Chapter 02 Community The residences Habitat 67



Residents 01 Frank Motter and family

Frank Motter moved to Habitat 67 in 1974 because "it had tennis courts – and I'm a nut for tennis. But this was not the place to live: it was very contrarian. It was out of the way; there was nothing here except Expo." Motter, a builder and developer, started with two units, added another two, then four and now owns eight. He raised two children here and his son has bought two cubes next door.

Motter's stuccoed ceilings and mouldings hide many of the original features. He has redone the bathrooms and installed dark wood panelling. "I feel very lucky to live here. I love to look at the water. People are nice: all different personalities.

"It's warm in winter – concrete is a great insulator. Montréal is an island, there is only a certain amount of shoreline and we have a big chunk of it. I feel fortunate every day to have all this space as the city encroaches."







ΟI Resident Frank Motter 02 Unique structure of the housing complex 03 Byron Peart and Stefan Weisgerber's striking mezzanine 04 Cabinet in the couple's living room 05 Peart (right) and Weisgerber

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Residents 02 Stefan Weisgerber and Byron Peart

In July 2010, Byron Peart and his partner Stefan Weisgerber bought three cubes in Habitat 67 that had been gutted to bare concrete. With interior designer Maria Rosa di Loia they drew up storyboards that respected the original ideas and concepts of Habitat 67. They then configured their cubes (two across the bottom and one on top) with the kitchen, bedroom and guest room downstairs, and a full cube dedicated to living space upstairs.

"We have these views that are so unique," says Peart, the designer behind luxury leather line Want Les Essentials de la Vie, which he runs with his twin brother Dexter (*see page 208*). "The space is the perfect balance between privacy and community."

"For me," says Weisgerber, "the water and solitude is like being on an island I never want to leave."

