

NEW YORK POST

alexia

FROM THE NEW YORK POST
DECEMBER 6, 2017

The Best of Everything

**THE
MIAMI
ISSUE**





SURREAL ESTATE

**SOUTH
FLORIDA'S
TONIEST
PROPERTY
TRENDS**

BY ZACHARY KUSSIN



Architect Rene Gonzalez is raising the roof (and everything beneath it) on stately private homes that are handsomely prepped for rising tides.

Pillars of the community

SOUTH Florida is famed for its stylish waterfront real estate, but the reality of our changing environment may result in damage that's anything but chic. A recently published study claims that nearly a quarter of Miami area homes (property valued at more than \$200 billion) could face catastrophic flooding and damage should waters surge by six feet. Designers are responding to such climate threats with innovative new construction. Architect Rene Gonzalez has been commissioned by private clients to create a series of elevated, jewel-box homes. One of those, the nearly completed **Prairie Avenue** residence in Miami Beach, stands on stilts more than 10 feet above ground, hovering over a storm-resistant rolling garden that doubles as a lush outdoor living area. "It allows people to see you're not simply acting on defense, but you're creating something beautiful and poetic that can enhance [the living] experience," Gonzalez says. Architectural firms Kobi Karp and Ateliers Jean Nouvel collaborated on **Monad Terrace** (two-bedrooms from \$1.7 million), which recently began construction in South Beach. Perched 11.5 feet above the ground, it protects all living spaces (including garages) from future flooding. Meanwhile, the Sieger Suarez-designed condominium **Privé at Island Estates** (two-bedrooms from \$2.2 million) is set to take things even higher when it opens this month. The lobby sits 33 feet above sea level, while dwellings — which boast floor-to-ceiling glass, 10-foot-deep balconies and stretch up to 9,000 square feet — begin at 67 feet above the water. Putting the high in high class.