

WEST-END GIRL

Former Torontonian
finds new life in Luna

When twenty somethings Eleni and Sal laid eyes on the Luna show suite two and a half years ago, they were sold. “We said, ‘this is it; this is the one,’” says 25-year-old Eleni, who moved to Calgary three years ago from Toronto. She moved west for a work opportunity, which at the time was a short-term contract. At the time, her goal was to dip her feet in the water and try Calgary on for size. “It was a big move for me. All of my friends and family are in Toronto, but I wanted to start a new chapter. I had a good opportunity and I just took it.”

That good opportunity parlayed itself into a full time job and Eleni has never looked back. “I am so happy here,” she enthuses, adding that she and her boyfriend Sal are thrilled with their two-bedroom condo in Luna on the western end of downtown. Built by Vancouver developer Qualex-Landmark, the building boasts 30 storeys of concrete and glass and features beautiful views, fantastic location (it’s kitty corner from the downtown Co-op), and full amenities on-site including a yoga studio, a fully equipped work-out room, guest accommodation and a party space.



The couple who both work in the oil and gas industry wanted an uptown condo, with an open layout and a modern, contemporary design.

And location was paramount. They wanted something vibrant, eclectic and inner city, something with a vibe that would rival Toronto.

They looked at townhomes in and around the 17th Avenue area, but they just didn’t tick all of the boxes. “Once we saw the layout of the condo at Luna, we knew that the bang for the buck was the ultimate.”

Located just a few blocks north of 17th Avenue, Luna is in the heart of vibrancy and the couple loves it. When the weather is good, they walk to work; her office is downtown, his is in Mount Royal. The Co-op is just around the corner, as are the restaurants on 17th Avenue and the historic and charming shops along 11 Street. “The Galaxy Diner is great for breakfast, there is a beautiful independent florist and my little Greek Kalamata grocery — they have the best feta, the best olives

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and is just such a funky hole in the wall,” enthuses Eleni, who is second generation Greek Canadian and loves to cook. “I really feel like I have found my community.”

Coming from Toronto with its funky urban neighbourhoods, both Eleni and Sal expect to have a high degree walkability in their neighbourhood. So it was a perfect fit. “Calgary is still growing and developing and I think that is what makes it so pleasant to live here. You can have that holistic lifestyle where you can walk to work and you don’t have all of that wild craziness in the core like Toronto does,” she says. “It’s the corporate presence that really gives the city centre life.”

The couple purchased their condo, which is just over 1,000 square-feet, two and a half years ago when the building was under construction and moved in 10 months ago in June of 2012. >>





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The southwest facing home boasts floor to ceiling windows with lovely views of the Beltline (it overlooks a sandstone school and playgrounds), an open-concept plan with high ceilings, a master ensuite with walk-through closet, a powder room with oversized shower, and a bright second bedroom. "The kitchen island is really the heart of our home. When we have guests everyone gathers around. It just breeds conversation," says Eleni, adding that she loves the kitchen. "It's open to everything, so we can be chilling out and watching TV and cooking at the same time." Not to mention the stainless steel professional grade gas stove. "That's really boojie for me. It just takes cooking to a whole new level."

Another fantastic feature of the home is the oversized terrace. "I enjoy it so much; on a clear day you can see the mountains," she says, adding that not having access to the outside would have been a deal breaker.

The building experience was very positive for this young couple and Eleni raves about the builders both from a customer service perspective and from the standpoint of quality. "We have friends that visited from Toronto and they could not get over that we didn't upgrade. They kept asking are you sure you didn't upgrade the stove or the kitchen faucet or the marble in the bathroom?"

In fact Eleni and Sal are so pleased that they have purchased another unit for investment in Qualex-Landmark's latest project — MARK on 10th — a 35-storey modern condo tower on 8th Street and 10th Avenue across from Bonterra Restaurant. "It's just such good value," says Eleni. **CL**