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Luxurious Skybridge Links Budding Copper Buildings in Manhattan

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[SHoP Architects](#) is taking sky-high living to a whole new level.

The New York-based firm is the creative force behind two residential towers now rising on Manhattan's east side, connected by a three-story skybridge suspended 300 feet off the ground. Topped with a tree-lined terrace, the vitreous viaduct—buoyed by steel trusses—will contain a 75-foot-long lap pool on top of a hot tub, a bar, and a lounge.



The skybridge connects the two towers on floors 27 to 29. Credit: MARCH

Aptly named the American Copper Buildings, the new construction—located at 626 First Avenue at 36th Street—will house a total of 761 residences ranging from studios to one-bedroom apartments (150 of which will be classified as affordable housing), all offering sweeping views of the Manhattan skyline and East River. While the taller of the two will reach 48 stories, the shorter will top off at 41 floors.



Apart from the skybridge amenities, luxurious common spaces include a double-height fitness center with a climbing wall; a children’s playroom; a juice bar; a rooftop infinity pool; and a Turkish-style spa. In addition, the site’s manicured grounds will feature a park and a fountain, while a porte-cochere will usher residents and their guests into lobbies with 25-foot-high ceilings.



Credit: MARCH



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Backed by JDS Development Group, the pending pair—slated to be completed early next year—have been dubbed the “dancing towers” due to their unusual form. While one side of each structure slopes outward from the buildings’ base to the floating span (roughly four degrees per floor), the buildings lean in the opposite direction from the top of the overpass to the roofline, creating the development’s pinched appearance.



Credit: MARCH

The unconventional silhouette was born from SHoP's desire to devise an innovative work despite the site's restrictions. SHoP drew inspiration from New York's Statue of Liberty in conceptualizing the development's copper cladding, which will develop a protective patina that will transform the buildings' shiny russet hue into a matte pale green over time.



The project is far from SHoP and JDS Development's first: The duo's other joint ventures include [the world's slimmest tower](#)—now underway at the foot of Central Park—and Brooklyn's first supertall skyscraper, soon slated to break ground.



Brooklyn's first supertall tower recently received the green light for construction.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kristintablang/2016/04/22/american-copper-buildings-626-first-avenue-shop-architects-jds-development-manhattan-new-york-city-luxury-real-estate/2/#e3c2ca554537>