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**Big names in real estate discuss the evolution
of the city's skyline and how New Yorkers'
changing lifestyles are influencing
architecture and design**

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This year, *AVENUE* sat down with New York's top real estate professionals to talk about what's on their minds. From the state of the market to who's buying what and where, conversations flowed. Joining us were experts in complementary fields like architecture, design and conservation. The one thing everyone could agree on: there's only one New York—and it's back and better than ever.

James “Ford” Huniford & Suzanne MacKenzie

AVENUE: What makes Manhattan House, which you two worked together on, so unique?

Suzanne MacKenzie: It was the first of architect Gordon Bunshaft’s residential buildings in the city. It was recognized as an important example of Modernist architecture when it was landmarked in 2007.

AVENUE: How did you feel when you saw it?

James “Ford” Huniford: I was excited for this great opportunity—the “bones” of the building and the courtyard really set it apart.

SM: And the residences themselves are truly modern with clean lines, gracious room proportions and double exposures.

Ford: I think an important difference between

Manhattan House and many other developments in New York is the quality level of the construction. They really have a team of craftsmen. Rather than a sheetrock box, they have demising walls of plaster like what is often only found in construction of an earlier era. So I strove for a quiet elegance to enhance what was already there.

SM: Right. And Ford’s model residence and the promotion around it has done a lot for us to spark sales of larger homes, which are back—a really positive thing for the city.

Ford: And I was pleased to work with many great features, like walk-in closets and large kitchens with very high-end appliances, a powder room with a beautiful wood vanity and a stone tub, a bar in the media room—such a rare thing in New York.

AVENUE: Ford, do you have a specific style that distinguishes all your work?

Ford: I approach each project in a different way, but I think I’m a modernist at heart. So whether it’s a country house in the Hamptons or an Upper East Side apartment, there’s a thread that carries through my work. It’s strong, but not overwhelming, with a creativity that balances function and form.

To me, the buyer profile for Manhattan House ranges from young families with children to singles and couples of all ages who want something with incredible service, great views and all the convenience of the Upper East Side.

SM: It’s very livable and comfortable, which is what Manhattan House and the area are all about.



James “Ford” Huniford, interior and furniture designer (l.), and Suzanne MacKenzie, Partner, O’Connor Capital Partners, and Director of Marketing, Advertising and PR for Manhattan House (r.)