

New in Homes

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■ CORKTOWN

Townhouses embrace 'heritage look'

Neighbourhood was home to Irish workers

Rooftop terraces provide taste of outdoor living

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TORONTO STAR

The historic Toronto neighbourhood that was home to thousands of working-class Irish immigrants from County Cork is the site of an intimate new townhouse development.

There will be 16 townhouses with rooftop terraces in New Corktown, in the formerly industrial neighbourhood at the corner of River

and Shuter Sts. The area is being revitalized, much like the nearby Distillery District, Cabbagetown and Regent Park.

The site is close to the St. Lawrence Market, Riverdale Park, the Don Valley Parkway and close to cultural venues, including the new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Corktown is evolving into a neighbourhood, which is attracting artists and entrepreneurs.

Kirkor Architects have designed the townhouses, which will feature heritage brick with stone detailing, turrets and other features, which blend with the existing mid-19th century buildings in the neighbourhood. Many of the original Irish immigrants' homes featured simple, straightforward designs.

"We enjoyed the Corktown architecture and felt it was best to embrace the heritage look," says Dino Longo, who with his brother Larry is a principal in Longo Developments, which specializes in apartment buildings and in-fill sites.

"It's pretty exciting, because the area is in such transition and we're part of it."

Longo says the majority of the two- and three-storey townhomes will have rooftop terraces, "as it gives people an opportunity to get outside, which they might not get in a condo."

Longo says buyers will also appreciate the security of living in a gated community. Residents will use a passkey to gain entry through pedestrian gates or through the driveway.

Longo says as appealing as the architecture of the nearby historic homes are, they often need updating and renovating, as inside the rooms were small. However,

while New Corktown will echo the heritage look on the exterior, inside the townhouses will have spacious, open-concept layouts, which are suited to contemporary living. Closings will be in fall 2007.

The designs range from 1,037 to 1,279 square feet and are priced from \$349,900. The layouts include dens, family rooms, formal living and dining rooms and large master bedroom suites.

One design, the Queen, offers a 312-square-foot rooftop terrace and a balcony off the living/dining room.

Each townhouse comes with parking and standard interior features such as solid oak handrails and the choice of metal or oak pickets, kitchen cabinets with 42-inch uppers, ceramic floor tiles, quality 40-ounce Berber carpeting, and engineered, pre-finished laminate flooring.

A grand opening bonus includes granite kitchen countertops, stainless-steel kitchen appliances, and a gas barbecue outlet on the rooftop terrace.

Six of the 16 units have sold so far, mainly to young professionals, says Longo.

Longo Communities is a third-generation family-owned business, which in addition to 1,000 multi-residential rental properties, has developed and built more than 1,500 homes and numerous commercial projects in Ontario, as well as commercial and residential developments in Texas, Ohio and Florida.

The New Corktown sales office is on River St., one block north of Queen St. E. Hours are Monday from 3 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday to Friday by appointment; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 416-603-7772 or visit www.longo-communities.com.



New Corktown is a gated community where most of the

16 heritage-styled townhouses will have rooftop terraces.