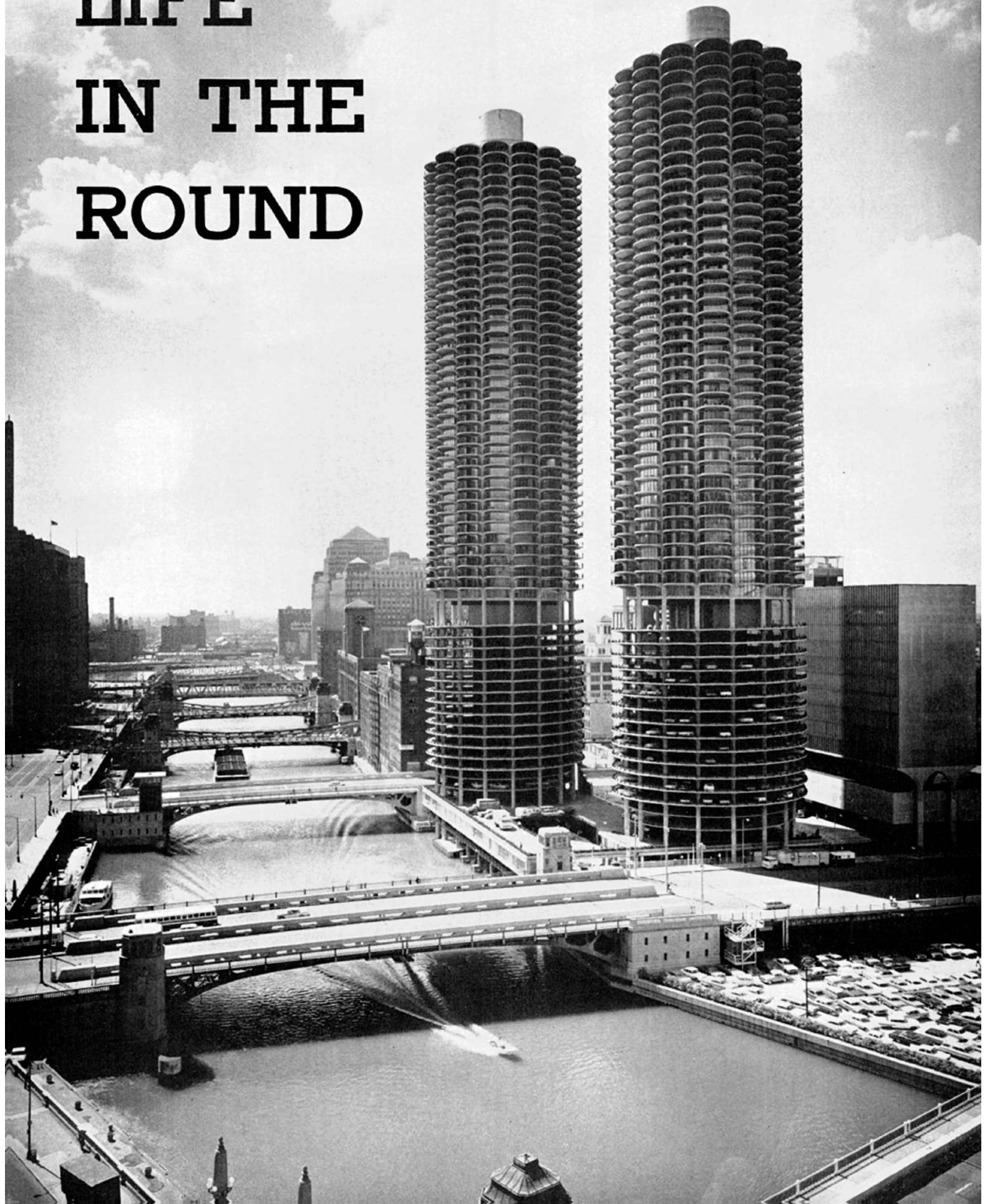


LIFE IN THE ROUND





Reading on balcony of her three-room apartment, Geraldine Johnson gets the benefit of outdoor living without the bother of ground-level dirt and noise. Costing more than \$40 million, Marina City features all-electric apartments with heating and air conditioning individually controlled by thermostats at the discretion of the tenants.

Chicago's Marina City is a radical departure from conventional apartment living

THE 588-foot twin towers are giant corn cobs. So many kernels are the 896 apartments of the world's tallest residential buildings. But Chicago's 60-story, Marina City is anything but "corny." Not only is it an imaginative application of circles to architecture, it is also a focal point of one of the newest trends in urban living—the building within cities of miniature cities having their own stores, restaurants, laundries, parking garages, banking services and recreational facilities. Footing on the Chicago River, Marina City gets its name from a marina on the ground level which has mooring space for 700 power boats and facilities for year-around storage. The ultra-modern housing is especially suited to childless couples and single persons (in the \$5,000-\$10,000 income class) like grade school teacher-librarian Geraldine Johnson who lives in a three-room apartment.

