



Darkness and Light

Builder: Alair Vancouver with Skladan Architecture + Design Studio *Finalist:* Best Multi-Plex Unit *Photo Credit:* Barry Calhoun



Stargaze

Builder: Hael Construction *Finalist:* Best Multi-Plex Development *Photo Credit:* 360HomeTours.ca

EMBRACING INNOVATION

THE FINALISTS IN THE 2024 HAVAN AWARDS FOR HOUSING EXCELLENCE

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The highly anticipated 2024 HAVAN Awards for Housing Excellence, presented by FortisBC with Patron Sponsor BC Housing, has recently unveiled its finalists, marking a significant milestone in the realm of Metro Vancouver's home construction and design. Hosted at the Gallery Also at the Kent in Vancouver, this year's event commemorates its 15th

anniversary with an impressive lineup of contenders across 60 coveted categories.

With an unprecedented 455 entries, the competition was fierce, showcasing the industry's finest craftsmanship, innovation and dedication to excellence. This year, there are finalists in two new categories, introduced to reflect the recent legislative changes aimed at fostering diverse housing options within communities: Best Multi-Plex Unit and Best Multi-Plex Development.

The addition of these categories underscores a pivotal shift in policy, acknowledging the urgent need

for innovative solutions to address the growing demand for housing, while preserving the character and integrity of existing neighbourhoods. In an era where housing affordability and accessibility are paramount concerns, these new categories shine a spotlight on projects that embody the principles of the 'missing middle' housing concept – offering alternatives to traditional single-family homes without compromising quality of life or community cohesion.

In the 'Best Multi-Plex Unit' category, finalists such as Darkness and Light by Alair Vancouver with Skladan Architecture + Design

Studio; Shared Luxury by Palas Homes with Elite Premium Home Design Ltd.; Shared Wins by Brahm Development Corporation with Architrix Design Studio Inc.; and Birds Wing by Naikoon Contracting with ONE Seed Architecture + Interiors, showcase the versatility and ingenuity of multi-generational living solutions. These projects demonstrate how thoughtful design and strategic planning can transform single-family lots into vibrant, inclusive communities that cater to the diverse needs of residents.

Darkness and Light, for instance, reimagines a single-family lot as a multi-generational sanctuary, offering identical layouts on each side for a seamless living experience. This duplex exemplifies modernity and brightness, celebrating unity and functionality with its simple yet elegant design. Similarly, Shared Luxury and Shared Wins embrace the ethos of shared living, providing residents with luxurious amenities and spacious accommodations, while fostering a sense of community and connection.

In the 'Best Multi-Plex Development' category, finalists such as Stargaze by Hael Construction; Otto by Tera Development; Splendid by Adisa Homes; and Darkness and Light by Alair Homes Vancouver, showcase innovative approaches to density without sacrificing quality or livability. These developments represent a departure from traditional housing typologies, offering a diverse range of housing options within a single neighbourhood.

Stargaze, for example, illustrates design-forward density with its main residence, basement suite, and laneway home configuration. This project serves as a model for increasing housing supply, while promoting sustainability and community integration. Similarly, Otto and Splendid offer creative solutions to urban infill, providing residents with well-designed, affordable housing options that enhance the fabric of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

As we celebrate the achievements of this year's finalists, we invite you

to explore the full range of projects that represent excellence in home construction and design. From innovative duplexes to forward-thinking multi-plex developments, each finalist brings a unique vision for the future of housing in Metro Vancouver. Join us in honouring these trailblazing projects and their contribution to our vibrant and diverse communities.

The winners of the 2024 HAVAN Awards for Housing Excellence will be announced on May 4 at the Parq in Vancouver. To explore all the finalist projects and learn more about the HAVAN Awards, visit havan.ca/awards.

Representing the home building industry in Metro Vancouver since 1974, the Homebuilders' Association Vancouver (HAVAN), a not-for-profit society is proudly affiliated with the provincial and national Canadian Home Builders' Associations. Visit www.havan.ca Follow Ron @HAVANofficial or email ron@havan.ca

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