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New York

# EVENT HORIZON

MAD.

SQ.

ART.

**ANTONY GORMLEY**

**MARCH 26 - AUGUST 15**

MADISON SQUARE PARK, 5TH AVE & 23RD ST

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# Antony Gormley:

## Body of Work

For all the depredations suffered by figurative sculpture throughout the course of modern and postmodern art, the tradition never died, and no artist has done more to keep it alive—and maintain its humanist roots—than Antony Gormley. Since 1981, the British artist and Turner Prize winner has explored the physical, philosophical and emotional ramifications of the human form and its correlations with memory and transformation, often using his own body as a template. The resulting work has, over the years, taken the shape of individual objects, installations and outdoor monuments—most notably *Angel of the North*, a 66-foot-high winged figure wrought from steel that overlooks a highway near Tyneside in northeast England.

If there is an underlying theme to Gormley's art it is an existential one: the individual subsumed by the various aspects of contemporary experience—represented as a kind of field or backdrop—into which the subject dissolves, while somehow maintaining its integrity. A perfect example was another large outdoor

commission, *Quantum Cloud*, near London's Millennium Dome, in which a figure seems to algorithmically unravel into fractal bits.

Similarly, Gormley's installation *Blind Light* consisted of a glass chamber filled with atomized water droplets, like the inside of a cloud. Visitors walked around inside like specters, appearing and disappearing in the mist.

For *Event Horizon*, the U.S. debut of the project that was installed in London in 2007, Gormley turns his focus to the relationship between the individual and the urban landscape. Thirty-one life-size sculptures, cast from his own body, are situated at different points in the vicinity of Madison Square Park, up to nine blocks away. In addition to 27 fiberglass figures positioned on surrounding buildings, four cast-iron sculptures stand at ground level. Using distance and attendant shifts of scale within the very fabric of the city, Gormley thus creates a metaphor for urban life and all the contradictory associations—alienation, ambition, anonymity, fame—it entails. —*Howard Halle, Art editor, Time Out New York*



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 26, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to welcome all those attending *Event Horizon* New York, an exciting exhibition which pairs the work of a great artist and our incomparable City.

New York is home to a vibrant and diverse cultural community, in large part because we've embraced visionary artists and developed a proud tradition of world-class public art. These exhibitions have profoundly transformed the way New York City residents and visitors relate to our most cherished assets, such as our parks, rivers, streets, and skyline.

And our City continues to serve as an irresistible canvas for the brightest creative minds from across the globe. For the past 25 years, Antony Gormley has been at the vanguard of contemporary sculpture, and we are so proud to be the site of his first outdoor show in the United States.

*Event Horizon* New York, Gormley's series of 31 life-sized human figures that will inhabit the Flatiron District and its surroundings for the next five months, is a fitting way for this accomplished artist to join our City's rich cultural tradition. It is a tribute to the extraordinary urban landscape that makes New York unique, and an invitation to appreciate anew our architectural treasures and lively public spaces.

This landmark exhibition would not have been possible without the leadership of the Madison Square Park Conservancy—and I commend Antony Gormley and everyone involved with the Conservancy for their commitment to revitalizing the Flatiron District and enriching the cultural life of our City. On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations on this exciting and innovative exhibition.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor

# EVENT HORIZON

Isolated against the sky these dark figures look out into space at large asking: Where does the human project fit in the scheme of things? In an age in which over 50% of the human population of the planet lives in cities, this installation in New York (the original and prime example of urban high-rise living) questions how this built world relates to an inherited earth.

The sculptures are not statues. As indexical copies of my body they are the registration of a particular time of a particular body which, in their displacement of air, indicate the space of “any” body; a human space within space at large.

During the installation of *Event Horizon* in London in 2007, it was great to see an individual or groups of people pointing at the horizon. This transfer of the stillness of sculpture to the stillness of an observer is exciting to me: reflexivity becoming shared. The conceit in all this is that in observing the works dispersed over the city viewers will discover that they are the centre of a concentrated field of silent witnesses; they are surrounded by art that is looking out at space and perhaps also at them. In that time the flow of daily life is momentarily stilled.

*Event Horizon* hopes to activate the skyline in order to encourage people to look around. In this process of looking and finding, or looking and seeking, one perhaps re-assesses one's own position in the world and becomes aware of one's status of embedment.

