



Paradise on the Park

By Tracey Ellis

High-rise luxury living in downtown Vancouver is largely about the view.
Views of Stanley Park. Views of English Bay.
Views of Coal Harbour. Views of the city skyline at night.

Robert Quigg, CEO of The Quigg Group was savvy enough to see the chance of a lifetime when he toured the 19th and 20th floors in the 12-year-old Presidio building at the end of Barclay Street in Vancouver's West End. The unit was in the process of being renovated, but it was what he saw outside the living space that captured his attention.


"I had no interest in buying at the time," Quigg explains. "But the view was so spectacular, I knew I would never get this opportunity again."

After making the commitment in October 2003, Quigg started from scratch, stripping the two units to the shell. At 4,950 square feet, there was plenty of space to work with in order to create a masterpiece in craftsmanship and design. The result, like the views is simply breathtaking.

"Design harmony" is the phrase that comes to mind upon first viewing, but just touches the surface on the attention to detail seen when touring this world-class residence. Every line

and every angle is in perfect symmetry, a testament to what Quigg calls his tendency to achieve perfection. Yet, the home stands as a stunning showcase to his dedication to the craft of homebuilding. The result of his creativity is an eminently livable residence with open spaces for entertaining, yet maintaining the warmth and intimacy that draws you home at the end of a long day – the ultimate sanctuary in the city.

From the moment I stepped off the elevator into the foyer my impression of this home is that it really "flows." Quigg and the designers, Bruce Wilson of Bruce Wilson Canada and principal designer Mitchell Freedland of Mitchell Freedland Designs have put much thought to how each floor is planned and how every inch of space is best utilized to serve the homeowner's needs. Two master suites, a gourmet kitchen complete with expansive red and white wine storage, a living room and living room/library, a state-of-the-art media room, office, bar and outdoor decks complete this dream living package.



What if I told you, you could have all these panoramic vistas in 360-degree views and close to 5,000 square feet of luxury living in a contemporary two-storey penthouse? Really. I'm not kidding.

Synchronicity in design is achieved through the use of white oak millwork utilized in both vertical and horizontal grain with a lime stain finish. Limestone is featured in columns, heated floor tiles and stair treads. The use of custom art glass, and Pennsylvania bluestone on decks and the hot tub are design staples. Existing windows were replaced with commercial-grade floor-to-ceiling windows and the influx of light is cleverly incorporated in transparency in both layout and design. What's missing is the drywall and paint seen so often in the building trades; here only white oak, stainless steel, limestone and glass are used, giving this home an unprecedented feel, look and design.

But where to begin on all the luxurious details that combine to present such exclusive high-rise living? With such grand space, the residence simply has to be seen to be fully appreciated, but here are some of my personal standouts.

The heart of the home for many is the kitchen. This is the room where Quigg points out his philosophy, that a home

should stand as a design piece, as a work of art where there are "no mental or physical collisions." What he means by this is that everything is physically right, giving the homeowner mental comfort. Where the space is functional and everything is in the right place for ease of use, or as Quigg describes, it is a, "soothing," environment because it all, "just makes sense."

Yet, amongst the elegance, there are happy surprises to be found here as in other parts of the home. The kitchen is long, which is ideal for entertaining and is highlighted by the custom-built 800-bottle red wine cellar and under-counter white wine cooler. The counter island is lengthy, but not bulky and ends in a delightful architectural detail in a flying countertop that is steel reinforced and offers a dramatic design feature to the room. The beamwork in the ceiling has the surprising effect of giving the room a feeling of continuity and energy — inspiring enough for any gourmet chef. Terrazzo stone countertops are accentuated with contemporary stainless steel inlay details. Such



renowned names in luxury living as Kohler, Dornbracht, Sub-Zero, Viking and Miele can be found in fixtures and appliances.

The main master bedroom has decks on either end and a king-plus-size bed on the accent wall. Here the coffered ceilings are deeper, giving the room a more intimate feel. As you enter the walk-in closet you will catch your breath – yes, even the views from the closets are spectacular!

