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There's a rocky
road...

Integrated home entertainment at your fingertips

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RYAN STARR

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"My intention is to find better ways to live in small spaces," artist-turned-developer Gary Silverberg explained one recent evening at his Mutual St. office, surrounded at his desk by computer monitors, HDTVs, a projection screen and an assortment of gadgets and devices.

Silverberg, whose company Triangle West Development is currently building Art Condos, an 11-storey, 148-unit project at 44 Dovercourt Rd., considers himself a developer not just of buildings, but of ideas, too.



Gary Silverberg, whose company Triangle West Development is currently building Art Condos at 44 Dovercourt Rd., gives a demonstration of Worldfinger in his Mutual St. office.

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And he thinks his latest idea — a system that integrates the various forms of media that modern-day condo dwellers rely on to live, work and play — is one of his best yet.

Dubbed "Worldfinger," the media control system enables the simultaneous operation of multiple technologies — computers, HDTV, surround sound systems, DVD/Blu-ray players, gaming consoles, cable and satellite boxes — using a single device, whether it's a tablet, smartphone or regular computer.

"This can create a richer, faster lifestyle for busy and sophisticated condo owners," Silverberg said during a sneak preview of the technology, which is available exclusively to Art Condos buyers.

Each unit at Art Condos has been pre-wired for the Worldfinger system and buyers can choose the level of configuration they require, whether it's a simple cable TV and DVD setup or the full integration of a range of home entertainment components

While the Worldfinger pre-wiring has been done at no cost to condo buyers, Silverberg says that proprietary hardware is required to control more than one screen at the same time. (The cost to set the system up for two displays starts at \$850; for use of up to four displays the set-up cost begins at \$1,250.)

Worldfinger is designed to be simple and intuitive, notes Silverberg. "I'm pretty stupid on technology, I don't have the patience," he says. "So we tried to do something that would be easier to use, more consistent — and with big buttons."

Worldfinger allows multi-taskers to ingest various sources of information and entertainment all at the same time, controlled by a single device. "You can check your email, watch TV and chat on Skype," Silverberg suggests. "We're striving to create a command centre that can act as either an office, meeting room, theatre, games room or presentation and communications centre."

The Worldfinger system also makes it easier for a couple or small family to hang out in the same room together, one watching TV, one checking email, and another playing video games, all controlled by their own handheld devices.

"Family dynamics have changed," Silverberg says. "We used to take walks, talk on the phone, play board games, watch movies.

"If you want to connect with your family, you've got to be connecting on the equipment that they're using to communicate and play."

"I'm not saying Worldfinger is the perfect solution to all your family problems, but it will sure let you get back into the room together and share things."