

# CONDO LIVING

## DESIGN SENSE



Ikea interior designers Agnes Telfer (L) and Lesleah Weber share their solutions, tips and ideas for living in small spaces.



Recent and soon-to-be residents at the IKEA/Concord Adex event were treated to a variety of catered delicacies and fine wines.



Ikea's BRIMNES headboard can also be used as a sofa table.



Ikea's INGATORP drop-leaf dining table.

# Live big in small spaces

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Special to QMI Agency

**A**s literally tens of thousands of Torontonians now live in condos, there's more and more talk of the unique challenges of making the most of limited living space.

CityPlace developer Concord Adex recently partnered with Ikea in bringing Living Big In Small Spaces to its downtown showroom.

Ikea designers weighed in with their tips for managing close quarters, in a well-attended presentation where recent and soon-to-be residents were treated to a variety

of catered delicacies and fine wines. The free event is part of Concord's Condo Living Series, a program designed to foster a sense of community by bringing the building's residents together for social activities. It's also an opportunity to learn what's new in condo trends with guest speakers and informative presentations.

Ikea interior designers Agnes Telfer and Lesleah Weber shared their solutions, tips and ideas on creating well-designed and functional condo living spaces. "We ask a lot of the small space," said Weber. "Imagination will take you everywhere and in this space, imagination was com-

pletely utilized to make it beautiful but functional where there's lots of things happening."

She tells the audience that when thinking about designing a space, "We think about what we do in our homes." A lot of things are happening in your condo and the goal is to maximize space. It can get out of control in no time, it can get messy and in order for it to not end up in clutter, "We need to start planning and think about what you do in a space and how to map that out."

According to Telfer, It's about using your imagination. "Utilize your own space to have as much storage as

you can possibly have. It's all about function." The duo ran through a number of clever and functional examples — things you might not think of — like using the walls, the space under the stairs, the back of a closet and as much floor space as possible.

The key concept here is the use of flexible and multi-use furnishings. The designers displayed images of innovative Ikea products and talked about the ability to move things around, how to reconfigure your living space and how multi-task with furniture. There was a moveable bookcase on wheels; a kitchen cart for entertaining; benches that you could pull

out that serve as extra seating; a table that packs up and can be rolled away; and, another table where the legs come off and stow along the wall on a rail-storage system.

The CityPlace campus of around 25 buildings when completed, will be one of the largest condo communities in Toronto. Concord Adex project marketing manager Brian Fong says that a lot of people attend these events. "We invite our purchasers and our tenants. This is the first round. We invited the people that recently moved into the new towers to learn about the Ikea presentations."

One young family that attended the event was Simon

and Emily with their newborn baby. They've been living for two years in their condo at CityPlace. They can both walk to work downtown so the location is ideal for them says Emily. "The amenities are OK, and there's a community feel. They've made an effort for new parents to get acquainted and socialize."

Simon would like to see new resources in the community that help out parents. Daycare is scarce and they've been on a waiting list for some time. They'd like to see more schools and libraries in the area. "The onus should be on the municipality to provide more services, there's only so much that CityPlace can do."