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Foster's 425 Park Avenue.

Foster's seizes coveted Manhattan skyscraper job

Foster & Partners has beaten some of the biggest names in architecture to win a competition for a new skyscraper in New York.

The practice has been appointed to design 425 Park Avenue, a 60,000sq m tapering tower that will replace a 1957 "wedding cake" building in the heart of Manhattan.

Foster's saw off stiff competition from fellow finalists Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners, OMA and Zaha Hadid Architects. All four are led by Pritzker laureates.

The invited longlist also included KPF, Renzo Piano, Richard Meier and Jean Nouvel.

The site, in the upscale Plaza district, is close to the Seagram Building and Lever House.

It will be the first full-block office

development on this historic stretch of Park Avenue in nearly half a century.

A thrilled Norman Foster spoke of his personal connection with New York stretching back to his student days at Yale when the city's new towers were a "magnet for every young architect".

"Seeing first-hand the works of Mies van der Rohe, Gordon Bunshaft, Eero Saarinen and Philip Johnson was tremendously exciting then," he said. "I am delighted to have this very special opportunity to design a contemporary tower to stand alongside them.

"Our aim is to create an exceptional building, both of its time and timeless, as well as being respectful of this context."