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A foundation for growth

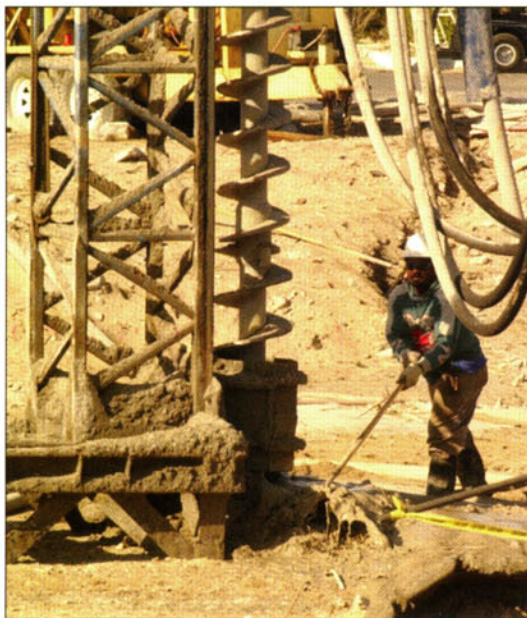
Development sites are getting smaller but the buildings are getting bigger. That means there's a need for the technology of building foundations to evolve.

Here, at the site of the Acqualina luxury condominium development in Sunny Isles in northern Miami-Dade County, photographer Mark Freerks went behind the scenes to watch H.J. Foundation create auger-cast piles.

The drill the company uses is European. According to the trade publication *Engineering News-Record*, the European models have been used in tight urban environments where noise and vibration can adversely impact nearby structures. The machines can easily core through tough obstructions, the trade publication said. And while costly, they are quietly replacing mechanical rigs.

In Florida, where geological conditions vary, driving piles can be a challenging endeavor. A recently purchased hydraulic drilling rig, far left, burrows a tube into the limestone. Concrete is then poured as the drill retreats, often displacing water below. At left, a worker on site prepares for drilling. Below, are H.J. Foundation President Edwin Hickey and VP Bob Johnson. Bottom, Rinker cement trucks line up to begin pumping in concrete to form the foundation.

- Alexis Muellner



PHOTOS BY MARK FREERKS