The other delight in the master suite is the ensuite bath. Located in a circular-walled room, the curves are matched in every detail of design, from the cabinetry to the custom art-glass double-sized shower stall with dual rainshowerheads, and yes, a shoulders-up view of the magnificent city.

With two living rooms to choose from it is really just a matter of what vista you are in the mood for. Even though they are vertically aligned from floor to floor, the views presented vary in their beauty. The lower "library" presents a theme anchored with a red hand-woven wool carpet and focal point of a stainless steel and limestone fireplace surround with gas fireplace by Vancouver Gas Fireplaces. Upstairs, the perfect entertaining space awaits and the hand-woven green area rug is a reflection of the stunning green landscape of the park seen outside the windows. Here too, a custom fireplace surround in a stainless steel waterfall effect anchors the room, which seems to float away with the surrounding windows and amazing floor-to-ceiling views on three sides. Furnishings throughout the home can only be described as exquisite, both in form and function. Each piece is custom made from such renowned furniture manufac-



turers as Donghia Furniture Textiles Ltd., Bari Designs, Lech-Pol and Backwater Designs.

As with all modern homes, this home has the technology to make anyone the master of their domain. Security, privacy and environmental controls are assured through an integrated information computer system by Millson Multimedia Inc. that controls the music, climate, lighting, scenes and security through several Lutron touch-screen panels throughout the home. Three separate security systems provide intrusion protection, video surveillance and digital camera recording. Suite access is restricted through a private security system and elevators, and three parking stalls are provided in the security-monitored garage. State-of-the-art media is provided by a home cinema audio visual system that incorporates a plasma screen, video processor and speakers.

"The most likely buyer of this suite is someone who appreciates sophisticated luxury mixed with exquisite craftsmanship and is looking to incorporate these elements into their everyday life."

– Robert Quigg, CEO, The Quigg Group

Life on the coast is a celebration of the outdoors and this residence embraces life West Coast style with no fewer than five decks. Just off the kitchen on the southside overlooking Stanley Park and English Bay, you'll cook in style with a complete stainless-steel outdoor kitchen centre by Viking. Landscape lighting



and built-in speakers will keep you outside long after the theatrical performance of yet another stunning sunset over the Bay. Yet the lure of the hot tub will draw you to the northside deck, where a custom-designed hot tub comprised of Pennsylvania bluestone glows with fibre-optic lighting and the musical sound of a sheer descent infinity waterfall soothes the soul as you relax. On this deck a turret-style room is currently a home office that is custom-fit with finely crafted cabinet drawers and doors.

Where on earth did Robert Quigg find the inspiration for this masterpiece of form and finery? Certainly from the natural beauty of the 360-degree views and the inspiration of the original architect, Richard Henriquez, but also, he admits, from another architectural beauty, the Four Seasons Hotel on 57th Avenue in New York. "I stayed there shortly after I bought the place," he said. "I wanted a sophisticated interior that feels soothing to live in, where it doesn't matter what your personal taste is, you can make it work here." Quigg adds that it is a very quiet neighbourhood. "It's dead quiet, the quietest place I've

ever lived," he said. "On a sunny day it's spectacular, but at nighttime it's just over the top. To think of what we have here, I don't think there's anything else quite like it."

This unique and extraordinary living space is now listed on the market with luxury home realtors Malcolm Hasman of Angell Hasman & Associates and Heather Notman of Macdonald Realty, and can only be described as a golden opportunity at owning a slice of paradise.

The Penthouse by Quigg is being sold with its custom-built furnishings and décor, and at \$9.8 million, stands as the most expensive condominium property currently on the market in Vancouver.

The Presidio building at 1988-2088 Barclay Street was created by renowned architect Richard Henriquez, who drew his inspiration from classic Parisian architecture. Quigg has expanded on this vision in the penthouse and has created the perfect balance of craftsmanship, luxury and personality. The end result is brilliant living. 