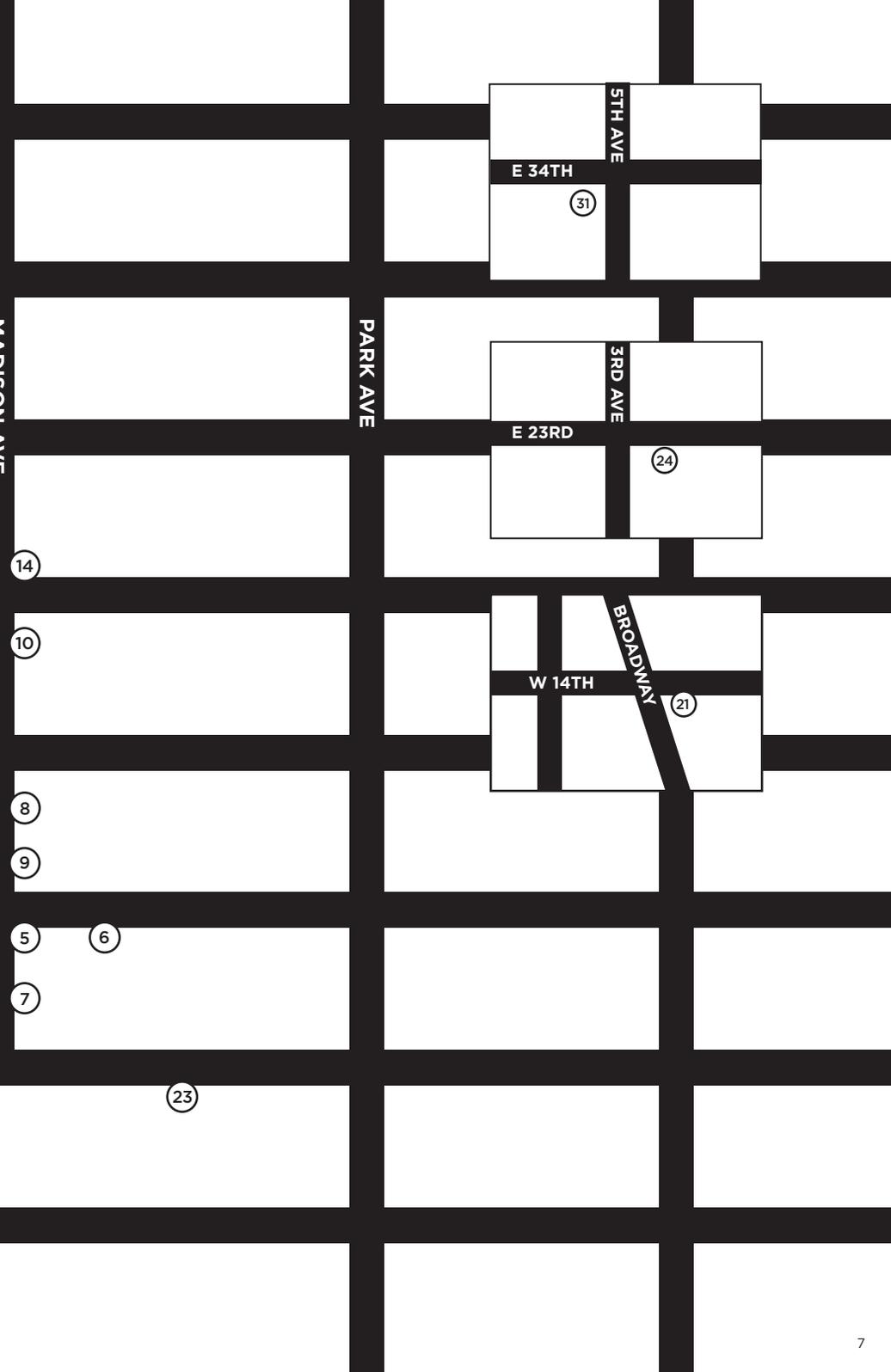
Within the condensed environment of Manhattan's topography the level of tension between the palpable, the perceivable and the imaginable is heightened because of the density and scale of the buildings. The field of the installation has no defining boundary. The sculptures act as spatial acupuncture. They enter in and out of visibility and present to people on the street a sequence of prospects with different sculptures coming into view. One of the implications of *Event Horizon* is that people will have to entertain an uncertainty about the work's scope: about the spread and number of figures. Beyond those that you can actually see, how many more remain out of sight?

Antony Gormley, March 2010

# MAD. SQ. ART PRESENTS: EVENT HORIZON NEW YORK

- SKYLINE INSTALLATIONS
- GROUND-LEVEL INSTALLATIONS





MADISON AVE

PARK AVE

5TH AVE

E 34TH

31

3RD AVE

E 23RD

24

BROADWAY

W 14TH

21

14

10

8

9

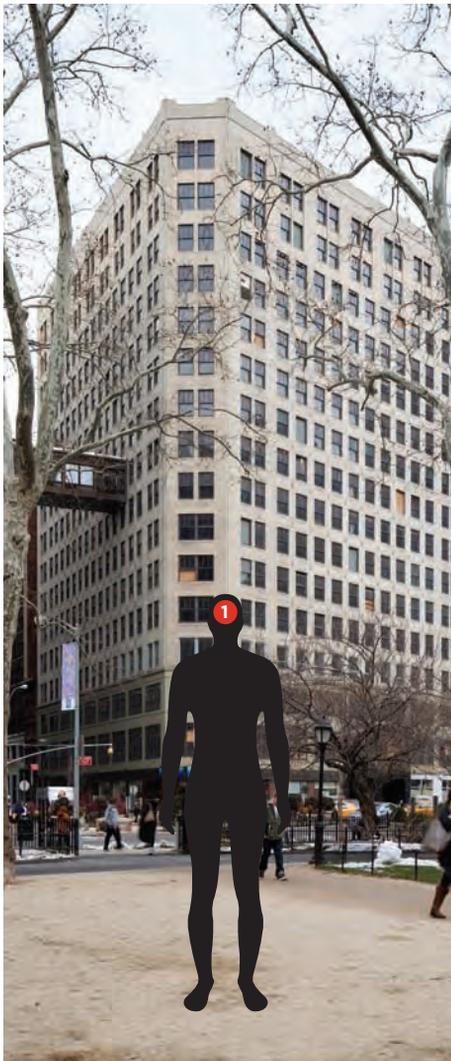
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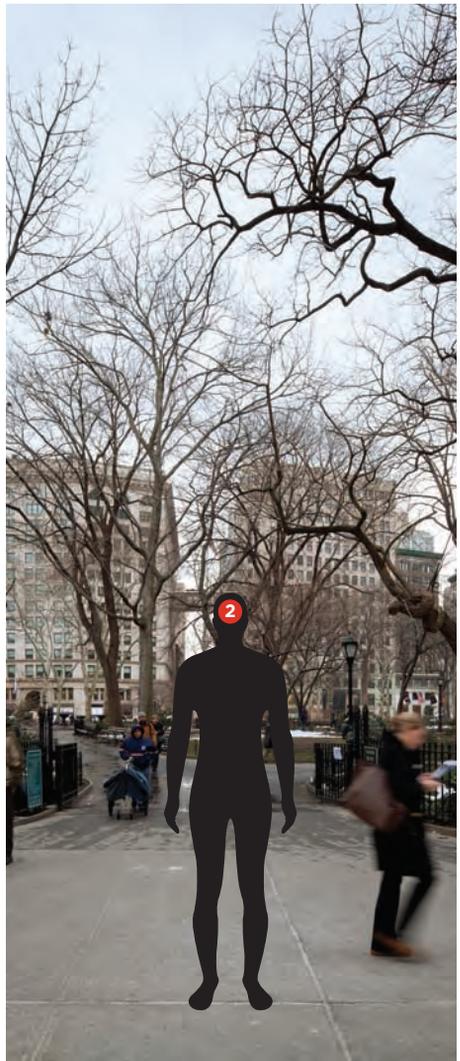
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## MADISON SQ. PARK



## MADISON AVE / 24TH



It was mostly swamp and briars back in 1686 when the Royal Governor of New York first designated it a public space. More than three centuries later, Madison Square Park is still a public space, but the landscape has changed considerably. Now a 6.2-acre urban oasis surrounded by some of the city's most distinctive architecture, the park is a place of winding paths, flower-filled gardens and spacious lawns,

alive with children's activities, music, art and food festivals. Hard to believe that little more than a decade ago, the park lay neglected, but in 1999 a capital restoration project began and in 2002 the Madison Square Park Conservancy was created. Its mission: keeping the park green, groomed and active. Originally conceived as a Parade Ground in 1807, the park was home to an arsenal, a reformatory and the

beginnings of baseball before reaching its present size in 1845. It was officially open to the public on May 10, 1847. In the years since, it has hosted the right arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty, been the scene of Admiral Dewey's welcome to New York beneath a great triumphal arch, and hosted New York's first community Christmas tree lighting in 1912, a tradition it continues to maintain.

