

New in Homes & Condos

»TORONTO STAR«

THIS OLD THING?

Turns out the decanter is Art Nouveau and worth a pretty penny, **H15**



COLOUR CENTRE STAGE

A rhino statue made from discarded flip-flops makes a bold statement, **H10**

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Shayne Dark's "Nova" will remind onlookers of the child's game Pick-Up Sticks, with its bright green pillars overlapping each other.

TABLEAU

PICK-UP STICKS

Sculptor Shayne Dark has integrated an unusual piece of art in — and out of — the building

TRACY HANES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Anyone who played Pick-Up Sticks as a kid will experience a blast from their childhood past when they walk past the corner of Richmond and Peter Sts. three years from now. There's no doubt that "Nova," the startling 90-foot sculpture to be installed at the Tableau condominium in July 2014, will remind onlookers of the popular game where long, thin sticks are scattered on a table in a heap and players try to pick up one at a time without dis-

turbing the others.

But the industrious beaver can also take kudos for "Nova's" backstory: much of sculptor Shayne Dark's art practice has been inspired by beaver-gnawed sticks that washed up on the shoreline by his lakefront Kingston-area home.

As part of Toronto's public art program guidelines, developers must contribute 1 per cent of a building's costs to public art, in the form of an installation or in cash to the city's public art budget.

Tableau's trio of developers —

Urban Capital, Malibu Investments and Alit Developments— recruited Dark, who has created many public art installations, for Tableau, which launches Saturday. "Nova" represents a unique collaborative working relationship and has been integrated into the building's architecture and will serve as the motif for some of the interior design elements and its marketing materials.

"We are at a very important corner and knew it deserved something outstanding," says Rony Hirsch, president of Malibu Investments. "There's an existing warehouse on the site and while it's not a heritage building, we

Nova will be 'outstanding'

are going to preserve the facade. Tableau took its name from the way the building will look, like a tower sitting on a table or slab. The table will be six storeys high and hold up the 30 storeys above it."

The emerald green "Nova" will pierce the table structure and be the focal point for a four-storey open public plaza at the base of the 36-storey building, visible from both streets.

"The art is really connected to the

building, with these dramatic green columns penetrating through the slab," says Hirsch, noting that many art installations at condos aren't integrated with the building as this one will be. "I'm quite excited about it," says Dark, who worked with Tableau's architect Rudy Wallman previously to create an installation for the X condo. Originally from Moose Jaw, Dark has been exhibiting since the mid-1980s, showing in group and solo exhibitions

in Canada, the United States and Europe. His work typically employs vivid hues and "Nova" will be no exception.

"Colour is one of the easiest things to use to create an immediate response," says Dark. "You don't have to be a museum goer or understand art to have a reaction to it. I just felt Tableau's piece should be green." Although the sculpture will be steel, Dark says "it has the feel of and references wood. It draws a bit of country into the city, but in a contemporary way."

Although he was given carte blanche, Dark had to work within

the parameters that public art demands, such as making sure the piece was properly engineered, would be safe and is made of durable material. He loved brainstorming with Wallman, developer David Wex of Urban Capital and landscape architect Claude Cormier to integrate the sculpture, the landscaping and the design elements: Dark is savouring the challenge of working on a large-scale piece.

"If Toronto wants to be a world class city, it has to incorporate public art. This is the largest piece I've ever worked on, it will be in the Theatre District and it will be quite

striking," he says.

Tableau will have 410 suites with 25,000 square feet of office/retail space at grade. Suite prices start in the mid \$200,000s and units will include nine-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows and wraparound balconies, engineered wood floors, kitchens custom-designed by Cecconi Simone, engineered stone countertops and backsplashes.

Not only its landmark sculpture will be green; Tableau will have an on-site hybrid car share program, green roof, rainwater storage system, dual-flush toilets, water-saving fixtures and advanced recycling.