

Envy

The Natural Evolution

By Susan M Boyce

Okay, you want your home to be your favourite destination, the place you most look forward to arriving at. But there's no question you want more. You want your home to be a total experience — every hour of every day throughout all four seasons. Welcome to Envy in North Vancouver.

Experience with a Conscience

Envy's discovery centre is a sophisticated study in green and white, an intriguing marriage of tranquility and upscale urban savvy. The look is crisp, fresh, utterly contemporary. But as I'm about to discover, there's also a whole lot more than meets the eye.

"Envy is built to LEED standards and is the first totally non-smoking residence in North Vancouver," says sales representative Annette Denk. "There's been an amazing reaction to the concept that not only is this an eco-friendly building but there is no smoking anywhere — not even on the patios."

We chat about the energy-efficient, front load washer, the in-floor radiant heating, and use of non-toxic paints and sealants that are all part of

the stringent LEED criteria. I already know the luscious, wide-plank flooring is made from engineered wood that utilizes fast growing, renewable saplings rather than mature, old growth timbers, but Annette lets me in on another benefit. "You can also sand and re-stain these floors up to three times, so it's even more sustainable." Hey, you just never know what you'll learn about environmental stewardship.



Fall in Love with Coming Home

Always one to love a good view, I'm delighted when Annette shows me one of the discovery center's coolest features — a monitor where with the click of a mouse I can pick my floor plan and check out the view from my suite. North and east to the mountains, south and west toward the ocean, UBC, or downtown Vancouver skyline, these homes are going to boast some of the best panoramas to be found.

Mind you, the kitchen has plenty to keep my attention visually as well. Two-tone cabinetry with sleek, minimalist lines and an elegant solid-surface counter Annette tells me is Hanstone Quartz make this a workspace that's ready to sizzle. High-gloss 12x24-inch



tiles give a decidedly cosmopolitan chic edginess to the backsplash, an edginess perfectly balanced by an unexpected bamboo texture on the floor tiles.

"Of course the floor is heated," Annette says. "In here too." She points to the bathroom where the bamboo/high gloss combo repeats itself with equal aplomb. Here, though, the counter surface is a white marble with undermount sink. There's a dual-flush, low-consumption toilet, pressure balanced showerhead from Bricor, and sexy-looking single lever faucet in polished chrome — all part of the energy/water saving components of a LEED building. And with a final dash of inspired design, the hand towel rack is an eye-catching square. No wonder Annette says Envy is captivating the hearts of so many North Vancouver homebuyers.

Envy offers a total of only 50 boutique concrete residences in 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans. Priced from \$328,900, all Envy homes are 100% smoke-free. The Envy discovery centre is open noon to 5:00 pm daily except Fridays at 156 West 3rd Street in North Vancouver. For more information call 604-983-ENVY (3689), or you can visit on the web anytime at www.envynorthvan.com. **nh**

