



Neighbourhood is key to condo

Designer created urban, modern space

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Designers know that a few key pieces in a home help to anchor a space and give it a sense of scale and sophistication.

That's what interior designer Caroline Boisvert considered when it came to the show suite at The Residences at WEST in southeast False Creek. She chose a chandelier in the dining room and a rug in the living room with generous proportions for a roomier and practical space.

"The strategy was to use fewer pieces and balance textures, colours, lighting and styles," says the principal at Atmosphere Interior. "A play on contrasts, along with an appropriate use of scale, is what made this space work."

The Residences at WEST will make its home in the neighbourhood that housed athletes from around the world for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The Village on False Creek community attracts cyclists, pedestrians, shoppers and families.

After a sales launch in June, The Residences at WEST are about 75 per cent sold.

"Architecture always drives price. With good architecture, people may not be looking at it, but they get it. It just feels right," says Craig Anderson, Executive Group Development's director of sales and marketing, of the project.

For Boisvert, the project is all about neighbourhood and community. "We wanted to create a space that was urban and modern but still cosy and inviting," she says. "The interiors had to have personality and coordinate well with the architecture of the development. "



The Residences at WEST in False Creek will be completed in 2014. The project's show home offers a glimpse of interior spaces, with an open-plan dining and living area that has large windows overlooking the city.

PHOTOS: KIM STALLKNECHT/ PNG

The Facts

Project: The Residences at WEST

What: 189 homes in Phase 1 (75 per cent sold)

Where: Southeast False Creek — West 2nd Avenue, Manitoba Street to Columbia Street

Residence size: 472 — 1,250 sq. ft.

Prices: One-bedroom from \$294,900; one-bedroom and den from \$429,900; two-bedrooms from \$499,900

Developer: Executive Group Development

Sales centre: 195 West 2nd Avenue

Hours: Noon — 5 p.m., daily

The designer knew she needed to appeal to various buyers — from first-timers to empty nesters, men, women, singles, couples and families.

Her design team incorporated modern furniture paired with vintage-inspired accessories, such as an orange vintage typewriter.

"We chose a grey palette combined with splashes of orange — a very hot colour these days — and incorporated nature-inspired elements throughout the space," Boisvert adds.

She calls the look "cosy-contemporary with a vintage touch."

The selection of finishes was also very important. Throughout the show suite, natural stones, quartz countertops and refined laminates give the space elegance, still keeping it feeling fresh and modern.

"Special attention was paid to selecting materials that were eco-friendly for a healthier home," she adds. "The overall inspiration for the selection of the materials for both schemes came from natural West Coast elements like beach driftwood, sand, river rocks and we carried that into furnishings, textures and accessories."

When incorporating a design element such as an accent colour, or the addition of a vintage piece, homeowners need to repeat it in a few

areas to create flow. "Don't be afraid to juxtapose contrasting textures and colours for a layered effect," she says. "Have fun with accent colours, but use them sparingly and pair them with a neutral. It is always best to add these touches of colours with elements that can be changed like a throw, a placemat or a book and keep the main furnishings neutral to allow you some flexibility."

A Shopper's Guide

Most of the furnishings came from CB2, Urban Barn, Moe's Home Furnishings and Restoration Hardware.

