

A rich hue for Metrotown

Gold House attracting attention
from a wide range of buyers

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Buyers have been drawn to the large protected balconies at Gold House.



Gold House bathrooms feature large-format tiles and showers with semi-frameless doors.



Living areas in Burnaby's Gold House project have laminate flooring while bedrooms are carpeted.

size: 470 — 1,113 sq. ft. Developer: Rize Alliance Architect: Chris Dikeakos Architects Interior designer: Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA), Los Angeles Sales centre: #100 — 4211 Kingsway, Burnaby Sales contacts: Anky Kan, April Chin, Cindy Hsiao and Elise Yu Hours: noon — 5 p.m., Saturday to Thursday Telephone: 604-451-8879 Website: www.goldouseliving.com Occupancy: 2018

Simon and Kacy Cheng had a pretty compelling reason to sell their North Delta townhouse and move to a condominium in the Metrotown neighbourhood of Burnaby.

They figured they spent an average of six hours a day commuting and coordinating, with Simon dropping Kacy off each morning at her downtown Vancouver office, travelling to his Burnaby workplace and then returning downtown.

"That kind of everyday commuting is a little tiring after a couple of years," Simon says.

"We had to cross two bridges every day — the Alex Fraser and Queensborough — which is why we decided to move closer to our workplaces, not spending that much time on a commute."

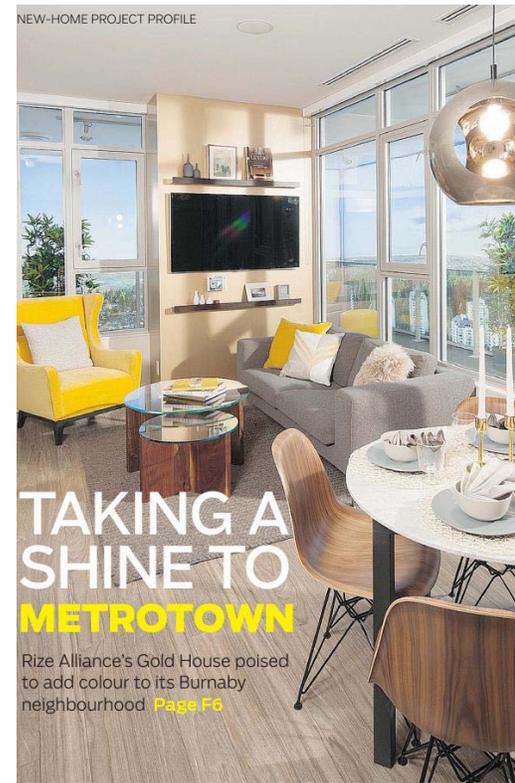
They moved to their new Metrotown condo in July, and then decided to "pull the trigger again," by buying a three-bedroom unit in the new Gold House North Tower highrise residential building, which will be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2018.

"We are trying to get an addition to our family and we don't think a two-bedroom will be big enough," Simon said, adding that three-bedroom suites are hard to find in the Metrotown area.

The Chengs aren't alone in moving quickly to snatch up a suite in one of the two towers on the 1.5-acre site at McKay and Beresford.

"We are about 90 per cent sold in the North Tower — we started selling them Nov. 11 — and we soon expect to be about the same in the South Tower," says Wilson Tsang, a co-founder of Magnum Projects, which is marketing the Rize Alliance homes.

Tsang says there a number of firsts with Gold House. It is the first Metrotown complex to have both air conditioning and nine-foot high-ceilings, he said. "A lot of other residential developments have one or the other, but not both."





Units are fitted with deep, stainless steel undermount sinks.



Gold House kitchens feature cabinets designed by Italy's Armony Cucine and integrated Bosch appliances.

The name Gold House is reflected — quite literally — in the project. Everything from the embossed marketing materials to the buildings themselves make liberal use of the colour.

The North Tower's dramatic four-storey-high lobby features a gold sculpture of equal height. The presentation centre model shows the two buildings defined vertically by goldcoloured frames and gold-tinted windows. Even the landscaping will emphasize the golden hues of the seasonal plantings.

Both buildings' interior designs were

conceived by Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA) of Los Angeles, which is responsible for the lavish interiors of such hotel chains as the Mandarin and Shangri-La.

Tsang says the buildings have attracted a broad demographic, from first-time buyers attracted by entry prices in the mid\$200,000s to downsizers looking to trade a single-family home for the "lock-and-leave-lifestyle" afforded by highrise living. The development's proximity to SkyTrain has also attracted a fair number of investors, he said.

"Buyers have also been drawn to the larger, protected balconies," he said.

"Our two-bedroom homes, mostly corner units with wraparound balconies, have a minimum size balcony of 350 square feet. The smallest balcony (in the one-bedroom units) is 150 square feet, but ranges up to 200 square feet.

"That means you get up to an extra third of extra living space most of the year."

Some of the suites have a "bump-out balcony" which literally doubles the balcony space to 600 square feet, said Tsang. "That is very unique and something a lot of buyers really appreciate."

Amenities on the North Tower's fifth floor include: a private dining space and kitchen, which owners can book for larger parties; a 2,000-square-foot gym; yoga room; media room with home theatre; music room, where kids can take their lessons away from the home, but within the building; study room; and meeting room. Outside is more than 4,000 square feet of furnished outdoor terrace space with views.

Inside, homes have cabinets designed by Italy's Armony Cucine, complete with integrated undercabinet lighting, as well as quartz countertops, glass and quartz backsplashes, stainless steel undermount sinks and integrated Bosch appliances. All suites come with a front-loading washer and drier.

Living areas have laminate floors, while the bedrooms are carpeted.

Bathrooms feature large-format wall and floor tiles, showers with semi-frameless glass doors, and deep soaker

tubs in the two-bedroom and larger units. Bathroom cabinetry is also by Armony and countertops are quartz and marble.

All homes come with at least one parking stall, while some have two spaces, and all suites have a bike and storage locker, plus bike and car wash areas.

Another first for Gold House is an unusual contribution to its neighbourhood, which is home to a private-public initiative called the Beresford Art Walk.

It is a giant LED screen that measures three storeys high, from the second floor to the fifth, and wraps 157 feet around a corner facing Beresford and McKay avenues.

Development director Andy Tam says the screen, similar to the giant one built for the Staples sports centre in Los Angeles, is the largest of its kind in Canada.

Tam said Rize wanted to contribute something novel and modern to the Art Walk, which will eventually be home to more than \$10 million in public art.

"It is a digital canvas for which we will commission the first piece by a Burnaby artist.

"The screen will be used only for art and will not be used for advertising."

Tam said the Burnaby Art Gallery will be responsible for curating what appears on the screen, which will likely be changed every six months. While there are no restrictions on what kind of art will be featured, it is expected it will focus on "dynamic art" that, from a distance, will be seen in HD quality.

Tam said the screen will be easily seen from the nearby SkyTrain line. At the same time, out of consideration for neighbours and the danger of light pollution, it will likely be dimmed or turned off by 10 p.m.