

## Aalto a rare blend of style and location

### Ground-oriented townhomes in urban Coquitlam community

SIMON BRIAULT



Aalto townhome kitchens are fitted with large islands with engineered stone countertops, flat-panel cabinetry and porcelain tile backsplashes.

It's relatively easy to find a modern townhome development in the Lower Mainland. It's also easy to find a new condo in one of the region's urban centres, particularly given city planners' penchant for approving new homes next to major transit hubs.

But a new townhome development with homes boasting more than 1,500 square feet that's within walking distance of rapid transit and urban amenities is harder to come by.



On offer at Aalto are homes with three and four bedrooms ranging from 1,434 to 1,838 square feet.

Aalto Townhomes, Intracorp's new townhome development in Coquitlam, is just such a development.

"What's super rare about Aalto is that you're in a ground-oriented townhome community in an existing single-family neighbourhood that's also highly walkable," said Barrett Sprowson, Intracorp's vice-president of sales. "Typically, you would only get this type of home in this type of neighbourhood much further

away from the urban core. That would mean you're stuck with your car."

Aalto Townhomes is a 76-unit development with three- and four-bedroom homes and is at 1228 Hudson Street, just up the hill from the Lafarge Lake-Douglas SkyTrain station. Coquitlam Centre, which has 910,000 square feet of retail on two levels, is also within walking distance.

"What we keep hearing

from people is that they love Aalto's proximity to transit," Sprowson said. "You're a 10-minute walk to the SkyTrain or a three-minute walk to a bus line that can take you to the SkyTrain if you don't want to walk."

Intracorp entered into a partnership with the Finnish Canadian Rest Home Association and the land Aalto is being built on was given to the association by one of their members many years ago.

"They've had their eye on developing a better facility for their members so we're building them an apartment building on the Eastern portion of the site, a seniors' housing community that will take up about a third of the total area," he said. "In return, we then get to build Aalto, which is a totally separate entity on the other two-thirds of the site and which we will then own."

Homes feature nine-foot ceilings, washers and dryers on the upper floors, pot lighting in main living areas and powder rooms on the main levels. Kitchens have an oversized island, flat-panel cabinetry, soft-close doors and drawers, engineered stone countertops and porcelain tile backsplashes.

Master bedroom and ensuite bathrooms have engineered stone countertops, undermount Duravit sinks, porcelain tile flooring, Grohe lavatory faucets, chrome fixtures and semi-frameless shower doors.

All the above has helped to bring in a healthy stream of buyers.

"We've seen two primary buyer types," Sprowson said. "These are move-up buyers who maybe own a condo and are looking for some more space. The other one is active downsizers who still love the stairs and are not prepared to move to a condo just yet. They still want to have a front door."



Aalto Townhomes is a Coquitlam development by Intracorp featuring 76 three- and four-bedroom residences.

### Aalto Townhomes

**What:** : 76 three- and four-bedroom townhomes

**Where:** 1228 Hudson Street, Coquitlam

**Residence size and prices:** 1,434 to 1,838 square feet; from \$799,900

**Developer:** Intracorp

**Sales centre:** 1228 Hudson Street, Coquitlam

**Hours:** noon — 5 p.m., Sat — Thurs

**Telephone:** 604-891-1282