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Luxury In The North, Non-Cottage Style; Eleven Bay Model; Townhome development geared to retirees

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While she may have been styling the space for a recreational and retiree market, designer Carey Mudford made the decision to avoid a cottage-inspired design in the model home for Eleven Bay Street in Thornbury, north of Collingwood.

"I wanted to stay away from that typical Muskoka style, which I think has been done to death," says Ms. Mudford, of the Toronto-based design firm CMID Inc. "We were going for a look that was a little bit more sophisticated."

The design she ended up with is one she describes as casually elegant, with a transitional style and an airy look in keeping with the project's waterfront location. The 2,245-square-foot, three-bedroom townhome -- styled by Ms. Mudford together with her colleagues Raphael Gomes and Sheri Gibson -- features a neutral colour palette, a light cream-toned kitchen and an elevator that runs between the upstairs bedrooms and a casual family room downstairs.

In the open-concept main floor, the design team used hickory hardwood flooring and taupe-toned walls. The living space features a Barbara Barry sofa in grey-blue wool upholstery, paired with two matching slipper chairs and a glass-and-polished-chrome bar cart.

The seating area is centred around a gas fireplace that is surrounded by built-in cabinetry, painted cream with glass shelves and simple moulding.

"I like to use smaller-scale moulding, and prefer paint grades as opposed to wood," the designer says. "I find it's fresher. This being waterfront, we felt it needed to have a light and airy, fresh look."

That fresh look is carried into the dining room and kitchen.

While the designers used a slightly darker table and chairs in the dining space, featuring a satin-nickel chandelier, they offset those with a pair of lighter-toned reading chairs set in the room's bay window.

The kitchen is also styled in lighter hues, with creamcoloured cabinetry and a light backsplash in Calcutta marble, and contrasted with antique-brown granite countertops. The granite is extended up the wall behind the cooktop for added interest.

"I call it a baker's kitchen, which is very clean in its detailing," Ms. Mudford says.

On the downstairs level, the design team has fashioned a family room meant specifically for watching TV. It features another fireplace set in built-in cabinetry, with a sectional taupe sofa paired with a chocolate-brown leather ottoman that doubles as a coffee table. "It's more casual," Ms. Mudford says.

Taking the private elevator upstairs, Ms. Mudford and her team extended the neutral colour palette found on the other two levels. Two bedrooms are designed for either guests or grown children -- one with a more feminine tone, featuring a polished-nickel bed paired with white linen bedding and white painted furniture, and the other more masculine with a dark-brown bed and a taupe-and-brown palette.

The master bedroom features gold undertones in an otherwise neutral space, with a suede headboard in cream paired with neutral bedding, as well as a cream leather bench and a Bergere-style chair. "The furniture is very simple, again more transitional," Ms. Mudford says.

Homes at Eleven Bay Street -- by developer Harbour Vista Inc. -- range in size from 2,245 to 3,759 sq. ft., and in price from \$650,000 to \$1.25-million. The sales office is located at 11 Bay St. in Thornbury and is open weekends and holidays from noon to 4 p. m. or by appointment. Call 1-800-265-3949 or 705-444-7653, or visit elevenbaystreet.ca.