

840 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

A prominent site on a legendary street calls for a spectacular building; and that's exactly what Lucien Lagrange delivered with the twenty-six story stone tower at 840 North Lake Shore Drive. With its zinc-clad mansard roof and 19th Century detailing, the influence of traditional French design is immediately apparent — communicating a unique identity for blocks around from a highly visible location facing Lake Michigan to the east and Lake Shore Park to the south.

“We wanted to bring back the elegance of the older buildings on the Drive, with their high ceilings and gracious proportions, but in a modern context,” says Lagrange. “The key is to respect the world we live in. You can't go back to the past. But you can take what was good about the past and bring it up to date.”

The building's 73 residences range in size from 2,100 square feet to a 8,700 square foot penthouse, and have ceiling heights of nine feet and more. Layouts are open and spacious. Bedrooms are especially large with plentiful closet and storage space. Living rooms are located in the glassy, nearly-cylindrical course of bay windows at the southeast corner of the building, offering unparalleled views of the lake and the city center, and providing a dramatic backdrop to both entertaining and day-to-day living. In fact, the generous distribution of large windows and recessed balconies throughout the east and south façades provide all units with magnificent views.

“At the end of the day,” says Lagrange, “what matters most is understanding the luxury market. Luxury is not marble and brass,” he says. “It's a way of life. You have to put yourself in the minds of different people who have different lifestyles. It is more sociology than architecture. But, of course, it has to look great.”

CLIENT LR Development Company
SIZE 368,00 gross square feet, 26 stories
VALUE \$38 million
ROLE Architect
COMPLETION April 2004

LUCIEN LAGRANGE
ARCHITECTS