

## CVS® Fireplace Exhaust Vent Plays Leading Role in Grand LA High-Rise

The clean lines of modern architecture, interiors and exteriors, can present some inconvenient mechanical challenges, especially in up-scale, high-rise residential properties.

Imagine having to conceal the exhaust vent and exterior terminations for over 250 luxury gas fireplaces. Rest assured, future residents of the elegantly designed Tower Residences at Century Plaza in Los Angeles will be none the wiser, whether they are enjoying views of the Hollywood Hills from their glass-lined balcony or hosting an indoor fireside cocktail party. From floor to ceiling, every surface will be as sleek and refined as one would expect in such a grand setting.

The 44-story, triangular-shaped buildings are designed to draw the eye, towering over one of LA's most storied locations, the now exquisitely renovated Fairmont Century Plaza Hotel. The towers are also just steps away from the Avenue of the Stars and Constellation Boulevard. Brimming with amenities, nearly all of the 268 residences will include a frameless, power-vented gas fireplace made by Ortal. DuraVent's Concentric Venting System (CVS), recommended by Ortal, was selected to vent these fireplaces.



Although Ortal carries a wide range of modern and traditional fireplaces, they are particularly known for high-quality, contemporary designs such as the front facing, built-in styles chosen for the Tower Residences. These unobtrusive fireplaces were perfect for the stylishly minimalistic interiors. However, making them work would require some flexibility from both Ortal and DuraVent.

**“The customer loved that our product was frameless and that a recessed television could be installed directly above it so that the wall surface remains perfectly smooth, from floor-to-ceiling. The challenge was in the venting,”** said Sean Anderson, West Coast Sales Manager for Ortal.

It's a common tale. Venting gas fireplaces in multi-story buildings can often result in aesthetic compromises such as interior bulkheads needed to hide exhaust vents and terminations scattered across a building façade, neither of which would be acceptable in these multi-million dollar condominiums.

Power-venting gas fireplaces helps mitigate these issues because, unlike standard direct-vent appliances, power-vented appliances can be vented up, down and around all sorts of structural obstacles. However, one problem still remains. The size of the vent pipe itself can take up precious real estate. Most gas fireplaces are manufactured with vent outlets that measure up to eight inches in diameter. Fortunately, Ortal has worked with DuraVent for many years to provide vent solutions that effectively reduce the venting space requirements, including special adapters that allow smaller, concentric vent pipe to be used.

### Superior Venting Flexibility

DuraVent's CVS pipe has become the go-to choice for Ortal's power-vented fireplaces. Since the exhaust pipe is nested inside the fresh-air intake pipe, only one penetration is needed through a roof or wall for both the exhaust and combustion air. The air intake (outer vent space) draws air from outside into the firebox while combustion gases exit through the inner exhaust pipe.

The CVS is also extremely compact with a 3-inch inner pipe, made of super-ferritic stainless steel and a 5-inch outer pipe made of galvalume. When used with gas appliances, this compact 3x5 system is zero clearance and can be run through existing joist spaces without encroaching on the vertical or floor space. This gives installers the flexibility to install the fireplace wherever the client wishes, even in the middle of the room.

This flexibility came in handy since the exhaust systems for each residential unit would be installed “as built” by union labor, without the aid of pre-drawn venting plans.

**“This project is unique in light of the fact there were no concrete mechanical venting details. The DuraVent CVS flue systems allow great flexibility, coupled with the in-line fan option to meet project objectives and add the fantastic amenity of Ortal fireplaces in these beautiful high-end condominiums,”** said Eric Peterson, President-CEO, of CAPO Fireside, the West Coast distributor for Ortal.

Each vent installation in the Towers includes between twenty and forty feet of pipe and three to eight elbows. But you would never know it. The footprint and ceiling heights never had to be adjusted to accommodate the pipe, and fireplaces were consistently located according to plan.

“That's the big advantage of combining 3x5 CVS pipe with power-vented appliances. The vent installation accommodates the fireplace and space, not the other way around,” added Peterson.

## Terminally Pretty

Each of the towers, designed by acclaimed New York architectural firm Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, features floor-to-ceiling windows so that the building's exterior shimmers with glass. Maintaining this jewel-like appearance was an absolute priority, which meant that vent pipe terminations had to be handled with an extra bit of finesse. Specifically, the client requested that terminations be discreetly hidden within metal "awning-like" architectural features on each unit's exterior.

"This type of termination would not accommodate our typical flush-mounted power-vent box. Instead, we used an inline power-vent motor installed within the building space for service access and the termination comes out the exterior wall beneath the awning. We also fashioned a downward pointing exhaust, per client request, something that we haven't done before," said Anderson.

This custom exhaust termination had to be specially engineered by Ortal, third party tested, and approved.

"Credit is also due to Ortal, who has been a leader in power-vented fireplace technology. They are accustomed to special requests and always go above and beyond to deliver a product that is attractive and safe," said Dale Menges, Southwest Regional Sales Manager at DuraVent.

The shiny façade and imposing silhouettes of the towers may take center stage at this prime piece of Hollywood real estate, but credit is also due to the behind-the-scenes workhorses like the thousands of feet of exhaust vent, not to mention the workers who had to manage the installation.



For more information and literature on our products, please visit:  
[duravent.com](http://duravent.com)

# DuraVent®