The Seattle Times

NewHomes
SATURDAY

FIFTEEN TWENTY-ONE SECOND AVENUE | seattle

Local designer makes most of high-rise's opportunities

Heralded as "a sculpture for living," Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue stands above Pike Place Market as an all-glass jewel on the Emerald City skyline.

But innovative architecture is only half the story. The building's interiors are the result of a vision led largely by Susan Marinello of Pioneer Square-based Susan Marinello Interiors — to harmonize the interior aesthetic with the building's expansive views.

"Our goal was to create interiors that resonated as a product of the Pacific Northwest environment," says Marinello. "These interiors are not just about physical comfort but also about visual comfort. I wanted interiors that complement and frame the views in such a cohesive way that the view is the primary element of every home. We sought to uniquely distinguish the homes by focusing on two principal ideas: harmonious and seamless."

Perhaps most noticeable is the fact that the kitchens are so unnoticeable. Designed exclusively for Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue, millwork conceals appliances and art niches help the kitchens' working spaces become one with the great room without losing any of their functionality, says Marinello.

"Standing in the home,

you can rotate 360 degrees and not have the kitchen interrupt the visual experience at all," she says. "Sometimes developers try to differentiate their product by implementing 'look-at-me' kitchens, which compete with the rest of the design or the view, in my opinion. That's not the case at Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue.

"The entire tower is

already differentiated because of the spectacular protected views that homeowners enjoy every day. And that's what drove nearly every decision in designing the final product."

Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue is hosting a special open house from noon to 4 p.m. today and Sunday.

The homes range from 1,644 to 4,392 square feet.

View these homes
Open by appointment 11 a.m.–6 p.m. daily at 1521 Second Ave., between Pike and Pine streets in downtown Seattle

Prices
From the low $1 millions

Information
206-443-1521 or fifteentwentyone.com

Kitchens include Sub-Zero refrigerators, Wolf ranges, extra-deep Blanco sinks, Dornbracht plumbing fixtures, InSink-Erator garbage disposals, trash compactors and Franke Little Butler dispensers for instant hot or filtered drinking water.

Master bathrooms have double sinks with adult-height vanity countertops, heated limestone floors, private water closets and innovative spa baths for showering and relaxing in jetted-air bathtubs. All homes include floor-to-ceiling windows with motorized blinds.

Many of the features in the homes were influenced by Marinello's experience designing custom homes. They include 5-foot-wide hallways for displaying art collections, 8-foot doors and 9.5-foot ceilings.

"Most of our home-

owners are coming from larger single-family homes and they don't want to compromise when they downsize to an in-city condominium home," says Marinello. "Fortunately, they don't have to at Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue. We had their needs and desires in mind when we were designing the property.

"We also researched what to build using focus groups to test our design ideas. I think it's telling that so many of the prospective buyers who participated in those early design events are now our homeowners, enjoying what they helped to create."

Marinello studied interior design in New York City and has worked on luxury condominiums in Manhattan. But having grown up in the Pacific Northwest, she says she knew the design for Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue would need to reflect Seattle's sensibility for understated elegance.

"I'm confident Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue will always be thought of as timeless, classic and appropriate for living graciously in downtown Seattle," says Marinello. "It's already iconic in the skyline and in the minds of those who have the opportunity to visit or live in the building."