When Geraldine arises mornings she often drinks her coffee on her 45th floor balcony overlooking Lake Michigan and the patch work quilt of rectangles and cubes on Chicago's Northside. It is a stratospheric world, so far removed from earthlings that their noises are only a whisper. On a clear day, Geraldine can spot objects 15 miles away. "The spectacular view is one of the nicest things about living here," she says. Another is the fact that she is within walking distance of the downtown section Chicagoans call "the Loop." "Since I'm almost in the heart of everything, I don't own a car," Geraldine says. In fact, about one-fourth of Marina City's more than 1,100 tenants are car-less for just about the same reason.

One exception is 30-year-old Albert Gaskin. Unlike suburbanites who must commute to central city jobs, the real estate broker is an urbanite who drives every day to his office in suburban Evanston. Before moving into Marina City more than a year ago, Gaskin had sought similar housing in Evanston and was turned down because of his race. He suffered the same rebuff on Chicago's Northside. Determined to live

as near his work as possible, the bachelor ignored cheaper housing further away and accepted a three-room apartment at Marina City.

Since he works long hours, six days a week, Gaskin—like many of his neighbors—is not home long enough to sample their reactions to him. Once when he was in the laundry room, however, a lady came in to show a friend around. Spotting him, the lady said: "Oh! You have a lot of machines to take care of, don't you?"

"I don't work here," Gaskin replied. "I live here."

On another occasion he stepped in an automatic elevator with a father and his children. The man asked: "What floor do you want punched?"

"Thirty-five."

"You live on thirty-five?" There was a hint of disbelief in the man's question.

"Yes."

"Oh! I hadn't heard any noise."

"No," replied Gaskin, slightly peeved at the trotting out of a familiar stereotype. "My neighbors are quiet."

In general, however, race has not been a problem for the six Negroes living in Marina City. "I've gotten to know several of my neighbors," Gaskin says. "The only problem I have is with friends who want to drop in with out-of-town guests to show them the latest in apartment living. This means I have to keep everything neat and clean at all times. I never know when I'll have visitors. I guess I ought to charge an admission fee."

The Marina City management does just that in self defense, because more than 12,000 persons a month come to gawk at its model apartments. Although the adult admission fee may be raised from twenty-five cents to one dollar in hope of keeping crowds at a minimum, Marina City will be a sightseer's must for some time to come.



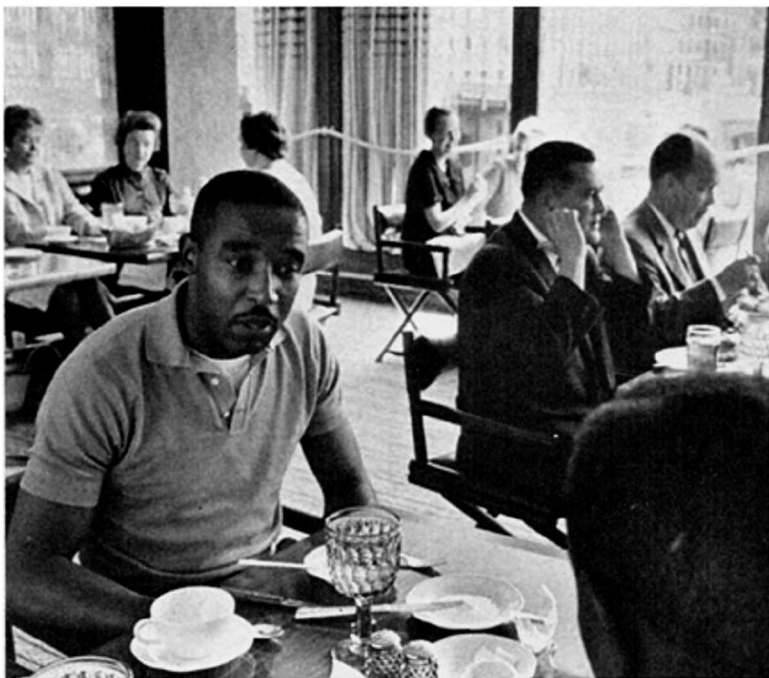
Special camera shot of Albert Gaskin from his living room balcony catches him outside his bedroom. Miss Johnson, an amateur dancer, practices (above) on her balcony. Monthly rents range from \$115 to \$350.

Laundry room in Marina City (below), with coin-operated machines, is used frequently by Gaskin. Ground for the three-acre Marina City site was broken in November 1960. Towers are great tourist attraction.



Chicago river running past Marina City catches Gaskin's interest. First 18 floors of housing development has garage space for 900 cars which can be parked for \$30 a month.





