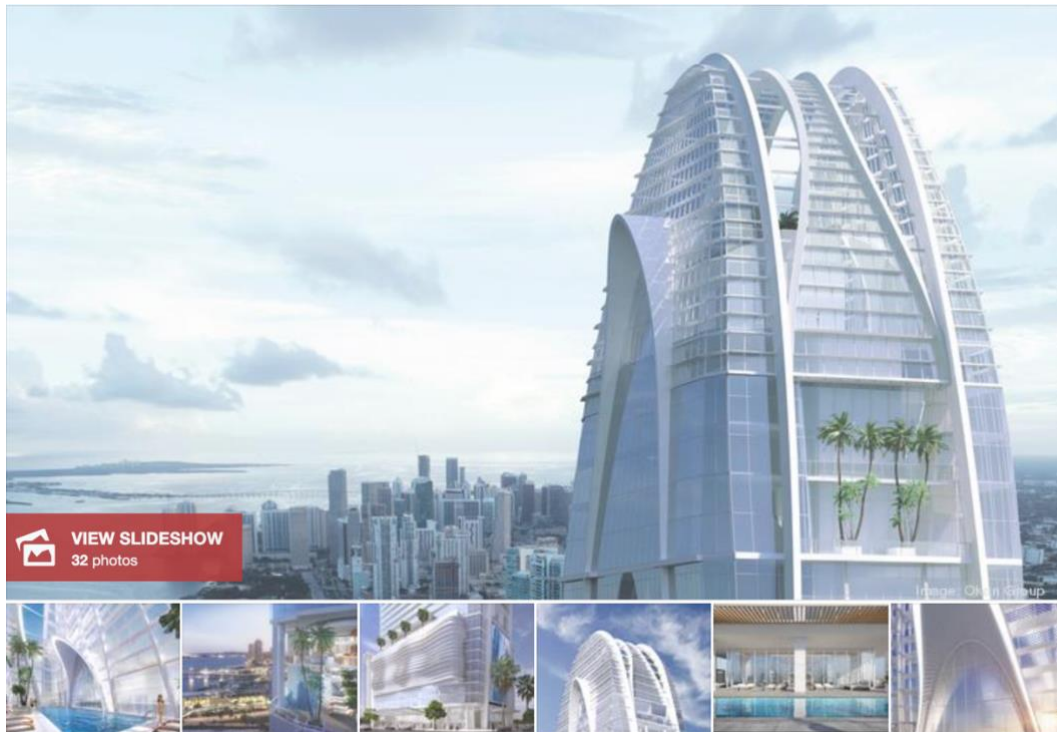


Okan Group breaks ground on tallest building in Florida

Brian Bandell | June 17, 2022



Okan Group broke ground in downtown Miami on Okan Tower, which would be the tallest building in Florida.

Located at 555 N. Miami Ave., the condo, hotel and office tower would soar 70 stories, or 902 feet tall. Currently, the tallest building in Florida is Panorama Tower in Miami at 868 feet.

It would also feature the highest pool in the United States, said [Kasim Badak](#), CEO of Okan Group's development arm in Miami. He said it would be a \$400 million project.

Okan Group is led by Turkish businessman and developer [Bekir Okan](#). Badak said Okan has been coming to Miami for 23 years because his children went to college here and he bought a condo in Miami Beach.

"He loves Miami very much," Badak said. "He said, 'Why don't we do construction in Miami?' so we found the land and hired an architect to design the building for us."

Coral Gables-based Behar Font & Partners designed Okan Tower with a tulip shape, one of the national symbols of Turkey. It will have a 316-room Hilton Miami Bayfront Hotel, 236 short-term rental condos managed by Hilton, 163 “sky residences” condos, another 14 two-story lofts, and 64,000 square feet of office space. The typical floor will have 10.5-foot ceilings, so the units will feel large.

The amenities would include three pool decks, two for residents and one for hotel guests. The infinity-edge pool on the 70th floor would be for residents only. Other amenities would include a fitness center, a spa with steam rooms and saunas, a theater, a wine cellar, and a children’s play rooms.

Badak said the condos will range from 450 to 2,000 square feet. Prices start at \$600,000.

After selling 120 condos in the last three months, the developer has nearly 40% of Okan Tower pre-sold, he added. The buyers are evenly split between South America/Mexico and the United States, mostly the Northeast, California and Chicago. There are also some buyers from Turkey, he said.

Miami-based Fortune International Group is the residential broker.

Badak said Okan Group hasn’t hired a broker for the five floors of office space. The company hasn’t decided what to do with the offices at Okan Tower. Okan Group might occupy some of the space itself, he added.

“It’s an honor and privilege to be delivering our first major mixed-use project in Miami. Our vision for Okan Tower was to bring something truly unparalleled to the area and introduce a new paradigm for living in downtown,” Okan stated.

The general contractors of Okan Tower are Miami-based Civic Construction and Ant Yapi Construction, a Turkish company with an office in Miami.

The developer said Okan Tower should be completed in 2026. The questions is which building will be the tallest in Miami at that time.

Swire Properties and the Related Cos. recently announced plans for the 1,000-foot [One Brickell City Centre](#) office tower. JDS Development Group and Major Food Group revealed plans for the 1,049-foot [The Major](#) condo. Property Markets Group and Greybrook Realty Partners hope to build the 1,049-foot [Waldorf Astoria Residences Miami](#). None of those projects have broken ground, so Okan Group has a head start on the competition for the tallest building title.