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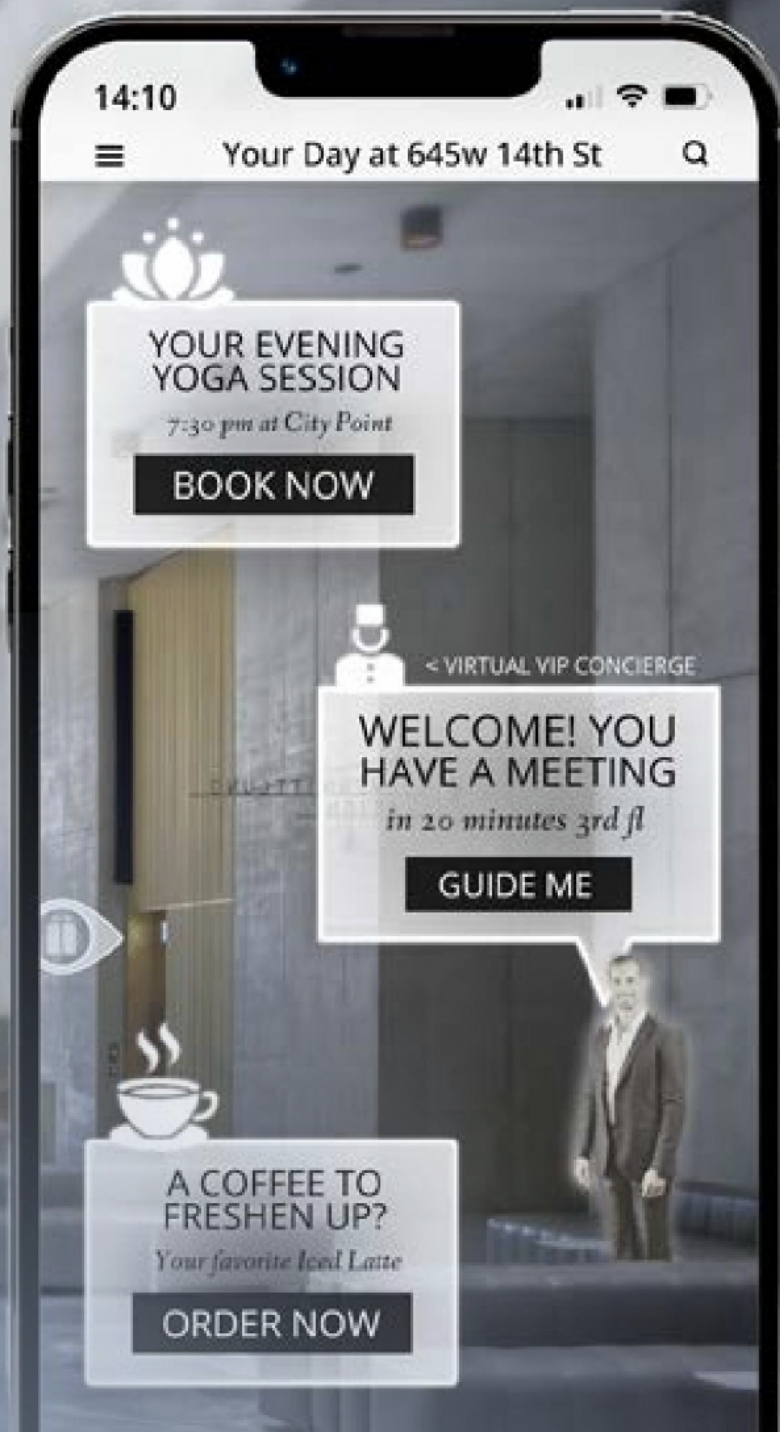
Diverse, Accessible and Eco-Conscious

All Aboard

*Storylines Developing a Residential
Community at Sea*

Putting the Metaverse to Work in Commercial Real Estate

By Jeremy Bergstein



All Aboard:



Storylines Developing a Residential Community at Sea

The MV Narrative will set sail in 2024.

