



Thinking outside the box

A fresh look at interior spaces

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The Facts

Project: Bluetree Homes at Mackin Park

Project size: 86 low-rise one- and two-bedroom suites with street-level retail, in two buildings

Project location: 210 Lebleu St., Coquitlam

Residence sizes: One and two bedrooms from 548 — 1,013 sq. ft.

Price: From \$199,900

Developer: Bluetree Homes

Sales centre: 211 — 1020 Austin Ave., Coquitlam

Hours: noon — 5 p.m., daily

Slated to rise at Brunette Avenue and Lebleu Street in Coquitlam's Maillardville, the low-rise condo project Bluetree Homes at Mackin Park will stand in a community that owes much of its integrity to its French-Canadian history.

The neighbourhood was formed in 1889 by Quebecois lumber mill workers, and every year, residents celebrate that heritage with community arts festivals that pay respect to its culture.

Bluetree Homes decided that a locale so extraordinary deserved a condominium project — and a display suite — that's just as engaging.

In-house designer Cynthia Florano, who worked closely with sales and marketing general manager Yosh Kasahara on the suites' design, had the neighbourhood's legacy in mind when she crafted the warm interiors.

The one-bedroom and den display suite gives off the illusion of a space much wider and more spacious than its 700 square feet.

"We did this ... by carefully selecting the right pieces of furniture," Florano says.

"For instance, the dining table is in a very similar stain to the tone of the floor. Visually, this creates a flow in the space rather than breaking it up."

Built-ins in the living room come in the same hue and material as the kitchen and bathroom, giving the space even more flow and making it seem expansive, she says.

Kasahara says most people gravitate toward the den on the right side of the suite. Many designers would have added millwork to form it into



The designer of the display suite for the Bluetree Homes at Mackin Park project strove to create a balance between the more masculine and feminine touches in the finishings.

JENELLE SCHNEIDER PHOTOS/PNG



a guest bedroom with a twin bed. But Florano and her team opted for something else: the room has been fitted with wine storage, a mini-fridge and beer keg — an organized party headquarters for the imagined occupants, a socially active couple or individual.

"Anyone can imagine a desk and shelves; however we thought this would be a different way to use the space. We hope it inspires others to think outside the box when designing their own space."

Florano and Kasahara see the kind of people who are attracted to the homes as young — or young at heart — folks who prefer a slightly artistic, cultural edge over the conventional. Florano adds some universal appeal

by mixing bold and soft, masculine and feminine touches.

While the keg and drink-prep station gives the den a masculine statement, it's softened by the shine and bling of a feminine ceiling fixture.

The bedroom has a similar feel. It's a warm and simple space with one standout: dark wallpaper — ever so manly — covered in a more graceful pattern than its background might call for.

"For this area, we really wanted to create a room that would be attractive to men and women. There are many young couples looking to make a purchase of their first home together and it's important that we've designed a room that's cool, comfortable and a place to come home to."