

# LIVING IN THE SKY



Metro Vancouver is finding itself a home in New Westminister. This walkable heritage neighbourhood is the focus of new urban energy. Located on the waterfront of this neighbourhood and steps from SkyTrain, RiverSky offers clean contemporary homes in the sky, featuring spacious, light-filled interiors with European-made kitchens and Bosa's legendary quality.

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A wood-toned melamine backsplash picks up the colour and texture of the upper cabinets, also reflected in the dining table and chairs.

When it came time for the design team to find inspiration for the look and feel of the RiverSky development, they didn't have far to look.

By **CLAUDIA KWAN**

## BRINGING SEA AND SKY TOGETHER

The new RiverSky development finds its inspiration in New Westminster's waterfront

"This is truly where the river and the sky meet — there are stunning views along the walkways and from the homes," says Cheryl Broadhead, principal of BYU De sign, about the New Westminster waterfront location of the Bosa Proper ties project. "We wanted to celebrate that beauty in the show suite."

A palette of blues and whites was a natural choice, accented with hits of brass and layered with wood for texture. Golden napkin rings on the pull-out table in the kitchen island — more on that in a moment — evoke the shape of seaurchins, and brass knickknacks on living room shelves beg to be picked up and played with.

Teak candlestick holders and other wooden accessories also invite people to touch.

More brass can be found in the bedroom light fixture and floor lamp. They read as contemporary with their clean angles, but a circle in the overhead light hints at a nautical porthole. A 40-centimetre round metal serving tray covered in deep blues res in epoxy adds some subtle sparkle when propped up for display on the kitchen counter.

In the kitchen, BYU opted for a backsplash made of melamine applied to aluminum. It mimics the colour of the wood chosen for the upper kitchen cabinets, allowing a seamless visual transition before introducing the white lower cabinets.

A bespoke white leather coach adorned with colourful toss cushions is smaller in scale and a little higher off the ground than normal; it offers light and bright sophistication while being durable and easy to care for. Powder-coated aluminum chairs for the oversize balcony are similarly stylish and low-maintenance.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The RiverSky development hugs the New Westminster waterfront. The ExtenTable in the kitchen island pulls out to seat up to eight. The flat-screen TV in the living area slides to one side to reveal a sofa for extra seating.

A PALETTE OF BLUES AND WHITES WAS A NATURAL CHOICE FOR THE DISPLAY SUITE, WHICH SHOWS OFF SOME OF BOSAS'S SPACE-TRANSFORMING FURNITURE ELEMENTS

The homes at RiverSky feature some of the BosaSpace transforming furniture elements first exhibited in 2013 at the company's University District project in Surrey. The ExtenTable in the kitchen island can be pulled out to serve breakfast for two, function as workspace for four during the day and dish up dinner for a party of eight. BYU paired the table with stacking chairs from Inform Interiors.

The SleepTheatre in the living room features open shelving on one side and a rolling panel designated for a flat-screen TV. As needed, the panel can slide left to reveal a sofa for three, which can also be used as guest bed.

New for RiverSky is the StoreMore pantry. Metal racks on the top allow you to store stemware on top, wine bottles in the middle and miscellaneous items on the bottom. A fold-out ironing board tucks away when not in use. Storage has been included in a multitude of other ways.

"It's all part of making sure a space can adapt to you, instead of you having to adapt to it," says BYU senior designer Kasia Chamberlain. "It adds value to the space."

Molly Chan, principal of NSDA Architects, says she also worked with Richard Henry Architects on incorporating the river and sky into the overall design of the buildings.

"The 'boat prow' curve of the project is a very obvious reference to the waterfront, which is the first and natural response to the site," she points out. "It is a launch point for the area, and we tried to maintain that connection with the water."

It was also a priority to maintain a pedestrian connection to the waterfront and SkyTrain, and to allow existing residents of the neighbourhood to retain their view corridors. Chan says the amenities available in the area make it feel very similar to southeast False Creek.

The BYU team feels the comfortable, contemporary look will resonate for all of the demographic groups showing interest in RiverSky, and it will be easy to re-create — some of the items used in the show suite were picked up from New Westminster stores a short distance away from the project's location.

The estimated completion date for RiverSky is summer 2018. ■