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It starts here.

Central 304 condos in an 19-storey tower by Onni Group

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The interior design team for the Central condo project tried to support local product designers and artists wherever possible.

Interior designers for the Central condo project took into account the industrial heartland of Vancouver throughout the 1950's.

CENTRAL What: 304 units in a 19-storey building (Over 200 now sold) Where: 1618 Quebec St., Vancouver Developer: Onni Group Residence size: 535 -1,650 sq. ft Price: From $365,900 Sales centre: 1035 Seymour St., Vancouver. Noon to 6 p.m., Sat -Thur When an interior designer is handed the task of decorating a show home that pays tribute to a most unusual building, he or she must think outside the box. That's exactly what Rachel Martinuk, senior interior designer with the Onni Group of Companies, did. The furnishings and the decor were inspired by Central's eightstorey "skybridge" that sits atop two 11-storey towers. "The extreme origami-like angles of the building were translated into origami-inspired wallpaper and millwork design," says Martinuk. "The expansive reflecting pool found in the interior courtyard manifests itself in the reflective lacquer and polishednickel accessories." Martinuk adds that in keeping with the uncommon architecture, the folded wallpaper used is quite distinctive. "Lacquer finishes and cabinetry are also top on the trends list, along with shocks of colour to accent the grey palettes that are so common on the West Coast," she says. "Examples of this are also found in the artwork and copper pots in the kitchen." Martinuk took into account Central's neighbourhood, the industrial heartland of Vancouver throughout the 1950s. "There are subtle industrial touches in the furnishings that pay homage to the history of the neighbourhood, such as the hammered nickel bar stools from West Elm," she says. Martinuk chose to create little vignettes, rather than decorating a full show home suite. She wanted to show buyers how to create memorable cameos with a little imagination and lots of inspiration. "We also felt that the buyer would get more out of seeing both colour schemes built into full and complete kitchens and bathrooms as opposed to only one display suite," adds Martinuk. Whenever possible, Martinuk and her design team like to support local product designers and artists. "Both the framed artwork pieces in the dining area and the carved wooden bowl on the dining table are from local Vancouver artists," she adds. Another design component Martinuk feels is important to show prospective buyers is storage space. "We understand that this always contributes to a more livable space, so we have included large storage cabinets in all of the bathrooms," she adds. Martinuk says the goal when decorating the vignettes is to strive for "elegant minimalism in order to let the finishes, like the honed marble countertops, shine ... comfortable, yet simple." Â© Copyright (c) The Province

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