# THE FLATIRON BUILDING

# & FLATIRON TRIANGLE



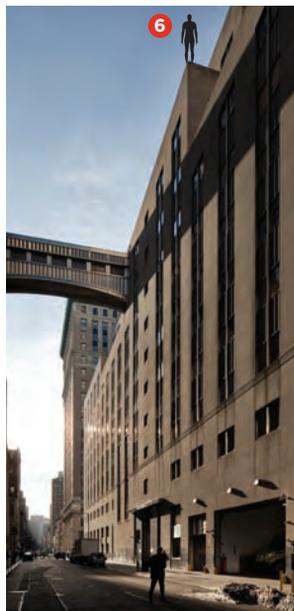
Often compared to a great ship as it cleaves the intersection of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, the Flatiron Building has appeared on more post-cards than perhaps any other modern building. It was designed by Daniel Burnham, completed in 1902 and was one of the first skyscrapers to use a steel skeleton. When the site was still farmland, it was called “the flat iron” because of its shape. Many people think the Flatiron forms an isosceles triangle, but it’s actually a right-angle triangle with the 90-degree turn at Fifth Avenue and 22nd Street. At its tip, the building is only 6.5 feet wide. It was originally called the Fuller Building, named for George A. Fuller, head of the construction company that built it, and is a National Historic Landmark.

# CLOCK TOWER

## ONE MADISON AVE



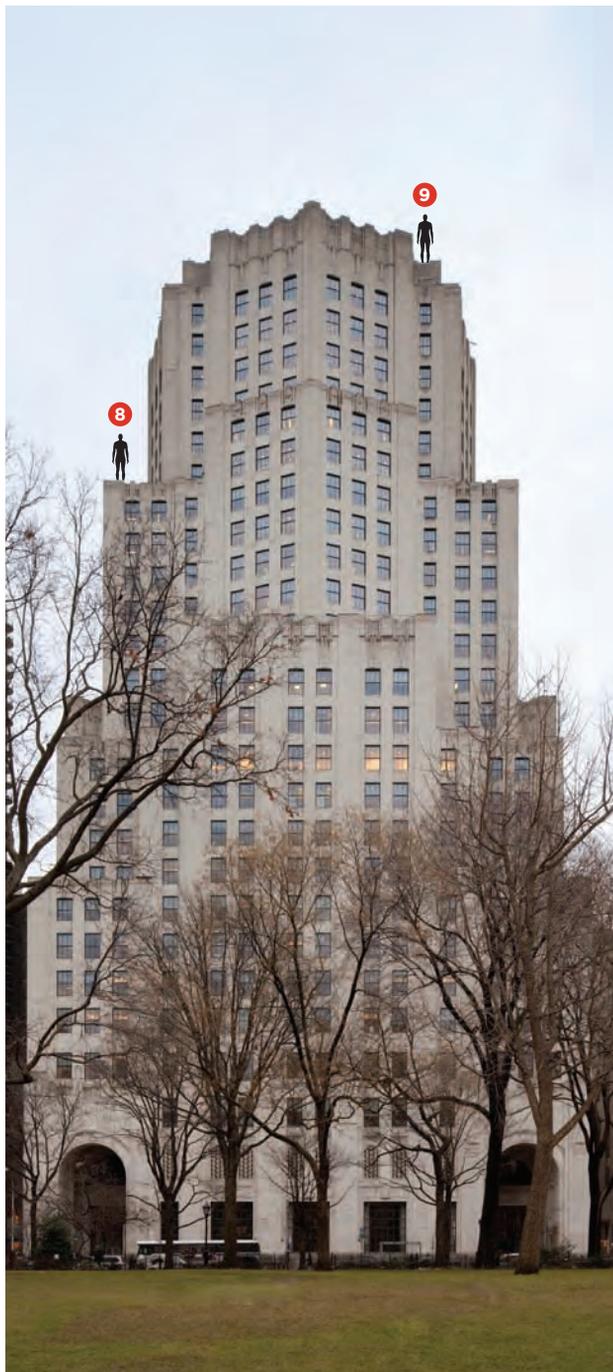
Topped by a cupola of Italian gold leaf and soaring to a height of 700 feet, the Clock Tower spears the sky on the eastern edge of Madison Square Park, each of its four titanic timepieces facing a different direction. Completed in 1909, the Clock Tower was the world's tallest building until eclipsed by the Woolworth Building in 1913. It was designed by Napoleon LeBrun, who based his design on Venice's Campanile di San Marco, which was only half the height of the Clock Tower. The clocks themselves are some of the largest four-dial timepieces in the world. Encircled by wreaths and flowers, they reach from floors 25 to 27. Each is 26.5 feet in diameter and each numeral is four feet tall. Each minute hand weighs half a ton. The structure's original marble facing was replaced by limestone and much of the ornamentation was removed during a controversial renovation in 1964, but LeBrun's detailing around the clock faces was preserved. The Tower, which was named a National Historic Landmark in 1978, was built as an addition to the full-block office building that was world headquarters for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for nearly a century. Owner-developer Africa Israel currently plans a mixed-use property consisting of luxury residential condominiums and a restaurant.



