

Space-saving condo layout all about the cube design



CONDO TRENDS
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There's a new condo trend that puts the "cube" in "cubist". Interior design firm Figure3 hatches a new space-saving condo layout that is destined to become a winner for Toronto's compact high-rises.

Just one look at the floor plan shows how the transformational Cube design frees up space.

The suite is built upon a unique design premise where everything is arranged around an inner core or cube. The bathroom, laundry room and kitchen are clustered together in the centre of the space. The concept takes cues from New York and Europe where smaller square footage is at a premium.

This transformational design offers condo owners maximum flexibility with fluid spaces for living, dining and sleeping around the cube core element. "The idea is that by pulling all the wet walls into the centre of the space, it allows you the flexibility to walk around it," says Suzanne Bettencourt, principal at Figure3.

The Figure3-designed Quartz-Spectra model suite by Concord Adex was recognized with an award of merit at the 2012 ARIDO awards.

The cube's centralized space plan allows for wider corridors that are more functional and double as

walk-in closets. "The corridor going to the bathroom has the closet in it and becomes almost like a walk-in closet," says Bettencourt. "It's really also a circulation path into your bathroom and it also connects to your den as well." The Quartz-Spectra bedroom opens up to the living area through sliding glass panels, expanding the overall living space for spontaneous entertaining.

For developers, the cube design also saves on construction costs by consolidating stacks, therefore requiring fewer walls.

"The concept here was to allow people the flexibility to hide away their walls. Suddenly your living space and your bedroom space can be larger for entertaining purposes," says Bettencourt.

Recognized for their innovative design process, Figure3's view is that space is a strategic business asset and is well poised to bring a new way of thinking to Toronto's condo market.

The design firm got the idea from their experience with corporate office towers where shafts through the core of the building house all the plumbing, electrical and facilities.

According to Bettencourt, dining rooms are doing a disappearing act. "If you're going to be purchasing a one bedroom plus den, often the space is being compromised, particularly the dining area. What people are wanting is a den that can then convert into a dining room."



Figure3's design for the suite is built upon a unique floor plan where everything is arranged around an inner core or "cube". COURTESY OF FIGURE3



The cleverly designed Quartz-Spectra model suite by Concord Adex was recognized with an ARIDO award of merit. COURTESY OF FIGURE3