

REAL ESTATE
 TOP PICK

Now and then: The Homes at Cross

Historic Federal Hill residences have a feel that is 'modern yet warm'

By Dan Collins
 Special to The Examiner

While the great minds of the world quibble whether time travel is possible, any visitor to Federal Hill knows differently.

Sure it is. Just take a look around. This neighborhood dates back to the 1700s when it was the center of immigration, maritime trade and Industrial growth. Turn and be vaulted into the 19th and 20th centuries as you see post-Civil War and Victorian-era homes, adorned with bracketed cornices, stained glass and iron fencing.

Walk down Patapsco Street and you'll see your future ... if you're in the market for a spacious, opulent new home, that is.

And you even have a choice. The Homes at Cross, located at 1019 and 1021 Patapsco St. in Historic Federal Hill, transport you even farther, this time to the streets of New Orleans, featuring windowed fronts and second-floor front balconies in the style of the famed French Quarter.

"An urban eclectic interior design, combined with modern architectural spaces, gives the homes a special feel and flow that is rarely seen in residential construction," said Dan Rieth, co-developer with Signature Properties and project manager.

The Homes at Cross sell for \$749,000 each and feature 2,400 square feet over three levels. With all-brick fronts and Marvin wood windows with true-divided lights, each home features "huge front-to-back roof decks with unobstructed views of downtown and Ravens Stadium. The roofs are built with truss systems to hold up to 48,000 pounds. So go ahead and squeeze 'em up there on the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve," Rieth said.



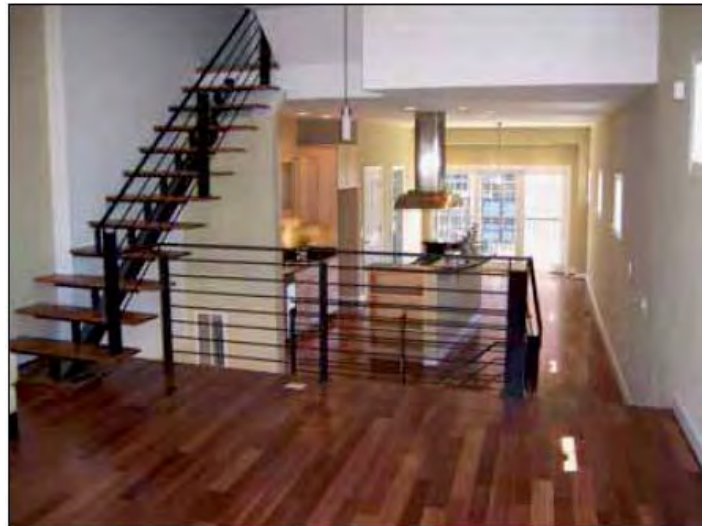
The Homes at Cross, located on Patapsco Street in the historic Federal Hill neighborhood, feature views of downtown Baltimore – courtesy photo

AT A GLANCE:

- > **Property:** The homes at Cross, 1019 and 1021 Patapsco St. in Historic Federal Hill
- > **Cost:** \$749,000 each
- > **Description:** Each home is 2,400 square feet with over three levels, built in 2006, with 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2 half-baths with top-of-the-line amenities like GE Monogram appliances, body spray shower, dual zone A/C, and 5-year tax credit. All interior finishes selected by Maria Moscato, Moscato Interiors.
- > **Architect:** Craig Stewart of Stewart-McCready Architects
- > **Builder:** Ashley Custom Homes
- > **Information & Sales:** Dan Rieth, Re/Max Sails, 3600 O'Donnell Street – the Natty Boh Building, Suite 700, Baltimore, MD 21224, 410.814.2433. www.thehomesatcross.com



Quite a coop - Once a home for chickens, The Homes at Cross offer convenient opulence.



Unlike other properties on the market where you see "dark cherry [wood] every-where and loads of crown molding and chair rail ... [or] some very contemporary homes that are stark and cold," the Homes at Cross have a feel that is "modern yet warm. ... Our architect did a fantastic job of tying the spaces together and allowing tons of natural light.

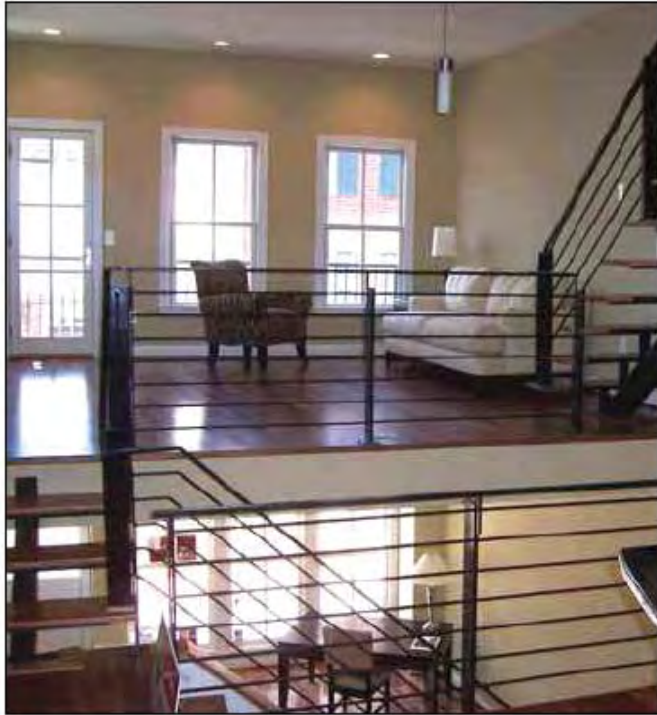
"Many female buyers I've worked with complain that so many of these homes downtown are designed and built by men. There is never enough countertop space in the bathrooms or closet space in the bedrooms. The tiles and light fixtures are right off the shelf from Home Depot and everyone has the exact same stuff. By involving our interior designer early in the process and tapping in to some of her more obscure sources and suppliers, we were able to resolve these issues and really allow ourselves to stand out from the crowd," Rieth said.

And stand out these homes do, with such amenities as brushed nickel designer faucets and fixtures; 10-foot ceilings; a Moen body-massage spa and Jacuzzi tub in the master bedroom; Botticino Italian Travertine (tumbled marble) in both full bathrooms; exotic Kempas wideplank hardwood floors; Medallion natural maple cabinets with glass doors; floating steel staircases, two rear decks and more.

Both homes feature "island cook tops surrounded by barstools with dramatic range hoods that descend from the ceiling. It's perfect for a few friends to gather around with a martini or glass of wine while you prepare a quick hors d'oeuvre. These are definitely showcase homes," Rieth said.

Beyond opulent, the one word that may best describe the Homes at Cross is convenience.

Convenient living in Federal Hill



"You don't need to worry about paying hundreds of dollars a month for parking," Rieth said, as the homes feature two-car, off-street parking (one garage space and one covered parking pad).

"There are many small professional offices mingled amongst the residences in the neighborhood, including attorneys, accountants, artists and consultants. The first floor entry area, floor-to-ceiling windows, and the homes B-2-3 zoning create a perfect setting for a small home-based business or gallery."

And discerning home buyers with the sense of the absurd will particularly appreciate the fact that the property was once home to "a coop where chickens were kept before being sold at Cross Market Street.

We purchased the property from ex-Ringling Bros. circus clowns Ken and Bernadette Horsman, who own Ken-Zo's Yogi Magic Mart around the corner on Charles Street," Rieth said.