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First,

the ceiling

Fixing up and flipping a False Creek condo started by looking up



Frank O'Brien

Interior designer Darla Moore-Grohne knew immediately what had to be done when she and her husband, photographer Raef Grohne, selected a waterfront False Creek condominium for a makeover. The plan was to purchase the 21st floor condo, make it over and flip it for a profit.

The plan worked beautifully, but the route to the destination was different than for most who attempt a "fix it and flip it" strategy in Vancouver's white-hot housing market. The suite also had to work as a display of professional design talent.

First, decided Moore-Grohne, owner of Darla Moore Design, the "popcorn" ceiling had to go. The dimpled white ceilings are ubiquitous in highrise condominiums, she explained, because they hide most flaws in the concrete. But they didn't work at all with Moore-Grohne's vision of a cutting-edge, contemporary condominium for a corporate client.



Wide plank hardwood flooring, in Brazilian cherry wood, replaced a brown pile carpet and white floor tiles. Kitchen countertops were redone in black granite, cabinets are mahogany, and all appliances were replaced with stainless steel models. The white "popcorn" ceiling was redone in wallboard, and then painted to match the walls, in Tequila, with a contrasting darker shade for the new crown moulding.

Photos: Raef Grohne / www.ArchitecturalPhotographer.com



The existing squat granite fireplace looked "like a box of gas logs." The fireplace surround was extended to the ceiling in concrete tiles, installed one-by-one. Shelving and recessed lighting were also added. "The large tiles gave the small space a large look and quickly became the focal point of the entire room."

