

CONDO LIVING

Saturday, June 12, 1999

Developer bites the Big Apple for inspiration

When Chris Lloyd took a trip to Chicago with a group of builders this month, he had his eye on some particular features in the windy city - awnings and lay-bys.

An odd preoccupation for the developments manager at condo developer Barclay Grayson, perhaps, but understandable when you consider the company has just come up with an awning design for its St. Clair project.

"We had established that we would do a canopy, but hadn't established how it would come together," said Lloyd. "We wanted something that was very strong and elegant, that gave that very sophisticated look."

So Barclay Grayson boss, Graham Baker, took a trip to New York where canopies over the sidewalk are a tradition, snapped a few photos and then sat down with architect Roy Varacalli of Burka Architects.

The result: a canopy of metal and glass, which draws on the canopies at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Plaza Athenee Hotel, the Plaza Hotel and the Waldorf.

The St. Clair, a 14-storey building at St. Clair and Yonge, will have its main entrance on Delisle. Because lay-bys - which are cuts into the sidewalk to allow cars to pull in - are not permitted in Toronto, the developer devised a drive and the canopy will extend partially over the sidewalk.

Lloyd says the 228-unit condo, launched last November, is about 60 per cent sold.

This weekend, more one-bedroom suites have been made available, with the reconfiguring of floor plans, because of demand.

"We still had people coming in asking for one-bedrooms," Lloyd said. So Barclay Grayson, which had already produced some large suites to meet demand, came up

COVERUP: Artist's sketch shows the canopy which developer Barclay Grayson plans for the entry of the St. Clair condo. A trip to New York and some snapshots yielded inspiration for the entry design.

with some smaller units, too.

The St. Clair sales centre is located across from the actual site at 15 Delisle Ave. For information, call (416) 513-0029, or visit the Web site at www.baker-re.com/thestclair.htm

STAR STAFF

