

The Lord Of Park Avenue

Foster clinches competition for new Midtown tower.

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Foster + Partners have won an invited competition for a new office building on Park Avenue for L&L Holdings and Lehman Brothers Holdings. Lord Foster's firm bested entries by finalists OMA, Zaha Hadid Architects, and Rogers, Sirk, Harbour + Partners. The 625,000-square-foot tower will neighbor icons like the Seagram Building and Lever House.

"Our aim is to create an exceptional building, both of its time and timeless, as well as being respectful of this context—a tower that is for the city and for the people that will work in it, setting a new standard for office design and providing an enduring landmark that befits its world-famous location," Norman Foster said in a statement. The three-tiered tower's architectural vocabulary is a contemporary take on midcentury precedents. Each tier will have its own landscaped terrace, and the tower is designed with large, flexible floor plates. The building will be LEED certified.

"We are looking forward to beginning a process in which we translate Foster's brilliant concept into a modern tower which offers its inhabitants the most functional and environmentally sustainable work environment imaginable while also addressing the public realm in a way that hasn't been accomplished in many years," said David Levinson, L&L Holdings Chairman, in a statement.

L&L and Lehman Holdings previously invited 11 internationally renowned firms before narrowing the list to the four finalists. Vishaan Chakrabarti, director of Columbia's Center for Real Estate and a partner at SHoP Architects, led the competition process.

Foster will present his design at the Municipal Art Society's Summit for New York City on October 18. An exhibition of all of the finalist's designs will be on display at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Hall, where the two-day summit will be held.