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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

A First Look Inside Robert A.M. Stern's One Bennett Park

Exclusive new renderings of the amenities at Chicago's tallest residential tower

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Robert A.M. Stern's addition to the Chicago skyline is nearing completion. One Bennett Park, the AD100 Hall of Famer's first major Chicago project (and soon to be the Windy City's tallest residential building), is a 70-story tower taking shape on the city's North Side. In a metropolis known for its architecture, One Bennett Park's pedigree is garnering attention of its own—Stern's firm designed both the interiors and architecture, and it's

developed by Related Midwest. With units spanning an average of 3,200 square feet, the project comprises 279 apartments and 69 condos, which feature sweeping views of the city, Lake Michigan, and the building's adjacent Bennett Park. As if living in Chicago's most aerial residences weren't enough, residents will also have access to a number of enviable amenities including a 10,000-square-foot sun deck for summer cookouts and swimming, a private motor court, and the children's playroom of any parent's dreams. Daniel Lobitz, partner at Robert A.M. Stern Architects (RAMSA), gave AD PRO a first look at the enviable amenities in the soaring tower.



Bennett Park was redesigned by Michael van Valkenburgh.

Lobitz is thrilled that One Bennett Park is situated on a large public park, which provides an exciting design opportunity to benefit the community as well as the building residents. "We collaborated with Michael Van Valkenburgh, who redesigned the park as a new focal point for the neighborhood," he says of the 1.7-acre park. "As you drive north or south along Lake Shore Drive you will clearly see One Bennett Park, located as it is on a sort of promontory jutting out into Lake Michigan."



As at Stern's 20 East End Avenue, which boasts an elegant old-world carport, special attention was paid to One Bennett Park's entrances, both for cars and residents on foot. "The condominium motor court drop-off features a beautiful garden wall and plantings, while the apartment drop-off is set into a cobblestone-paved loggia beneath the building along Peshtigo Court," Lobitz explains. As an added bonus, the motor court will offer complimentary valet and white-glove service.

With such long, frigid winters, Chicagoans know that taking advantage of the summer sun is vital. To encourage residents to soak up the rays, RAMSA conceived a sky-high sun deck overlooking Bennett Park. Lobitz explains, "A lower L-shaped portion of the building defining the eastern edge of Bennett Park accommodates the building's amenities, and opens to a large terrace with a monumentally scaled limestone pergola and discrete areas for gathering and entertaining, with views overlooking the park." Count a pool, fire pits, and reservable outdoor kitchens and cabanas among the outdoor conveniences.



"We were inspired by an earlier tradition of Chicago architects like Benjamin Marshall and Holabird & Root, and by buildings like the Palmolive Building," Lobitz says. "We wanted to pick up the thread of that earlier Chicago high-rise urbanism that grew out of Classicism." This attitude carries over to One Bennett's interiors. The "cor-



dial room"—a space for owners to store fine spirits in personal lockers and enjoy a drink—harkens back to the era of classic apartment towers with its wood paneling and dark finishes.

One Bennett Park isn't just made for adults—this children's playroom is sure to provide ample entertainment for the little ones. And for parents? A kitchen makes assembling snacks for your tot's birthday party a piece of cake.