



One St. Thomas Residences
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Different Retreats



written by Debra Usher

It's a fact of life that no person is alike and we all have different preferences and behaviours. Sometimes the most obvious difference is where we choose to live and how we decorate and live in our home.

While a second or third home is not an option for everyone, for those who have the choice, a multitude of different locations and design ideas take place. Perhaps a log cabin – it could be just a small retreat, or something palatial and geared to many guests for summer hikes and winter skiing in the mountains.

There are cottages on oceans and lakes in a plethora of sizes and architectural design styles; homes skirting the golf course, and condominiums overlooking the marina. All these second and third homes reflect the lifestyle and life activities of

their owners. Most locations focus on a favourite activity or sport – such as golf, sailing or yachting – while others are chosen as a place to get away from it all, to unwind, escape and just be.

The couple in this story have several other residences and opted this time for a home in a beautiful downtown Toronto condominium complex. They wanted a pied-à-terre.

Pied-à-terre

Pied-à-terre is a French phrase literally meaning “foot on the ground.” It usually applies to a small living unit, often located in a large city some distance away from an individual's primary residence. It may be an apartment, condominium, loft or even a penthouse. The term pied-à-terre implies usage as a temporary second residence, either for part of the year or part of the work week, by a person of means.









In the case of our couple, they wanted a luxurious suite of rooms in the heart of the city so they could enjoy all the amenities of living in downtown Toronto. They also wanted on-site services comparable to those in a luxury hotel.

Designer's Comments

This is the third project completed by designer Rodney Deeprise for this client. Renovation work on their main residence and a cottage has just finished. Rodney is currently working on a substantial new main residence for the couple in Oakville and they still have a large waterfront home in Boca Raton, Florida.

The owner and his wife recently sold their manufacturing business and were looking to spend time in a more urban location, as their current home is quite rural. This pied-à-terre seemed like

a good option, offering them a chance to enjoy the restaurants and culture the city has to offer, while being close to their daughter who is enrolled nearby at the University of Toronto.

An extensive search of the Yorkville neighbourhood in downtown Toronto, turned up the suite they eventually purchased. The amenities and services are comparable to most hotels; including valet parking, a pool, fitness centre and massage facilities.

Their ninth floor suite is a 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath suite with a 150 sq. ft. terrace. Guests are welcome to stay in one of the two guest suites in the building.

The impressive entry, with its marble floor and coffered ceiling, reflects the exceptional quality and style found throughout. In the Bedroom a spacious wall of fitted closets provide valuable









storage. The windows are draped with a wool sheer for warmth and transparency, but motorized (concealed) blinds provide privacy and room darkening for daytime naps.

The Ensuite is lined with a patterned mosaic marble floor and features a large bathtub and separate shower. The cabinetry is by Downsvew.

In the main living space, you will find quite an unconventional layout. Since this is not a primary residence, there was no need for a large separate dining room. Space was utilized instead for a large desk, as this condo doubles as an office for new business ventures. A small table for two becomes a meeting table when needed. A reading chair, which is also recliner, sits next to the gas fireplace. Access to the terrace leads the way to a great outdoor space, rare in the urban jungle.

The Kitchen is outfitted with Downsvew cabinetry and is equipped with Miele ovens and cooktop, and a Sub Zero refrigerator as well. When the owners do want to cook they have everything they need. Not surprisingly, though, with the wide range of superb restaurants nearby, the kitchen has yet to be used.

The Sitting Room accommodates a large sectional sofa for taking in the city view and relaxing in front of the 60" television. Ceiling heights throughout the space vary from 9' to 10'. To keep the look cleaner and more urban, no drapery was used here but concealed motorized blinds on each window provide privacy and room darkening when watching movies.

The ultimate pied-à-terre experience. Magnifique!