

USA

Argus der Presse AG

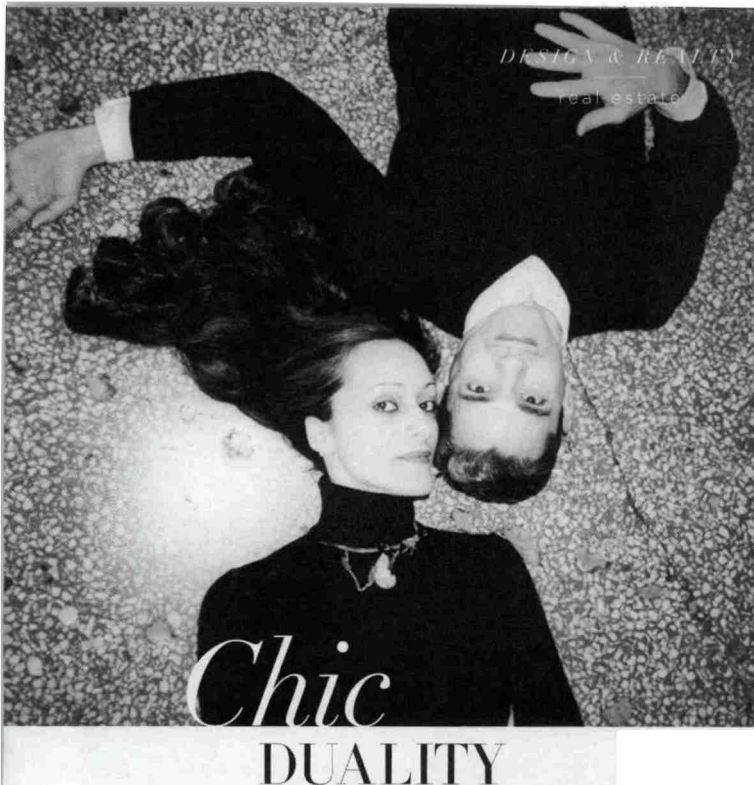
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TEAM EFFORT
 Clockwise from top left: Fashion designer Isabel Toledo and artist Ruben Toledo, who recently entered into an artistic collaboration with the Park Grove residential high-rise; a sketch by Ruben for Park Grove.

Renowned creatives Ruben and Isabel Toledo infuse a dose of their symbiotic artistry into Park Grove.

By Drew Limsky

As if Park Grove already didn't have a distinguished enough aesthetic pedigree, the residential Coconut Grove property—with architecture by Rem Koolhaas and landscaping by Enzo Enea—recently welcomed in the fashionable Cuban-born duo of Ruben and Isabel Toledo to add their creative vision to the project. Ruben is the protean artist—he paints, sculpts, illustrates and draws—who has had his work shown in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Louvre, and created the book jacket illustrations for Penguin Classics Deluxe Editions from *Jane Eyre* to *Pride and Prejudice*. Isabel, the internationally renowned fashion designer, was fresh off a brief stint as creative director for Anne Klein when she memorably provided Michelle Obama's outfit for President Obama's inaugural swearing-in ceremony in 2008.

The New York-based pair enjoys an enviably fruitful relationship; they were awarded the 2005 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for their work in fashion. "We collaborate all the time," says Ruben. "I dabble in fashion, although what I do is fine art, and then Isabel gets to

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Ruben Toledo ▶

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dabble in all my crazy projects. One day she's doing a fitting for a couture client and the next day she's trying

to help me figure out a museum installation." Ruben says they met as "young kids" and "are very different aesthetically." He describes Isabel as introspective, deliberative and minimalist, while he describes himself as baroque and impulsive. "But

that's what happens when love strikes." Isabel adds that their alchemy is consistently inspiring—and surprising: "We have the absolute knowledge that we do not know what the other is thinking at all times and the absolute trust to welcome the unknown."

When Park Grove (where residences start at \$2 million) offered the New York-based Toledos another opportunity to collaborate, they grabbed it. "Park Grove combines history, art and architecture—a lot of my favorite things," says Ruben, who is especially keen on the Coconut Grove location. "It's such a mysterious, mystical place—something about the light is magical." His large watercolors—"5 or 6 feet tall by 30 feet long," he says—will decorate the development, which marks a partnership between Terra Group and The Related Group. It's a special moment for Ruben's work in such a long and versatile career: His wallcoverings will soon decorate the Frank Gehry-designed Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, arguably the most buzzed-about new building in the world right now.

Meanwhile, Isabel recently hosted a private fashion show at Park Grove's penthouse sales gallery showcasing her spring 2015 collection for an elite class of buyers. More such presentations are likely in the future. "[It was like] serving up delicious candy to kids," she says. "They understand and appreciate it. They participate in the dream that is high fashion and are part of the collective experience of the fashion happening, of the spectacle, and that is very rewarding to me. [It was a] crowd full of joie de vivre—very true to the Grove." 2701 S. Bayshore Drive, Miami, 305.834.7600, park-grove.com