## ONE MADISON AVE



# ELEVEN MADISON AVE



When Harvey Wiley Corbett, an architect with a passion for heights, was given the assignment of designing the northern part of the two-block Met Life complex, he envisioned a tower even higher than the Empire State Building. It would rise for 100 stories and fill the block between 24th and 25th Streets, from Madison Avenue to Park Avenue South. That was in the 1920s, but when the stock market crashed in 1929, construction came to a halt. The project wasn't completed until 1950, but the result is one of New York's most magnificent buildings, a 30-story ArtDeco skyscraper of Alabama limestone, its interior rich with marble detailing, each of its four corners marked by breathtaking vaulted vestibules guarded by sets of monumental gates. Interestingly, the building contains 30 elevators, enough to service the originally planned 100 floors. Met Life occupied the structure until 1996. The ground floor flanking Madison Square Park houses two popular restaurants, Eleven Madison Park and Tabla, both part of noted restaurateur Danny Meyer's organization and the first fine-dining spots on the park since Delmonico's during the Gilded Age.

# 41 MADISON AVE



A relative newcomer to the buildings around Madison Square Park, 41 Madison Avenue arrived in 1974. Known as the New York Merchandise Mart, its 23 floors of showrooms accommodates more than 80 manufacturers of tableware, housewares and gift products, and its façade of brown aluminum and glass, designed by Emery Roth & Sons, reflects the beauty of Madison Square Park. It is the site of the fabled Jerome Mansion, built in 1865 by Leonard Jerome, whose daughter Jennie became the mother of Winston Churchill. The mansion, demolished in 1967, cost \$200,000 and had a breakfast room that could seat 70.

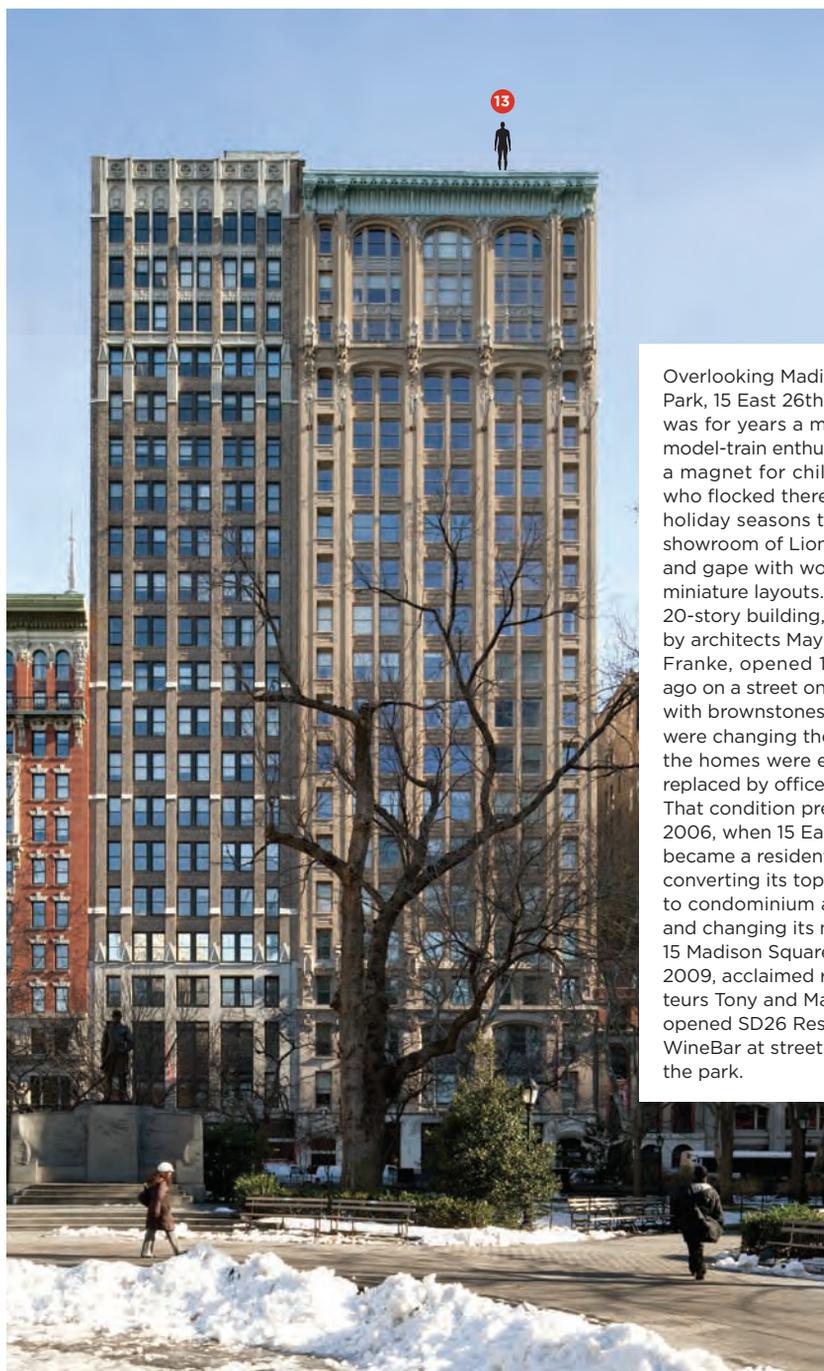
# 60 MADISON AVE



# 11 EAST 29TH



# 15 EAST 26TH STREET



Overlooking Madison Square Park, 15 East 26th Street was for years a mecca for model-train enthusiasts and a magnet for children who flocked there during holiday seasons to visit the showroom of Lionel Trains and gape with wonder at the miniature layouts. The 20-story building, designed by architects Maynicke & Franke, opened 100 years ago on a street once lined with brownstones. But times were changing then and the homes were eventually replaced by office buildings. That condition prevailed until 2006, when 15 East 26th became a residential address, converting its top 12 floors to condominium apartments and changing its name to 15 Madison Square North. In 2009, acclaimed restaurateurs Tony and Marissa May opened SD26 Restaurant & WineBar at street level facing the park.

