

Centro

Living in Balance

by Susan M Boyce



Something happened on my drive through Richmond the other day. I turned the corner at Granville and No 3 Road, and I discovered Centro. Okay, I knew Centro was located at this particular intersection, but what I actually found was a wonderful surprise.

Contemporary and sleek, there's also a charmingly playful side to Centro. From the street, elongated rectangular accents in apple green and turquoise glass seem to dance across the façade — just looking at them somehow makes me happy as if a stranger has flashed a smile at me for no apparent reason.

Personality Plus

Inside, I meet up with an old friend, project marketer Pam Haglof. "One of the amazing things here is that almost every floor plan we have is different," she says as we step into

one of the two-storey SkyHomes. No question about it — this is a home with big time Wow Factor.

The kitchen is a striking grey-on-charcoal that combines high gloss and matte finishes into an efficient, open space boasting my favourite Jennaire appliances. But here's the cleverest part. Because this suite is designed wide rather than long, both the kitchen and the living room look out onto the balcony — three full walls of windows. The amount of natural light pouring in is astonishing and the ambiance is definitely one of being in a corner suite.

"Even though we're on the sixth and seventh floors, this home has its own private garage within the parkade," Pam says opening the door to show me. "It's really like having a townhome but with the added security of being off the ground level." What a great idea.

The ensuite tub, like every Centro home, features one of the Japanese-style soaker tubs

I've been lusting after for months. There's also a gleaming, sexy-looking shower wand, dual-flush low profile toilet, and a stylish rectangular sink with single lever faucet. It all adds up to a space that's as perfect for my decidedly "morning person" sweetie as it is for night owls like me.

Refresh Yourself Outdoors

Although there are too many suites for me to tour them all, Pam does insist on showing me Centro's SkyGarden — and I'm instantly glad she did. Located on the seventh floor podium between the tower and low-rise, this mini-oasis is unexpectedly quiet and refreshing.

A lush, green lawn area practically begs to become the site of summer picnics or lounging with the latest bestseller novel. Mind you, there's also the covered Teahouse and raised deck where I'm already trying to plan the perfect spot for sunset watching or catching a few rays in the afternoon... that would be after I work out in the glass-enclosed gym that's also on this level. Life is good.

Unique by Design

"When we designed Centro, we really pushed our team to create something no one else was doing in Richmond," says developer Will Lin, president of Rize Developments. He laughs as he admits it took "quite a while" to settle on the unique look. "It's always easy to go with what everyone else is doing — but this is far more rewarding."

Centro still has a broad selection of homes available — all designed to celebrate a diverse range of lifestyles. Centro's presentation center and display suites are open noon to 5:00 pm daily except Fridays at 8080 Granville Road in Richmond. For more information call 604-270-8305 or visit www.centrolife.ca. 🏠