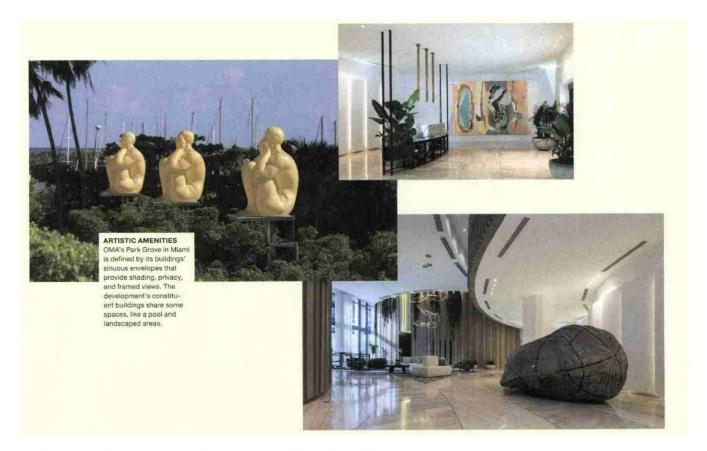
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a place in the sun



OMA's undulating Park Grove filters views of Miami's Biscayne Bay for residents and neighbors alike.

BY DEANE MADSEN

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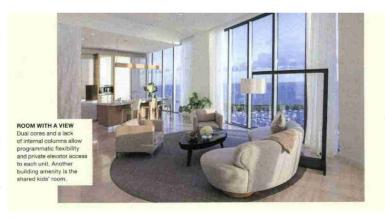
But maybe six towers was a little too dispersed, says Shohei Shigematsu, the partner in charge of OMA New York, which led the project. "And of course it's not economical to have such a floorto-facade ratio." So the six towers were

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dialed back to three, but OMA preserved the design's structural conceit: two pairs of conjoined, cylindrical building forms that maintain their respective cores-a process Shigematsu describes as reverse mitosis. (The third tower, set to open later this year, occurs pre-cellular split, has one core, and is more elliptical in plan.) The structures' exterior concrete columns and dual cores support posttensioned concrete floor slabs, forming a robust structure meant to withstand the bay's lateral winds. "The shape of our tower could be a little more soft and organic, so it looks almost part of the landscape around this area," Shigematsu says, contrasting his construction with more angular ones nearby.

The residences boast ample balconies, deep enough to shade the inboard floor-to-ceiling glazing of the units. Inside, living and dining spaces follow an open plan that maximizes outward views, while non-load-bearing partitions enclose bedrooms and bathrooms. "The divisions are a little bit looser,"



"This area had its own culture and history and feelings, different from what people think typical Miami would be."



Shigematsu explains. "You can walk around the perimeter and really enjoy the experience of the panoramic shape."

Park Grove's exterior columns which are clad in a limestone stucco called Thermocromex—taper and expand, producing a vertical rippling effect. The wavelike columns also inspire a slight sense of destabilization, like palm trees bending away from true verticality. "We designed it to have this undulation," Shigematsu says. "We thought the instability of the profile also contributes a more organic feel."

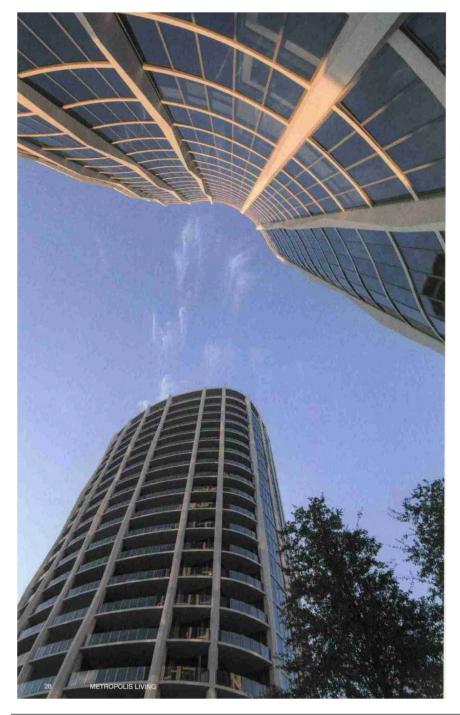
That's where the appeal of OMA's imagining of the site comes in: By

populating it with fewer towers, the development preserves public views through the space between them; access through the site also leads visitors to a sculpture park. A raised plinth that connects all three towers at their bases contains parking and lobbies, as well as shared residential amenities such as a screening room and fitness center. But the biggest public asset is the plinth's landscape by Enzo Enea, which covers the parking and retail spaces with a lush blanket of greenery, amphitheaters, and sculpture that bring visitors to the water's edge.

"The client was very much focused on the identity of Coconut Grove rather than the identity of Miami," Shigematsu recalls. "This area had its own culture and history and feelings, different from what people think typical Miami would be. That taught us to respect the experience of Coconut Grove, and the integration of living and nature."

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Park Grove

PROJECT CREDITS

DEVELOPER: Terra Group and Related Group ARCHITECT: OMA; partner-in-charge: Shohei Shigematsu INTERIOR DESIGNER: Meyer Davis

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Meyer Davis MODEL RESIDENCE: Interiors by Steven G. LANDSCAPE: Enzo Enea

SELECTED SOURCES

INTERIORS

BATH SURFACES: Dornbracht, Kohler BATH FITTINGS: Aquabrass, Toto, Dornbracht WALL FINISHES: Art Design International, Phillip Jeffries, Koroseat, Jacaranda, Pient the Fiture

FLOORING: Brastile, Cle Tile FURNITURE: Stellar Works, Christian Woo, American Upholstery, Phillips Collection, Blaxsand, Black Tie

LIGHTING: O'Brien Lighting, South Dade Lighting, Bec Brittain, Apparatus, Allied Maker, Ludwig & Larsen, Rich Brilliant Willing, Gabriel Scott

TEXTILES: Tailor-Made Textiles, Corragio, JAB Mokum, Opuzen, Perennials, Donghia WASHERS AND DRYERS: Electrolux KITCHENS: Sub-Zero, Wolf, Asko, Dornbracht

SKY HIGH

"This organic shape helps mitigate the typical segregation of condominium towers that have water views versus land views," says Shohei Shigematsu of OMA. "I think it's a bit more seamless in that units have both."

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