The Admiral at the Lake organization, founded in 1858, is Chicago's first and longest-serving not-for-profit senior living community. Over the years, the campus grew to encompass a cluster of buildings at Foster Avenue and Marine Drive, on the border of the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods. By the turn of the 21st century, it was clear the Continued Care Retirement Community (CCRC) had outgrown the space. In 2007, the 11-story apartment hotel and surrounding complex was torn down to make way for a new modern facility, however the project was forced to be put on hold during the economic downturn.

Due to continued growing demand for retirement housing, the project roared back to life after a two-year hiatus, opening its doors in September of 2012 ahead of schedule and under budget. The cutting-edge facility features 31 floors of living space, garden and rooftop terraces, long-term health care facilities, a multitude of restaurant-style dining, and a variety of cultural, social and recreational amenities -- including a creative arts studio, salon and spa, theater, and comprehensive aquatic and fitness center.

The Poster Child of Senior Living Development

Built with post-tensioned concrete and shelf angles on every floor, the $200 million facility boasts a sleek and modern façade of smooth finish Franklin Stone™ in Liberty Gray accented with brick on the lower levels. The classic limestone appearance of Franklin Stone pairs with the brick to add a homey feel to the residential high-rise to blend in perfectly with the classic Chicago neighborhood.

A State-of-the-Art Facility

Now one of the most popular CCRC’s in Chicago, the facility has been touted as “the poster child of the post-Great Recession senior living development trends” by CCRC LifeCast, an organization which serves as a resource for the local retirement community. The Admiral’s angular limestone and glass tower boast an elegant entryway, state-of-the-art facilities, and light-filled independent living units with spectacular views of Lake Michigan to one side and the Chicago skyline to the other.
In addition to the 31-story independent living high-rise, the structure also includes an attached 12-story healthcare facility and a 5-floor parking garage. The stair-stepped design is reminiscent of a series of fountains that gradually build upward to culminate in a tall central column. This design allows for numerous rooftop terraces and creates a striking silhouette that is surrounding by a lush park-like landscape.

About Franklin Stone™ Veneer

Franklin Stone™ is a cast stone masonry veneer which can be used as a substitute for limestone and other natural stone products. White portland cement is combined with fine aggregates to create a highly dense product with a texture that emulates natural limestone and is available with four distinct finishes: Smooth Face, Rock Face, Chisel Face, and Texture Face. Unlike other masonry units, the aggregates do not show, giving Franklin Stone its consistent natural stone appearance. Franklin Stone is part of the Echelon™ Masonry portfolio of products manufactured by Oldcastle® Architectural.

Architect Firm: Perkins + Will, Inc. - Dallas, TX
General Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease Construction, Inc. - Chicago, IL
Engineering Firm: Thornton Tomasetti – New York, NY

MAC is proud to feature projects such as this to the architectural and building community. For more information, visit our website at: masonryadvisorycouncil.org