

OPEN HOUSE

Home is where the art is for Streeterville designer

BY BILL CUNIFF
Real Estate Reporter

Hollis Savin, owner of City Living Design Inc., an interior design firm, has to be quite particular about her residence. "As a designer, my space is important to me — my studio is in my home," she said.

She is buying a condominium at 550 St. Clair, a new-construction, 26-story building in Streeterville.

Savin will be moving into a 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence (with a terrace).

The building will have 112 units. About 70 have been sold, including a mix of studios, 1-bedrooms, 2-bedrooms, 3-bedrooms and penthouses.

John and Debbie Chipman, empty-nesters from Lake Forest, also will be moving to 550 St. Clair. The high-rise's facade features a glass curtain wall.

"The design was the first thing I noticed," said John Chipman, principal at Chipman Adams Ltd., an architecture firm. "My colleagues agreed that the developer tried to do things at the highest quality."

The couple almost selected a home at a different building. "We were seriously considering a different building," he said. "Then, Debbie found 550 St. Clair. She said: 'Wait! You've got to see this!'"

"When we walked into the sales center and saw the model unit, we knew this was it," Debbie said. "550 St. Clair was exactly what we were looking for." They bought a home that same day.

The Chipmans will move into a 3-bedroom, 3-bath residence (with a terrace). "If I were to design something for myself, this is what I'd do," John said.

Residences at 550 St. Clair are

planned to provide flexibility for buyers.

"For example, 2- and 3-bedroom residences can be configured in multiple ways, according to the needs of the buyer," said David Brininstool, the design principal of the architectural firm Brininstool & Lynch. "Pocket doors slide into the wall to open the rooms up in some units, or they close up to provide privacy."

Residences feature floor-to-ceiling windows with energy-efficient, low-emissivity thermal pane glass. Most units have a balcony.

Residences at 550 St. Clair are pre-wired with Category 5 telephone lines in the living rooms and bedrooms, and they also are wired for satellite TV and high-speed Internet over dual T-1 lines.

Each kitchen features Alno cabi-

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Hollis Savin

INSIDE



HOUSEWALK

Five homes will be opened up on

Sunday at Hawthorn Woods Country Club.

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Sales begin at River North high-rise

netry, a Sub-Zero refrigerator with a built-in icemaker, a Bosch built-in oven, a cooktop, a microwave (with an exhaust hood), a multi-cycle dishwasher and Grohe fixtures.

Standard amenities include in-unit washers and dryers and 10- or 11-foot exposed concrete ceilings. Some plans have walk-in closets. Buyers may select Brazilian cherry or maple hardwood flooring.

"We love the neighborhood, every facet of it," John said. "You have art, restaurants and entertainment, the lakefront. There's nothing like it in Chicago. We are excited about moving in."

Studios at 550 St. Clair are priced in the \$200,000s. One-bedroom, 1-bath residences range from the low \$400,000s to the low \$500,000s.

Two-bedroom, 2-bath condos are base priced between the upper \$400,000s and the mid \$500,000s. Three-bedroom units, with 2 or 3 baths, start in the mid-\$700,000s.

Building amenities will include a 24-hour doorman and security desk, a lap pool and a fitness room (with men's and women's saunas).

A garden terrace, (facing north, south and west), will be on the eighth floor, providing views of Michigan Avenue.

Storage lockers are included with each residence. About 130 heated parking spaces are planned for floors 2 through 7.

Construction on 550 St. Clair is projected to start in 2006, according to Sutherland Pearsall, the developer. The firm's recent projects include Grand on Grand, a 28-story high-rise at Grand and Wells in River North.

550 St. Clair, Chicago. A sales center is open at 201 E. Ohio,

fourth floor. Sutherland Pearsall Development Corp., (312) 222-0550.

River North

Sales have begun at Silver Tower, a high-rise at 303 W. Ohio, (between Franklin and Orleans), in River North.

Stonegate Development, the builder, plans 230 condominiums in the 39-story building.

Base prices range from \$259,900 to \$710,800. Nine floor plans are sized from 728 to 1,810 square feet. Units have 1 to 3 bedrooms and 1 to 2 baths. Some plans have a den. Parking is \$30,000 to \$35,000.

The ground floor will include 2,000 square feet of retail space.

"Affordable prices, a central location and a striking design have caught the attention of more than 100 buyers who have purchased during our pre-construction phase," said Sam Persico, president of Stonegate Development.

"We're seeing a lot of first-time buyers. Buyers can make a down payment of only 5 percent," he said.

Silver Tower was designed by Hartshorne & Plunkard Architecture in Chicago. Some floor plans have curving walls.

Floor-to-ceiling windows and balconies are standard. "Some balconies, measuring 26 feet long, span nearly the entire width of the home,"

said Persico.

Building amenities will include a 24-hour doorman and a fitness center. On the 11th floor, a Sky Lobby will have an outdoor terrace and hospitality room, which can be reserved for parties. A dog run and a terrace with outdoor seating will be on the 36th floor.

The developer also is rehabbing the neighboring Bowne Building, at 325 W. Ohio, for about 100,000 square feet of retail and office space.

Silver Tower, 303 W. Ohio, Chicago. A sales center open at 325 W. Ohio. Stonegate Development and @properties, (312) 595-0900.

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Condos start at \$259,900 at Silver Tower, a 39-story high-rise planned at 303 W. Ohio.