

Sustainable 5-star hotel planned

The Long Beach area near Pacific Rim National Park is a pristine coastline on Vancouver Island's west coast and one of the world's last remaining unspoiled wilderness areas and ecosystems.

Hotel-resort specialist Ron Lea of Folio Architecture has designed a luxury hotel at Wyndansea, and what developer Marine Drive Properties Ltd. calls "potentially North America's most environmentally sustainable five-star resort," on the last of the large integrated development sites near Pacific Rim National Park.

"This hotel will receive the world's attention and be a showcase for Vancouver Island," says Lea. "We believe it will be among the most sustainable hotels in the world and will be the premier golf resort on the west coast of North America."

The luxury hotel will terrace on the rocky promontory surrounded by breaking waves where the Pacific meets the shoreline.

The municipality of Ucluelet, where the project is located, "has made tremendous strides in reinventing itself taking on the charm and industry of the fishing village to integrate with a sought-after resort destination," says the developer in a news release. "The Ucluelet Council and Planners have a clear vision for supporting environmentally sensitive and community focused resort properties. Marine Drive Properties is in the forefront of substantiating that vision in the built form of its projects."

Marine Drive Properties CEO

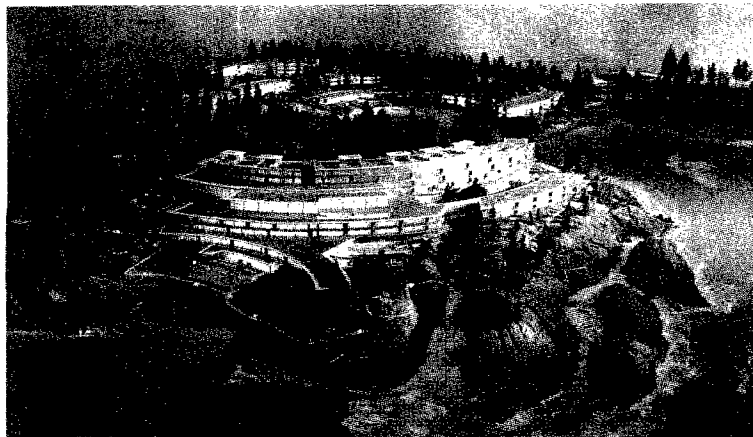
Elke Loof-Koehler's design influences originate from her studies in urban planning and interior architecture in Florence, Italy. She selected Lea to bring an environmentally progressive west coast approach to the Oceanfront Resort. The \$200 million luxury hotel has been designed to be integrated with the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club of Canada at Wyndansea. Lea also is known for projects such as Fairmont Waterfront Vancouver and Chateau Whistler.

Located on 370 acres with 5.6 km of coastline, the luxury hotel at Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort will include renewable energy sources including seawater geothermal exchange, tidal power, photo-voltaic energy, water harvesting and low water-use practices; native landscape protection and enhancement; a natural approach to daylighting and ventilation for interior spaces; and the use of local building materials and techniques.

Wyndansea is using sustainable design practices for the entire resort property including buildings, interiors and furnishings, pathways, roads and services, under the recently released LEED Guidelines for Neighbourhood Development.

"Within the 370-acre site, one's interest is drawn like a magnet to the oceanfront rocky promontory selected for the 273 suite hotel condominium," says Lea. "The sinuous form of the hotel will hug the contours of the site, fit within the Old Growth forest, and integrate with the best of the West Coast ecological reserve." ■





An artist's conception of Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort, which is touted to be "the most environmentally sustainable five-star resort in North America."