

## Project Mint—a fresh approach to home design



Project Mint Developments is a labour of love—a love of thoughtful design, quality craftsmanship and sustainability—and natural gas helps make these high-end energy-efficient homes affordable.

Founders Nick Bray, director of design, and Babak Nikraftar, director of construction, met on a Vancouver soccer field—though Nick is originally from England and Babak hails from Vernon, B.C. They teamed up to start Project Mint when they discovered a shared passion for energy-efficient homes that are both elegantly designed and built to last.

“We love what we do,” Nick says. “We’re very much driven by quality, rather than financial spreadsheets.”

### Bespoke design

The team have won and were finalists for multiple Georgie Awards and Ovation Awards, which honour home building excellence in B.C. While such industry recognition is appreciated, Nick and Babak are focused on pleasing clients by considering what their lives will look like in five or 10 years, so they can design a home that will continue to suit them long-term.

“We take a fresh, custom approach to every project,” Nick says. “Each build is unique.”

Project Mint is proud to tell us their homes far exceed City of Vancouver building requirements for air-tightness, thermal and sound insulation performance. Their newest development at 3388 Anzio Drive in Vancouver includes a main house, secondary suite and laneway dwelling—all with high-quality heat recovery units and high-end energy-efficient appliances. As with all their projects, it’s ENERGY STAR® certified and has a high EnerGuide® rating.

## PROJECT MINT

### Consistent comfort

All their projects feature signature elements: space-efficient plans, abundant natural light, fresh air, and warmth. To ensure constant cosiness, they install high-efficiency natural gas boilers in every home.

“It’s all about the energy efficiency, the low-cost for home heating, and never running out of hot water. There’s so many advantages to the end-users,” Nick says. “And coupling a natural gas boiler with radiant heat flooring brings a huge comfort factor.”



## Natural gas: at the heart of the home

Using natural gas boilers and high-performance construction materials like structural insulated panels (SIPs), Nick says, has made Project Mint's homes so airtight and efficient, fireplaces are hardly necessary to keep cosy on cold days.

"But every house we've built has a gas fireplace," Nick says. "It's really the centre of the home. You lose the fireplace, you lose the heart of the home."

Additionally, their homes feature natural gas ranges, outdoor fire pits and barbecue hookups.

"When you're building a high-end home these days, these features are really an expectation," Nick says. "And it shows you've really thought about how people will use this building on a day to day basis. It shows a level of design quality."

"And everyone loves a natural gas range. It really helps sell the place."

### High efficiency, low energy bills

As far as Nick and Babak are concerned, the biggest advantage of natural gas is the efficiency and cost-savings for the home owners.

"Compared to electric it's a no brainer," Nick says. "Using gas was an obvious choice for this project."

Learn more about high-efficiency homes at [fortisbc.com/newhome](https://fortisbc.com/newhome). Or contact a FortisBC energy solutions manager near you at [fortisbc.com/energyteam](https://fortisbc.com/energyteam).

## Bring home the affordable luxury of natural gas

Discover how to add the comfort, convenience and efficiency of natural gas to your new home. You could get rebates up to **\$2000** for building an ENERGY STAR® qualified home, or up to **\$1,300** for installing high-efficiency natural gas appliances.

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