

SPECIAL EDITION: LUXURY CONDO OPTIONS FOR DOWNSIZING VANCOUVERITES

METRO VANCOUVER

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CONDO GUIDE

james
intimate and thoughtful

GET INTO JAMES.



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JAMIES

Intimate & thoughtful

BY SUSAN M BOYCE



THERE'S A NEW GUY IN TOWN. HE'S SOPHISTICATED, STYLISH, down right sexy, and he's definitely turning heads in Vancouver's False Creek neighbourhood. Introducing James.

Located only steps from the Seawall at West First Street and Crowe, James is collection of 155 boutique residences with an astonishing 39 individual floor plans. "We have city flats, lofts, townhouses, and two-storey penthouse flats — so you can imagine there are a lot of one-of-a-kind plans here," says sales representative Judy Graham. No kidding — that's a whole lot of choice.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The moment I step into the presentation centre, I sense James is unique. There's a cosmopolitan edge to the architecture I see on the scale model — expansive use of glass, intriguingly angled rooflines, and lush pocket gardens everywhere.

Twin sky bridges connect the tower to the townhomes, and no two façades are exactly alike. The effect reminds me of the classic, English mews — a comparison Judy tells me was meticulously planned to fit with the neighbourhood's heritage

background and Vancouver's contemporary love affair with alternative transportation like walking, cycling, or roller blading.

LIFE WITH JAMES

I leave Judy explaining about James' 5,000-square-foot, fully landscaped rooftop deck boasting garden plots, solarium-style lounge, children's play area, and outdoor kitchen to a couple who are obviously already infatuated, and head for the display suite. It's probably a good thing I have a few moments to myself because "right on, wow" hardly seems like an appropriately worded response from a writer. Mind you, in this case it's accurate.

The kitchen blends 21st Century angularity and an avant garde colour palette with space — lots and lots of space. Millwork is a combination of charcoal and matte white, the hood fan is a slim-profile retractable, and both dishwasher and fridge are integrated into the cabinetry. I spot not one but two appliance garages — one of my favourite features for keeping small appliances tucked away neat, tidy, and easily accessible. By now I'm hardly surprised to discover the drawers are soft close — James seems to have thought of everything.



I'm on my way to check out what I can already see is a generously sized balcony, when I'm stopped in my tracks. James' living room has a feature so intelligent and stylish that I can't believe I've never seen it used before. One wall is a bank of built-in display shelving with lower, concealed storage. But all it takes is a gentle push, the center section slides effortlessly up, and presto, your wide-screen TV is revealed.

The bedroom, too boasts innovative, city-savvy space usage. Accessed by pocket doors on either side, the bed nestles between two walls so there's not an inch of wasted space. Plus there's an enclosed balcony that's decked out as an office, so I know both rooms will be filled with natural light and sunshine year round.

"James also has air conditioning — which you don't see often," Judy says. "And did you notice the ceilings are smooth finish? Very elegant."

GET CONNECTED

"Come on, Mom, get your helmet on so I can show you Granville Island, or do you want a coffee around here first?" says a young

man in biking gear who's packing away James floor plans and a brochure. "Oh and tomorrow, let's take the Canada Line down to the Art Gallery. See what I mean about this place being so close to everything? I can't wait to move. You are going to visit again in the fall aren't you?"

I can't help smiling at his enthusiasm. This is, after all, my 'hood as well, so I've watched its evolution for years. I wonder what Mom will think when she sees the proliferation of shopping around Cambie and Broadway or the many theatres and restaurants nearby. Maybe it will still be the proximity to downtown that captures her heart or the now super easy access to YVR for when she comes back. But one thing for sure, James will be delighted to play host.

The James presentation centre and display home are located at 289 West 2nd Avenue in Vancouver and are open noon to 5:00 pm daily except Fridays. For more information call 604.675.1000 or visit www.jamesliving.com.