

Future Spaces

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23/08/2017 How will we live in the coming decades? Three central trends have emerged for urban living. We make a house call to the future—and take a car to the fifty-sixth floor to do so.

The desire of most people to live in cities and the ongoing lifestyle revolution driven by digitization will play a major role in shaping how we live in the future. Urbanity and technical innovation, however, can have very different influences on the way people live and define their immediate living spaces. Three trends in how we live stand out: luxury cocooning, green living, and smart homes.

Need an example? Done. In an apartment building, on the fifty-sixth floor, a Porsche Panamera glides out of the glass elevator and rolls directly into the apartment. The car, the epitome of mobility, becomes a spectacular home sculpture: a stunning, if temporary, interior design element. If necessary, the sports car disappears back into the elevator, floats down to the ground floor, and rolls from the square in front of the building onto the avenue. The transition between living and moving, real estate and mobility, becomes a seamless one.

Having one's car right next to the kitchen and bedroom—it's a dream come true for the residents of the Porsche Design Tower Miami in Sunny Isles Beach. The dark glassfacade soars two hundred meters into the Florida sky—the tallest building around. Sixty stories high, the elegant cylinder is home to 132 lofts starting at 390 square meters of living space. The apartments—nearly all of which have been sold—are generously dimensioned refuges, and the tower's two penthouses each encompass a stately 1,800 square meters of space and four floors. The view of the Atlantic through the floor-to-ceiling windows is breathtaking. The design of the apartments in the black, gray, and stainless steel triad that typifies Porsche Design is an unmistakable nod to the overall aesthetic of the company, for the building is its first foray into the residential real estate business.

The car as key to the apartment

For Jan Becker, CEO of the Porsche Design Group, the Tower embodies the DNA of the exclusive lifestyle brand founded by Ferdinand Alexander Porsche in 1972: functional design coupled with technical innovations. Equally clear is the dominant role played by the car in the Porsche Design Tower Miami. Each apartment has a minimum of two parking spots, and the cars themselves take on the function of the apartment key as they "drive up" to the apartment in the elevator.

But starting a combustion engine on the fifty-sixth floor is an absolute no-go. So a way had to be found to move the cars into the elevator and from there to the parking spots without using the cars' own propulsion. The solution is a system that transports the vehicles on tracks. The three elevators in the center of the tower complete the entire vehicle transport process, including the loading and unloading time, in less than two minutes.

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