of Boston or Philadelphia - and a nod to the heritage buildings that still exist in the neighbourhood.

The stonework incorporates weighty one-foot-by-two-foot masonry slabs.

Rather than decorate a full show home, Joan McKey, in-house designer at Ballenas Project Management, shows prospective buyers a display kitchen and bath.

However, McKey worked closely with the team to create the major components for the suites.

McKey says several ideas came to mind when she started to plan the Northbank interiors - bright, light, urban, contemporary, sleek and streamlined.

"As we are marketing to a large, rather than specific target market, I did not want to alienate any particular group with my selections," she adds. "Our homes are meant to be as comfortable for a single 25-year-old first-time buyer as a mature couple, looking to downsize.

"The interiors are functional, high quality and non-intrusive."

Rather than go for trendy items, McKey preferred to opt for pieces that will still be enjoyed for years to come.

"Current meant that I looked for quality items offering the best design and materials available today - in a price range suitable for our project," says the seasoned veteran.

Of note are the Cosentino Silestone quartz kitchen counters, European wide-plank laminate floors, Kohler faucets, eco-composite bathroom counters, and the sleek, contemporary soft-close cabinets with such extras as under cabinet lighting, ample pantries with rollout shelving and rollout recycle bin.

Photograph by: Glenn Baglo - PNG, For The Province

Designer Joan McKey used stone quartz on the kitchen counters and wide-plank laminate flooring throughout the show suite for the 21-storey Northbank project. The building, which will include both condos and town houses, will be oriented in such a way that many residents will enjoy sweeping views of the Fraser River from their homes.

Photograph by: Glenn Baglo - PNG, For The Province

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"I strived to present an interior that is both livable and beautiful, yet will still allow the end user to create their own personal sense of home," she says.

Many Northbank homes will have sweeping views of the Fraser River. The building was designed inside and out to capitalize on the magnificent river scenes. Balconies and windows were maximized and interior rooms oriented with this in mind.

"I looked for items with clean lines and minimal detailing - nothing to detract from the wonderful geography of this building's location," McKey says.

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