

ARCHITECTURE



OPPOSITE :

*The Beekman Hotel –  
Atrium & Skylight  
Photo of the iconic atrium  
and skylight, with building's  
signature turret in view*

# MANHATTAN METAMORPHOSIS

WITH A TOTAL RENOVATION IN THE WORKS, FIVE BEEKMAN IS ABOUT TO BECOME ONE OF LOWER MANHATTAN'S MOST RECOGNIZABLE STRUCTURES. PROMISING SPECTACULAR VIEWS, LUXURY TOUCHES AND TWO FABULOUS RESTAURANTS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE, THE BULLS AND BEARS HAVE REASON TO CELEBRATE.

**BY: GINA SAMAROTTO**

**I**n discussing architecture in lower Manhattan, one would be remiss in neglecting to mention the compelling example that is Five Beekman Street. Designed in 1881, James M. Farnworth's celebration of design is an exquisite example of Queen Anne style. Built around a magnificent atrium, the building gives a bonhomous nod to London's Temple Court. New York's symbol is a beguiling grande dame, whose mystery has only been magnified through years of vacancy. For decades she sat empty. Regal, yet echoing.

Enter Allen Gross, CEO of GFI Development Company & Co-Founder of GB Lodging, and the developer of The Beekman. After acquiring

the building in 2012, Gross began to implement his vision for Five Beekman, that is, to reinvent the once opulent space into a luxury hotel and residences and create a new benchmark from an existing landmark.

"Five Beekman has created a great deal of interest over the years. Many have tried to develop it, but the problems associated with creating a project around a landmark designated building that's more than a century old were significant," Gross explained. "We knew we wanted a luxury hotel, restaurants and residences. But to do that, we needed to come up with a solution for the infrastructure that would work without compromising the existing architecture or getting embroiled in red tape."



*The Beekman Residences – Lobby Vestibule*  
The entrance leading into the residential lobby



*The Beekman Residences – Dining Room*  
One of the amenities for The Beekman Residences where guests can enjoy – catered dinners by Tom Colicchio’s team must one of



*The Beekman Residences – Master Bathroom*  
Residents can savor the expansive and luxurious marbled bathroom

Gross solved the dilemma by purchasing a neighboring parcel and bringing the architectural firm of Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel on board. The result? A brand new, fifty-one storey tower designed to not only accommodate all necessary utilities but 68 über luxurious residences, as well. “The tower allowed us to keep the original structure, the future home of The Beekman Hotel, relatively intact,” Gross explains. “We were able to transform the building without compromising its historic integrity or architecture.”

With amenities, services, and aesthetics designed to redefine the meaning of luxury for downtown Manhattan, the proposed Beekman Hotel will feature 287 meticulously appointed rooms and suites designed by Martin Brudnizki. Replete with bespoke furnishings and gracious public spaces, the hotel holds a promise of elegance for upscale guests in lower Manhattan. In The Beekman Residences, sixty-eight residences designed by Thomas Juul-Hansen are currently under construction. “The residences will begin on the seventeenth floor,” Gross illustrates. “What that means is that the views our residents can look forward to will begin where most others end.” Offered by Fredrik Eklund and John Gomes of Douglas Elliman, the units available for occupancy in fall of 2015, range from one to three bedrooms, and from \$1.2 million to \$12.5.

The myriad offerings of The Beekman will extend to dining table as well, with the inclusion of two on-site restaurants by Keith McNally and Tom Colicchio. Colicchio will also serve as Food & Beverage Director, affording guests and residents the opportunity to experience his craft magic in everything from catered events to room service.

“The Beekman is more than a hotel or a residence or a restaurant,” says Gross. “It’s what will be an iconic destination in the heart of downtown.”