

Urban Architecture 425 Park Avenue in NYC / Foster + Partners

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Norman Foster of Foster + Partners, the architect of Hearst Tower and of the planned 2 World Trade Center, has been chosen to redesign 425 Park Avenue, a nondescript 55-year-old white brick office tower on a prime site, between 55th and 56th Streets.

Each of the three tiers – low, medium and high-rise – is defined by a landscaped terrace that provides an excellent amenity for tenants and offers panoramic views across Manhattan and Central Park. At the street level, the conceptual design for 425 Park Avenue gives as much to the City as to the people that will work in it with the potential for a large civic plaza marked by significant works of art.

The conceptual design will serve as the framework for a two-year collaborative process with L&L Holding's project team to create a fully formed architectural and construction plan for the 425 Park Avenue tower. L&L Holding anticipates the start of construction in 2015 with the new 425 Park Avenue tower to be completed by the end of 2017.

Mr. Foster was picked from an invited field of four internationally renowned architects — starchitects — who competed for the 425 Park Avenue commission. The others were Zaha Hadid of Zaha Hadid Architects, Rem Koolhaas of OMA, and Richard Rogers of Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners.