



NATIONAL POST

Welcome to Club 11 Cinq

Hip and hot, this condo comes alive for the night crowd

Jack Kohane

National Post

Saturday, November 27, 2004

Randi Mitz is big on name brands, so she's dubbed her new home "Club 11 Cinq." With such a label, one might expect music in the background cranked to move the mood, coloured lights that hypnotize and sparkling finishes to tantalize the eye. And yes, this extraordinary 2,500-square-foot condominium overlooking Yorkville has all these and more.

"A lounge-like atmosphere is exactly how I planned this space," Ms. Mitz says. "It's about having fun -- that's my approach to everything."

Ms. Mitz knows how to make her living space fit like an exquisitely tailored suit. As former president of one of Canada's leading menswear makers, she has been a major presence in the fashion business for years, always following her own sense of style, never pandering to trends. "Apparel was entertaining, too," she says, smiling and smoothing an unruly tress back into place. "I've always had a fun job. So why shouldn't that extend to my home?"

Her passion now is property. And her portfolio of top-rate real estate is expanding. Club 11 Cinq is her second project. At the first, which she refers to as her "day" place, the focus is on bringing in the sunshine to cascade against furnishings and accents that glint and glimmer, bathed in natural light. The Club is her "night" place, where minimalism is the order, balanced by deliberate dabs of hot hues, reds, lime greens, turquoises, linking ultra-modern aesthetics, functionality and a wink at the quirky, with hidden doorways and arrays of parallel overhead lights that guide one's gaze and gait toward each room.

"When hunting new condo properties, I search out those that will be in prestige buildings in prime locations," she says.

"Windows are a critical element. The view has to be stunning, and it must be enhanced by windows that frame the exterior, and relate the outside to the home's interior."

Arne Jacobsen's womb-like mid-century Egg chairs punctuate the living room's informal mien. Multicoloured kinetic lights, also modulated to fit the prevailing vibes, strategically dot the ceiling.



CREDIT: Elaine Kilburn Photography

"I've always had a fun job," the owner says, "so why shouldn't that extend to my home?" This 2,500-square-foot Yorkville condominium fits the bill perfectly, with its unconventional finishes and fittings.

For the convenience of serving guests and to facilitate flow, a large pivoting door swivels open to connect the kitchen to the living room and dining area; then swings shut, inconspicuous among its matching panels, to re-establish privacy.

Another trompe l'oeil form is the bevelled stainless steel panelling along the foyer wall, which rotates to reveal a powder room behind.

The suite's electricals are hooked to a computerized central brain located at the front door. "When leaving my suite, I can turn off all the lights, the sound systems, and adjust the electronically controlled blackout blinds and light-sensitive privacy blinds in the rooms, including the guest bedroom, all at the touch of a button," Ms. Mitz says.



CREDIT: Elaine Kilburn Photography

Although her personal stamp is ubiquitous in the condo's contours, Ms. Mitz is quick to point out she always consults with Eric McClelland and Peter Lunney, the principals of Toronto's award-winning Fleur de Lis Interior Design firm, on the architectural components of each project. "I do the initial groundwork, then the designers come in to bring the drawings and concepts to life, and I complete the loop with the final decisions on layout and finishes," she says.

Jatoba is used for the flooring and most cabinetry because it finishes well and, as it ages and darkens, gives added warmth, Randi Mitz says. The suite's eclectic decor includes hits of mid-century design, seen in the wood chair and table lamp used in the office/den.

Ms. Mitz intends to blaze a similar trail at her latest digs, One King West, where she is being given free rein by the developer and builder, Harry Stinson, to clad her condo according to her fancy. "Then I'll purchase another fabulous residence at another name brand address, and so it continues," she says. As a result, she notes, Club 11 Cinq, with all its furnishings, could be up for sale.

"Many people may abhor the building process," she adds. "But I love it."

For more information on this property, see the Web site www.rm-to.com.

© National Post 2004

Copyright © 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest Global Communications Corp.](http://CanWest Global Communications Corp)

All rights reserved.