The internet is filled with stories of retirees selling homes and living on cruise ships, but the founders of Storylines are creating a full-time residential community scheduled to set sail in 2024.

Storylines' MV Narrative ship will be 741 feet long and 98 feet wide with 547 fully furnished residences ranging from 237 to 1,970 square feet. The prices of the residences range from \$1 million to \$8 million for the lifetime of the vessel with a limited number of 24-year leases available starting at \$647,000. Targeting young families as well as traditional cruise goers, the MV Narrative will offer travelers

the ability to work and have a full life as they circumnavigate the globe over three years.

The ship will spend an average of three and a half days in each port, with a minimum of an overnight docking to allow the residents time to visit. In effect, the plan is to combine a world tour, while still allowing visitors to spend each night in their own, owned bed if they wish.

"The ship is your base. It's your home that just happens to travel," observed Alistair Punton, Storylines co-founder.

COVID-19, which shut down the vacation cruise industry, delayed the process, but

has given impetus to the concept as people re-evaluated how they want to live their lives. With technology allowing many jobs to be performed remotely, the ship also accommodates people who must continue to work.

"This is not just for one demographic; it really is for everybody," Punton said. "We have a lot of families coming on board, retirees and more."

In fact, the entire world will be the residents' home. The ship will have no home port, and at times the team will offer "Residents' Choice Days," where they will vote on the next port of call.



Each deck will have lounges to encourage community.

The team, which boasts a background in real estate, considered acquiring a ship, but decided that the needs of full-time residents required new construction built to Storylines' specifications. The buyers helped a bit, too.

"We went to our resident community in the early design phase; it's a ship for the residents," Puntun said. "We got that feedback and put it into the ship."

Owners will enjoy an all-inclusive experience with dining, cultural enrichment programming and wellness and fitness facilities available 24 hours a day. Just beginning construction in Croatia, the ship will boast 20 dining and bar venues, a microbrewery, marina landing with personal watercraft, three pools with sundecks, pet exercise area, business center and a beauty salon. Religious observances also will be accommodated. Entertainment options include a 10,000-book library, movie theater, art studio and bowling alley. Active and adventurous travelers will enjoy an outdoor running track, full gym, yoga studio, golf simulators, dance floor and more.

A range of one-to-four-bedroom residences are outfitted by leading maritime design teams. Owners may choose from coastal or

contemporary interior design styles. Some will come with kitchenettes and cooking options, and most have balconies. Each residential deck will have a lounge where owners can grab a bite or even host a dinner party. Families and owners' guests are welcome aboard and owners can rent out their residences when not in use. Just as with any residential property, owners can sell at any time.

The ship also features a youth education program, the first of its kind world traveling school.

"That's really important for a lot of people," Puntun said. "I have two kids who will be on board. What better education about Rome can you get than standing in the Colosseum?"

The ship will boast a medical clinic with a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, nutritionist and physiotherapist. A 10,000-square-foot health and wellness center will offer medical services including wellness visits, weight loss, anti-aging, immune therapies, detox treatments, dietary planning, meditation room, relaxation pods and more. The facilities also include a hospital for emergency medicine and a helicopter landing pad for medical evacuations.

But giving birth to a genuine citizen of the world on board? It's not happening. Just as airlines ban flying after a certain number of weeks, pregnant residents of the Narrative will be required to depart the ship and have their babies on land.

The ship has been sustainably designed with liquid natural gas propulsion (LNG), the most environmentally friendly option currently available for powering ships. Other initiatives include converting waste into energy and growing produce onboard at the solar powered hydroponic garden. A first-of-its kind zero waste farmer's market will also be available with locally sourced products where everything is compostable or recyclable. Residents will be able to grill their own meals at barbecue stations.

Some 75% of the buyers thus far have come from the U.S., but interest is growing from Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

"Traveling isn't much fun, anyway, with what we're experiencing with airports and airlines," Puntun said. "We're taking the good parts of cruising and the good parts of traveling."

Photos courtesy of Storylines