

## Foster Designs Plush Park Avenue Tower

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Foster and Partners has beaten off rival firms and won a competition to design a plush new tower for 425 Park Avenue in New York.

The project is being developed by L&L Holding Company and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. who want a plus new headquarters on an exclusive address. Lehman Brothers, as readers may remember, is the infamous bank that went bust in 2008 and almost crashed the global economy.

The project evokes a traditional New York skyscraper with a large low-rise base that fills up the plot and then steps back from there. The architects have designed it to consist of three vertical elements, the low-rise, mid-rise, and high-rise.

Sky gardens separate each section offering outdoors space for tenants. The floor space is column-free with the core set to the back of the building and an external structural steel frame for each floor. At ground level the project could have a new civic plaza with public art to show the largesse of the companies who occupy it.

With the concept now complete, the next step of the development will be a two year programme to hone the design. As part of the PR push, to try and win over New York's great and good, Lord Foster will be putting in an appearance at the Municipal Arts Society's summit. The developers hope if they are successful in winning over the planning authorities construction can begin in 2015 with the skyscraper completed in 2017.