

## Foster Triumphs In Competition To Design NYC Skyscraper

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Yesterday, we featured the Hearst Tower by Foster + Partners in our roundup of New York City's best architecture completed in the past decade. Now comes news that the UK-based firm has won a commission to design another office tower here in Gotham, this one a 687-foot-tall glass skyscraper at 425 Park Avenue. It will be in good company: Nearby edifices include the Seagram Building and Lever House. Foster beat out luminaries such as Rem Koolhaas, Richard Rogers, and Zaha Hadid in an international competition.

Lord Norman Foster says he feels honored to take on the project. "I have a personal connection with New York, which has been a source of inspiration since my time at Yale, when the new towers on Park Avenue and its neighborhoods were a magnet for every young architect," he said in a statement. "Seeing firsthand the works of Mies van der Rohe, Gordon Bunshaft, Eero Saarinen, and Philip Johnson was tremendously exciting then—I am delighted to have this very special opportunity to design a contemporary tower to stand alongside them."

The tower will replace a 32-story building completed in 1957. At 625,000 square feet, the Foster building will reportedly be the first full-block office tower to rise on Park Avenue in nearly 50 years. The skyscraper will be divided into three tiers of varying heights, each demarcated by landscaped terraces. The design is assertive while still responding to its context. "Clearly expressing the geometry of its structure, the tapered steel-frame tower rises to meet three shear walls that will be illuminated, adding to the vibrant New York City skyline," explains the firm. Inside, the building will feature large open spaces designed for flexibility.

The project is being developed by L&L Holding Company and Lehman Brothers Holdings. Construction is slated to begin in 2015, with an opening planned for 2017.

Want to learn more? Foster and David Levinson, CEO of L&L Holding, will present the design during the Municipal Arts Society's third annual Summit for New York City on October 19.