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50% of Condos at Former Williamsburgh Savings Bank Have Been Snapped Up

Brooklyn's First Borders Coming to Banking Floor

By Linda Collins

FORT GREENE — Buyers are coming to One Hanson Place from Manhattan, from elsewhere in Brooklyn, and even from Asia, according to Barbara Wagner, a spokesperson for the developer The Dermot Company.

There are no buyers yet, however, for either of the two full-floor, three-bedroom penthouses or for the very unique four-story "townhouse in the sky," she said.

They appear to be snapping up other units, which are a mix of studios, one- and two-bedroom units. The conversion is nearly complete on the 78-year-old 37-story Brooklyn icon, best known as the Williamsburgh Savings Bank, with occupancy anticipated for late fall.

The Dermot Company and The Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund, with its connection to Magic Johnson, have been transforming the 78-year-old building, including the updating of its exterior, plus the golden dome at the top and the four-sided clock tower, reportedly the world's largest.

The "townhouse in the sky" is located in that tower, in fact.

Calling Fort Greene the cultural soul of Brooklyn, Adam Pacelli, who is overseeing sales for the building, says the proximity to BAM is attracting buyers.

"But more than that, buyers are attracted to the building itself because it is an icon, it is Brooklyn's tallest building since it opened in 1927 and its historical features and views are unmatched," he said. Among those historical features are a 40-foot main entrance, terrazzo and marble floors, stone walls, arched mosaic ceilings and decorative chandeliers.

Upstairs, the interiors of the units are just as grand, according to Pacelli.

Designed by H. Thomas O'Hara Architects, the interiors include gourmet kitchens and custom-designed bathrooms, high ceilings (10' 6") and oversized windows and some have private terraces. In addition to the Borders planned for the former banking floor, the developers have dedicated common space for the residents, like the Sky Lounge, basically a clubroom with a terrace; a 24-hour business center featuring dual platform computers, a children's playroom, and a gym, which also has its own outdoor terrace.

The terraces are a unique feature of the building, which was conceived in 1926. Ground broke in 1927. By May 1929, the bank building was the tallest structure in Brooklyn, soaring 512 feet. Today, it still remains the borough's most recognizable building. In 1977, it was declared an historic landmark. The price range for the landmark's units is from \$620,000 to \$1.2 million — not including the penthouses and townhouse.



Brooklyn Eagle-Views of Brooklyn's icon, now known as One Hanson Place, including its unique gold-domed, four-sided clock tower; the entryway to one of its model units; the elegant banking floor (near left), which will eventually house a Borders; and its exterior on a recent day. Images at left courtesy of The Demot Company; Photo above by Don Evans