

COCOON

Make a happy, stylish home

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Architect **MANNY MIÑANA**
turns a 750-sqm house
into a child-friendly home



Singles' way: Use your fine eye and knack for storage—**ITO KISH** shows how

Create lovely, compact gardens:
Tips from **SONIA NER**
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Architect **REIMON GUTIERREZ**
finds his bliss
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La Dolce Vita
SILVANA FORNARI
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entertain in their home



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EXCLUSIVE

A first look at designer
CESAR GAUPO'S
stunning mountain retreat

CHITO VIJANDRE and
RICKY TOLEDO create
a den of drama and
delightful indulgence

Create an art wall with
architect **DAN LICHAUCO**





Once completed, Acqua Private Residences' facade will resemble a pixelated water stream cascading down a mountain range.

Century Properties managing director Marco R. Antonio



Life by the river in the 21st century

Century Properties' Acqua Private Residences honors the Pasig River with a groundbreaking six-tower development designed around the themes of water and the tropical rainforest

By Joy Rojas
Photo by Pat Mateo

LOOKING at the Pasig River today, it's hard to imagine it as the beautiful body of water from centuries past, and even harder to believe that something can be done to restore it to its original state. Recent efforts by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission have reportedly yielded some marked improvement. Thus, as the clean-up continues slowly but surely in the next several years, future generations may just see the Pasig River the way their forefathers once did.

And when that day comes, future generations will also relish the comforts and conveniences of condominium living offered by Acqua Private Residences (www.acqua.com.ph). A proud development of Century Properties, Acqua sits on a 2.4-hectare prime property in Mandaluyong City directly across Rockwell Center. Access to this residential Eden is easy: there's the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, and the newly opened Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge. A water shuttle will also

be introduced, thereby giving commuters a traffic-free transfer from one city to another.

Italian for "water," Acqua takes inspiration from the Pasig River, a feature Century Properties managing director Marco R. Antonio considers the centerpiece of the project. "If you look at progressive first-world cities like London which has its Thames, or Paris and its Seine, these places embrace the river and the river life. Studies show that if you take care of the river, it contributes to the economic activity and output of the city."

Thus, the project teems with water and "water as life" motifs. Once completed, the façade of Acqua Private Residences' six imposing towers (each one named after the world's most breathtaking waterfalls) will resemble a pixelated water stream cascading down a mountain range. A 25-meter glass lap pool as well as a private lagoon pool are among the attractive health and fitness amenities of The Pebble, Acqua's exclusive



country club by the water and a structure that calls to mind a smooth river stone. With the Pasig River's restoration well in progress, admiring it up close will be possible with The Pebble's Riverwalk Promenade, a 300-meter boardwalk with restaurants and retail stores found on the country club's ground floor.

Meanwhile, lush tropical rainforest-like gardens complement Acqua's water theme and dispel the notion that condominium living limits residents to a world of concrete. All six towers are designed with rooftop parks and pocket gardens in select floors—natural accents that instantly prettify the place and promote ventilation.

Residents of Acqua's 1-, 2-, 3-bedroom and Acqua Privé units can expect top-notch facilities from the development that begins construction in 2012. An exclusive collection of units, Acqua Privé offers Townhouses, Sky Garden units, Private Garden units and Penthouses from unit sizes

ranging from 27 sqm to 140 sqm.

Even then, every unit of the 42-story Niagara, the first tower set to rise in the Acqua property in 2015, has already been sold out. The second tower called Sutherland, named after New Zealand's tallest tower, is on its pre-selling stage.

"Highest and best use of land is really condominium living," says Antonio, "and everyone, from the first-time homeowner to Filipino expats, is looking into buying quality projects in prime locations. Acqua's affordability dovetails into the country's growing middle class. Because of job opportunities both here and abroad, people are starting to experience financial independence and the ability to afford things like education for their kids, a car, or a house. We feel that we're developing a need product, and that our buyers are getting tremendous value for their money."

For information, call (+632) 818-9041 or +63 917-5555274.

Clockwise from below: Acqua Private Residences takes inspiration from the Pasig River, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation; Acqua's 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units are ideal for modern interiors; residents have access to a 25-meter glass lap pool and fully-fitted gym courtesy of the Pebble, an exclusive country club by the water.

