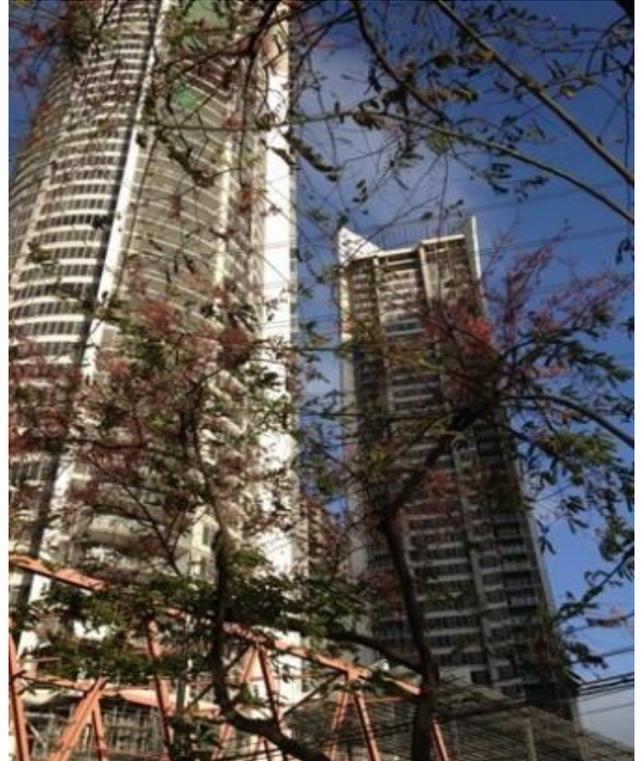


SKYSCRAPERS GALORE

The area within the vicinity of our Makati house is sprouting highrises, especially in the Rockwell area and what used to be the Colgate-Palmolive compound next to the river. This also includes the Mandaluying area across the river. See left below.



To the left of the Pasig river is a massive complex of at least 60 floors that seems being overtaken by the condos on the Makati side whose pace of abuilding is very fast. Closeup on right. The buildings further upriver flank EDSA at the Guadalupe bridge.

And even on our street parallel to one side of the Rockwell Mall Compound, residential lots are giving way to multi story condos, 5 so far, as shown below. Note round high rise which is in Rockwell.



So it wasn't surprising that the flimsily built garage on left in this 2008 view was improved by 2016 to be a club-

house and studio, called Pineapple Labs, above. A month ago, demolition started to make way for another condo. And it happens to be right beside our property. Photo on right was taken 4 days ago with lot fenced off, and our first apartment's firefall refinished with waterproofing. Our house with blue roof is behind.



Before and after shots at the property line.

When we built our prefab house, the firewall of the adjacent property was already there, so we didn't build a new wall. When it was demolished, we had to build a temporary wall, shown on left.

The past 2 weeks we have been in our house has been almost unbearable due to the noise of the adjacent demolition.



The culprit was a backhoe tractor with an articulated arm that is fitted with bucket to scoop up and load debris on trucks such in the middle photo, or a powerful hydraulic jackhammer that thumps it's way into the concrete structure to break it up, or into the adobe bedrock to dig one level below grade for the underground garage, as in the right photo.



Debris of the demolished building, resulting in the exposed wall of our rental property.

The refinished, waterproofed wall after we made "palitada".

The thumping of the jackhammer was most disturbing because it would shake the ground. It takes over a year to build a highrise of this size, but fortunately, as assured by the owner, only 3-4 weeks for digging the foundations whereby the jackhammer is used.

There was a week's delay when the geodetic engineer verified the property lines. I pointed out both "mojons", as shown.



Then, the digging into the ground for carving out the basement of the highrise started in earnest. All thumping and jackhammering. It was noisy and distressing. But at least, was not round the clock.

However, while the jackhammer was employed during the day, the hauling out of the debris and rock and soil can only be done at night, because there is a total daytime truck ban. The noise of the backhoe loading debris to the dump trucks was certainly more bearable than jackhammering. But the work sometimes extended to 3:30 in the morning.



Finally, finally, the digging got to be deep enough and the jackhammering stopped. Photos on left show both adjacent properties for the highrise-to-be. Pouring of concrete and other construction activities cannot be as noisy as jackhammering. My next week's stay in our vacation house will be in peace and quiet.

I now wonder whether conditions might ever be such that I sell out to a developer for another highrise?

Danny Gil, 4/10/18