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REAL ESTATE: HOME OF THE WEEK

Red, white and new on Formosa

This 11-unit West Hollywood town house complex features European-inspired elements.

CATHERINE HO

When architect Lorcan O'Herlihy masterminded the color palette for the Formosa 1140 town houses in West Hollywood, he drew inspiration from Hollywood hot spot Formosa Cafe down the street.

He designed a metallic skin that wraps around the building in shades of red. The skin helps diffuse light and heat, provides privacy for outdoor walkways and gives the building a funky geometric look.

The town houses, which began construction 18 months ago and are set to open this month, are a short walk from the shops and restaurants near Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

Units feature design elements that O'Herlihy saw in boutique hotels in Europe, including sliding doors for the powder room, all-white kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, and all-white countertops contoured into vanity sinks in the bathrooms. Floors are made of a recycled hardwood that resembles bamboo.

Ten two-story units have an open living, dining and kitchen area with a study and bathroom on one floor and two bedrooms and two bathrooms on a second level. The front unit extends three levels.

Each of the four upper-level units has a roof deck with views of the Hollywood Hills and downtown Los Angeles on a clear day. A pocket park designed by landscape architect Katherine Spitz lines the southern border of the building and will be open to the public during the day.

No units had been contracted to be sold as of last week.

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To submit a candidate for Home of the Week, send high-resolution color photos with caption and credit information on a CD and a detailed description of the house to Lauren Beale, Real Estate, Los Angeles Times, 202 W. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Questions may be sent to homeoftheweek@latimes.com.



AIRY SPACE: Ten of the units are two stories high; the front unit is three stories. Each town house has a private patio or rooftop deck, and the property is next to a pocket park.



EAT IN: Living, dining and kitchen areas are open. Floors are recycled hardwood.



EURO INFLUENCE: Cabinetry and counters in the bathrooms are all white.