

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Canada



WelcomeBC



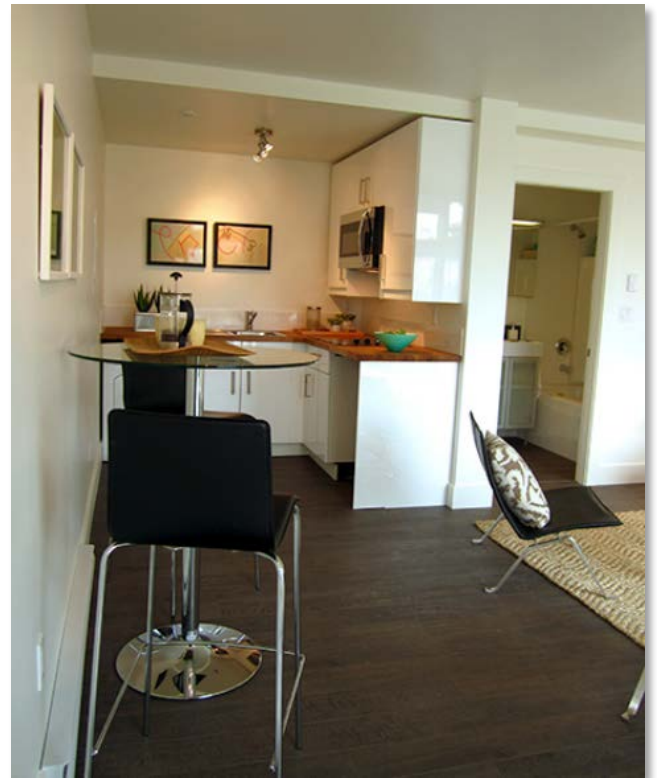
View of the outside of the new apartment building
Photo: Courtesy of Atira Women's Resource Society

New homes for women in the downtown eastside

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*
Level 3

This apartment is made from old shipping containers.

The containers are stacked and finished inside. They are painted bright colours.



Each apartment has a kitchen, bathroom and living room.
Photo: Courtesy of Atira Women's Resource Society

Each apartment has a kitchen, a bathroom and a sleeping area. The space is about 280 square feet.

The 3-storey building has 12 apartments. It is located at 502 Alexander Street in Vancouver. The apartments rent for \$375 to \$850 per month.

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Only women can rent the apartments. Women over 50 years old will help the younger women living in the building.

“We are looking for women with roots in this community who want to give back and support young women.”

said Janice Abbott. Janice is the chief executive of Atira Women’s Resource Society.

Atira Women’s Resource Society owns the building. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the City of Vancouver gave money to help build it. BC Hydro and some private citizens also contributed.

The first women move in during September.

Atira is planning to build another building using shipping containers. The next one will be seven storeys high and have 42 apartments.

To see more pictures go to:

<http://www.atira.bc.ca/gallery/august-2013-media-event>

What is a shipping container?

Shipping containers hold goods shipped by train, truck and ship.



A ship loaded with containers
Photo: Derell Licht, Flickr

Why build with shipping containers?

The containers are used for shipping for about five years. Then they aren’t needed anymore. Often they are abandoned in shipyards. This makes them cheap and available.

The Atira apartments cost about \$82,500 each. A similar normal apartment costs about \$220,000 to build.

Designers like the characteristics of shipping containers. They are:

- **durable** – long lasting
- **adaptable** – can be changed easily
- **light weight** – not heavy
- **low cost** – cheap, inexpensive

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A shipping container house in Flagstaff, Arizona
Photo: Angel Schatz, Flickr

Shipping containers can be made into lots of different things.

- sculpture
- homes
- apartments
- hotels
- museums
- storage units
- offices
- stores
- cafes

Links:

Look at the examples on these websites.

11 uses for shipping containers:

<http://www.notcot.com/archives/2007/10/shipping-contai.php>

15 awesome ways to reuse shipping containers:

<http://webcoist.momtastic.com/2009/04/05/15-awesome-ways-to-reuse-shipping-containers/>

And more ideas:

<http://pinterest.com/lynetteganesan/innovative-uses-for-shipping-containers/>

Watch a video of one group making a container into a living space:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCBnKuyac-8>

Exercise

Ask your friends and family these questions. Discuss these ideas with your classmates.

1. What have you seen done with old shipping containers?
2. What can you imagine using one for?