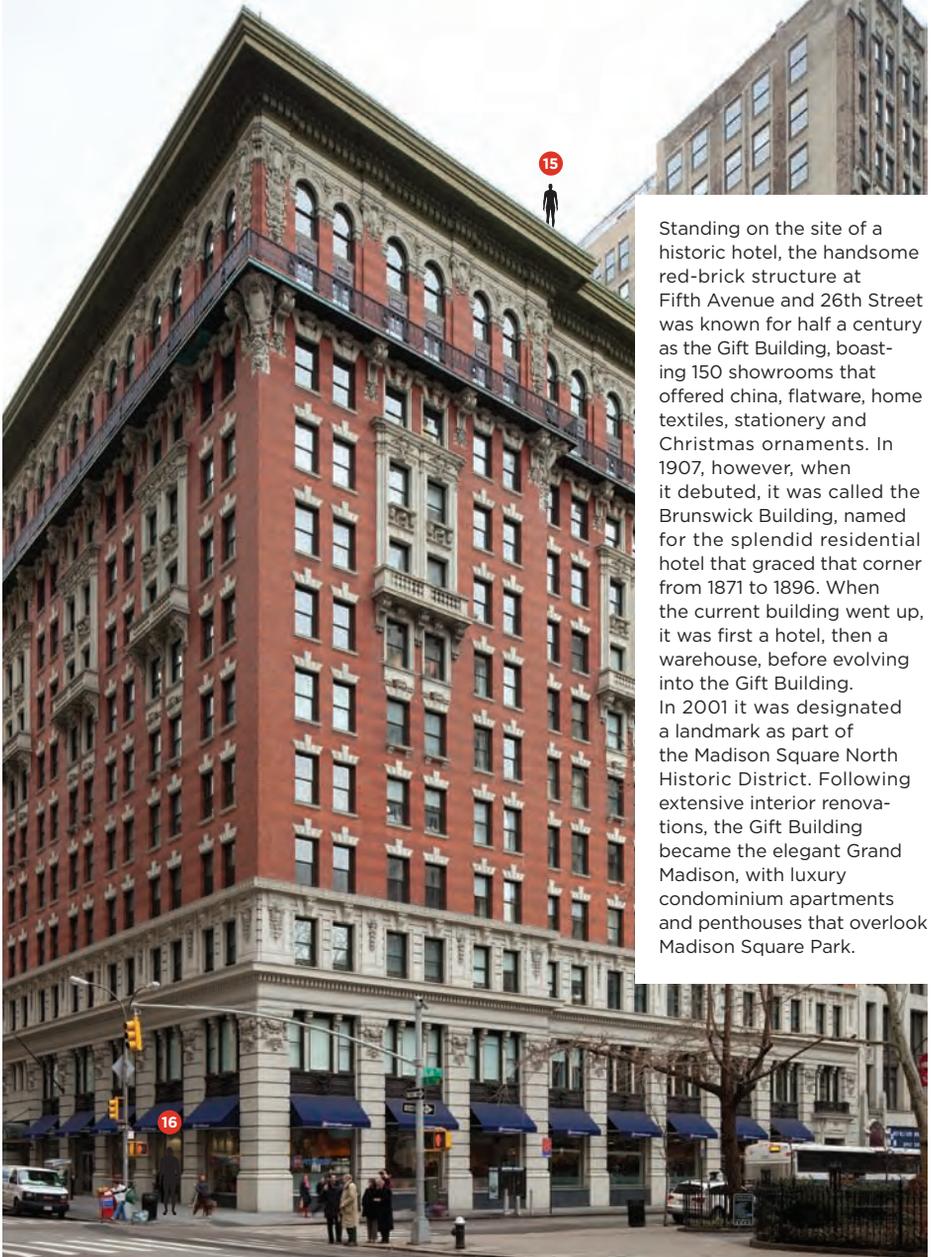
# 51 MADISON AVE

Taking up a full city block and topped by a great gleaming pyramid of 25,000 gold-leaf tiles, the New York Life Insurance Building personifies power. The 40-story building, at 51 Madison Avenue, is a monumental piece of work, bounded by Madison Avenue and Park Avenue South, and extending from 26th Street to 27th Street. Completed in 1928 and designed by Cass Gilbert, who was inspired by England's Salisbury Cathedral, it took two years and \$21 million to complete. A National Historic Landmark, it is sheathed in 440,000 cubic feet of Indiana limestone, the largest single order ever used in one structure. The site, once a railway terminus owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt, was leased in 1873 to P.T. Barnum, who staged extravaganzas there, then to showman Patrick Gilmore. In 1879, when Gilmore's lease expired, it became Madison Square Garden. The original MSG was demolished in 1889, replaced by MSG II, a magnificent Moorish-influenced building designed by Stanford White. It was one of New York's premier showcases, housing everything from political conventions to sporting events. It was also where White was famously murdered. In 1925, it was sold to a real estate firm with a mortgage secured by New York Life. A year later, ground was broken for the current building.



# 225 FIFTH AVENUE

## & 26TH STREET AND FIFTH AVE



Standing on the site of a historic hotel, the handsome red-brick structure at Fifth Avenue and 26th Street was known for half a century as the Gift Building, boasting 150 showrooms that offered china, flatware, home textiles, stationery and Christmas ornaments. In 1907, however, when it debuted, it was called the Brunswick Building, named for the splendid residential hotel that graced that corner from 1871 to 1896. When the current building went up, it was first a hotel, then a warehouse, before evolving into the Gift Building. In 2001 it was designated a landmark as part of the Madison Square North Historic District. Following extensive interior renovations, the Gift Building became the elegant Grand Madison, with luxury condominium apartments and penthouses that overlook Madison Square Park.

## 921 BROADWAY



## 162 FIFTH AVE



## 928 BROADWAY



## 184 FIFTH AVE



# 853 BROADWAY

Designed by Emery Roth and completed in 1929, this 23-story buff-brick office tower at the southwest corner of 14th Street is also called the Union Building, not because of any association with organized labor or the Civil War, but because it faces Union Square. And how, one might ask, did Union Square get its name? Because it sits at the junction, or union, of what were once New York's two main thoroughfares: Broadway and Bowery Road (now Fourth Avenue). The site was once occupied by the home of Cornelius van Schaack Roosevelt and in 1865, when Abraham Lincoln's funeral cortège passed by on its way up Broadway, Roosevelt watched it from his second-floor window, along with his six-year-old grandson, a future president named Theodore Roosevelt.



