



Living It Up

The Clare brings assisted living to the Windy City in an ultra-modern setting.

Many Chicago residents spend their entire lives in downtown and are desperate to stay there when they need to move into an assisted-living project. Now, they have 258 new units to choose from with The Clare at Water Tower, set to open this fall.

"Most of the continued-care retirement communities are in the suburbs," says Stephen J. Bardoczi, senior vice president of planning and real estate for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corp. "It seems unfair that someone who had lived their whole life in the city wouldn't be able to retire there."

To find a site, the corporation won a bid from Loyola University to turn old classrooms into a 53-story building with rental units on top of new classrooms. "The most important element is that the city has a lot of services available to retirees that suburban areas generally don't have," Bardoczi says.

The Clare will have dual entrances—one for residents and one for students—as well as a fitness and aquatics center, dining rooms, a performance center, art gallery, chapel, library, and business center. The project will feature senior-friendly amenities such as no-step thresholds and raised countertops.

On the outside, The Clare will feature curving glass walls and a clean, contemporary style thanks to Chicago-based architects Perkins + Will.

"The architecture is contemporary but responding to the context of the area," says Perkins + Will's Bridget Lesniak, the managing principal on the project. "The sweeping curve on one side responds to the views of Lake Michigan, while the rectangle [on the other side] responds to views of the city."

Though the \$120 million construction is still under way, Bardoczi says 213 of the 251 units are presold. —*Erin Massey* (M)