

Elements 393 condos in an 4-storey building by Sandhill Development

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The exteriors at Elements, will be fitted with brick and HardieBoard siding and finished in an earth-tone palette.

THE FACTS Project: Elements What: 393 'junior' and one-and two-bedroom apartments (some with dens) in six four-storey wood frame buildings (Phase 1: 75 homes in the first building) Where: Langley Residence size: 446 - 1,050 sq. ft. Developer: Sandhill Development (Langley) Ltd. Prices: From \$149,900, including net HST Sales centre: 20211 66th Avenue, Langley; Hours: 2 to 7 p.m., Mon - Thur; noon to 5 p.m. Sat - Sun When Danielle Lareau, principal of the Giraffe Design Group, was invited by Sandhill Developments Ltd. to decorate the two show suites at its Elements project in Langley, the work followed the philosophy of what's known as "sacred geometry." That philosophy goes back centuries, and has been used in the architecture of ancient churches, mosques, synagogues and temples, characterized by the use of signs, symbols and religious motifs. "In ancient buildings, such as the Pyramids and certain cathedrals, early societies used geometric symbols such as the hexagon, octagon and pentagon as the base for the design," Lareau says. "I think sacred geometry is the next big trend in interior design ... It's already being done in architecture all over the world because it is said to promote physical health and well-being. "In the show homes, you'll see lots of those shapes in the artwork and in the furnishings." In both the "junior apartment" and one-bedroom show homes at Elements - when complete, the project will consist of 393 apartments on a three-hectare site close to Willowbrook Shopping Centre - straight lines are always softened by another shape. In these homes, those shapes are represented in such pieces as the circular lighting and the rounded tossed cushions on the square sofa. "Furniture and interior design should have a female/male energy . a curve supported by a straight line," she says. It's even in the trendy artwork above the sofa in the one-bedroom suite's living room. "I created that piece by adding millwork framed into a circle piece of art, which was in a square frame," she says. When asked how to describe the style of the homes, Lareau says it's a cross between modern and traditional. "The two show homes are decorated in a transitional design," she says. "It's warmer than a modern design and not as formal as traditional." Lareau used rich, warm textures such as linen and other raw, natural fabrics in hues such as gold, bronze and cream. "Transitional is more welcoming and more inclusive," she says, adding the decor is neutral enough so that anybody can feel comfortable in the homes. "I'm working on the wellness of people when I decorated these suites," she says. "In the studio, there's lots of turquoise, a hue that signifies a sense of well-being. Turquoise, like the colour of the Caribbean Sea, is a colour that evokes feelings of restfulness and warmth. The first phase of Elements went up for sale a few weeks ago, and half have been sold. © Copyright (c) The Province



This one-bedroom display suite in one of two show homes open for viewing at Sandhill Development's Elements project in Langley. - WAYNE LEIDENFROST / PNG



High-end touches include granite kitchen counters and stainless steel appliances.