

WESTCOAST HOMES

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NEW-HOME PROJECT PROFILE: CENTRAL BY ONNI



Central time

Southeast False Creek is the setting for Central – Onni’s ‘landmark for Vancouver’ development

PHOTOS BY IAN SMITH/PNG

Interiors at Central are modern and stylish, with designs created in consultation with a local feng shui master.

BY CHANTAL EUSTACE

Something new is coming to the horizon on Quebec Street in Southeast False Creek.

Unlike anything else in Vancouver, the Central development boasts an eight-storey “skybridge” atop two eleven-storey towers — one designated for residential use, the other commercial. The towers will face Main Street. “The model doesn’t do it justice,”

according to Jason Dolker, who’s steered the project for Onni Group.

“The building will be Vancouver’s most architecturally significant residential building.”

Onni’s Nick Belmar said his group was enthusiastic when the unique design was suggested by the architects.

“We’re always receptive to thinking outside the box,” Belmar says, “and the response has been great, almost overwhelming.”

“This is going to be a landmark for Vancouver.”

Dolker points to the eight columns helping support the elevated tower, standing over a 4,400-square-foot reflecting pool in the half-acre park area below.

“It’s where structure becomes sculpture,” he says of the pillars’ lofty effect. “You could call it art.”

And he says, the design is helping to attract a wide range of potential buyers to Central’s 304 homes, which sell

starting at \$298,900.

“We’re getting people from everywhere because of the uniqueness of the building,” says Dolker.

Central’s architect, Bruce Haden, says the building flips the city’s more typical “tower and town house” model upside down, and fits well with its location. “I think it’s a neighbourhood that’s creative and ripe for experimentation,” he says.



Model of the Central development.

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Country charm, urban setting
Character home in the heart of Point Grey boasts an English-style country garden with waterfall – makes for a speedy sale



STRATIFIED | H4

Digging for the details
The B.C. Conservative Party has a new brochure available for strata owners – Suzanne Morphet takes a close look

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES | H13

First things first in Sooke
Woodland Creek, entering its fifth phase of development, gets top marks for being the first neighbourhood in Sooke with geothermal technology



NEW-HOME PROJECT PROFILE | FROM H1

**Central**

Location: 1618 Quebec Street
Project size: 304 units in a 19-storey building
Residence size: 535 — 1,650 sq. ft
Price: \$298,900 to \$1,700,000
Developer: Onni Group
Architect: Dialog & IBI Architects
Interior designer: Onni in-house
Sales centre address: 1035 Seymour Street
Email: central@onni.com
Phone: 604-682-8801
Hours: noon — 6 p.m., Sat — Thur
Website: www.onni.com or ownatcentral.com
Occupancy date: June 2014



Onni's Jason Dolker stands with a model of Central (above) with a view of the courtyard (below left). The development will feature a clean, contemporary bathroom design and a choice of two different styles of kitchens.



A unique design in a great location

"I think [Central] will be very memorable in the context of Vancouver." On the project's sales website, the singular quality of the architecture is spelled out clearly for buyers.

"Nothing else looks or feels like this. Not now. Not ever," it says. "Central is a complete reinvention of the residential tower, where high design is both accessible and exceptional."

It will stand out, says Haden.

"So many of the new downtown towers have been built in a very short time and so they have become a sea of sameness," Haden says.

"With the design of Central, we wanted something that would rise above the too often dull waters of that sea."

It's also a great location, Dolker says — central, in fact.

"We're less than 30 seconds to the water," says Dolker, adding many of the homes will have water views.

It's also in an emerging neighbourhood. All around Southeast False Creek, he says, developments are sprouting up.

"It's growing," he says. "And it's going to get built up quickly."

Next to the model of Central inside Onni's downtown sales centre, a large map shows the towers in relation to downtown Vancouver and surrounding areas.

It's walking distance to amenities, from shops to restaurants and more. There's also transit close at hand, with options ranging from the nearby SkyTrain and buses to water taxis.

Interiors are modern and stylish too, with designs created in consultation with a local feng shui master. ("At Central, enjoy a perfect balance of positive energy throughout," the website extols.)

The display area of the Central sales centre presents buyers with two versions of a kitchen, featuring a choice of one dark or one light colour scheme. The latter has a bright stone composite countertop, the other a honed natural stone option.

The show suite also features a model of a clean and contemporary looking bathroom including a porcelain tile floor, as well as a roomy medicine cabinet, oversized mirror and a sleek-looking soaker tub.

Laminate flooring is standard in the homes, but home shoppers can upgrade to hardwood.

Homes also feature green touches like low-flow fixtures and dual-flush toilets, as well as energy-efficient appliances like Energy Star front-loading washers and EnerGuide-rated dryers.

The model doesn't do it justice.

The building will be Vancouver's most architecturally significant residential building.

JASON DOLKER
ONNI GROUP

The development adheres to Vancouver's Southeast False Creek sustainability guidelines, some of the most comprehensive in North America.

Central's design includes things like green roofs and landscaping irrigated through a rainwater-fed cistern system.

The project also includes a 7,000 square-foot wellness centre which includes health-conscious perks for home shoppers like a fitness area, yoga and dance studio, plus steam and sauna rooms.

The wellness centre also includes amenities like a lounge area, games room and theatre, as well as a rooftop garden.

Three years in the planning, Central is expected to be completed in June 2014.

Haden says he's pleased with the result.

"The building looks like it's floating," he says.

And that's certain to make Central stand out from the crowd.

Special to The Sun