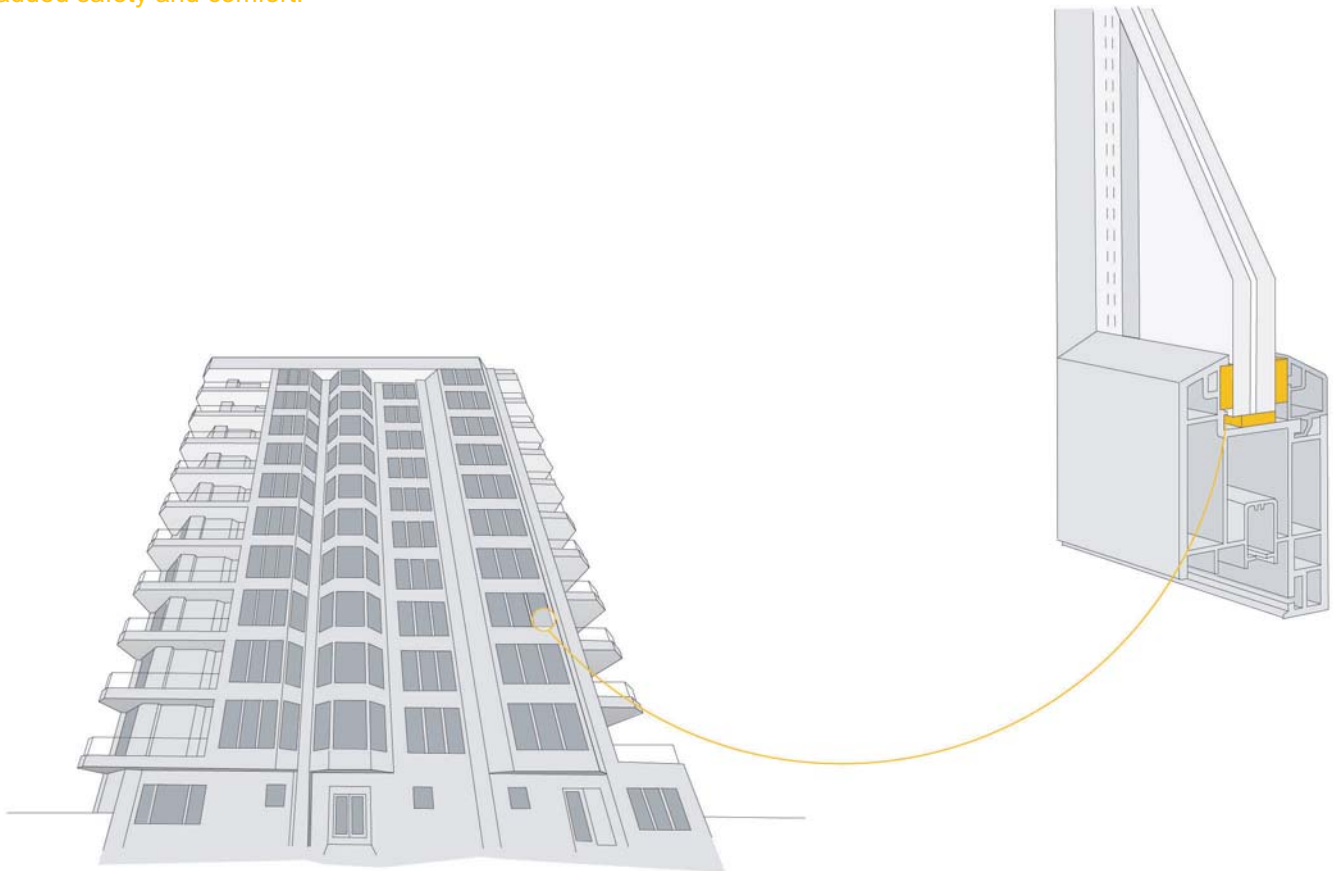


## Claridge Condominiums, Palm Beach, Florida

Glass bonded with Sikaflex®-552  
for added safety and comfort.



**Glazing reinforces building structure:** Nothing is more fragile than luck and glass, so the saying goes. It holds true in the first instance. However such wisdom is outdated in respect to glass – at least windows. By combining technology with perfected products, window design now turns the alleged weakness of glass into a source for added stability in buildings.

The principle was developed in automotive engineering: Glass and vehicle frame bonded and sealed with Sikaflex® high-performance adhesives improve vehicle stiffness. The world's architects are now exploiting this technology. By bonding the laminated glass to the frame, the glass turns into a load-bearing element, reinforcing the frame. The resulting increase in stiffness enables sleek and innovative frame designs. The technique is not only impressive but also gives architects greater freedom in creating more elegant building facades. An extra benefit: costs are lower because windows can be manufactured more economically and installation is simplified.

The technology meets even the strictest safety standards – like those prevalent in hurricane-prone Florida. Tests performed in the United States prove that glass bonded to the frame with Sikaflex®-552 complies handily with all safety norms. The technology also fulfills other safety considerations (burglary, bullet and explosion resistance) and, additionally, enhances living comforts (increases view and soundproofing). The fenestration of the attractive Claridge Condominiums near Palm Beach, Florida, features hurricane-resistant windows. Thus residents can safely look into the eye of raging storms from any of the 20 «ultra-luxury oceanfront» apartments. The condos testify to the advantages inherent to construction with prefabricated components, a state-of-the art technology which thanks to Sika adhesives is becoming well established. Applicable to any building, the technology is economical, conforms to the highest standards and allows for greater creative expression by architects and builders. The tale about breaking glass definitely belongs to fairytale lore.

