



The layout of the Block 100 show suite allows the living and dining areas to be switched.



Light wood shelving in the kitchen area adds warmth and a touch of the rustic.



The striking wooden inset shelving and television centre defines the living room of the show home.

The merging of past and present

New Onni project ties two together

Mary Frances Hill

SUNDAY
HOMES
WRITER



Contemporary life meets local history on Main Street at the cusp of southeast False Creek, the site of the Onni Group's pre-sale project Block 100.

The exterior of Block 100 is designed with a view to the past. Architect Chris Dikeakos said he was inspired to use exposed board from concrete to mimic a classic timber construction style and reflect the history of the site, which was once a busy railway.

Industrial, however, has since given way to the best urban pleasures. To the south, cafés, restaurants and local designers' shops attract a lively crowd. A few blocks north, fresh produce and exotic food can be found amid the busy urban hum of Chinatown. To the west, there's everything southeast False Creek has to offer, including a community centre, the seawall, green space and additional restaurants, cafés and retail outlets.

Onni designer Alexis Rule took all of this into account when she designed Block 100's display suite, which honours the site's heritage, while reflecting the busy and diverse neighbourhood surrounding it. If Block 100's buyers want space, openness and modernity that mirrors its community, Rule aimed to give them just that.

Onni's in-house designer used accents of wood, particularly in inset shelves in living room and light wood shelving in the kitchen, to define and add a touch of the rustic to the space.

Rule says her design reflected the wider community with the use of "an eclectic mix of contemporary and rustic modern pieces with a mix of light and dark woods."

"They make the space feel warm and inviting," she notes.

The layout may be refreshing to home hunters who are accustomed to seeing narrow, conventionally decorated suites. A square



Architect Chris Dikeakos says he was inspired to use exposed board from concrete to mimic a classic timber construction style. KIM STALLKNECHT/PNG PHOTOS

layout seems to open up the suite, giving it a contemporary feel and offering the buyer more options on room placement. The dining and living rooms, for instance, could easily be switched.

While the striking wooden inset shelving and television centre defines the living room, Rule brought in five dark-shaded pendant lamps to make a statement in the dining room. It's a bold take on a midcentury modern fixture, and it works.

"I loved this light fixture," she says. So much so, that it was a catalyst for her entire vision of the suite, she adds. "Not only does it define the dining area, but it creates a sense of openness."

Project: Block 100

What: 231 homes in three buildings

Where: 1695 Main Street

Residence sizes and prices: 465 — 1,265 square feet, from \$268,900

Builder and developer: Onni Group

Sales centre: 1618 Quebec St.

Hours: noon — 6 p.m., Sat — Thurs