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ARCHITECTURE

An Eye-Catching Building And Parking to Match

New Yorkers may be ogling Richard Meier's new apartment towers in the far West Village, but Chicagoans are ogling Contemporaine, above, an unabashedly modern condominium in the River North district of warehouses turned shops, restaurants and galleries. (An offshoot of the Sushi Samba restaurant – shades of Greenwich Village – is next door.) The 15-story Contemporaine is by Ralph Johnson of Perkins & Will, who also designed the gently arcing international terminal at O'Hare International Airport. Contemporaine is anchored by Svenska Möbler, which sells Swedish furniture. At the base, four visible levels of parking make automotive comings and goings a part of the decor. Mr Johnson said that many neighbors see the building – where 22 of 28 apartments have sold for \$400,000 to \$1.85 million – as “a breath of fresh air.”

ARIC CHEN