



The Trust has become a true oasis of urban design and upscale luxury in the heart of Uptown. For the 2008 IDS Showhouse, interior designer Kelly Cruz worked with Design Center International Home Resource to create this striking modern kitchen, while Chairperson Toni Sawhney brought a contemporary edge to the master bedroom and bath shown above.

## A Matter of Trust

Photos courtesy of IDS

The inside joke when developer Jim Donnelly, co-founder and managing director of Pursuit Group, began transforming a troubled property on a premier site at the corner of Fourth and Tryon into luxury boutique condominiums was that they got the name for the complex not from its roots as the former Home Federal Savings building, but from saying, “trust us,” so often to everyone from neighbors and bankers to city officials and potential residents. Previous attempts by others to create offices and mid-level condos had not lived up to the building’s potential, which made the site irresistible to Donnelly, who thrives on finding unique solutions that transcend the typical.

Today, the Trust has far surpassed the promise first seen by Donnelly and his team, blossoming into an urban oasis of eight exclusive condominiums that showcase the type of architectural and interior design that you’d expect to see in Manhattan - right here in our own Uptown. As Donnelly explains: “I love this city. I moved to Charlotte for a reason. In no way, shape or form do I want to make Charlotte into a New York City or an L.A. I love Charlotte for what it is; I just want to provide the spice. Like salt and pepper, every city needs to have a little. Even people who don’t like this particular architectural style will still appreciate it.”

Shane McDevitt, the Uptown pioneering Realtor®, now broker/owner of The McDevitt Agency, agrees. “A project like the Trust really adds something to the city,” he says. “The uniqueness of the property and Jim’s vision really set it apart. The Trust is the first truly high-end boutique condo development in Uptown. Only eight total units that are all penthouse quality were each custom designed by the buyer, interior designer, and architect... Creating the most unique development in the city.”

The property also held a special place in the heart of interior designer Toni Sawhney, the owner of Tulikas Interiors, who previously had worked in the building for 10 years. As the incoming chairperson for the 2008 Charlotte Chapter of the Interior Design Society’s showhouse benefitting Dove House Children’s Advocacy Center, she saw the Trust as a unique opportunity to shift the venue of this annual event to a more urban locale and approached Donnelly. He, in turn, saw it as a chance to give back to the city he loves while working with a talented group of designers to create a cohesive, retro contemporary style fitting to his project.

“The biggest challenge about the project was to plan the space flow and create the best use of 3,500 square feet that felt open, yet cozy. We needed to accentuate the historic aspect of the building with a blend of modern style,” Sawhney says. They accomplished that by exposing the raw concrete ceilings in several areas and juxtaposing that industrial feel with the elegance of rich, clean-lined pieces and varied textures.

That was apparent in the kitchen, which features Pedini Cabinetry from Design Centers International (DCI) Home Resource and the work of Kelly Cruz, IDS Associate and owner of Kelly Cruz Interiors. “The kitchen is a crown jewel with custom built-in Italian cabinets from Pedini, coupled with gorgeous snow white Caesarstone counter tops,” Sawhney says. “The main thing was embracing the feel of the Trust and Jim’s vision of a modern, clean-lined look, but also making it an inviting space that felt like home. Rich cherry cabinets provided that warmth while frosted glass doors gave it a clean edge,” explains DCI Lead Designer Kaitly Slaughter.

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### **Developer**

Jim Donnelly, Pursuit Group, [www.pursuitgroupcharlotte.com](http://www.pursuitgroupcharlotte.com), (704) 376-8634

### **Architect**

Architect: Liquid Design, [www.liquiddesign.net](http://www.liquiddesign.net), (704) 338-9980

### **Trust Sales Information**

Shane McDevitt, The McDevitt Agency, [www.themcdevittagency.com](http://www.themcdevittagency.com), (704) 333-2475. The McDevitt Agency handled the sales of The Trust, and only one unit remained available as of press time, priced at \$2.025 million. Another Pursuit Group development handled by The McDevitt Agency is Encore ([www.EncoreCharlotte.com](http://www.EncoreCharlotte.com)). Eight of Encore's 20 homes are under contract, with construction scheduled to begin this Spring.

### **Interior Designers**

**Master suite** - Toni Sawhney (Chair), Tulikas Interiors  
[www.tulikasinteriors.com](http://www.tulikasinteriors.com), (704) 604-2133

**Entry** - Barbara Valentim (Co-chair), Design in the City  
[www.designinthecity.net](http://www.designinthecity.net), (704) 953-4074

**Kitchen/Pantry/Corridor & Dining/Balcony** - Kelly Cruz  
Kelly Cruz Interiors, [www.kellycruzinteriors.com](http://www.kellycruzinteriors.com), (704) 895-2530

**Powder room/Laundry room** - Katherine Young, Katherine Young Interiors  
[www.katherineyounginteriors.com](http://www.katherineyounginteriors.com), (704) 361-5789

**Bedroom suite** - Barbara Walker, Barbara Walker Designs, (704) 906-3564

**Office/Sitting room** - Sue Gorman Interior Design  
[www.suegormaninteriors.com](http://www.suegormaninteriors.com), (704) 553-9443

**Family room** - Lois Propst, Vintage Vainglories Interiors, (803)736-9476

Sawhney artfully brought bold and edgy elements into the design of the master suite as well, which featured a palette of rich mochas and cream mixed with calming blues and military greens. "The master suite is an oasis from the busy city streets below. The interesting combination of colors and whimsical furniture paired with the abstract art on the wall were intended to take risks and make a statement," she says. The focal point of the space also proved to be a logistical challenge. "My favorite and the most difficult aspect of the design for this project has to be the 9' x 7' headboard in the master suite. The multifaceted, beveled-edge mirror headboard was imported from Indonesia and it had to be dismantled to move it upstairs. The design concept for the entire room was built around the headboard. There were so many other pieces, small and large, that brought life to the unit that it's really hard to pinpoint just one. Each room had its own gift, and it all came together like a beautifully told story," Sawhney says.

Much like the Trust itself, from its historic roots to its edgy modern design that is making an impact in its developer's adopted hometown. "There will never be another location like this in Charlotte," Sawhney says. "It is not only a sight to see and an architectural wonder, but now it is a design showcase of what the future of Uptown can and will be." 