

NEW HOMES



# Dial up the perfect place

**At a glance**

- n **Development:** The Telephone Building, 220 East 31st St., Baltimore, Md.
- n **Builder:** UrbanEx Development
- n **Description:** 20 one- and two-bedroom condos in Baltimore's Charles Village neighborhood
- n **Price:** \$250,000 to \$350,000
- n **Contact:** Sales office, 410-963-0245



**By Mike Unger**  
Examiner Correspondent

"Compliments to the chef" carries a little more mustard when the person dishing out those accolades also is involved in the culinary arts.

Similarly, the sleek design and livability of brand new condos in the Telephone Building, a historic Charles Village building housing 10 units (with 10 more on the way), already has been validated by one of its first residents.

"Stylistically, I was drawn to it," said Jessica Marshall, an architect and resident of the building. "I really liked the floor plan, it's very simple. It was just the right space for me."

Originally built in 1936 and used to house telephone switching equipment, the building eventual-

ly housed apartments before developer UrbanEx gutted it and transformed it into a condos.

"We wanted to put the contemporary design element into the space, update the building, but at the same time celebrate the historical components," said Justin Shelby, UrbanEx's principal and founder.

The result is a mixture of one- and two-bedroom units ranging from 700 to 1,250-square-feet. Some of the one-bedroom units have dens, and the two-bedroom units can come with two full bathrooms.

The interiors were constructed using sustainable materials. There are bamboo floors in the living space, tall ceilings throughout, and suspended track lighting. The kitchens feature either granite or paper stone countertops, and the bathrooms have dark chocolate-stained vessel sinks.

"It's a very much modern look but not over the top," Shelby said.

One of the purchase upgrades available are ventless electric fireplaces focal point in the living room. Every unit has walk-in closets with organization systems, so they're move-in ready. Each unit also has its own laundry room.

Condo fees are 30 cents per square foot, and include maintenance on the elevator and secure building, individual storage in the basement, use of the fitness center and rooftop deck.

Located near Johns Hopkins University and an ever-expanding retail stretch along St. Paul Street, the building offers city living at its finest.

"If you are someone that is partial to modern-style living and you want to be in a place where you can park your car and walk everywhere in the evenings, it's perfect," Shelby said. "It is a very interesting contrast of new and old in the community."