## 245 FIFTH AVE

## 304 PARK AVE SOUTH



Its basement houses one of New York's biggest table-tennis facilities and its penthouse is home to one of the city's top modeling agencies, but there has always been something colorful about 304 Park Avenue South. A Renaissance-style building at the corner of 23rd Street, it was completed in 1904 and called the Kenny Building, after its owner, Bill Kenny. One penthouse was where artist Jules Guerin created the murals for the Lincoln Memorial. Another was a political clubroom built by Kenny for his pal Governor Al Smith. It was called the Tiger Room. Al Jolson sang there.



## 220 W 23RD



# 200 FIFTH AVE



Now the headquarters of Grey Group, a global communications giant, 200 Fifth Avenue and the ground on which it sits has a long and colorful history. In 1839, the site held a farmhouse that became Madison Cottage, the last stagecoach stop for travelers headed for the wilds of upper Manhattan. In 1853, the cottage was replaced by Franconi's Hippodrome, the home of chariot races and performing monkeys. Six years later, the six-story Fifth Avenue Hotel went up, with guests such as Abraham Lincoln and the Prince of Wales. It was New York's first building with a "vertical railway" — an elevator. In 1909, after the hotel was razed, construction began on the present building, which for many years was referred to as The Toy Building.

# 1123 & 1133 BROADWAY



They were both born on the same block in 1896, but it took almost a century for them to meet. The 12-story Townsend Building (1123 Broadway) is on the corner of 25th Street. The 16-story St. James (1133 Broadway) is on the corner of 26th Street. They were the first high-rise buildings in the area, enjoying splendid views of Madison Square Park. They were separated only by a brownstone, razed in 1908 and replaced by The Sign of the Siphon, a one-story shop specializing in mineral water. Both buildings underwent a restoration in the 1980s, one that not only uncovered murals, vaulted ceilings and fabulous mosaic tiles, but included a bridge, hidden from street view, but connecting their second floors and allowing them to share certain amenities and services.



# 204 FIFTH AVE



When the internationally renowned design firm Pentagram moved into 204 Fifth Avenue in 1995, it returned the site to the creative roots established there a century earlier. The building, between 25th and 26th Streets and facing Madison Square Park, stands where the Schaus Art Gallery, one of the city's finest, once staged major exhibitions. Schaus moved uptown in 1905, replaced by the present structure. Completed in 1913 and designed by architect C.P.H. Gilbert, its first occupant was the Lincoln Trust Company. Through the years, other banks followed. In 1988, the neo-classical limestone building focus shifted from business to pleasure, becoming M.K., a nightclub whose patrons checked their coats in a basement bank vault. With Pentagram, the site is again a hub of innovation and artistry.

# 230 FIFTH AVE



The 20-story structure at the corner of 27th Street used to be known as “the Lighting Building” because of its many showrooms catering to that industry. Almost 10 years ago, however, 230 Fifth Avenue widened its horizons, called itself the New York MarketCenter and became a wholesale showroom building for more than 200 companies that sell everything from home textiles to home furnishings, from tabletop items to toys and dolls. It hosts numerous trade shows throughout the year, has a Buyers’ Information Desk in the front lobby, a buyers’ lounge in the rear lobby, and a rooftop garden and bar with spectacular views. The building opened in 1914 and was designed by architects Simon Schwartz and Arthur Gross, who specialized in high-rise apartment houses and hotels.

## 244 FIFTH AVE



# EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Probably the best-known symbol of New York City, the Empire State Building is an architectural wonder, a pop-culture staple and one of the world's great tourist attractions. Since its completion in 1931, after only one year and 45 days of construction, it has hosted more than 110 million visitors. Standing on the site of the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, it is 102 stories high. Including the TV antenna, it reaches 1,454 feet. From 1931 until 1972, when the first of the Twin Towers went up, it was the world's tallest building. It now ranks 15th. It was designed by William F. Lamb and is a National Historic Landmark. Its tower, once used as a mooring mast for dirigibles, has a thematic lighting schedule to reflect holidays and special events. Referenced in dozens of movies, it went dark for 15 minutes following the death of Fay Wray, its virtual co-star in "King Kong." On a Saturday morning in July 1945, in dense fog, it was struck by a B-25 bomber at the 79th floor. Fourteen people died, but the building was open for business on the following Monday. The American Society of Civil Engineers named it one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks to the Madison Square Park Conservancy Board of Directors, Mad. Sq. Art Advisory Committee, FITZ & CO, and the Antony Gormley Studio.

Text by Mort Sheinman, based in part on writing originally commissioned by the 23rd Street/Flatiron Partnership.

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Sam Rauch, Art Coordinator

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



 SORGENTE GROUP Sean Kelly Gallery



# THIS IS ART

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**MARCH 26-AUGUST 15, 2010**

# Where to eat and drink

While you're out statue-spotting, you'll need sustenance. Superb fine dining surrounds Madison Square Park—this is Danny Meyer territory—but cheap eats also abound. Listings are organized by the areas where figures are most densely clustered.

## West & south side



You may have noticed the 51-foot monument to General William Worth in the square that bears his name—a paved .076 acre triangle formed by Broadway, Fifth Avenue and West 25th Street. But did you know he's buried there? The Mexican War hero was moved from a temporary grave in Green-Wood Cemetery in 1857. This and another pedestrian triangle echoing the Flatiron Building at 23rd Street, both with tables and chairs, are good vantage points to take it all in.

### Bonobo's Vegetarian

Grab some organic and raw-food fare, then secure a seat in the park or pedestrian zones for a ringside view of the installation. The tomato-basil stew is vibrant and acidic, and artfully arranged salads are bright platforms for tangy dressings like agave-mustard and lemon-garlic tahini. *18 E 23rd St between Broadway and Park Ave South (212-505-1200, bonobosrestaurant.com). Daily 11am–8:30pm. Average main course: \$10.*

### Craftbar

Celebrity chef Tom Colicchio swapped the “build-your-own” concept he forged at Craft for a more traditional menu at this less formal hot spot. The

frequently changing menu might include duck prepared in a sumptuous confit, truffled salmon, and smoked pork loin blanketed with bacon. But desserts, like a brown sugar cake with rum-vanilla ice cream, are nowhere as decadent as the main courses. *900 Broadway between 19th and 20th Sts (212-461-4300, craftrestaurant.com). Mon–Wed noon–9:45pm; Thu noon–10:30pm; Fri noon–11pm; Sat 10am–11pm; Sun 10am–9:30pm. Average main course: \$20.*

