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A European approach reshapes Miami's dynamic design scene

Piero Lissoni designs the exclusive project of **The Ritz-Carlton Residences**, Miami Beach

The Ritz-Carlton Residences in Miami Beach are the new frontier in ultra-luxury residential developments. Seven acres in the heart of the fashionable South Florida island, on the banks of Surprise Lake, which offer a unique panorama immersed in a rejuvenating nature.

The project's exclusivity is not only guaranteed by an exceptional property, The Ritz-Carlton, now a synonym for hospitality excellence, but also by a team of developers and top-notch designers: the developer of the Residences is 4701 North Meridian, a partnership between Lionheart Capital and Elliott Management Corporation, based in Miami; the Italian architect and designer Piero Lissoni heads the design team, supported by the firm ADD Inc. Lissoni's modern, futuristic vision is combined with the American chain's services and amenities: this has given rise to 111 apartments and 15 single-family villas, equipped with 36 private boat dockages. The interiors of all the two-to-five-bedroom homes range, which encompasses floor spaces between 500 sq m to 3000 sq m in a selection of 60 different floor plans, have been carefully executed and developed. Light pervades the spaces through large glass walls that define the architectural perimeter, creating a constant dialogue between interior and exterior. The project boasts a number of special amenities, including a waterfront social room with a bar; a ca-

tering kitchen; a tropically landscaped half-acre roof-top pool deck with stunning views of Miami Beach, Downtown Miami and Biscayne Bay; an expansive infinity-edge pool with a waterfall, spacious cabanas, a whirlpool spa and poolside Grille Restaurant; a club room with a bar, virtual golf and billiard table; a cinema-quality private theater; a children's room, and art and music rooms.

«The fusion of Piero Lissoni's modernist vision with the unrivaled service and legacy of The Ritz-Carlton is a rare offering, unmatched in South Florida - said Ophir Sternberg, CEO of Lionheart Capital - Lissoni's modern and artistic design will create a development that will change the Miami Beach skyline and how we look at luxury living».

The architect Piero Lissoni offers his own insight on the development.

What is it about your design that has conquered the American public?

To be completely honest, I don't know. Our firm was chosen by the Ritz-Carlton Residences because they saw some of our past international projects and liked our approach to building design. The project began with an original building that was difficult to deal with: it once housed a hospital,



Piero Lissoni, architect

We completely redesigned the buildings and transformed them into something new with European approach



which could not be completely demolished. They chose our firm because we are reasonably capable when it comes to this kind of task: we completely redesigned everything and transformed it into a new design, while preserving part of the old structures. This European approach to architectural intervention certainly benefited us.

What do you mean by “European approach”?

The ability to come up with a complicated design that is simultaneously respectful and courageous - this approach has been particularly developed in Europe. We are used to it, we live in complicated cities like London, Paris, Rome, Venice and Amsterdam, with a burden of historical material that is sometimes very hard to bear, but at other times it is a lifesaver. For the Miami Beach Residences, we tried to take exactly this approach.

Miami is a fast-growing city with an exciting design scene. Have you already had the opportunity to work here? How did your relationship with the property and the developer evolve?

Today the most beautiful, important and expensive projects in Miami have ended up in the hands of European architects, something that was practically impossible until five or six years ago. I have already completed some small projects here, but this is the