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Welcome to Walker Tower...



A first look at the next 'it' place to live in Manhattan

As downtown buildings go, the former New York Telephone building on West 18th Street in the Chelsea neighbourhood of New York doesn't have immediate street appeal unless you're a person with an eye for detail and you can appreciate the imposing block long building's muscular design and art deco styling. But many have seen its virtues, especially those looking to live in a prewar building with tonnes of character and Empire State Building views which is why the luxury residences at the newly refashioned Walker Tower are selling like hotcakes to a tony crowd of tastemakers and A-listers who are paying record prices to live there. On Monday the press got a first peek at the legendary Walker Tower, including the model unit (pictured here) and the duplex penthouse unit featuring 360 degree city and river views that the Wall Street Journal reported could fetch a cool \$98 million.

Designed by Ralph Thomas Walker, The Walker Tower is a 24 storey building in the heart of Chelsea that is being transformed to luxury condominiums by JDS Development Group and Property Markets Group with CetraRuddy Architects. When completed, the building will house 47 luxury condominium residences that incorporate the building's original design details and include all the conveniences of modern upscale residential living.

But the priceless amenity here are the protected 360 degree views of Manhattan that are unique to the building since it was built before height limits were enacted and is one of the few buildings in the area that rises high above its surroundings.

The residences, which range from one to five bedroom units and are priced between \$4.5 and 50 million, have a loft like feel with 18' ceilings, large rooms and floor to ceiling windows. More than half of the residences have private terraces and 11 units have wood-burning fireplaces. All of the units have an abundance of luxury appointments such as radiant floor heating, French herringbone oak flooring, Smallbone kitchens, marble bathrooms with Waterworks fixtures and steam showers. The building amenities too are numerous and include a 24-hour doorman, concierge, library lounge with pantry and bar, children's playroom, fitness center with yoga room, sauna, and a landscaped common roof deck with a dining area, sun lawn, observation deck and covered cabana room.

The Walker seemingly has it all, including being one of the few buildings in the city to be named after its architect.