Luncheon guest in one of three Marina City restaurants listens while Gaskin recalls reserving space for a dinner meeting of his civic club, The Norshore Twelve. Steak dinners for the entire group cost him \$45. Restaurant overlooks Chicago River.



Paintings in art shop of Marina City lobby are scrutinized by tenant. A lover of the arts, Miss Johnson studied creative dramatics and linguistics at Columbia University last summer on a fellowship granted by the Chicago Board of Education.



Television banking permits patrons, like Miss Johnson, and tellers to have full picture and sound communication while papers and money are sent back and forth via pneumatic tubes.



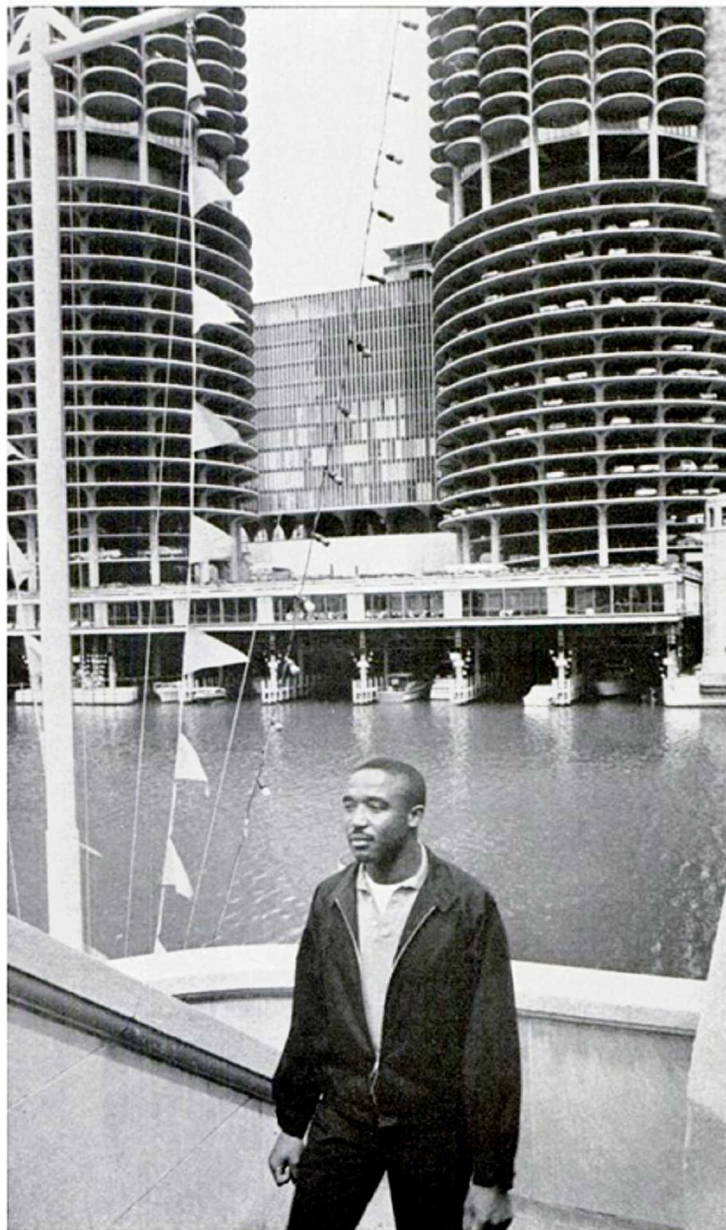
Living room provides relaxation for teacher-librarian. A service core pierces center of each Marina City tower. From core the apartments radiate in a flower-petal plan which places bathrooms, storage closets and kitchens nearest the core



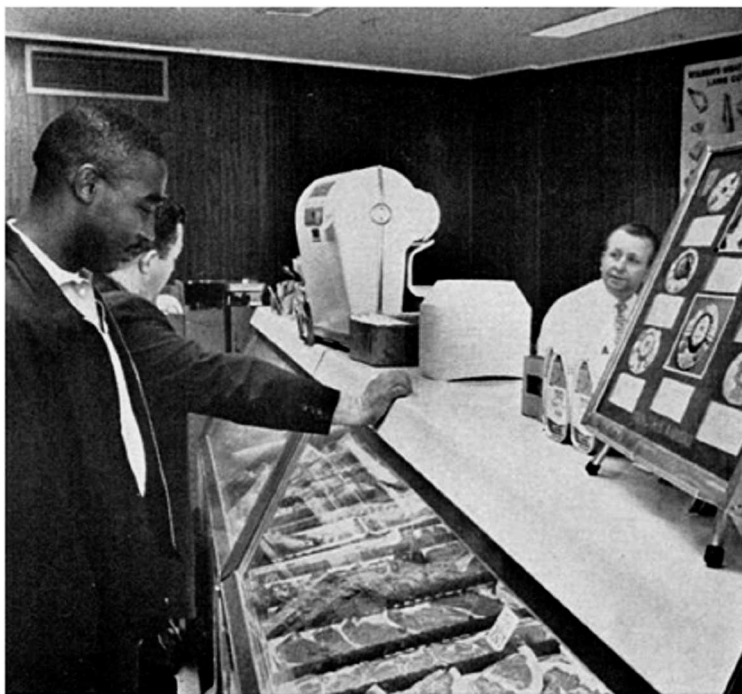
Ice skating rink at Marina City is 110 feet long, 50 feet wide. Still to be completed is a building for movies and legitimate theater. Building will contain a 1,200-seat auditorium divisible into smaller spaces for community meetings, etc



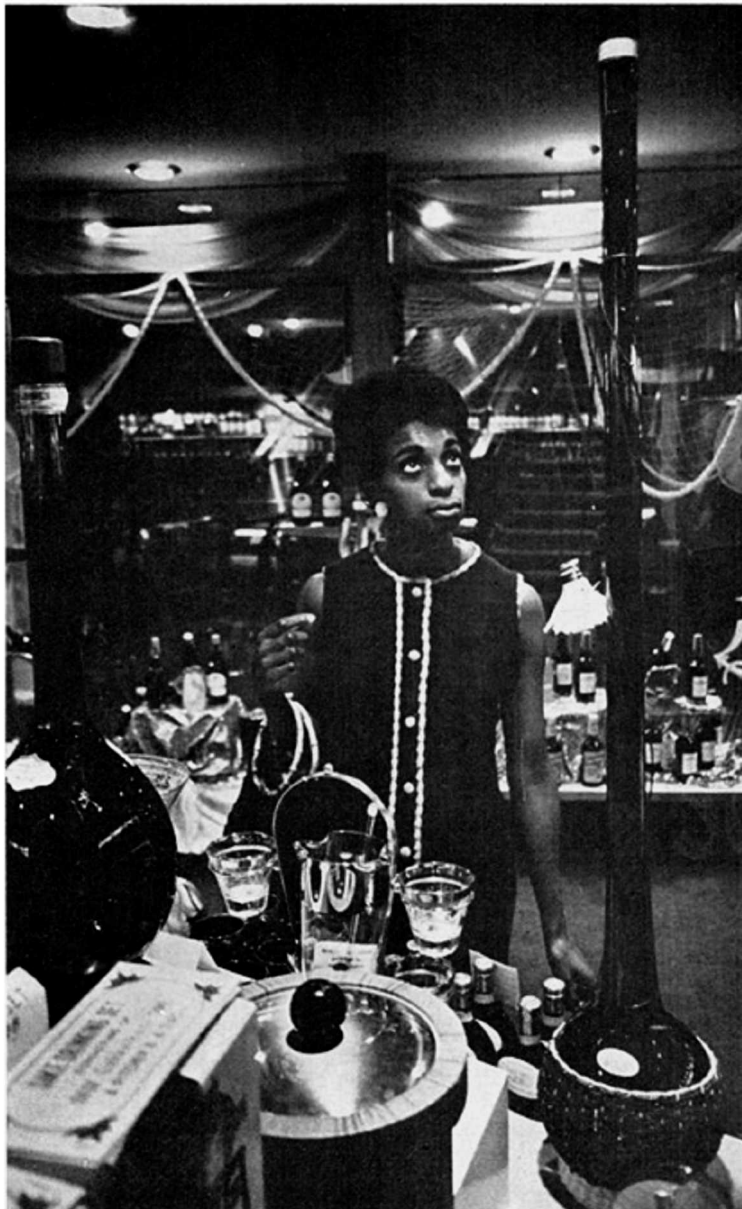
Observation deck of Marina City's east tower provides 360-degree view of Chicago, is also used by tenants for sun bathing. Deck is closed to the general public. In background is Chicago lake front.



Marina for power boats is situated beneath restaurants which overlook river's edge. Marina has had to turn away as many as 40 boats a day seeking service. Pleasure boating is popular in Chicago.



Grocery shopping is easy for Gaskin and other Marina City tenants because store is located in lobby. For some, living downtown is a new status symbol, reducing the mechanics of the daily routine and giving them more time for leisurely activities.



Liquor store in Marina City lobby is visited occasionally by Miss Johnson. The management says housing development has a tenant turnover rate of only about one per cent a year. The average rent paid by the occupants is \$175 a month.



Collection of fabrics from Africa are admired by Geraldine during her visit to the National Design Center located in 10-story commercial building of Marina City. Spiral staircase (below) dominates the lobby of the center.



Man's bedroom has its own half-balcony. Marina City planners aimed to revitalize downtown area by bringing 900 families to live within two blocks. Design is tailor-made for persons dissatisfied with drawbacks of suburban life.