

# Living cosmopolitan

## Urban Oasis

### A Matter of Trust

The inside joke when developer Jim Donnelly, co-founder and managing director of Pursuit Group, began transforming a troubled property on a premier site at the corner of Fourth and Tryon into luxury boutique condominiums was that they got the name for the complex not from its roots as the former Home Federal Savings building, but from saying, "trust us," so often to everyone from neighbors and bankers to city officials and potential residents. Previous attempts by others to create offices and mid-level condos had not lived up to the building's potential, which made the site irresistible to Donnelly, who thrives on finding unique solutions that transcend the typical.

Today, the Trust has far surpassed the promise first seen by Donnelly and his team, blossoming into an urban oasis of eight exclusive condominiums that showcase the type of architectural and interior design that you'd expect to see in Manhattan - right here in our own Uptown. As Donnelly explains: "I love this city. I moved to Charlotte for a reason. In no way, shape or form do I want to make Charlotte into a New York City or an L.A. I love Charlotte for what it is; I just want to provide the spice. Like salt and pepper, every city needs to have a little. Even people who don't like this particular architectural style will still appreciate it."

Shane McDevitt, the Uptown pioneering Realtor®, now broker/owner of The McDevitt Agency, agrees. "A project like the Trust really adds something to the city," he says. "The uniqueness of the property and Jim's vision really set it apart."

To showcase what the Trust has to offer while giving back to the city he loves at the same time, Donnelly recently invited the Charlotte Chapter of the Interior Design Society to hold its annual showhouse benefitting Dove House Children's Advocacy Center at the site. IDS Associate and owner of Tulikas Interiors Toni Sawhney chaired the committee that united a talented group of designers to create a cohesive, retro contemporary style fitting to this home.

"The biggest challenge about the project was to plan the space flow and create the best use of 3,500 square feet that felt open, yet cozy. We needed to accentuate the historic aspect of the building with a blend of modern style," she says. They accomplished that by exposing the raw concrete ceilings in several areas and juxtaposing that industrial feel with the elegance of rich, clean-lined pieces and varied textures.

That was apparent in the kitchen, which features Pedini Cabinetry from Design Centers International (DCI) Home Resource and the work of Kelly Cruz, IDS Associate and owner of Kelly Cruz Interiors. "The kitchen is a crown jewel with custom built-in Italian cabinets from Pedini, coupled with gorgeous snow white Caesarstone counter tops," Sawhney says. "The main thing was embracing the feel of the Trust and Jim's vision of a modern, clean-lined look, but also making it an inviting space that felt like home. Rich cherry cabinets provided that warmth while frosted glass doors gave it a clean edge," explains DCI Lead Designer Kaity Slaughter.

Sawhney artfully brought bold and edgy elements into the design of the master suite as well, which featured a palette of rich mochas and cream mixed with calming blues and military greens. "The master suite is an oasis from the busy city streets below. The interesting combination of colors and whimsical furniture paired with the abstract art on the wall were intended to take risks and make a statement," she says. The focal point of the space also proved to be a logistical challenge. "My favorite and the most difficult aspect of the design for this project has to be the 9' x 7' headboard in the master suite. The multifaceted, beveled-edge mirror headboard was imported from Indonesia and it had to be dismantled to move it upstairs. The design concept for the entire room was built around the headboard. There were so many other pieces, small and large, that brought life to the unit that it's really hard to pinpoint just one. Each room had its own gift, and it all came together like a beautifully told story," Sawhney says.

Much like the Trust itself, from its historic roots to its edgy modern design that is making an impact in its developer's adopted hometown. "There will never be another location like this in Charlotte," Sawhney says. "It is not only a sight to see and an architectural wonder, but now it is a design showcase of what the future of Uptown can and will be."

Interior Designers

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