



HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Beyond Raffles' glass facade awaits locally inspired luxury at its finest.

By Madison Duddy

Since its groundbreaking in fall 2019, Bostonians have watched with anticipation as Raffles Hotels & Resorts built its first mixed-use North American development—Raffles Boston Back Bay Hotel & Residences (rafflesresidencesboston.com). Towering over Stuart Street, the 35-story, over-\$400 million LEED Gold building will house 146 branded residences, 147 guest rooms and 16 luxe gathering spaces—a palatial playground for locals and travelers alike. While the hotel is not scheduled to open until this summer, the pied-a-terre suites hit the market in January after one- to three-bedroom homes and penthouses began selling last



From top: Seven breathtaking penthouses, found on the 34th and 35th floors, feature one of four floor plans; the private dining room, where residents can host soirees, is addorned with chevron wood flooring and light suede wall paneling; the residences' sleek, contemporary living spaces.

spring. Behind the scenes is NYC-based interdisciplinary architecture and interior design firm Rockwell Group (rockwellgroup.com)along with Trinity Stuart Development LLC (noannet. com and saundershotelgroup. com), Cain International (cainint.com), The Architectural Team, Inc. (architecturalteam. com) and Suffolk (suffolk. com)-expertly crafting the residences, residential amenities and wellness facilities with its award-winning touch. For those lucky enough to call Raffles home, everyday life will be infused with the 136-yearold brand's sense of tradition, style, unmatched hospitality and locally influenced charm. "Boston's park system is where we took a lot of our inspiration," says Greg Keffer, partner and studio leader at Rockwell Group. "Just as the parks thread this continuous line of lush greenery and waterways through the

city, we wanted to mimic that in the residences with our color palette, views and access to the outdoors." Upon entering the private residential lobby, New England-inspired touches blend effortlessly with the elegant, cosmopolitan ambiance: Think two comfortable seating areas, a bronze fireplace with greenery and organic hues. However, the most jaw-dropping details can be explored on the resident

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 □GREG KEFFER



floors (15 to 16 and 21 to 35). Seven penthouses, ranging from three to four bedrooms, wow with a light, neutral color scheme for kitchen and baths, striking stone selections, outdoor terraces and more. But the Raffles experience does not stop there, thanks to stunning private amenities on the 21st floor, and a tranquil spa-fitness center on Level 4. Transport

yourself to Singapore with a visit to the hidden Secret Garden, warmly lit residents library, gray-wood-clad Nantucket
Cottage tasting kitchen or spa, drawing hues from sea, sand, coastal rock and shale. No matter where residents choose to play, they can expect an innate sense of Boston's history, culture and environment woven into every space.

