

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL

L.A. style on Light St.

This designer is giving the 414 tower a modern design.

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ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLIE POWELL FOR AMERICAN CITY BUSINESS JOURNALS

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MELODY'S TAKE

414 LIGHT'S INTERIOR DESIGNER

The vibe inside Baltimore's up-and-coming new landmark, 414 Light Street, promises to be a unique mix of modern, rustic, artistic chic and urban cutting edge.

But most of all, it will have a comfy feel, "just like home."

So says the Los Angeles-based interior designer Kari Whitman whose work graces the homes of celebrities like Jessica Alba, Kristen Bell, the royal family of Saudi Arabia and rocker Don Henley.

During an interview last week, Whitman described the interior and exteriors of the 44-story up-and-coming residential tower as chic and trend-setting. They will make the scene at the former industrial McCormick & Co. spice plant downtown in a city where the beehive hairdo, recliner chair and a shot and a beer at the corner bar used to rule the roost.

"It's going to have a little New York, L.A. and Miami to it," she said. "I think it's going to change the city and help Baltimore a lot. It is going to be a very timeless, modern, green, artistic building with design elements different from what Baltimore has ever seen."

That includes "cool colors with warm accents," lighting from modern fixtures and chandeliers, carpeting and recycled wooden floors, large glass shower stalls and "floating cabinets" in every unit from the \$2,000 a month studios to \$8,000 and higher penthouses.

Some of the wallpaper will have glass beads and there will be "living walls" of green.

Whitman was hired by developer Stephen Gorn, CEO of Pikesville-based Questar Properties, to put the finishing touches on the \$170 million building that broke ground in March 2016.

The interior work will cost upwards of \$50 million, she said.

Gorn said last week, he is planning a second 40-or-50-story tower at the site for a hotel, office space or more residential units.



COURTESY OF QUESTAR PROPERTIES

Above, an artist's rendering of a media room inside of 414 Light Street. Interior work on the 44-story residential tower will cost upwards of \$50 million. The building itself is a \$170 million project that broke ground in March 2016.



COURTESY OF KARI WHITMAN

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KARI WHITMAN, Los Angeles-based interior designer

A saltwater pool surrounded by 60 large trees, two outdoor chef's kitchens and a large outdoor movie screen are some of the amenities to go onto the seventh floor "urban park" that Whitman is designing that will overlook the waterfront on one side and Camden Yards on the other.

Residents can even grow small gardens on rented plots there.

Whitman said she is working with several local artists to create unique accents and sculpture for the property. Their work will complement the floor-to-ceiling glass

windows will offer panoramic views from the 394 units.

"It's a Zen lifestyle," she said. "There will be Venetian modernized plaster with little sparkles of glass that shimmer on the walls of the inside common area. And glass tile in all showers is custom. The closet doors will have huge, long bars on the doors so they are cool."

Whitman's work, Gorn promised, will leave a unique mark on his signature development — and the city.

"She's got a bicoastal vision and we are taking elements of that from L.A. and New York and making it

Baltimore's own," Gorn said. "She is taking that vision and understanding our unique market. Her design is unique."

Leasing is "very enthusiastic," Gorn added, after a leasing office opened at the site in June with a fully furnished one-bedroom apartment model. The first tenants are set to move in in March.

Whitman said she had made dozens of trips to Baltimore since inking the deal to design 414 Light Street, and has visited many of the city's communities to take in the area's character.