### Eisenberg's Sandwich Shop

Another good takeout option: For more than 80 years, this slender Flatiron joint has dished out diner fare like hot dogs and egg creams with the kind of (earned) swagger unique to New York's restaurant institutions. The corned-beef-and-chopped-liver sandwich and the spectacularly cheesy Reuben belong in the pantheon of the city's deli stalwarts. *174 Fifth Ave at 22nd St (212-675-5096, eisenbergsnyc.com). Mon–Fri*

*6:30am–8pm; Sat 8am–6pm; Sun 8am–4pm. Average sandwich: \$8.*

### L.A. Burdick

The opening of this café cum chocolate shop was a homecoming of sorts for Larry and Paula Burdick, who started a wholesale business in Red Hook in 1987 before moving the factory to New Hampshire. The excellence of Burdick's hand-formed bonbons—such as the signature mice (\$2.75 apiece), available in dark, milk and white chocolate, and filled with a sophisticated ganache—seduced us years ago, but the café also serves Viennese-style desserts and velvety hot chocolate. *5 E 20th St between Fifth Ave and Broadway (212-796-0143, burdickchocolate.com). Mon–Thu, Sun 9am–9pm; Fri, Sat 9am–10pm.*

### Shake Shack

Danny Meyer's wildly popular Madison Square Park concession stand is a prime viewing spot—and it's always mobbed in fine weather. The burgers, a favorite with many high-profile foodies—is worth the inevitable wait. Sirloin and brisket are ground daily for prime patties, but don't overlook the franks, served Chicago-style on poppy seed buns with a “salad” of toppings and a dash of celery salt. Frozen-custard shakes hit the spot, and there's beer and wine if you want something stronger. *Madison Square Park, 23rd St at Madison Ave (212-889-6600, shakeshack.com). Daily 11am–9pm. Average burger: \$5.*



Shake Shack

### 'wichcraft

At Tom Colicchio's sophisticated sandwich shop, breakfast creations (available all day) play it straight, as does the pastrami with Swiss cheese, saurkraut and whole-grain mustard on rye.

But you can catch a heady whiff of Craft and Craftbar in the sandwich of marinated white anchovies, soft-cooked egg, roasted onion and frisée on country bread. *11 E 20th St between Fifth Ave and Broadway (212-780-0577, wichcraftnyc.com). Mon–Fri 8am–4:30pm, 6–10pm; Sat, Sun 10am–6pm. Average sandwich: \$9.*

# SD26

## **SD26 Restaurant & WineBar**

*Our location on the north side of Madison Square Park at 19 East 26th Street, offers unparalleled views of Antony Gormley's 31 self-inspired sculptures.*

*Take in the view surrounded by Italian designer Massimo Vignelli's celebrated modern design and artwork from renowned fiber artist Sheila Hicks displayed throughout SD26.*

*We are proud to offer the Gormley Naked Art Lunch in celebration of Antony Gormley's 'Event Horizon'*

*\$20.10 Prix Fixe  
in the SD26 Wine Bar & Lounge  
11:30 am – 4 pm  
Monday – Sunday*

*19 East 26th Street, Madison Square Park, New York, NY 10010  
212.265.5959 [www.SD26NY.com](http://www.SD26NY.com) [reservations@sd26ny.com](mailto:reservations@sd26ny.com)*



Tucked amid the imposing buildings overlooking the east side of the park are some of the city's best restaurants. The truncated skyscraper at 11 Madison is flanked by Danny Meyer's 11 Madison Park and Tabla—from mid-April, the latter sets outside tables in the building's soaring archway on the corner of 25th Street. Dwarfed by the surrounding buildings, the beautifully restored neoclassical Appellate Division courthouse opposite is topped with allegorical sculptures by various 19th-century artists, including Daniel Chester French—providing an interesting contrast with Gormley's work.

**A Voce**

Former chef Andrew Carmellini left a void so hard to fill, the owners imported someone from Chicago—Spiaggia's Missy Robbins. From her traditional palette come pastas like delicious *quadrati*, ricotta-filled packets tossed with savory cabbage, butter and bacon batons. Tender sirloin slices were layered with caramelized endives and a drizzle of marrow-laced jus, with a gratin of soupy polenta served on the side. The after-work crowds can be overwhelming, but Italian-food fiends will be amply rewarded.

41 Madison Ave, entrance on 26th Street between Madison Ave and Park Ave South (212-545-8555, [avocerestaurant.com](http://avocerestaurant.com)). Mon–Wed 11:45am–2:30pm, 5:30–10pm; Thu, Fri 11:45am–2:30pm, 5:30–11pm; Sat, Sun 5:30–11pm. Average main course: \$34.



A Voce

**Blue Smoke**

St. Louis native Danny Meyer's barbecue joint tops the short list of Manhattan's best 'cue contenders. Chef Kenny Callaghan knows his wet sauces and dry rubs: The menu includes traditional Texas salt-and-pepper beef ribs, Memphis baby backs and Kansas City spare ribs. The atmosphere is sports-heavy and includes a prominent bourbon bar and galvanized metal buckets for your bones. After your meal, head downstairs to sister venue Jazz Standard (212-576-2232, [jazzstandard.com](http://jazzstandard.com)), where the sounds are often of the groovy, hard-swinging variety, courtesy of musicians such as trumpeter Dave Douglas and pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba. The mighty Mingus Big Band, a longtime local favorite, holds down Monday nights.

116 E 27th St between Park Ave South and Lexington Ave (212-447-7733, [bluesmoke.com](http://bluesmoke.com)).

Mon, Sun 11:30am–10pm; Tue–Thu 11:30am–11pm; Fri, Sat 11:30am–1am. Average main course: \$20.

**Dos Caminos**

Squeeze in around the 25-foot bar at Steve Hanson's popular Mexican restaurant (easier here than at the smaller, even more packed Soho branch). Savor the 150-label tequila selection, the highly touted frozen prickly-pear margaritas and a (homogeneous) clientele that's easy on the eyes. Counteract the potent drinks with freshly mashed guacamole and spicy little shredded-pork tacos on warm tortillas. 373 Park Ave South between 26th and 27th Sts (212-294-1000, [brgwestrestaurants.com](http://brgwestrestaurants.com)). Mon,

Sun 11:30am–10pm; Tue–Thu 11:30am–11pm; Fri, Sat 11:30am–midnight. Average main course: \$19; average drink \$11.

