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## NEWS CENTER

### If They Build It, Will Buyers Come?

Web Editor: [Susan Kimball](#), reporter  
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PORTLAND (NEWS CENTER) -- Developer Peter Bass says the answer to that question is yes. Bass is about to begin construction on a 26 unit condominium development on the corner of High and Danforth Streets in Portland.

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The units are small, from 500 to 800 square feet. But Bass says that keeps the price down. The units start at about \$140,000.

"The goal was not to make cheap apartments but to make apartments that were attainable to people because of the size. And if you look at our pricing it sort of ends where most of the other units start," said Bass.

Bass says they use every inch of space and have designed the building to bring the outside in, but using high ceilings, big windows, balconies and roof decks, wood floors and warm colors.

Interior designer Tracy Davis says that's key.

"We wanted to carry that natural light through the unit so in order to do that we've decided to do partial walls so light can flood over the wall, we've decided to keep kitchens open so that there's this constant movement of natural energy," says Davis.

City officials say the condos will fill a much needed niche, affordable housing for people looking to buy.

"Everybody has been talking about it," says T.J. Martzial, the director of city's planning and development department. "Everybody thinks it's a good thing, this is the way we should go but finally we've got a developer who is willing to step up and try this."

They expect to break ground this spring and have already had lots of interest, says Peter Bass.

He says they expected to sell to young professionals, but have had inquiries from older people, singles -- especially women --, people moving back to Maine, business travelers and even islanders interested in a place to stay while in town.

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