When Patricia Gray first entered this new 577-square-foot Vancouver condo, it was a classic bachelor pad—complete with leather sofa, flat-screen TV, and a big flat-screen TV blocking a spectacular 180-degree view of downtown Vancouver. "It was awful; it didn't have any character," she remembers of that first look. Gray's challenge: to transform this 1,757-square-foot two-bedroom plus den apartment into a luxurious space for adults that felt like a five-star hotel and maximized the waterfront view from every room.

Gray's clients purchased the apartment as a second home. They would be spending half their time here, so the space needed to be comfortable and easy to maintain. Taking cues from the clients' style, Gray used mostly natural fabrics and neutral colours—like sage, slate, greys and soft greens—to keep everything balanced in the view.

The view is the main attraction from the open-concept living room, dining room and kitchen. A 12-by-20-foot west and scenic carpet from Belgian grounds the living room. Custom furnishings—including two armchairs done up in wool mohair, a cream bench seat and a linen-upholstered slipper chair—frame the TV while still allowing the homeowners to enjoy the view. A beautiful metallic wallpaper is a neutral, yet luminous, backdrop to the main living area.
The luxury finishes continue in the dining room where a custom chandelier, featuring 22 handmade Italian crystal tiles, is suspended over the table. "We kept our fingers crossed through the whole process," Gray laughs. The translucent chandelier is a stunning piece that casts rainbows on the walls whenever the sun shines through the windows; yet, it doesn’t detract from the view.

Adjacent to the dining room is the office with a view. Two Aeron chairs sit at a room-length desk so the homeowners can work on their laptops in comfort and style. When procrastination takes over, they can simply peer out at the city beyond the window. The printer and scanner are discreetly hidden in a custom credenza.

Gray took full advantage of the spacious entryway/foyer by installing frameless sandblasted glass doors so the view is available immediately upon entry into the suite. A custom-designed settee is a luxurious addition to the foyer. For the design, Gray took her cue from Paris couture fashion by ruching the back, trimming it with walnut and upholstering it in a Great Plain’s velvet. The mixed media acrylic painting above the settee is a Gray original. Cobalt green and variations of blues pop while bronze and iridescent colors add a shimmering effect. A mirror hangs on an end wall in the foyer so when you’re in the suite with your back to the view, the view is reflected back.

Before Gray came in, the suite had nothing going for it, except the view. Now it’s a five-star suite with a five-star view.