**Eleven Madison Park**

Time Out New York Eat Out Award-winning chef Daniel Humm mans the kitchen at Danny Meyer's vast Art Deco jewel. His lofty intentions are best expressed in one of his tasting menus: A starter of La Ratte potatoes featured Hawaiian prawns and delicate rings of calamari spiked with lemon, and an entrée of Muscovy duck got a floral note from the lavender-honey glaze. In a classic Meyer show of hospitality, you'll head out with a quartet of delectable petits fours.

11 Madison Ave at 24th St (212-889-0905, [elevenmadisonpark.com](http://elevenmadisonpark.com)). Mon–Fri noon–2pm, 5:30–10pm; Sat 5:30–10pm. Two-course prix fixe (lunch): \$28; three-course prix fixe (dinner): \$135.

**Tabla**

Last fall this Indian restaurant from Danny Meyer forsook its split personality (casual on one floor, deluxe on another) in favor of one seamless menu that draws from the Goan heritage of its chef, Floyd Cardoz.

A \$54 ten-course tasting menu is an outstanding cross section of regional vegetarian cookery, including dishes like roasted cauliflower in coconut milk. Meatier à la carte options include melting-pot innovations like a ravioli with tomato ragu, greens and tender yogurt-glazed lamb riblets. Desserts also owe much to the subcontinent: Conclude with scoops of intense mango ice cream with meringues and caramel. 11 Madison Ave at 25th St (212-889-0667, [tablany.com](http://tablany.com)). Mon–Thu noon–2pm, 5:30–10pm; Fri, Sat noon–2pm, 5:30–11pm; Sun 5–9pm. Average main course: \$25.

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So look around, explore, enjoy... and discover Flatiron!

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Madison Square Park is anchored by iconic architecture: the Flatiron Building to the south and the Metropolitan Life Tower, once the world's tallest building, on its eastern side. In the northwest corner the Empire State Building looms up several blocks away. All three will play their part in the installation. Ascend to the eponymous rooftop bar at 230 Fifth Avenue to get a glimpse of the figure on the east side of its terrace. And while you're on this stretch of Fifth, check out some very different tributes to the naked human form at the Museum of Sex (233 Fifth Ave at 27th St, 212-689-6337, [museumofsex.com](http://museumofsex.com))—the gift shop stocks artisan-made sex toys and such conversation pieces as Jonathan Adler's Boob Vase (\$120) and Mike Sullivan's handcrafted, anatomically correct robots (\$675).

**Bar Breton**

This clean-lined French eatery touts the buckwheat crêpes—galettes—for which Brittany is known. Try the classic version—an egg with Gruyère and Black Forest ham—washed down with that other Breton delicacy, hard cider. Though the pancakes get top billing, other successful dishes included an elegantly rendered beef bourguignon. 254 Fifth Ave between 28th and 29th Sts (212-213-4999, [barbreton.com](http://barbreton.com)). Mon–Fri 11am–10:40pm; Sat, Sun 10am–10:40pm. Average main course: \$21.

**Breslin Bar & Dining Room**

The third project from Ken Friedman and chef April Bloomfield offers the most opulently fatty food in New York—served in medieval portions in a raucous lodge-like setting. You'll wait an hour or more for a table, but

once you're seated, the gastropub delivers a near-perfect dining experience. A giant pig's-foot-for-two entrée is stuffed with cotechino sausage, breaded, fried, and doused in a mix of white wine and cream. The pork belly roulade is sweet, smoky and fragrant with red wine and apples. Desserts—like a warm sticky-toffee pudding spiked with Turkish coffee—turn the end of the meal into a Dickensian Christmas feast. *Ace Hotel, 16 W 29th St at Broadway (212-679-1939, [thebreslin.com](http://thebreslin.com)). Daily 7am–midnight. Average main course: \$27.*

**230 Fifth**

The 14,000-square-foot roof garden dazzles with truly spectacular views, including a close-up of the Empire State Building, but the glitzy indoor lounge—with its ceiling-height windows, wraparound sofas and bold lighting—shouldn't be overlooked. 230 Fifth Ave between 26th and 27th Sts (212-725-4300, [230-fifth.com](http://230-fifth.com)). Daily 4pm–4am. Average drink: \$11.

**iiii**

D.C. restaurateur Philippe Massoud's stylish Lebanese eatery would feel right at home in cosmopolitan Beirut: Wood-paneled walls pocked with windows and mirrors create the impression of a giant kaleidoscope, and the menu is flush with elevated takes on the familiar. Kebabs, like the lean, moist

lamb skewers, were near perfect, and a beautiful chankleech feta-and-tomato salad was chopped fine with scallions, thyme and oregano. Err on the gluttonous side and overorder—the small portions left us craving more. 236 Fifth Ave between 27th and 28th Sts (212-683-2929, [ililinc.com](http://ililinc.com)). Mon–Wed noon–3pm, 5:30–10:30pm; Thu, Fri noon–3pm, 5:30–11:30pm; Sat 11:30am–3pm, 5:30–11:30pm; Sun 11:30am–3pm, 5:30–10:30pm. Average main course: \$15.



SD26

**SD26**

This successor to opulent San Domenico is an enormous, modern and frenetic restaurant. The sleek interior is divided into distinct spaces. In the self-service wine bar (with an Enomatic dispenser), floor-to-ceiling windows give good views of statues on 11 Madison Avenue and the Flatiron Building, and glimpses of others. In the dining room's open kitchen, chef Odette Fada has abandoned the classic strictures of an Italian meal in favor of small and large plates, like butter-drenched ravioli oozing yolk (a San Domenico signature) and a filet of Dover sole in saor. The cheese counter is crammed with plenty of reasons to finish the meal on a savory note. 19 E 26th St between Fifth and Madison Aves (212-265-5959, [sd26ny.com](http://sd26ny.com)). Mon–Sat 11:30am–11pm; Sun 5–11pm. Average main course: \$23.



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