

# The International

*An intriguing apartment building is taking the lead on luxury living in the heart of Auckland.*



**I**nnner-city life is changing. The emergence of a new breed of luxury apartment buildings is helping to bring central Auckland into a vibrant 21st century.

One such development is the retrofitted historic Grand Hotel at 9 Princes Street, now called The International. The hotel's façade was kept when a 15-floor office tower was built in the late 1980s. The complex is now set for another new lease on life as an upmarket apartment development.

Its 88 freehold apartments spread over 17 levels will ratchet up inner Auckland's lifestyle quotient. Every person moving into the central city and its surroundings boosts demand for restaurants, night and cultural life, the arts and all the service businesses that make CBD living better, says Tomasz Gibowicz, project architect of Jasmax, the architects.

The International has taken a different approach to luxury. Instead of aiming to make the fit-out "luxury apartment-style", the intention, says Rufus Knight of Knight Associates, the project's interior architect, is to make the apartments feel like home. Owners will get the fixtures and fittings they'd expect to see in a high-end home in the suburbs.

Additional amenities include a concierge to assist residents and book the features in the complex, which will include a private wine cellar and tasting room, outdoor terrace with heated pool, and gym. When the street-level cafe closes at night, the space will remain open to residents and their visitors as a shared social area. A private dining room will seat up to 20 friends or business associates. The library will provide a quiet hideaway while a cinema and/or the wine cellar will offer the perfect environment to sit back and unwind after a busy day in the city.

The top floor penthouse of The International was purchased recently for a contract price of \$15.3 million, making it the highest value apartment sale in New Zealand history. The International has just achieved \$100m in sales and has sold 60% of available apartments.



**Above** Materials were chosen for beauty and durability – natural stone, custom timber cabinetry and wide-boarded timber flooring.

**Right** Interior fittings offer the same quality you'd expect in a luxury suburban home, with amenities that include the classic heated pool.

